

News at a glance

Airport renamed for Tambo

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) - Welcome to O.R. Tambo International Airport.

The South African government last week announced plans to change the name of Johannesburg airport to honor the late president of the African National Congress, brushing aside objections that it was a waste of money and would confuse passengers.

Tambo was ANC leader in exile while Nelson Mandela was in prison. He earned huge international respect, winning support around the world for the anti-apartheid movement. He died of a stroke in 1993, one year before the country's first multiracial democratic elections.

Critics of the move said it should have been named a hospital or a dam in his honor rather than tamper with an international known city name.

Kenneth Meshoe, leader of the small African Christian Democratic Party said the government had got its priorities wrong. "We should have found another way of honoring him. We are grateful but we say this is not the way to go," he said.

CBS says it has a new advertiser to fill 'Survivor' slot created by

DETROIT (AP) - CBS says it has a new sponsor to replace General Motors Corp.'s advertisements on the hit reality show "Survivor."

The world's largest automaker confirmed last week that it would no longer advertise on the show, but said the decision had nothing to do with the show's recent announcement that it was arranging its teams based on contestants' race and ethnicity.

"The upcoming edition of 'Survivor' has a full roster of advertisers across a wide range of categories and GM's position has been filled," CBS spokesman Chris Ender said.

He would not identify the sponsors or say if an automaker had stepped in to take GM's place.

Spokesmen for Ford Motor Co. and Toyota Motor Corp. said they had no plans to advertise on the show. A spokesman for Honda Motor Co. said it does not comment on advertising decisions. DaimlerChrysler AG spokeswoman Carrie McElwee said the sponsorship had been offered to Dodge, Chrysler and Jeep, but all three brands declined.

GM had been the exclusive automotive sponsor of "Survivor" since the show's premiere in May of 2000.

The pullout decision, first reported on the Web site for the trade magazine Television Week, was made by GM in the normal course of deciding its media buys months ago, said GM spokeswoman Ryndee S. Carney. The decision was made without knowledge of the show's new format, she said.

GM also said it is shifting some of its media dollars from prime-time television to more live sports, awards shows and other big events, Carney said.

Senator to decline Marshall award

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) - Sen. George Allen last week declined an award from a minority scholarship fund after an outcry over his selection for the honor.

Allen, a Republican seeking reelection this fall, decided to forgo the award he was to receive next week after being told donors to the fund threatened to withhold contributions if he received it.

"The foundation told the senator that they've been catching a lot of static from members and some of their donors, and before it spins into a week of controversy, we just decided to decline it," said Allen's Senate spokesman, John Reid.

Allen ascribed the reaction to political adversaries in an election year.

"I regret that there are those who would put their personal or political dislike of me ahead of the needs of deserving students and I do not want to be the cause of any controversy which could in any way harm the efforts to help these young people," Allen said in a one-paragraph statement distributed by his Senate office.

Allen's decision came almost three weeks after he singled out a Virginia-born college student of Indian descent to a mostly white crowd at a campaign rally and twice applied the name "Macaca" to him.

Macaca is a genus of monkeys that includes macaques, and is also considered a racial slur in some parts of the world.

Mayor receives threatening letter allegedly from the KKK

BONITA, La. (AP) - Mayor Virgil Penn said he fears for his family's safety after receiving a threatening letter with a Ku Klux Klan signature last week.

The letter, which appeared to be written in crayon, contained only one sentence: "If you run again for office in the town of Bonita, La., you will - - KKK."

"I guess the three blank letters mean I will die," said Penn, Bonita's first black mayor. "To be honest, I'm afraid, not so much for me, but for my family."

Penn, 37, is married with two children, one of whom still lives at home. He has qualified to run in the Sept. 30 election against three opponents.

Penn said he hasn't turned the letter over to police yet because they told him the chemicals used to detect fingerprints could damage it. He is awaiting counsel about what to do with the letter from attorney Charles D. Jones of Monroe.

