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LOCAL NEWS

Friday, Feb. 13, 2009 Metro dept.: 313-222-6600, localnews@freepress.com

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Firm abuzz over Kilpatrick hire

DETROIT

By JIM SCHAEFER,
KATHERINE YUNG, BEN SCHMITT
AND M.L. ELRICK
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITERS

Rumors persisted for months — and company officials denied them — that Compuware Chief Executive

Compuware workers' reactions are mixed

Officer Peter Karmanos was going to hire former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick. News of the hiring — days after Kilpatrick finished serving 99 days in jail for felony perjury in the text message scandal — surprised even

Compuware insiders on Thursday.

One person close to company management described being “flabbergasted” by the revelation, first reported at **freep.com** Wednesday night. “Here’s a guy that got

thrown out of office for what? Lying,” the person said of Kilpatrick. “And here, under a cloud” — a reference to Compuware’s previous denials — “he’s hired.”

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the



Former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick asked for a hearing to enable him to travel to Texas for training.

interview was not authorized. Compuware employee Cozvie Harris, 42, of Canton took

Read the company memo. 5B

a more benevolent tone. “It’s up to the boss,” she said at the company’s headquarters in downtown Detroit, referring to Karmanos.

“Hey,” she added, “welcome to Compuware.”

See EX-MAYOR, 5B

DETROIT'S MAYORAL CAMPAIGN

Hendrix works to appeal to all kinds of voters



January photo by KIMBERLY P. MITCHELL/Detroit Free Press

Freman Hendrix, center, talks about his ideas at Hot Sam’s, a men’s clothier in downtown Detroit. Listening are, from left, Walter Cheeks, a pastor at a Detroit church, Rudy McCloud of Detroit and shop owner Tony Stovall of Southfield.

After upset in 2005, ex-deputy mayor takes nothing for granted

By NAOMI R. PATTON
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Fourth in a series of stories on Detroit’s mayoral candidates.

Sweetwater Tavern is a popular downtown Detroit restaurant and bar. It attracts all kinds of folk — rich and poor, public and private sector.

So it didn’t surprise patrons to see Freman Hendrix walk in one afternoon, chatting with bartenders and shaking a few hands before ordering a plate of wings.

It was emblematic of Hendrix’s campaign in his second bid to become mayor of Detroit.

Hendrix received 47% of the vote in

Freman Hendrix: Just the facts

Age: 58

Family: Married to Elaine Hendrix; daughter, Erin, 26; son, Stephen, 24, and one grandson.

Career: Detroit Finance Department appraiser’s office, 1978-1990; Wayne County assistant executive, 1990-1993; campaign manager for former Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer, 1993; Archer’s chief of staff, 1994-1997; Detroit deputy mayor, 1998-2001; Detroit Public Schools’ appointed board chairman, 1999-2000; Strategic Staffing Solutions chief operations officer, 2001-2004; Eastern Michigan University chief government relations officer, 2006-present but on leave since October.

2005 — losing, despite a slight lead in the polls, to then-Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick.

At the time, pundits attributed Hen-



Read about Hendrix’s young people’s network and find previous candidate profiles at **freep.com**.

drix’s loss to the news media exposure Kilpatrick garnered as the nation fixed its eyes on Detroit to mourn the death of civil rights icon Rosa Parks a month before the election, and a last-minute influx of money to Kilpatrick’s war chest. Others suggested the arrest of Hendrix’s son, Stephen, on an assault charge just before the election — a charged dropped less than a year later — could have been a factor.

But Hendrix said his mistake was how he communicated to Detroiters. He was selective, engaging certain voting blocs at the expense of others.

“There was a deficit then,” Hendrix said. “There was crime ... schools were broken down ... services weren’t working then.”

See MAYOR, 3B

Parents’ pleas fail to keep 2 schools open

Hickory Grove, Pine Lake to close

BLOOMFIELD HILLS SCHOOLS

By EMILIA ASKARI
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

The Bloomfield Hills Board of Education voted unanimously Thursday night to close two of its elementary schools — Hickory Grove in Bloomfield Hills and Pine Lake in Orchard Lake — at the end of the school year.

