

Entertainment Briefs

DETROIT STREET NAMED AFTER MOTOWN LEGEND

DETROIT (AP) - A section of the street where the Motown sound originated has been renamed for Berry Gordy Jr., the music label's legendary founder. The Detroit City Council unanimously voted to give a section of West Grand Boulevard the name, Berry Gordy Jr. Boulevard, Councilwoman Martha Reeves said recently in a statement. Berry Gordy Jr. Boulevard will stretch west from the John C. Lodge freeway to Grand River Avenue. It includes the block where "Hitsville USA," Gordy's former home and Motown recording studio, stands. A dedication ceremony was held. "This is a dream come true for me, to succeed in a venture that has been in my heart since my days at Motown," said Reeves, an original member of the Motown group, Martha and the Vandellas. Motown produced music icons such as Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross and the Supremes, The Miracles, Four Tops, Temptations and the Jackson Five.

CALIFORNIA LOOKING TO SHAME CELEBS INTO PAYING UNCLE SAM

(NNPA) - Grammy-winning singer Dionne Warwick and comedian Sinbad each owe at least \$2 million in back taxes, according to California's newest list of famous offenders. The airing out of celebs that have let their taxes slide is done annually in hopes of shaming and embarrassing the worst perpetrators into paying their debts. Sinbad owes the state \$2.14 million, according to the California Franchise Tax Board, while Warwick's debt totals \$2.67 million. O.J. Simpson, currently facing 11 armed robbery and kidnapping charges, also made the list with a tax debt of \$1.55 million. The 250 top-listed names owe California more than \$249 million combined, Denise Azimi, a spokesperson for the collection agency, said. The state legislator last year approved a website to include public shaming as a tool for tax collectors on www.ftb.ca.gov. "Each year, California loses more than \$6.5 billion in unpaid taxes," said John Chiang, the state controller and chair of the Franchise Tax Board. "Hopefully, this action will encourage these taxpayers to come forward, pay what they owe, and quickly help the Franchise Tax Board remove their names from the list."

POLICE ARREST FIVE IN REGGAE STAR'S SLAYING

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) - Police have arrested five men in the killing of reggae star Lucky Dube, who was gunned down in an apparent carjacking attempt. Police spokesman Eugene Opperman said the men were arrested Sunday morning and were scheduled for court this week. Police also seized two stolen handguns and a car allegedly used during the crime. Dube, who launched his career in the 1980s with criticism of the apartheid regime, was killed after he dropped off two of his children at his brother's suburban Johannesburg house. Dube's friends told South African Sunday newspapers they believed it was a targeted assassination. But Opperman said police still believed he was shot in a botched carjacking. Carjacking is rife in South Africa, which has gained notoriety for its high rate of violent crime. Dube, one of South Africa's best-known singers, recorded more than 20 albums in a career spanning more than two decades.

Nas

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is," the rapper said, referring to the civil rights leader slain in the 1960s.

"And to my older people who don't know who Nas is and who don't know what a street disciple is, stay outta this [expletive] conversation. We'll talk to you when we're ready. Right now, we're on a whole new movement. We're taking power from that word."

A representative for Def Jam did not immediately respond to an e-mail seeking comment from sent after business hours.

The use of the n-word is common in rap, though rapper Chamillionaire recently declared he would no longer use that word or curse in his rhymes.

Beyonce wows fans in Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — Beyonce Knowles joined the millennium celebrations in Ethiopia with a spirited concert in the capital of the Horn of Africa nation.

Some 5,000 adoring fans in Ethiopia — a country normally unimpressed by Western music — turned out to see Beyonce.

In this country, even teens tend to be loyal to music in the national language, Amharic.

But Beyonce got a hysterical welcome when she came onstage.

"I want to thank you," the R&B star told the screaming crowd Saturday evening in return. "You have been one of the best audiences of my lifetime."

In a country where many women wear simple white, cotton dresses, Beyonce wore costumes covered in sequins or shiny, space-age material, from a modern in-



Beyonce performed for 5,000 screaming fans in Ethiopia.

terpretation of a hula girl with shiny black tendrils replacing the grass skirt to a high-necked Victorian-style top paired with sequined hotpants.

