

NEWS BRIEFS

HARRAH'S ENTERTAINMENT GIVES TRUCK TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES

What's purple, has four wheels and is full of food? The new Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada Meals on Wheels truck, donated by Harrah's Entertainment, Inc. Harrah's donated \$35,000 to buy the new, refrigerated Meals on Wheels truck to help Catholic Charities deliver meals to more than 800 homebound seniors each week. "We've been working closely with Harrah's on senior issues, and they asked us about our funding priorities," Catholic Charities Executive Director Ed Skonicki said. "With a growing number of clients, a top priority was a refrigerated delivery truck to keep food cool and fresh. Harrah's immediately stepped forward to fulfill this need. Because of its donation, we'll be able to reach more seniors." Former Mayor Jan Jones, vice president of communications and government relations at Harrah's presented the keys to Skonicki. "We're pleased our gift will help hundreds of seniors who otherwise might not receive nutritious meals," Jones said. Those interested in the Meals on Wheels program can call 382-0721.

ASSOCIATED PRESS MANAGING EDITORS NAMES BLACK PRESIDENT

The members of the Associated Press Managing Editors Association have elected an African-American as president. The new president, Caesar Andrews, is editor of the Gannett News Service. Gannett is the publisher of several newspapers across the country, including USA Today. He is the second Black to be elected to head a predominately White journalism organization this year. Orage Quarles recently became president of the Newspaper Association of America. Quarles is the publisher of The News and Observer in Raleigh, N.C.

CBC, ROSS U. MEDICAL SCHOOL ANNOUNCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Congressional Black Caucus and the Ross University School of Medicine & School of Veterinary Medicine announced the establishment of a scholarship program for medicine students of color. "We need more doctors and we need more doctors in our public hospitals, in our inner cities and rural areas, particularly in preventive health care," said Rep. Shelia Jackson-Lee (D-Texas) in a statement. "We appreciate what this program will mean to patients who now have very limited medical choices." Under the program, the New York-based university will select and fund 15 Eliza Anna Grier scholarship recipients. The 15 will be nominated or recommended by a CBC member. The first 15 are due to be named this year. The scholarship is named after Georgia's first African-American doctor. Timothy E. Foster, the university's chief executive officer and chairman, thanked the caucus for their commitment.

MEDIA GROUPS FIGHT FCC FOR RECRUITING REQUIREMENTS

Thirty six civil rights groups, including some Black media organizations, have asked the U.S. Supreme Court to reinstate the Federal Communication Commission's equal opportunity recruiting requirements. The petition is a reaction to the throwing out of the FCC's new gender and minority recruitment rules by a federal appeals court last January. At NNPA deadline, Black groups who have signed on to the Supreme Court petition include: the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition; the NAACP, the National Association of Black Journalists, the National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters and the National Association of Black Media Professionals.

13TH ANNUAL BLACK PRAYER WEEK FOR AIDS SLATED FOR MARCH

The 13th annual "Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS" is scheduled for March 3-March 9, 2002. The event is sponsored by The Balm In Gilead, which describes itself as "a national campaign (that) organizes Black churches to become centers for AIDS education and compassion." The group is calling for national and local Black church leaders to call for a "national health state of emergency" concerning AIDS in Black communities. Blacks contract AIDS eight times more than Whites and two times greater than Hispanics. "Just as all of us have been affected by the recent attacks on the U.S., we have all been affected and under seized by HIV/AIDS for more than 20 years," said group founder Pernessia Seele in a statement.

Freedom Riders gather after 40 years

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) - In the summer of 1961, blacks and whites embarked together on buses to search for "White Only" and "Colored Only" businesses whose segregationist rules they would proudly disobey.

Led largely by students from Northern colleges, the Freedom Riders were ridiculed, arrested and sometimes beaten.

But their campaign brought national attention to segregation, and hundreds joined them.

On Friday, the Freedom Riders gathered in Jackson, one of dozens of cities they helped transform.

"It was something I felt I had to do because my very person-hood, my very salvation, was tied up not only with African-Americans being oppressed, but also with white people," said the Rev. John R. Washington, a 61-year-old former Freedom

Rider.

"The biggest challenge in this nation was that black and white come together."

Washington, of Claremont, Calif., returned to Mississippi's capital for the first time in four decades. Jackson, the state's largest city with a population of about 185,000, now has a black mayor and a majority-black City Council.

Its once all-white police force is fully integrated, as are its public schools.

"I hoped and I knew that there would be some progress," Washington said. "There is a sense it has exceeded my expectations."

The Rev. Ed King, a faculty member at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, said the reunion is a rare opportunity for the Freedom Riders to see the progress they've helped achieve.

"Nobody ever expects to

live to see as much change as we have seen," he said. "This ought to give hope today to those who are desperate that the things they do can make a difference."

Jackson native Fred Clark, 58, a middle school teacher, remembers being arrested when he and a group of neighborhood youngsters tried to enter a white waiting room in a segregated bus station.

"I was so scared," he said. "We were standing there shaking."

Clark hoped the reunion will give black children a sense of those who fought for their freedom.

"They need to know where they came from so they can know where they are going," he said.

Gov. Ronnie Musgrove marked the reunion by declaring Saturday "Freedom Riders Day."

