

Ugh: Why can't Willis get any outs?



ON GUARD FOR 176 YEARS

Detroit Free Press

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MORE INSIDE

- Another convention cancels over scandal. 1B
- Attorney reduces dual roles in dancer suit. 10A
- Mayor to announce a legal defense fund. 10A

Brown firing set off alarms

Beatty ordered secret seizure of files, cops recall

By BEN SCHMITT AND JOE SWICKARD
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITERS

Even as Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick was preparing to fire cop Gary Brown, a secret computer raid was being planned by Christine Beatty and other city officials for any files from internal affairs officers looking into suspected misconduct by the mayor's bodyguards and a rumored party at the Manoogian Mansion.

Although the mayor and his former chief of staff have portrayed their actions as a prudent step in ousting a rogue employee, prosecutors appear to be basing obstruction of justice charges against the pair on the swift seizure of sensitive police computer files, according to investigative records filed in the criminal case.

The report in the Kilpatrick-Beatty criminal court file details potential testimony from internal affairs cops and

See MAYOR, 10A

Metro Iraqi is charged in spy case

By NIRAJ WARIKOO
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

To some local Muslims, Muthanna Al-Hanooti was a respected Iraqi-American activist, a leader and uniter trying to bridge the gap between the United States and the Middle East.

But an indictment unsealed Wednesday in Detroit says he was an agent for Saddam Hussein's government who was paid money and oil to manipulate U.S. public and elected officials, including former U.S. Rep. David Bonior, D-Mt. Clemens.

Federal prosecutors portray Al-Hanooti of Dearborn Heights as a man who was covertly working on behalf of Iraqi intelligence agents to help Hussein and his regime.

In September 2002, Al-Hanooti helped broker a fact-finding trip by Bonior and two other congressmen to Iraq. The Democratic representatives said the trip was a way to learn

See CHARITY, 5A

NCAA FAN-DEMONIUM



Sweet 16 fans hit Motown

Detroit welcomes Wildcats, Badgers, Jayhawks faithful.
STORY BELOW

An 8-page special section!

Scouting reports, hoopla for MSU vs. Memphis and Midwest Regional. 1C

Michigan State's Drew Neitzel

KIRTHMON F. DOZIER/DFP



Where the parties, fun will be

Guide to nightspots, eateries. IN PLAY, INSERTED

Basketball tips off a sporting heaven

By NAOMI R. PATTON
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Cheeseheads from Wisconsin. Jump-in-your-face Jayhawks from Kansas. Pesky Pennsylvania Wildcats from Villanova. All will begin arriving in Detroit today for this weekend's NCAA Midwest Regional men's basketball games at Ford Field.

Oh, and so will the fans from Davidson. Who?

Lots of people had their NCAA pool brackets spoiled when Davidson slayed goliath Georgetown to reach the Sweet 16. But local organizers for the Midwest Regional have been prepared for the fans from the private North Carolina college about 19 miles north of Charlotte since long before the buzzer sounded on their upset win Sunday over the heavily favored Hoyas.

So have metro Detroit's hotels, restaurants and bars. That's because the regional being played Friday and Sunday at Ford Field is a dress rehearsal for the Motor City's role as host of the 2009 NCAA Final Four championship games.

See NCAA, 2A



At freep.com: Come back through the weekend for game coverage, scores.



Tickets for the tourney are available.

Free Press photo illustration

American Axle chief: Jobs can be moved

Union warned of outsourcing

Dick Dauch, chairman and chief executive officer of American Axle & Manufacturing, lashed out Wednesday at UAW leaders for striking his company and refusing even to discuss what Dauch said was already a pattern of lower wage-and-benefit deals already reached with Dana Corp. and other direct AAM competitors.

"We are fighting for the absolute survival of AAM in America," Dauch said in an interview one month after a walkout by 3,600 hourly workers at AAM plants in Michigan and New York.

"We have the flexibility to source all of our business to



TOM WALSH

other locations around the world, and we have the right to do so," Dauch said, in a not-so-veiled threat. AAM has plants in Mexico, South America, Europe and Asia.

"We will not be forced into bankruptcy in order to reach a market-competitive cost structure in the United States. If we cannot compete for new contracts in the U.S., there will be no work in the original plants," Dauch said, referring to operations in Detroit, Three Rivers and in the New York towns of Tona-

See WALSH, 11A

Ford unloads losing Jaguar, Land Rover

Move to help rebuild profits, CEO says

By SARAH A. WEBSTER
FREE PRESS BUSINESS WRITER

Ford Motor Co. finally closed the book Wednesday on the money-losing Premier Automotive Group, announcing it had reached an agreement with Tata Motors, part of an Indian conglomerate, to sell Jaguar and Land Rover for \$2.3 billion.