The move will save a projected \$2.3 million in operating funds a year. Administrators said that falling enrollment and declining state funding for education forced them to close the two schools.

Parents from both schools packed board meetings to try to save them, but in the end, the board decided that closing those schools would be less painful than any other option.

“People are going to be upset, they’re going to be mad, and after they get through that — if they can — they’re going to say, ‘What are the ideas we have for moving forward?’ That’s what we do in Bloomfield Hills so well,” Board President Mary Ellen Miller said.



Read details of the district’s plan at **freep.com**.

Hickory Grove is the only school in the wealthy district with enough low-income students to qualify for federal Title I funding, according to district officials.

Some parents argued that it was recommended for closure partly because its parents lacked the clout of wealthier parents, but other parents and administrators in the district said that wasn’t a factor.

Pine Lake parents argued that their school should remain open because it has a spacious campus. In addition, they noted that part of the school property has a deed restriction stating that the property can only be used by a school, limiting the potential purchasers of the property.

The district’s attorney does not believe the deed restriction will prevent the closure of the school, spokeswoman Betsy Erikson said.

Closing Hickory Grove and Pine Lake would take the district from six elementary schools to four.

Contact EMILIA ASKARI at 248-351-3298 or easkari@freepress.com.

‘I’m sick,’ says mother accused in torture case

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COUNTY NEWS CONTINUES ON 2B >>

MACOMB COUNTY ROSEVILLE

\$2.6-million Lotto ticket sold, but who has it?

A Roseville convenience store sold the winning Classic Lotto 47 jackpot ticket for Wednesday — worth \$2.6 million to one lucky player, lottery officials announced Thursday. The winning ticket — with the numbers 12, 16, 19, 21, 25, 26 — was sold at Party Hut, 29307 Gratiot.

Ray Marei, who said his family owns the store, said no one has contacted him claiming to be the winner. Marei said the store has sold several big winners in recent years, including a million-dollar ticket last year. “I guess we’re a lucky store,” he said.

REGION-WIDE

Some offices closed, some open, for holiday

U.S. government offices, American financial markets and most banks will be closed Monday in observance of Presidents’ Day.

There will be no mail delivery. State offices, including Secretary of State branches, will be closed. In Oakland and Macomb counties, the clerks’ offices and courts will be closed. In Wayne County, the clerk’s office will be open. Wayne County Circuit and 36th District courts will be closed.

City of Detroit offices will be open. Buses and the People Mover will operate on regular schedules.

Ficano venture aims to lure stem cell work

WAYNE COUNTY

By KATHLEEN GRAY
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano said Thursday that county government will partner with Tech Town at Wayne State University to try to bring embryonic stem cell business to southeast Michigan.

The announcement at Ficano’s State of the County address in Canton follows approval in November of a state ballot proposal easing restrictions on embryonic stem cell research. Proponents say the research could produce solutions to medical mysteries and



Wayne Co. Executive Robert Ficano

diseases.

Wayne’s Stem Cell Commercialization Center will aid firms considering coming to Michigan for stem cell research and business. It will provide access to lab space, seed money for start-up companies and information on tax incentives.

“What we’re doing in Wayne County is trying to apply the glue to connect the dots for companies,” said Deputy Wayne County Executive Azam Elder, who noted the county could inject up to \$10 million for the business initiative.

Macomb Dems set to raise taxes in response to union contracts. 3B

Michigan is behind other states in stem cell research. California voters passed a \$3-billion bond proposal in 2004 to support embryonic stem cell research. Until November, Michigan was one of five states with strict prohibitions on embryonic stem cell research. Proposal 2, which passed 53%-47%, amended the state constitution to allow scientists in Michigan to use embryos left over from fertility treatments for research.

Contact KATHLEEN GRAY at 313-223-4407 or kgray99@freepress.com.

Speech highlights

County will partner with Tech Town to try to attract stem cell-related businesses to southeast Michigan.

