

Government will run King Center

By David Stokes
Special to Sentinel-Voice

ATLANTA (NNPA) - As the nation prepares to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. next week, new leadership and a more prominent role by a federal agency has taken place toward "the living institution and memorial to promote (King's) ideals of non-violence."

In late September, King's nephew, Isaac N. Farris, assumed leadership of The King Center as president and chief executive officer following a board election. Farris succeeded Martin Luther King III, the eldest son of the civil rights leader and Coretta Scott King.

Additionally, according to sources familiar with the operations, The King Center's board of directors moved to choose the federal government to take over the property effective early next year to provide general maintenance and upkeep of the 449 Auburn Avenue, Atlanta, Ga., location after revelations were discovered last year of ongoing financial struggles endured to sustain the 30-year-old edifice in compliance with regular city and state code regulations.

"We've been talking about it for a long time," indicated former U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young, a King Center director who labored with Dr. King during the (See Center, Page 12)

Swann to run for Pa. governor

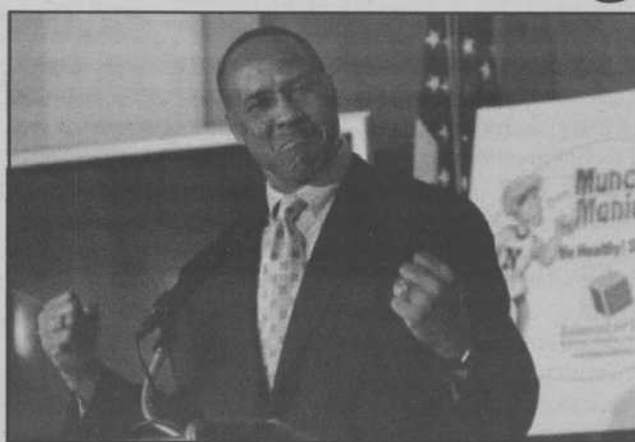
PITTSBURGH (AP) - Former Steelers star Lynn Swann, who declared his candidacy for Pennsylvania governor, says he is confident he will win the state GOP committee's endorsement.

However, if the committee endorses one of his three competitors next month, Swann said recently he may contest the party's candidate in the May 16 primary.

"If I need a primary to win, then I would have to take a serious look at being in the primary," he said.

Swann, 53, declared his candidacy in the city where he made his name in professional football. His announcement was no surprise: Swann's political committee has been raising money for his campaign for nearly a year.

He told The Associated Press in an interview last Wednesday that he made up his mind to run in the fall af-



Former Pittsburgh Steeler receiver and Hall of Famer Lynn Swann announced his bid for governor of Pennsylvania.

ter spending months weighing support at events around the state.

Swann, a Hall of Fame receiver and longtime TV football commentator, faces three other candidates in seeking the Republican nomination for governor — his first run for political office. The winner of the May 16 primary likely would face Democratic Gov. Ed Rendell, who is expected to seek a sec-

ond four-year term.

If successful in his first bid for political office, Swann would become Pennsylvania's first Black governor.

Swann kicked off his campaign with a rally in Pittsburgh. Former Steelers teammate Mel Blount introduced Swann, accompanied by his wife and two sons. He plans appearances in five other cities.

The Steelers won four Super Bowls during Swann's nine-year pro career with the team. He has worked for ABC Sports since his retirement from football in 1983.

Swann said he had put off a formal announcement earlier to avoid conflicts with his

ABC Sports duties.

If elected, Swann said he would not resume his broadcasting career even on a part-time basis. Rendell moonlights as a Philadelphia Eagles post-game analyst for Comcast SportsNet in Philadelphia. "I think the people of Pennsylvania would rather have a governor who is committed to being there," Swann said.

Swann has, so far, revealed little about his political philosophy or the initiatives he would pursue as governor. He has advocated reducing certain business taxes and said he opposes abortion rights.

