

## Entertainment Briefs

### RAPPER SON OF THE LATE EAZY-E ARRESTED

COMPTON, Calif. (AP) - The son of the late rapper Eazy-E was arrested for investigation of possessing a concealed weapon, authorities said Sunday. Eric Wright Jr.— who goes by the name Lil' Eazy-E in his own recently launched hip-hop career — is the firstborn son of Eazy-E, a founding member of the pioneering gangster rap group N.W.A. who died of AIDS in 1995. Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputies pulled over Wright, 22, for a traffic violation near Compton on Saturday night, Lt. Michael Alerich said. "Mr. Wright was in possession of a firearm and he was arrested," Alerich said. "Two other guys in the car were also arrested, one for possession of a firearm and the other for a probation violation."

### EX-MOTOWN STAR IN DETROIT PROPERTY DISPUTE

DETROIT (AP) - City Councilwoman and former Motown star Martha Reeves has been a strong advocate of stricter housing code enforcement, but a newspaper says it discovered multiple violations at her own properties. Inspectors found 25 code violations at one two-unit rental property, include two emergency infractions for lack of maintenance of fire doors, *The Detroit News* reported. Ten of Reeves' 15 vacant lots are deep in overgrown weeds, grass and trees, the newspaper said, and three contained dumped electronic equipment, clothing, furniture and construction debris. In a written response, Reeves said she acquired most of the properties "sight unseen" at a state land auction. "My hope was to help revitalize some of the neighborhoods in Detroit, by building on them, or working with community groups to establish urban greenery areas," she wrote. Reeves, 64, said she recently hired a new management company and that "improvements are forthcoming." As part of the Motown group Martha Reeves and the Vandellas, she had hits in the 1960s with "Heat Wave," "Dancing in the Street," "Nowhere to Run," "I'm Ready for Love," "Jimmy Mack" and "Honey Chile." She was elected in November to a four-year term on the nine-member City Council.

### JUDGE ALLOWS R. KELLY TAPE VIEWING

CHICAGO (AP) - A judge will allow the public and the media to view a videotape in court that prosecutors allege shows singer R. Kelly having sex with an underage girl. In his ruling Thursday, Judge Vincent Gaughan said he saw no "overarching interest" in banning the tape from public view. "This is the whole crux and linchpin of the case," Gaughan said. "If there was no tape, we wouldn't have a case." Kelly has pleaded not guilty to 14 counts of child pornography. Prosecutors claim the videotape was made sometime during a nearly three-year span between January 1998 and October 2000, when the girl may have been as young as 13. Prosecutors and defense attorneys had asked Gaughan to limit the viewing of the video to only jurors, attorneys and the judge himself. They argued that the video is so lewd it would embarrass the girl, who is now 21. Assistant Cook County State's Attorney Shauna Boliker said prosecutors do not plan to call the girl as a witness.

### BEYONCE NEEDS GIRL BAND FOR UPCOMING TOUR

NEW YORK (AP) - Beyonce Knowles needs an all-female band for her upcoming tour — and fast. Knowles is searching for musicians to play on a tour in support of her second solo album, "B'Day," Columbia Records announced this week. The album will be released internationally on Sept. 4, her 25th birthday, and in the United States on Sept. 5. Auditions will be held Monday in Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, Burbank, Calif., and Weehawken, N.J. The band will include drummers, keyboard players, bassists, guitarists, horn players and percussionists. Finalists from local auditions must be available to travel to New York to audition for Knowles later in the week and to begin working on the road by June 20, the record label said. Aspiring band members must be 18 or older and must be prepared to play Knowles' "Work It Out," as performed on the "Beyonce: Live at Wembley" DVD. Knowles, who fronted R&B girl group Destiny's Child, won five Grammy Awards for her top-selling solo debut, 2003's "Dangerously in Love."

# Usher helps clean up campus

NEW ORLEANS (AP) - Five-time Grammy winning R&B artist Usher pulled on some work gloves, grabbed a pair of trimmers and chopped away at a patch of vines that had overtaken a fence at a New Orleans school shuttered by Hurricane Katrina.

Usher, whose full name is Usher Raymond IV, joined dozens of volunteers Tuesday to clear the overgrown lawn of the International School of Louisiana, the state's first foreign language-based charter school, which has been closed since Katrina hit Aug. 29.

Usher got his first glimpse of Katrina's destruction Monday, when he visited storm-damaged neighborhoods in New Orleans and nearby St. Bernard Parish.

"To see it, in this state, it's devastating," Usher said, cutting away at the vines that had twisted through the chain-link fence surrounding the school, slated to reopen later this year.

"I'm here to physically do something and hopefully motivate other people to do the same," said Usher, the latest in a growing list of celebrities to visit New Orleans and



Five-time Grammy winning R&B artist Usher, along with Dillard University student Donnielle Minor, in New Orleans on Tuesday work to clear a tree that had grown into a fence as they help to clean up a New Orleans school damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

the Gulf Coast since Katrina.

Last month, actress Cicely Tyson joined a group of women brought here by the Children's Defense Fund to bring attention to the needs of storm victims, particularly traumatized children.

Shortly after Katrina, Usher began Project Restart to help families in the Gulf Coast region find housing. Though most well-known for his dance moves and hit songs like "Yeah," he has been a strong advocate for volunteerism.

On Monday, Usher met

with Xavier and Dillard University students, whose campuses flooded. Some students joined him Tuesday for the cleanup effort, among them 21-year-old Trivia Frazier.

"It was very inspirational, just knowing somebody cares," said Frazier, a junior at Dillard whose New Orleans home was flooded. "It's also an incentive to keep going."

Usher, a Chattanooga, Tenn., native who now lives in Atlanta, was scheduled to meet with business leaders in Baton Rouge on Tuesday,

along with Gov. Kathleen Blanco.

He visited the state capitol and took the microphone in the House and Senate chambers, wearing sunglasses and short-sleeves. He ignored House members' requests for a song and instead talked briefly about his efforts at helping storm victims.

"It truly takes a village to ... get some of these families back into their homes," he said. Usher planned to visit the Mississippi Gulf Coast on Wednesday.

## Montel

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tients to use marijuana medicinally by smoking it, eating it or taking it in tablets. The drug would be prescribed by a doctor and the program would be monitored by the state Health Department.

Under the proposal, the amount of marijuana a patient would be allowed to possess would be capped at one ounce and patients would be issued cards identifying them as registered medical marijuana users.

The bill, sponsored by state Sen. Nicholas Scutari, lists cancer, glaucoma, HIV and AIDS, wasting syndrome, chronic pain, severe nausea, seizures and persistent muscle spasms as among the conditions eligible for medical marijuana usage.

Terrence P. Farley, an Ocean County assistant prosecutor and spokesman for two state law enforcement groups, told *The Associated Press* last month that the bill is a veiled attempt to legalize drugs.

"This is how they're trying to get marijuana legalized," said Farley, who also is director of the county anti-narcotics force.

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