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano criticized Sheriff Warren Evans for refusing to cut 10% from his budget to help fill a \$33-million hole in the county budget. “The sheriff knows how to make cuts without jeopardizing public safety,” he said.

A mortgage foreclosure prevention program started last fall has counseled 600 families in danger of losing their homes.

ACROSS THE REGION

UAW OKs a contract with pay freeze, unpaid time off

Dems now ready to up property taxes

MACOMB COUNTY

By STEVE NEAVLING
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Under the threat of massive layoffs and cuts in services, Macomb County government's second-largest union approved a concessionary labor contract.

When three days of voting ended Wednesday, local units of the UAW narrowly approved a contract that calls for pay freezes, six days off a year

without pay, higher out-of-pocket health care costs and pension reforms.

The UAW rejected the contract last month but revoted after the county's largest union — American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees — approved its contract last week. The vote may have saved more than 100 jobs.

Now the county's Democratic leadership is preparing to deliver on its promise: raising property taxes.

The Democrats are to host four town hall meetings March 3 to explain that numerous services and jobs still are at risk without a tax increase.

"We're seeing an increase in services as economic conditions worsen," Board Chairman Paul Gielegheem, D-Clin-ton Township, said Thursday. "We have to inform the public about this."

Democrats, who hold a 20-6 majority on the board, promised unions last year that they would raise taxes if employees approved the concessionary contracts.

But Republican commissioners are opposed.

"We haven't even gone through our budget yet to find ways to save money," said Commissioner Kathy Voss-burg, R-Chesterfield Town-ship.

Democrats plan to increase property taxes by .04 mill in the spring to raise about \$10 million a year. The owner of a home with a taxable value of \$100,000 would pay an additional \$40 a year. A vote of the public is not required.

If taxes are raised, the \$10 million in union concessions

If you go ...

Democratic Macomb County commissioners plan to make a case for a tax increase during four town hall meetings March 3.

■ **8 a.m.:** Mt. Clemens Public Library, 150 Cass.

■ **Noon:** New Haven Medical Center, 58311 Gratiot.

■ **5 p.m.:** Roseville City Hall, 29777 Gratiot.

■ **7:30 p.m.:** Sterling Heights Public Library, 40255 Dodge Park.

would erase the remaining \$8-million deficit, which stems from skyrocketing pension and health care benefits and an eroding tax base.

Contact **STEVE NEAVLING** at sneavling@freepress.com.

SHE SAID

"It was flowing down the ditch pretty good."

MARIANNE HILL, assistant director of the St. Clair County Office of Emergency Management, on diesel fuel that leaked out of the garbage truck that crashed Wednesday morning on I-94 in Port Huron Township. The crash resulted in lane closures and traffic delays most of the day. The driver suffered minor injuries, and emergency workers were brought in to clean up the fuel spill.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

Quilt artist is to make a sampler at library event

Quilt artist Muriel Jacobs is to make a quilt sampler during the Quilting: Bits and Pieces of America program Wednesday at the Bloomfield Township Public Library, 1099 Lone Pine Road.

The program — scheduled to run from 1 to 3 p.m. — is free and open to the public.

No registration is required. For information, call the library at 248-642-5800 from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily or go to the Web site at www.btptl.org.

DETROIT

Story to tell of family's lineage link to pharaohs

The Divine Family — Osiris, Isis and Horus — the story of a family that can trace its lineage to Egyptian pharaohs, is to be told Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, 315 E. Warren.

Space is limited and reservations are required.

Admission is \$8; \$5 for ages 3-12 and 62 or older. Members and children under age 3 are admitted free.

For reservations, call 313-494-5823 anytime.

Contact **JOCELYN FANIEL-HEARD** at 313-222-6550 or e-mail submissions@connection@freepress.com.



FIND MORE EVENTS AT FREEP.COM

GETTING NOTICED

The Michigan Community Service Commission, a state agency that promotes volunteerism, is granting more than \$5.3 million in federal funds to communities for volunteer programs and activities. Each year, the commission honors Michigan educators.

■ **The K-12 Teacher/Practitioner Award** was given to **Denise Sargent**, a L'Anse Creuse High School science teacher. Sargent helps nurture the 15 teachers in her department to expand their service-learning knowledge and skills.