The other candidates are former Lt. Gov. William Scranton III, state Sen. Jeffrey E. Piccola and Jim Panyard, former director of the Pennsylvania Manufacturers' Association. In independent polling, Scranton III and Swann are running ahead of the other two GOP candidates, but behind Rendell.

Swann said he hopes to convince Blacks that he is a better candidate than Rendell, the former Philadelphia mayor.

The Democratic Party has "taken the African-American vote for granted," he said.

Chicago fireman reassigned for remark

CHICAGO (AP) - An arbitrator says a White firefighter removed from his unit after he uttered racial slurs over a fire truck microphone should be reassigned.

The decision seeks to balance the seniority rights of firefighter John Scheuneman against the Fire Department's right to respect the feelings of those in the predominantly Black neighborhood, where his former unit is located.

The department was rocked in February 2004 af-

ter a voice over an open fire truck microphone repeated a racial slur several times during an apparent traffic altercation.

The department identified Scheuneman as the speaker and he was removed from his unit. Officials proposed a 90-day suspension, which Scheuneman is challenging.

Messages left with spokesmen for the fire department and the firefighters' union were not immediately returned Wednesday. There

was no public listing for a John Scheuneman in Chicago.

Scheuneman put in for a new permanent assignment last year, listing three units in the same district in order of preference, with his old unit at the top.

At his arbitration hearing, Deputy Fire Commissioner Leslie Noy testified that not enough time had passed for him to return "to the community where the (racial slur) incident occurred."

Detroit

(Continued from Page 2)

per department," Clayton said. "The departmental budget is not public information. When everything is done, we will have a breakdown of how much was spent for each department."

Clayton said the host committee does not handle the NFL contracts and that not everyone who applies for a contract will get one.

Gwen Thomas, who heads Promotions Unlimited 2000 Inc., a promotional group, decried the bureaucracy in getting contracts for the Super Bowl.

"I did not even get a chance to bid on what would have been a perfect match for my company, the NFL staffing project," Thomas said. "A Troy-based company, Entech Staffing, was awarded the contract."

Tony Davis, who owns a transportation company, said he was not surprised to hear many local businesses in the city complain.

"That is the same thing that happened during the All-Star Game," Davis said. "Most of the cab services they used were not African-American and some were not Detroit-based."

Iconic Creative Media (ICM), a Detroit-based graphic arts company said it had to

fight for the amendment of the city's signage ordinance, which previously restricts the length of posters and banners to be posted on a downtown first floor building façade to 10 percent.

"First they said the ordinance allows only 10 percent of a first floor building, and the NFL wanted that," said Trent Jones of ICM. "But we got the council to increase that to 40 percent in the Super Bowl ordinance. This is not just about the game; we want to contribute to the revitalization of downtown Detroit."

Jones said local businesses "must stand up and protect themselves," just as they did in lobbying the signage ordinance.

"The city was forced to consider minority businesses that would want to post signs and banners during the Super Bowl," Jones said. "They heard our argument and stood for downtown property owners."

One local tavern owner close to Ford field said he must sell a brand of beer he has never stocked and cannot use his vacant lot to park cars during the Super Bowl week.

Brian McCarthy, NFL director of communications in New York did not return calls.

Bankole Thompson writes for the Michigan Citizen.

In a Dec. 27 ruling, arbitrator Edwin Benn said the department's transfer cannot trump the 29-year veteran's seniority rights.

Black Jewels

In 1879, a black man set a marathon record.

In the late 19th century, when it was common practice for gamblers to bribe or threaten Black athletes into purposely losing events, Frank Hart flatly refused to be a pawn for their profit.

By 1879, Hart made sports history in a 6-day marathon event held at Madison Square Garden. At the end of the race, as Hart crossed the finish line, the huge crowd rose to give him a standing ovation. Never before, in any sporting event, had a Black athlete been awarded so much prize money or been received with such a warm welcome by fans both black and white, alike.

Frank Hart, the unsung hero of marathon champions, is a true Black Jewel in sports history.

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