The move will allow Ford to stop pouring money into the storied brands and focus on fixing the rest of a broken business that lost a combined \$15.3 billion over the past two years. Only one quarter of that came from the European luxury brands.

The deal with Tata, which follows the sale of Aston Martin last year for \$848 million, doesn't cover the \$5.25 billion Ford paid for Jaguar and Land Rover, or the billions in losses that followed.

The Premier Automotive Group, formed in 1999 and comprising Aston Martin, Jaguar, Land Rover and Volvo, lost \$7.4

See FORD, 9A

Ford refocuses efforts on its core divisions

U.S. sales in 2007

Brands it's keeping:	
FORD	2,101,244
MERCUY	168,422
LINCOLN	131,487
VOLVO	106,213
Brands it's selling:	
JAGUAR	15,683
LAND ROVER	49,550

Source: Ford Motor Co.

Detroit Free Press

MARK PHELAN: Luxury brands of Jaguar, Land Rover put Tata Motors in the big time. 9A



WHAT? MORE SNOW? Flakes today and Friday. Chuck Gaidica's forecast, 6B

38 HIGH 27 LOW



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TECH TIP

Now kids can take photos of bugs up close

Kids can zoom in on scientific fun with the EyeClops Bio-iCam, an updated take on last year's best-selling EyeClops BionicEye microscope. The BioiCam features a multi-zoom lens with 100x, 200x and 400x magnification. It will go on sale in the fall for \$80. For more, see www.jakks.com. - DEBORAH PORTERFIELD, GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

JUMP START

OVERHEARD

“Cool towns have dog parks.”

CRAIG JOLLY, a supporter of a dog park in Birmingham. Four possible sites are under consideration. **STORY, 3B**

IN TODAY'S FREE PRESS

Iraqi militants are ordered to disarm

NATION & WORLD, 4A

Band gets \$75,000 for China trip

LOCAL NEWS, 1B

Infiniti EX35 has distinctive looks, features

MARK PHELAN, 1F

Getting it straight

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NCAA | It's tourney time in Detroit

From Page 1A

The regional will again focus a national sports spotlight on Detroit, bringing in tens of thousands of visitors in advance of the Tigers home opener Monday at Comerica Park. The baseball opener is a sellout, and fans attending the NCAA games could set a record for the largest attendance for any NCAA men's basketball regional or playoff game.

“We're real excited,” said Bill Ryan, executive director of the Detroit Local Organizing Committee, which is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Midwest Regional for the NCAA. He said the committee, with official NCAA host University of Detroit Mercy, has spent the past six months planning everything from the floor installed on a platform at the center of Ford Field's enclosed dome to the shuttles to the games from downtown hotels.

Final Four hosts are required by the NCAA to host a preliminary event, like the regional, Ryan said. Local partners, especially the Detroit Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau, have played an integral role in making the regional tournament a reality. “The intention is to give everybody a chance to get their feet wet ... basically, show what we can do,” Ryan said.

Michigan State fans who purchased tickets for the regional months ago were hoping their Spartans would be showing what they can do before a largely home crowd at the Midwest Regional. But their plans turned sour when their team fared less than well in the Big Ten Tournament.

The Spartans instead were sent packing to the South Regional in Houston, leaving fans who had bought tickets hoping to see them in Detroit out of luck. As a result, many have been trying to unload their tickets on Craigslist and eBay.

Tony Howerton, 39, of Waterford was left with a few \$100 package seats he's trying to sell on eBay. “Right now, I haven't gotten many hits at all,” the '92 MSU grad said.

An even bigger dilemma for MSU fans: The Spartans play Friday night in Houston — the same time as the Midwest Regional games at Ford Field.

Dave Latture, 44, of Grand Blanc purchased a suite at Ford Field in January with his company and invited clients, hoping MSU would end up there.

“Oh yeah, we're still going,” the '86 MSU grad said.

Get your tickets here
As of Wednesday after-



RON CORTES/McClatchy-Tribune

Villanova's Antonio Pena scores during the Wildcats' win over the Siena Saints, 84-72, on Sunday.



NATI HARNIK/Associated Press

Wisconsin guard Trevon Hughes dribbles past Kansas State guard Jacob Pullen on Saturday.