■ **Dave Reschke**, deputy superintendent of Clarkston Community Schools, received the Administrator Award. Reschke works with his staff to assess the resources needed to support the growth of academic support programs in Clarkston's schools. He is the founding member of the Clarkston Foundation, which raises funds for student and staff scholarships.

■ **The Innovative Program Award** went to the Talk to Us Service-Learning Program in **Tinkham Alternative High School** in Westland. The program educates middle school and high school girls on the issues young women face, including feminism, body image, gender roles and sexual harassment.

'I'm sick,' says mom accused of torture

Psychiatric exam ordered by judge

HAMTRAMCK

By TAMMY STABLES BATTAGLIA
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

The Hamtramck woman whose 4-year-old daughter said she cooked her "in the oven like a turkey" will undergo extensive psychiatric testing after she said schizophrenia led her to a mental breakdown last month.

"I'm sick," Reyna Valentino said as she arrived Thursday at 31st District Court in Hamtramck for her hearing on two counts of torture and two counts of child abuse. When asked if she wanted to say anything to her five children, she said, "Yes, I love them very much. I'm a sick woman. I have schizophrenia — that's why I did it."



Reyna Valentino, top, and husband Randy Valentino. He said his wife is a wonderful mother to their five children when she's well.

Valentino was cut off from her antipsychotic medication by Medicaid when paperwork got returned after the family's move last year, and she was unable to afford \$700 a month for her antipsychotics, said her husband of 10 years, Randy Valentino.

She had been off her medication for schizophrenia for three or four months when she put her 4-year-old in an oven Jan. 23, he said. Reyna Valentino then ran to a neighbor's home, begging her to call police.

"Reyna did not do this," Randy Valentino said of his wife. "Schizophrenia is a horrible, horrible illness that can make someone do things and say things they would never otherwise say or do."

Hamtramck District Judge Paul Paruk ordered Reyna Valentino to undergo an extensive psychiatric evaluation and continued her bond at \$1 million.

The couple's children are all now in foster care. Randy Valentino said courts permanently cut off the couple's parental rights after the oven incident.

Reyna Valentino's lawyer, Raymond Cassar, said he's going to challenge that order.

The children were taken from the couple before for unsuitable living conditions.

Contact **TAMMY STABLES BATTAGLIA** at 313-223-4456 or tbattaglia@freepress.com.



KIMBERLY P. MITCHELL/Detroit Free Press

"Every single vote is important," says Freman Hendrix, right, visiting businesses in downtown Detroit last month with spokesman Greg Bowens. "I'm not walking past a person without stopping, shaking their hand ...to persuade them I'm worth a look."

MAYOR | After 2005 upset, Hendrix aims to broaden his appeal to voters

From Page 1B

"I gave up some ground in 2005 that I never would concede now," he said. "Even little hills over there, I'll go take that. ... I don't give up ground to anybody now."

Reaching skeptics and others

In his second mayoral bid, Hendrix, once deputy mayor to former Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer, has spent days riding city buses and handing out campaign literature, and at least one night mugging with promoters and former heavyweight champ Tommy (the Hitman) Hearns at a Jan. 31 fight night at the Royal Oak Music Theater.

"I think he was humbled," political consultant and Kilpatrick adviser Adolph Mongo said of Hendrix's 2005 loss. "He's running a different kind of campaign. He's not taking anything for granted."

After the defeat, Hendrix took time off, he said, "pulling my family back together ... get my kids' feet back on the ground."

In August 2006, he took a job at Eastern Michigan University as an administrator. Less than three years later, he is back on the campaign trail, having taken a leave from EMU.

On a snowy day last month, Hendrix, 58, campaigned for at least 15 hours, crisscrossing the city and crossing paths with his mayoral opponents at two forums.

A handful of people braved the snow for a meeting — more barbershop talk than candidate forum — with Hendrix at Hot Sam's, the downtown men's clothier on Monroe.

Most in attendance were skeptics and former Kilpatrick supporters.

