

News at a glance

Detroit Jazz Festival to feature Aretha Franklin, Lou Rawls

DETROIT (AP) — Aretha Franklin, Lou Rawls and Ramsey Lewis lead the lineup for the 2004 Ford Detroit International Jazz Festival.

The festival's 25th anniversary edition will be held during the Labor Day weekend, Sept. 4-6, at Hart Plaza.

Other top acts include Detroit-born saxophone player James Carter and a parade of prominent drummers, including the Detroit-born Louis Hayes, Chico Hamilton, Winard Harper, Lenny White, Cindy Blackman and Carl Allen.

This year's edition honors Elvin Ray Jones, the Pontiac-born drummer and member of John Coltrane's quartet who died in May.

Rick White, a senior producer at Festival Productions, was impressed with the festival's lineup.

"I'm seeing a lot of pure jazz ... It's a nice blend," he told The Detroit News for a story published last Thursday.

The Queen of Soul said she plans to sing Duke Ellington, Cole Porter and Gershwin, the Detroit Free Press reported.

Last year, the festival attracted more than 500,000 fans to downtown Detroit.



Franklin

Three teens charged with painting racial slurs on home

VALRICO, Fla. (AP) — Three white teenagers spray-painted a swastika and racial slurs on a black neighbor's garage and driveway, officials said.

Damian Yeager, 15; Phillip Belcher, 14; and John Bailey, 16, all of Valrico, admitted painting a dark green swastika, profanities and references to the Ku Klux Klan on the home of Brenda Snow, said Hillsborough County sheriff's spokeswoman Debbie Carter.

They were charged with criminal mischief as a hate crime, which is a felony, and processed at the Juvenile Assessment Center.

Snow said she found the paint and called authorities. Belcher and Bailey had stayed over at Yeager's house, a few blocks away from Snow's home, on a recent night, officials said. All three teens had green paint on their hands and clothes, Carter said.

Snow said she also found paint on her cars, one of which had been vandalized with a smear of paint two weeks earlier. It was unclear whether the incidents were related.

Neighbors in this Tampa suburb offered to help pressure wash the paint off her driveway and paint over her garage, Snow said.

Four parole agents moonlighting for Snoop Dogg are fired

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Three state parole agents have been fired following a yearlong investigation after their arrest while they were part of rapper Snoop Dogg's armed entourage at an awards show, officials said.

The California Department of Corrections began an internal probe after the rapper's caravan was stopped after the Black Entertainment Television Awards in Hollywood last June. Police arrested three heavily armed bodyguards and confiscated knives, ammunition and handguns. A total of 13 people were detained for questioning.

Snoop Dogg, whose given name is Calvin Broadus, had been dropped off at the Kodak Theatre before the group was stopped and was not detained.

Three parole agents were found to be part of the entourage. The investigation found a fourth officer, who also was fired, was working for the rapper while on a disability leave from the state, CDC spokeswoman Terry Thornton said.

Officials last week declined to release the names of the officers and the reason why they were fired, saying they expected the officers to appeal the decision within the next 30 days.

The officers' involvement with the rapper, who was convicted in 1990 of felony possession of cocaine for sale, appeared to be in conflict with their duties.

The state agency does not have a specific policy barring outside work for people with criminal records. However, employment is forbidden by state regulations if it's "incompatible or inconsistent" with their duties, CDC spokesman Russ Heimerich said.

Oprah Winfrey gives \$1 million to Underground Railroad museum

CINCINNATI (AP) — Oprah Winfrey has given \$1 million to the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and is narrator of an educational film for the museum, its administrators said.

The \$110 million museum, being built along the Ohio River, commemorates the secret Underground Railroad network that helped slaves escape from the South to the free North during the 1800s.

Winfrey, whose donation was announced last Thursday, will narrate a short film introducing "Brothers of the Borderland," a film and interactive theater program. A reconstructed slave holding pen also will be part of the museum.

Celebrity supporters of the museum, many of whom are expected to participate in the center's dedication ceremonies Aug. 23, include Vanessa Williams, Angela Bassett, Muhammad Ali, Quincy Jones, Bono and Danny Glover.

Two of the center's three pavilions will be named after the families of Black Entertainment Television founder Robert Johnson and former Procter & Gamble Co. chief executive John Pepper, who each donated \$3 million to the museum.

Pepper and former U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young serve as chairmen of a fund-raising campaign for the museum.



Winfrey



Photo by Frances Roberts

William Bratton talks to the news media during his days as the police commissioner in New York City.