DAVID T. FOSTER III/McClatchy-Tribune

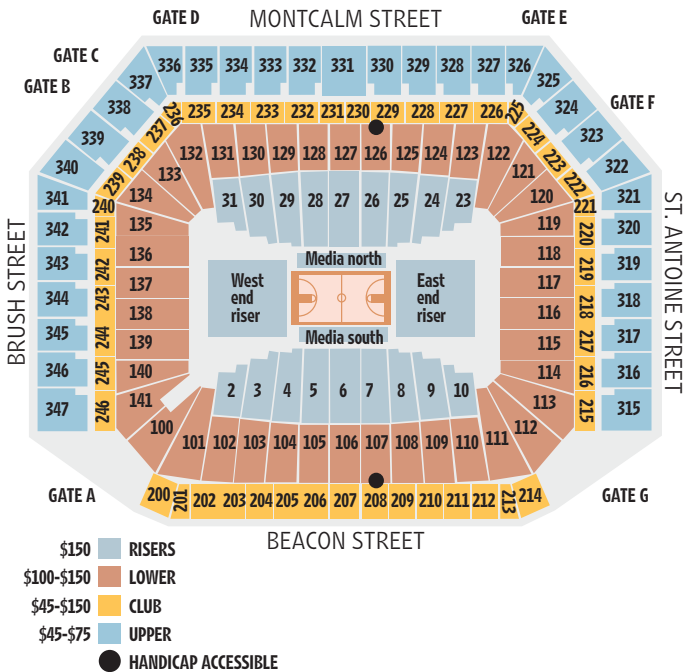
Davidson's Stephen Curry celebrates after defeating Georgetown, 74-70, in Raleigh, N.C., on Sunday.



DAVE WEAVER/Associated Press

Kansas head coach Bill Self congratulates players after their 75-56 win over UNLV on Saturday.

Ford Field Midwest Regional pricing



noon 56,229 tickets had been sold to the Midwest Regional, Ryan said, adding that organizers expect to sell about 60,000 tickets, though they hoped to sell out the 72,000 available seats. Capacity at Ford Field for Lions games is 75,000 seats; 78,000 including suites. But the floor configuration for the NCAA tournaments meant losing 3,000 seats.

Keri Gaither, UDM athletic director and the DLOC executive chair, said the stadium configuration used for the regional “allows so many more people to enjoy the seating.”

The NCAA regional men's attendance record is 42,440, set during the MSU-Oklahoma and Kentucky-Miami (Ohio) matchups in St. Louis in 1999. The record for an NCAA Final Four national

championship was 64,959 when Indiana and Syracuse played in New Orleans in 1987.

The all-time NCAA men's basketball attendance was set for a regular season game known as the BasketBowl where MSU lost 79-74 to Kentucky before 78,129 on Dec. 13, 2003, at Ford Field.

Unlike other NCAA regional outlets, the stadium seating at Ford Field means there are still tickets available at a reasonable price for those who want to see Davidson play Wisconsin and Kansas play Villanova on Friday, with the winners battling on Sunday.

Ticket packages are still available through Ticketmaster, the official ticket outlet, for the three games at \$45, \$75, \$100 and \$150. In addition, individual day tickets

will be available for Friday and Sunday for \$23.50, \$38.50, \$51 and \$76.

Higher priced ticket packages for all three games, ranging from \$99-\$1,800, are also available at other ticket outlets like StubHub.com.

Fans unable to get tickets or who can't attend the games can still watch the teams in open practices today at Ford Field, free of charge. Practices will be held from noon to 4 p.m.

Get a room

Metro Detroit is not a newcomer to major sporting events. The region has already played host to the 2004 Ryder Cup, the 2005 Major League Baseball All-Star Game, and Super Bowl XL in 2006.

“Detroit is the home of marquee sports events,” said Renee Monforton, Detroit Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau spokeswoman.

Already the MGM Grand Detroit hotel is booked Sunday 30% above normal and reservations at its popular restaurants are nearly sold out, said Scott Grigg, MGM director of public relations.

Judy Dufour, Detroit Marriott's director of sales and marketing, has booked more than 825 rooms for the NCAA and two conventions. The hotel is expecting more than \$200,000 in revenue this weekend.

“We're excited,” Dufour said. “It really adds credibility to the destination.”

Contact **NAOMI R. PATTON** at 313-223-4485 or npatton@freepress.com. Staff writer Dan Cortez contributed to this report.

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Lottery results

Michigan
Wednesday Daily 3 and 4
Midday.....244 and 2452
Evening.....830 and 6686
Fantasy 5.....6, 13, 28, 32, 37
Classic Lotto 47.....7, 10, 12, 20, 30, 39
Keno 4, 7, 12, 13, 16, 19, 20, 21, 25, 27, 31, 38, 49, 53, 54, 59, 64, 66, 70, 71, 75, 79
Ohio
Wednesday Pick 3 and 4
Midday.....438 and 0551
Evening.....388 and 3822
Classic Lotto.....4, 19, 23, 27, 36, 37
Classic Lotto jackpot.....\$14.4 million
Rolling Cash 5.....2, 11, 19, 23, 29
Wednesday Ten-Oh Numbers
Midday 5, 9, 10, 12, 20, 21, 24, 26, 31, 33, 36, 40, 42, 46, 59, 64, 65, 68, 70, 76
Evening 2, 4, 10, 16, 23, 26, 31, 32, 34, 37, 41, 45, 48, 52, 54, 56, 59, 63, 64, 76

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