Mike Tubbs, chief deputy for the Morehouse Parish Sheriff's Office, confirmed that the process of detecting fingerprints could damage the letter.

"We're aware of the letter and will do whatever we can to assist the mayor when he decides what to do with the letter," he said.

"I don't know who did it," Penn said of the letter, adding that he believes that "a few whites" don't want a black mayor.

Changes come to Beale Street

Famous music row to get first hotel

BY WOODY BAIRD
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEMPHIS, Tenn. - Fried grits, down-home blues and a new luxury hotel will be central to the newest development taking shape in the city's famed Beale Street entertainment district.

The \$52 million project, called Lee's Landing, will include Beale Street's first hotel - with a top floor fitted out with oversized rooms for pro basketball players - and a Ground Zero Blues Club.

"People want to hear the real Delta blues, and we're going to offer that," said Bill Luckett, a co-owner with actor Morgan Freeman of the original Ground Zero in Clarksdale, Miss.

Lee's Landing is named for Lt. George Lee, a black World War I veteran, community leader and reputed political boss of Beale Street in the early 1900s.

Bawdy and bustling in those days, Beale Street was an entertainment and business center frequented by black folks from throughout the Memphis and Mississippi Delta regions.

But by the 1970s, the nightclubs that once hosted entertainers such as W.C. Handy, Ella Fitzgerald, Duke Ellington and B.B. King were gone. Political and social shifts had turned the strip into a run-down cluster of empty buildings.

The strip began a comeback in the 1980s, however, and now the Beale Street Historical District, with its bars, restaurants and shops, is a major tourist attraction and a key part of the revival of downtown Memphis.



See Beale on A5 A view of Beale Street at night.

Activists want Blackwell removed as overseer

BY JULIE CARR SMYTH
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBUS, Ohio - Relentless activists still upset over Ohio's 2004 election results filed a sweeping civil rights lawsuit last week in federal court seeking to have Secretary of State Ken Blackwell removed from overseeing November's election.

The plaintiffs, who range from the Ohio Voter Rights Alliance for Democracy to the head of a Columbus neighborhood association, accuse Blackwell of depriving large numbers of blacks of the right to vote in 2004 by distributing fewer voting machines per person in black neighborhoods. He also purged voter registrations and disproportionately assigned blacks provisional ballots, which then were disqualified at higher rates than in nearby precincts that were mostly white, the plaintiffs allege.

The groups are asking the court to affirm the allegations and remove Blackwell, who is black, from his role as Ohio's chief elections official in the upcoming November election.

"The court should appoint someone that everyone will say is honest and competent and will ensure that the appropriate security measures are in place and we don't have this kind of vulnerability in the next election," said attorney Cliff Arnebeck, who represents the plaintiffs.

Arnebeck asked Blackwell in an Aug. 23 letter to keep the 2004 ballots on hand in conjunction with the lawsuit. Federal law requires Ohio to keep them for 22 months after

the election, which is next

mittee. Blackwell, the GOP candidate for governor running against U.S. Rep. Ted Strickland, the Democratic nominee, has drawn criticism for his oversight of the 2004 election - in which President Bush prevailed over Democrat John Kerry by 118,000 votes - and his simultaneous honorary role on Bush's re-election committee which maintains the state



Blackwell

Blackwell said Thursday he will do what he can to retain the ballots past their scheduled destruction date so his critics can continue to press their allegations.

"Understand that I don't have any jurisdiction in that area," he said.

Kathy Hoke, a spokeswoman for the Ohio Historical Society, which maintains the state

archive, said county officials have control of the ballots and her group would get involved only on historical matters.

"Generally speaking, local officials are the ones responsible for retaining records when legal issues are involved," she said.

Arnebeck maintained Blackwell could and should issue a directive to county boards that would protect the ballots.

In January 2005, Arnebeck - representing similar clients -

See Blackwell on A5

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Sunday, September 17, 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Listing of Open Houses will appear in the insert for the American Dream Weekend of the Winston-Salem Journal.

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