Brutality case tests Bratton with blacks

WAVE NEWSPAPERS

LOS ANGELES (NNPA) — Acknowledging that he still has much to learn about the African-American community here, Los Angeles Police Chief William J. Bratton publicly apologized Saturday for what some consider offensive remarks he made about blacks during a recent community meeting on the June 23 televised police beating of suspected car thief Stanley Miller.

On the popular KJLH-FM radio show "L.A. Speaks Out," Bratton told listeners that he did not mean to offend anyone when he declared a war on gangs, calling them "terrorists" and "tribal thugs." Nor did he mean to insinuate that crime in Los Angeles had a "black face." Those remarks came just days after Bratton was forced to apologize for calling community activist Najee Ali a "nitwit" on a national television news show.

"I'd like to extend an apology, a sincere apology, if there is anybody in the community — or any

other community for that matter — that has been offended by any of the comments and remarks I've made in the course of this investigation," Bratton said. "They were certainly not intended to be insensitive or to offend. ... Life is a learning process, and sometimes we stumble."

While Bratton said his apology was from the heart and his intent is to protect all Angelenos, many African-Americans are still perturbed, with the fringe elements calling for the chief's resignation because they believe Bratton is prejudiced or, even worse, racist.

It remains to be seen whether Bratton will ultimately be seen as another Daryl Gates, who many African-Americans considered an enemy, but one thing is certain: The chief's attempt to build a better relationship with the black community — an effort he has committed himself to since arriv-

ing in Los Angeles more than a year ago — has suffered tremendously.

"In all honesty, I checked his progress," said Deputy Chief Earl Pysinger, who appeared on

KJLH with Bratton and has become one of the Police Department's most recognized figures in the wake of the Miller arrest. "His apology was sincere, but it is going to take awhile to regain and hold some of the ground that he had forged in our various communities. It's like a marriage. When something flies south, you don't immediately gain ground. The test will come with how he reacts now in all communities."

Even though his remarks were not the most egregious ever uttered by a public official — local residents have often called gang members worse things than terrorists — Minister Tony Mohammed, the western regional director of the Nation of Islam,

said the remarks were hurtful because they could spark an all-out war on the black community. "When Bratton came to town we warned him about the use of such language because the culture here is different ... and what this language does is it releases the vigilante spirit in (the LAPD). Once again, it's open season in the black community. ... (Bratton) just doesn't get it."

At a supermarket on the corner of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Western Avenue, African-American shoppers uttered the same sentiments as the minister.

"I was offended by (Bratton's) comments," said 56-year-old Joseph Crosby as he loaded groceries into his car. "It really showed a lack of respect on his part for us. Yeah, he might have built a good relationship with so-called black leaders, but for the rest of us, there's no trust there."

Toi Anderson, 25, said she had heard about the chief's com-

See Bratton on A10



Gates

Edwards, Cheney have starkly different civil rights records

BY HAZEL TRICE EDNEY
NNPA CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON — There are many differences between U.S. Sen. John Edwards, the Democratic vice presidential candidate who grew up in a poor family in Robbins, N.C., and Republican Vice President Dick Cheney's middle-class upbringing in Casper, Wyo. But there is one difference that overshadows all other differences — their civil rights records.

Edwards, picked by Democratic presidential challenger Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) as his running mate last week, has received straight A's on the NAACP Civil Rights Report Card since his term in Congress began five years ago. As for Cheney, during his entire 11 years in the U.S. House of Representatives, he received straight F's.

The report card grades members of Congress on their votes on issues of particular importance to African-Americans.

"These are the issues that our

members brought to us and said these are what African-Americans really need to be addressed. These are the bread-and-butter civil rights issues of the NAACP," said Hilary Shelton, the organization's Washington bureau director.

More than 1,000 delegates convene each year — this week in Philadelphia — representing the organization's 500,000 members, 1,700 branches, 150 college chapters and prison and military base chapters — to discuss key issues facing blacks. After each convention, Shelton monitors congressional voting on issues deemed important by the delegates.

See Candidates on A10



Cheney



Snoop Dog

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The Chronicle (USPS 067-910) was established by Ernest H. Pitt and Ndubisi Egemonye in 1974 and is published every Thursday by Winston-Salem Chronicle Publishing Co. Inc., 617 N. Liberty Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101. Periodicals postage paid at Winston-Salem, N.C. Annual subscription price is \$30.72.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
The Chronicle, P.O. Box 1636
Winston-Salem, NC 27102-1636

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