

Entertainment Briefs

B.B. KING OFFERS GUITAR AS REWARD FOR DOG

LOS ANGELES (AP) - B.B. King's dog, Lucille, has disappeared, and the legendary blues man is offering an autographed copy of one of his signature "Lucille" guitars in an effort to get her back. The 2-year-old white female Maltese, named after King's signature guitar, went missing about 10 days ago in West Hollywood while she was under the care of his co-manager, Matthew Lieberman. "We're not sure how she got out of the yard, perhaps a gate was ajar," Lieberman said in a statement Monday. Canvassing nearby animal shelters and putting up some 500 signs failed to turn up any trace of Lucille, so the 80-year-old musician decided to offer a signed guitar as a reward.

SAMUEL L. JACKSON CEMENTS HOLLYWOOD FAME

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Actor Samuel L. Jackson left his mark on Hollywood Boulevard recently, sinking his hands and feet into wet cement in front of Grauman's Chinese Theatre, where many other stars have been honored. "It's an awesome sort of experience, the kind of thing you don't really think about as a young actor," Jackson said at the ceremony. "You sort of stop to pause and say to yourself, 'Wow, you're in a very elite club.'" Jackson began his film career in 1972 with "Together for Days," and has appeared in more than 100 movies, including "Do the Right Thing," "Jungle Fever" and "Pulp Fiction." Last year, Jackson played Jedi master Mace Windu in "Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith." His upcoming movie "Freedomland" opens Feb. 17.

ACTORS BASSETT, VANCE WELCOME TWINS

LOS ANGELES (AP) - It's a boy, and a girl, for acting duo Angela Bassett and Courtney B. Vance. The couple are new parents of twins, a publicist for the pair announced recently. The babies were born Jan. 27 to a surrogate mother, Alex Dubee said. Bassett and Vance have been married for eight years. Bassett, 47, won a Golden Globe and was nominated for an Academy Award for her portrayal of singer Tina Turner in the 1993 bio-pic "What's Love Got to Do with It." Vance, 45, plays district attorney Ron Carver on the NBC show "Law & Order: Criminal Intent."

SIMMONS RECEIVES KEY TO NEWARK

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) - Russell Simmons has received a key to the city for his dedication to young people. About 2,000 students from Weequahic High School attended the presentation recently for the 48-year-old co-founder of Def Jam Records, creator of HBO's "Def Comedy Jam" and chairman of Rush Communications, which includes Simmons' Phat Farm clothing empire. Newark Mayor Sharpe James honored Simmons for his work with the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network, a group Simmons founded to help at-risk youth. Simmons said he wanted the students to learn they can be successful with hard work, dedication and faith. "Whatever they can imagine for themselves they can accomplish," he said. "Anything you can dream about, you can do." One of the summit's initiatives is Hip-Hop Team Vote, a 50-city program that worked to register and mobilize young voters across the country in 2004. Simmons, who lives in Saddle River, is not the only celebrity to appear around Newark lately. Last month, city native Queen Latifah held a special premiere of her movie "Last Holiday" at a downtown movie theater.

R. Kelly snags three Soul Train nods

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) - R. Kelly collected a leading three nominations for the 20th annual Soul Train Music Awards, show creator Don Cornelius announced.

The R&B crooner received a best male R&B-soul album nod for "TP.3 Reloaded," while his song "Trapped in the Closet (Chapter 1 of 5)" garnered nominations for best male R&B-soul single and best R&B-soul or rap music video.

Kelly is also the first recipient of the Stevie Wonder award for outstanding career achievements in song writing.

Wonder will present the honor at a March 4 ceremony.

Nine other recording art-

ists received two nominations each, including rap quartet the Black Eyed Peas and solo stars Keyshia Cole, Missy Elliott, Gwen Stefani, Charlie Wilson, Bobby Valentino, John Legend, Mariah Carey and Kanye West.

Legend, Carey and West are all Grammy favorites, with eight nominations each. Kelly has one, for best long form music video.

Kelly, dogged by continuing child pornography charges, earned favorite soul-R&B artist honors at the American Music Awards in November.

Other honorees at the 20th annual Soul Train Music Awards include Academy Award winner Jamie Foxx and chart-toppers Destiny's Child, who will be recog-

nized for outstanding career achievements by legendary musician Quincy Jones.

Legend will be presented with the 2006 Sammy Davis Jr. Entertainer of the Year award.

The Soul Train Music Awards, started by the syndicated music show "Soul Train," celebrate artists in R&B, hip-hop, rap and gospel music.

The 2006 honors will be presented at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium.

The awards are determined by a group of radio station professionals, talent managers and performers.

Complete list of nominees:

R&B-soul single, female: "We Belong Together," Mariah Carey; "I Should Have Cheated," Keyshia

Cole; "Unbreakable," Alicia Keys; "Hollaback Girl," Gwen Stefani.

R&B-soul single, male: "Trapped in the Closet (Chapter 1 of 5)," R. Kelly; "Ordinary People," John Legend; "Slow Down," Bobby Valentino; "Charlie, Last Name Wilson," Charlie Wilson.

R&B-soul single, group, band or duo: "Cater 2 U," Destiny's Child; "Supastar," Floetry featuring Common; "Turning Me On," Nina Sky featuring Pitbull; "Don't Cha," The Pussycat Dolls featuring Busta Rhymes.

R&B-soul album, female: "The Emancipation of Mimi," Mariah Carey; "The Way It Is," Keyshia Cole; "The First Lady," Faith Evans; "Free Yourself," Fan- (See R. Kelly, Page 10)

Busta Rhymes may be queried in death

NEW YORK (AP) - Detectives want to question Busta Rhymes about the fatal shooting of the rapper's bodyguard outside a Brooklyn warehouse where a star-studded video was being taped, officials said Monday.

Rhymes was among several potential witnesses who left the scene of the slaying early Sunday before police arrived, Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly told reporters at police headquarters.

"We believe Busta Rhymes may have been on the street when the shooting took place," Kelly said.

A spokesman for Rhymes, Greg Miller, declined comment.

Police planned to seek a court order to obtain video shot inside the warehouse, believing it might provide clues about what sparked the shooting.

"Obviously, we're very much interested in the filming that went on," Kelly said. "So all of that film will be examined with a subpoena."

Rhymes, Missy Elliot and G-Unit members, including Lloyd Banks and Tony Yayo, were set to start filming on a ninth-floor soundstage when the violence erupted around 1:30 a.m. outside the industrial building, police said. About 500 had gathered for the video project that was to accompany a remix of Rhymes' latest hit single, "Touch It."

Police believe an argument that began inside the warehouse "moved to the street," Kelly said. "There

was some pushing and shoving going on when an individual took out a gun and fired at least eight shots."


Israel Ramirez, 29, of Manhattan, was killed with a single shot to the chest. Rhymes, a Brooklyn native whose legal name is Trevor

Smith, was not injured.

Sometime before the shooting, Yayo reportedly had an outburst in the studio that was later quelled by Rhymes.


Yayo, whose real name is Marvin Bernard, denies any involvement in the shooting,

said his lawyer, Scott Leemon. In a letter to prosecutors, Leemon said his client would refuse to voluntarily answer any questions from law enforcement. "Please make sure he is not contacted and/or harassed by NYPD," the letter said.



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