

News at a Glance

City working up plans for R&B museum

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Kenneth Gamble, a music mogul and Grammy-winning songwriter, has assembled a team to develop a proposal for a museum devoted to rhythm & blues music.

The proposed Rhythm & Blues Hall of Fame and museum, which has been backed by Mayor John F. Street and Gov. Ed Rendell, would likely be constructed as a mixed-use development serving both retail and residential needs. A shuttered African-American museum purchased by Gamble several years ago would also likely be part of the facility.

Though the team has not selected an exact location for the museum, Gamble has identified potential sites just south of the city's downtown area.

Gamble — a co-founder of Philadelphia International Records who wrote, recorded and produced numerous R&B hits — said the museum would provide a history of the genre and would chronicle the city's important contributions to the music.

"Philadelphia has a great music history, and we should be able to exploit it," Gamble said.

City Commerce Director James Cuorato also assembled the team, which has visited the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, and Beale Street and the Stax Museum in Memphis.

"There is a lot of work that would have to be done as far as fund-raising, but it is a natural for us, and Kenny (Gamble) is a natural to lead the effort," Cuorato said.

NAACP to hold national college prep day

RESTON, Va. — To close the widening gap in SAT scores and increase access to college for minority students, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Princeton Review Foundation and the Sallie Mae Fund have partnered to host free college preparation clinics across the country. The 25 free clinics are part of the sixth annual NAACP National Day of College Preparation on Oct. 18. An estimated 2,000 families are expected to participate.

As part of the half-day clinics, the Princeton Review Foundation will offer students practice SAT tests and diagnostics, score improvement strategies, and test preparation books donated by Random House. The Sallie Mae Fund will conduct "Paying for College" workshops for parents to explain the various types of financial aid and resources available to help families prepare for the college admissions process. The Sallie Mae Fund will award one \$500 scholarship to a parent of a college-bound student in each city.

The Kellogg Co. will provide a light breakfast, and Pizza Hut will provide lunch for participants taking part in the college preparation clinics.

The NAACP National Day of College Preparation is designed to make students and parents aware that a college education is valuable, attainable and affordable.

"The gross disparities in educational achievement demonstrate the need for these types of partnerships to help improve access to a quality education for all," said NAACP President Kweisi Mfume. "We commend our partners for supporting this effort to give our children and their parents these important academic and financial skills."

England's House of Lords' first black woman appointed leader

LONDON (AP) — The first black woman appointed to Britain's House of Lords was appointed as its leader Monday.

Valerie Amos, who in 1997 became the first black woman to enter the unelected upper house of Parliament, replaces Lord Williams of Mostyn, who died last month.

Baroness Amos was appointed international development secretary in May after Clare Short quit over her opposition to the war in Iraq.

The leader of the house, who is appointed by the government, organizes the agenda for debates and other business.

Vandross will release first live CD

PHILADELPHIA (NNPA) — With a video and a hit song, "Dance with My Father," climbing the charts, there is more good news for Luther Vandross. Reports are that the singer, who suffered a stroke last April, is making some improvement, but "it's still an extremely long road of recovery," his spokeswoman said.

Lois Najarian said that Vandross, who is being cared for at an undisclosed rehabilitation facility, has been talking and showing signs of increased movement on his right side. She said that there have been "exciting developments" in his progress and "every day there's something new."

Reports say that Vandross has even heard some of his songs on the radio — and has sometimes been able to sing along. However, while there is progress, Najarian did not want to "give the impression that miracles are taking place and he's going to be up and singing right away."

She said that like many stroke victims, he has good and bad days.

In other developments, the nominees for the 31st annual American Music Awards were announced recently, and Vandross, whose latest album, "Dance with My Father," was released last June, has been nominated for two awards in the categories of Soul/Rhythm & Blues — Favorite Male Artist and Favorite Album.

The awards will be presented during a three-hour telecast on ABC on Nov. 16 from 8-11 p.m.

Vandross' fans also can anticipate the Oct. 28 release of "Live at Radio City Music Hall 2003," the first-ever live recording of the singer's career.

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A horse-drawn carriage carries coffins containing the remains of free and enslaved blacks through the streets of Manhattan.

Colonial-era blacks put to rest again

BY CHAKA FERGUSON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — In a ceremony both somber and celebratory, the remains of 419 colonial-era blacks were reburied Saturday at a Manhattan site just a short distance from a former slave market.

"Now we've come to the time when mother earth receives again the remains of our departed ancestors," the Rev. James Forbes Jr. said as some in the crowd hugged and wept on the gray, rainy day.

Most of the remains were placed into seven oversized wooden crypts, with flowers piled atop and around each one. A Yoruba priest gave them a

final blessing before the crypts were lowered into the ground.

Four caskets holding the remains of a boy, girl, woman and man also were buried. Their remains had been separated from the others



Lindo

and were honored at ceremonies in Washington, D.C.; Baltimore; Wilmington, Del.; and Newark, N.J., before returning to New York on Friday.

The remains had been

uncovered in 1991 during construction of a federal office tower in lower Manhattan.

Under pressure from the community, the government abandoned the work and began examining what they had found. The site turned out to be a five-acre burial ground that had been closed in 1794 and long forgotten. It was the final resting place for an estimated 20,000 people of African descent.

The reinterment ceremony marked the end of a long struggle to have the African Burial Ground recognized.

Drummers pounded a steady beat and dancers performed while the remains were returned to where they were first buried more than 200 years ago.

"It's magnificent," said Ayo Harrington, chairwoman of Friends of the African Burial Ground, an informal advocacy group. "It's exhilarating and satisfying to my soul."

Hundreds of people turned out to pay tribute to the slaves and free blacks in the cemetery. The weather was perfect for the event, said the Rev. Herbert Daughtry, a civil-rights activist.

"It would seem to be incongruous to come to this occasion in bright and radiant sunshine," Daughtry said.

The ceremony, with its mix of singers, dancers and speakers, was in stark contrast to the hard lives led by the blacks buried there. Nearly half of the 419 sets

See Blacks on A5

S.C. blacks distrustful of government

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA, S.C. —

Fewer black South Carolinians than whites say they trust state government, according to a survey conducted for Gov. Mark Sanford.

A survey for Sanford's government accountability task force found that half of the state's white citizens trust their government, compared with just over a quarter of the state's black residents who felt the same way.

While four in 10 blacks thought the state was headed in the right direction, almost two of three whites did.

The University of South Carolina Public Service and Policy Research survey of 516 South Carolinians has a margin of sampling error of 4.3 percentage points.

The research institute contributed the survey to the Commission on Management, Accountability and Performance appointed this summer to study how to make government work better.

The racial divide was clear throughout the study, with responses from blacks and whites diverging in seven of nine categories.

"It was a pretty striking conclusion, in every case," said Robert Oldendick, the political scientist who led the study.

The racial disparity doesn't surprise some.

"Most African-Americans don't see the government running well, or helping them," said state Rep. Todd Rutherford, a black Columbia Democrat. "A number of whites see the only role of government is to cut their taxes and let them be self-sufficient."

Felicia Hopkins, a black woman, said blacks are trying to catch up with whites, who historically have had more

money and more power. "We've come a long way, but we still have a long way to go," she said.

Hopkins, 32, has seen high-paying jobs come and go with the arrival and departure of the big Mack Trucks assembly

plant in her hometown of Winnsboro.

Government, she said, needs to look at the big picture and be more worried about bringing jobs to the state than it is with cutting programs little by little the way the M.A.P.

Commission recommends. "Don't worry about a million dollars here, a million dollars there," she said.

To close the gap between black and white perceptions, Sanford wants to change the

See Distrust on A10

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