Beyonce's concert was part of Ethiopia's yearlong celebration of its 2,000th birthday according to its ancient calendar.

In September, at the start of the year 2000, Addis

Ababa hosted Los Angeles-based hip-hop group Black Eyed Peas in a new, multi-million-dollar but temporary concert hall. But the reception for the internationally popular group was tepid, if respectful.

Beyonce's opening act, rapper Ludacris, also got a lukewarm reception Saturday.

"Rap music doesn't suit

Ethiopia," said local music promoter Michael Melake. "Ethiopians need a melody."

"Rap music is all about the message, and we don't identify with that," he said. "It's all about the Black American experience, and we don't relate to that."

But the crowd appeared to enjoy genuinely the 26-year-old Beyonce, who sang many of the ballads on her latest album, "B'Day."

"She's hot," said local nightclub owner Enoch Nicano.

"She's more than hot."

Concert organizers had another reason for why Ethiopians are so fond of the American singer.

"Because she loves Ethiopia," said Mulugeta Aserate, a member of Ethiopia's millennium secretariat.

Beyonce, who opened her world tour in Moscow last week, continues on to Romania, Turkey, India, Thailand, Indonesia and China.

'Bill Pickett Invitational' Black rodeo tours

By Shirley Savage-Hampton
Sentinel-Voice

The 23rd annual Bill Pickett Invitational Finals Rodeo is the only African-American traveling rodeo in the country, and the first to have its finals in Las Vegas. It is a two-day event with several activities for the whole family.

The rodeo will kickoff on Fri., Nov. 9, at 10 a.m. with a kids rodeo called Rodeo for Kidz' Sake at the South Point Casino Equestrian Center. Later, at 7 p.m., is the first performance for the general public. There are matinee performances on Saturday, and the final show at 7 p.m.

The rodeo was named for William "Bill" Pickett, the legendary creator of the move called Bull Doggin'.

President and producer of the Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo, Lu Vason, has challenged the false perception that Blacks were absent in the development of the West, while molding his touring rodeo into a success.

"Most of the credit belongs to all the people that make the rodeo the great event it is — the cowboys and cowgirls, sponsors and the terrific fans who come year after year to see the greatest riders in the world."

"The rodeo has been a powerful tool in his goals of educating people on the Black West, as well as building a profitable business," according to Vason.

"Sometimes it's been a lot

like bull ridin.' We get tossed around and jostled, but we've stayed on top and the ride has been worth it," he said.

The first Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo, held in 1984 in Denver, was an inspiration for Vason after he visited the Cheyenne Frontier Days, which is considered the Granddaddy of rodeos in Wyoming. While in Denver, he visited the Black American West Museum of History and learned about the existence of Bill Pickett.

"My experience was exciting but lacked one thing: Black cowboys," said Vason.

"People knew the name Will Rogers," recalls Vason, "But they hadn't heard of Bill Pickett, and if they had, they

didn't know he was Black."

Pickett was born in Texas in 1870. His signature move — Bull Doggin' — is one in which he rode alongside a steer, jumped onto its shoulders and brought the steer down by digging his feet into the ground, and grabbing a steer's lip with his teeth like the bulldogs did.

The modern-day version of the move is called steer wrestling and remains one of the most intriguing exhibitions throughout rodeo history.

"The rodeo is educational, and I'm trying to promote the culture of the Black West. A lot of people can't relate to the pyramids in Africa," adds Vason, who was born in New

Orleans and raised in Berkeley, Calif.

"I believe a lot of us can better relate to Black Americans who were a part of developing this country."

Vason has made it possible for many to have access to a piece of denied history. "Children and adults today can travel a short distance by bus, car, or maybe even horse, to a place where the dust from the bullpen and the fearless strength of Black cowboys... is as authentic now as they were over a 100 years ago," according to Vason.

Vason has also established the Bill Pickett Memorial Scholarship Fund. Each year (See Pickett, Page 7)



MAN OF THE HOUR

Multimedia personality Steve Harvey, center with glasses and a cigar in his left hand, makes his way through the crowd at the Orleans Arena on Saturday night. Harvey hosted the 5th Annual Hoodie Awards honoring business and civic leaders.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Marty Frierson