"We salute the heroic efforts in 1961 of the Freedom

Riders, and their role as an inspiration to others to follow on the long, often perilous road to end segregation," his declaration said.

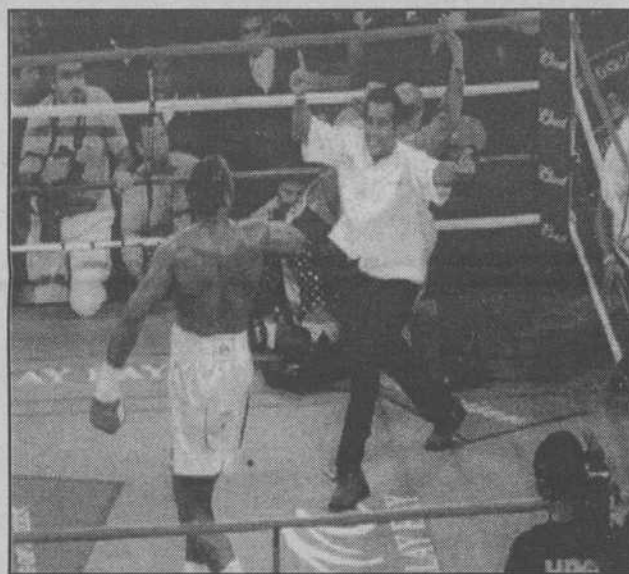
While in Jackson, the group is documenting their experiences for an oral history project. They talked of their days behind bars at the Parchman state prison in the Delta, where they slept on musty mattresses in reeking cells.

"If you weren't scared, you were crazy," said 70-year-old former Freedom Rider Marv Davidoff, who teaches at St. Thomas University in St. Paul, Minn.

His most vivid memory of Parchman, he said, wasn't the angry whites or crowded cells. It was the freedom songs that moved him to tears on his first night in the prison.

"It was a moment of blessed human solidarity," he said. "It's a gift that we gave to each other."

Lewis



Sentinel-Voice photo by Jonathan Olsen

Lewis' trainer Emanuel Stewart jumps out to congratulate the champ after referee Joe Cortez stops the fight.

(Continued from Page 1)

"I feel a knockout."

The only thing he felt Saturday night before 10,500 fans was a knockout punch.

The 6-foot-5 Lewis, who weighed 246 1/2 pounds - 6 1/2 pounds under his career-high weight in the first fight - looked relaxed and confident from the start.

Many boxing observers felt Lewis might fight cautiously, as he has done several times in the past. Lewis had a lot of snap in his jab, however, and beginning in the third round, he started firing his right with confidence and authority.

Rahman, 236 pounds, landed several good jabs in the first two rounds, but never got in a punch that rattled Lewis.

Panthers

(Continued from Page 3)

again, said, "Programming decisions are made on a day-to-day basis. I'm not sure if we're going to air it again or not."

Shabazz encouraged the Black community to call in and demand that the public access channel re-air the program as it often does for other programming.

"Our forum on C-SPAN has had a substantial impact on public opinion right now and has helped shift the debate in all of America-not just among Blacks-but in all of America," Shabazz said.

Shabazz, 34, became NBPP chairman immediately following the untimely death earlier this year of 53-year-old chairman, Khallid Abdul Muhammad. Holding a law degree from Howard University, Shabazz previously served as Na-

Marker honors an all-black infantry

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) - A historical marker was unveiled Thursday honoring an all-black unit of citizen soldiers who volunteered to serve their country in the years after they were freed from slavery.

The Capital City Guard was formed around 1885 but forced to disband two-decades later, apparently when whites became incensed when the unit played "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" in a parade.

The infantry unit was mostly forgotten after it disbanded, and blacks were not accepted into the Alabama National Guard until more than 60 years later.

Interest in the unit was revived when Alabama State University was given an old photograph showing the unit's commander, Capt. Abraham Calvin Caffey, standing in front of the unit on the steps of the Alabama Capitol.

"The unit represented people from all parts of the black community. They were doctors, shoemakers, bakers, a newspaper editor, just like today's reservists," said researcher Ron Myers, of the university's National Center for the Study of Civil Rights and African-American Culture. Caffey's great-grandson, Joseph Trimble, said the picture hung for years on a wall in an uncle's house.

Caffey "was a carpenter and he was a very well-disciplined forward thinker."

He believed in standing up for what he believed to be right," said Trimble, a captain in the Alabama National Guard. During the Spanish-American War, the unit was federalized and sent to Mobile. But Caffey and other black officers were replaced by white officers and not deployed to Cuba.

tional Youth Director and Legal Counsel for the Million Youth March.

On April 14, Shabazz led anti-police brutality protests in Cincinnati and spoke at the funeral of 19-year old Timothy Thomas, an unarmed Black man who was gunned down by a Cincinnati police officer. Thomas was the 15th Black suspect killed by Cincinnati police since 1995. Shabazz and a half-dozen other Party members-with raised fists-carried Thomas' coffin to the waiting hearse.

Last summer, Shabazz led a protest outside of former President Bill Clinton's Harlem office, declaring that Blacks would not allow Clinton "to set the stage and the pace to drive Black people out of Harlem."

John Price writes for The New York Amsterdam News