With folded arms, James Boyce, 56, of Detroit would not

A look at Hendrix's vision for Detroit

Jobs: "There's an endangered list of businesses that have long since left the city of Detroit that can all be returned to our commercial thoroughfares," Hendrix said, adding that his plan would include incentives and tax abatements. "If it's good for Computerware and it's good for Quicken Loans, then it's good for small businesses."

City budget: "Everybody's fixated on the deficit. ... What needs to be fixated on is the structural imbalance that the city is spending more money than it's taking in ... a \$300-million deficit looks impossible. It took seven years for that to happen. It's going to take a lot of years to get that down."

Public safety: "It's not just more cops," Hendrix said of reducing crime. It "has to be comprehensive. ... I want my police chief and the command officers in the Police Department to get us off

that list," Hendrix said, referring to Detroit's ranking of No. 3 in 2008 on the annual FBI list of most dangerous cities.

Neighborhoods: "One of the biggest obstacles we have are the taxes," said Hendrix, adding that a homesteading initiative to lower tax rates would "help us with repopulation. That vacant home is a cancer ... that brings down the whole neighborhood."

Education: "As mayor, I'm obliged to operate within the governance structure that the people here voted on. ... I support the schools within that structure." However, a mayoral management of Detroit Public Schools "gives the people one person, instead of 11, to... hold accountable," he said.

Ethics: "When you sign your name ... when you raise your hand to take an oath ... that person needs to be looked upon as a person who is trusted."

let Hendrix off the hook when he asked whether he would make sure substance-abuse programs in the city would receive city funding and support. Hendrix didn't back down.

Hendrix, who has also visited the Elmhurst Home treatment facility, said his administration would support substance-abuse programs.

"Before I came in here, it was Freman Hendrix or Dave Bing," said Boyce, a manager at Detroit's National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, who first met Hendrix in December at the Oasis drug-treatment center in Highland Park. "Something about him I like. ... He has an open-door approach."

What he hopes to do

Whether on the radio or on the campaign trail, Hendrix has touted his mayoral platform, which includes reducing crime, improving education,

engaging young voters and cutting the size of government. Among his priorities:

■ Restoring police precincts, reopening police mini-stations, using reserve officers and developing a comprehensive ex-offender reentry program.

■ Shrinking the size of city government by cutting departments and management positions and limiting personal service contracts.

■ Establishing Urban Opportunity Zones with incentives for neighborhood businesses similar to those given to downtown developers and converting vacant manufacturing facilities for green, technology-based development.

■ Assembling a task force of Detroit educators and community members to develop a plan to boost Detroit Public Schools' graduation rates.

Somewhere 'in between'

Mongo said he thinks Hen-

drix has "a great chance" at becoming Detroit's next mayor.

Yet Wayne County Commissioner Burton Leland, a longtime Hendrix neighbor and friend, said initially, he was reluctant to support Hendrix this election.

He said he "didn't get the love" he felt he should have for what he contributed financially to Hendrix's 2005 campaign.

"These issues are a problem ... some folks like to be thanked," he said.

He added that he has talked to Hendrix since Hendrix kicked off his campaign. And, "at the end of the day, I'm absolutely clear that Freman Hendrix is the best guy for the job."

Archer agrees. He formally endorsed Hendrix in January. The special mayoral primary is Feb. 24.

"Freman's office was right next to mine," Archer said. "All of the problems facing the city right now, Freman Hendrix knows how to tackle the problems and how to go about solving them."

The Archer endorsement sends a mixed message to Agnes Hitchcock of the Call 'Em Out Coalition.

Hendrix "was working really hard ... presenting himself to the community on a regular basis," she said.

After the endorsement, "his image is caught in between," she said. "Either he's a grassroots or he's an establishment candidate."

Still, Hendrix often ends his stump speech telling voters he wants "to earn your vote."

This time, "every single vote is important," Hendrix said. "I'm not walking past a person without stopping, shaking their hand ... to persuade them I'm worth a look."

Contact **NAOMI R. PATTON** at 313-223-3327 or npatton@freepress.com.