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LOCAL NEWS

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ROCHELLE RILEY

Women still can unite for prez race

Women have not lost the 2008 run for the presidency. One woman has.

And if Sen. Hillary Clinton's supporters join all women to encourage what could happen next, then history can still be made for women this year. There is, for the first time, the possibility that women will be running mates on both the Republican and Democratic tickets to lead America.

Pundits are poking Sen. John McCain with the idea, and Sen. Barack Obama's supporters have talked about the possibility for weeks.

How a woman would help McCain

McCain would be foolish, at this point, not to take advantage of the equivalent of a political no-brainer. Choosing a woman who doesn't think the same way that he does would help combat the negative impact on his campaign of President George W. Bush's unpopularity.

It would broaden perspectives and make it easier for Republicans who haven't been interested in the race since Mike Huckabee left to reengage.

And if McCain chooses a woman, Obama must not only choose a woman, but a woman who complements his message of change, not a woman who ran — and lost — on a platform of Washington experience.

If, for instance, he chose Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, all voters would see what most women know: Clinton is no fluke, and there are plenty more like her — the Clinton who is a successful senator, effective orator and hard worker.

Women as vice presidential candidates on both tickets makes the idea of even more women running for president more of an expectation than a novelty, more necessity than history.

Our conversations will change from: Who will be the first female president? To: What women should begin planning their presidential runs now?

But, for that successful new campaign on behalf of women everywhere to begin, something else has to stop.

And this is where the rubber meets the road.

What comes next is up to women

It isn't just the two sides of the Democratic Party that must come together if the nation's antiwar movement is to succeed.

The feud between women and women must stop as well. That means Hillarites vs. Barackites, black women vs. white women, must stop.

What has gotten lost in this primary season is that one-third to nearly one-half of female voters preferred Obama to Clinton in some primaries. Those women didn't turn in their gender cards. They voted based on their lives.

Now, the half to two-thirds of women who supported Clinton must decide whether the greater good — their greater good — will be served by being bitter over Clinton's loss, or embracing together more opportunities for all women.

And Clinton must decide, and soon, whether to appear presidential for her next run in eight years, or whether to look like a woman scorned.

History, in this campaign, isn't over for women. And only women can determine how we look now.

Please join the conversation about this column at freep.com/rochelleriley.



Photos by ANDRE J. JACKSON/Detroit Free Press

Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans watches over the crowd at Second Ebenezer Church in Detroit on Wednesday, the first day of a program that lets fugitives with misdemeanor or felony warrants turn themselves in. The program ends Saturday.

1,000 fugitives line up to get right with law

*Some who surrender
could receive lesser
penalty for crimes*

DETROIT

By NAOMI R. PATTON
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Under clouds and drizzle, more than 1,000 people stood for hours in a line Wednesday that wrapped around Second Ebenezer Church on Detroit's east side.

Fear brought them there. For many, the sight of police lights in their rearview mirrors filled them with dread.

They were there for the first day of Fugitive Safe Surrender, a federal program that continues today through Saturday, allowing those with outstanding misdemeanor and felony arrest warrants in Wayne County to turn themselves in.

Judges, prosecutors and public defenders adjudicate the outstanding warrant cases on the spot. Non-violent offenders who voluntarily appear likely receive what organizers call "favorable consideration," such as possible reduced charges, fines or jail sentences.

The goal, said Robert Grubbs,



Kendria Watson of Detroit lets out a sigh of relief after attorney Jeffrey Kleparke delivers news about her case. "It turned out better than I expected," she said.

U.S. marshal for the Eastern District of Michigan, is to reduce the risk of violent confrontations when police arrest people with outstanding warrants.

Marques Morgan, 54, of Detroit was the first person in line, a little before 7 a.m. "I wanted to get it out of the way," he said.

He had an outstanding warrant

See SURRENDER, 3B

How to surrender, safely

From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. today through Saturday, people with outstanding misdemeanor and felony arrest warrants in Wayne County can go to Second Ebenezer Church, 14601 Dequindre, off the I-75 and McNichols exit, in Detroit.

For more information, call 888-377-7233, or go to www.detroitssafesurrender.org.

Board modifies sex ed lesson on condom use

FARMINGTON SCHOOLS

By STACY JENKINS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Farmington Public Schools students entering the district's fall sex education courses will see a condom demonstration, but they won't be asked to participate in it after parents expressed concerns.

Plans for the Condom Line Up activity, part of several supplemental materials, no longer include allowing students to place a condom on a model penis. Instead, students will be asked to place in order note cards detailing each step of proper condom placement.

The change was approved by the

school board Tuesday after two Sex Education Advisory Board hearings at which parents said that activity — slated for the district's ninth-graders — and others are making sex education more creative than necessary.

Advisory board members said the materials are optional and used to keep the students engaged. Parents can choose to opt out of the program, an option chosen by fewer than 2% of parents yearly, officials said. The courses also teach abstinence.

Other approved materials for ninth grade include a Sex and Consequences board game; All Together Now, an activity focusing on prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted

See SEX ED, 7B

Potential mayor witnesses named

*His wife and parents
are on prosecutor's list*

DETROIT

By JOE SWICKARD
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Wayne County prosecutors are considering calling a sweeping array of witnesses — including Kwame Kilpatrick's wife and parents — against the Detroit mayor and his former chief aide Christine Beatty.

Defense attorney James Thomas said the roster of 57 potential witnesses filed late Wednesday in Detroit 36th District Court was more a "prosecutor's wish list" than the precise accounting of people who are expected to be called to the witness stand in the preliminary examination of Kilpatrick and Beatty on perjury and obstruction of justice charges.

In addition to Kilpatrick's wife, Carlita Kilpatrick, and his parents, U.S. Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick and Bernard Kilpatrick, the list draws heavily from the cast of players in the ill-fated police whistle-blower trial that Kilpatrick hurriedly settled last year for \$8.4 million to keep secret the explosive text messages he exchanged with

See MAYOR, 7B

Cox to take over inquiry of prosecutor

*She's accused of using
perjured testimony*

WAYNE COUNTY

By JOE SWICKARD
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

The Michigan attorney general will take over the criminal investigation of Wayne County's lead drug prosecutor, who is accused of using perjured testimony in a major Downriver cocaine case.

Mike Cox's office confirmed Wednesday it is stepping into the case against Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Karen Plants after the state Prosecuting Attorneys Coordinating Council spent two months trying to find a prosecutor from another county to handle the probe. Four counties declined the investigation.

"Obviously it is a complex case,"

See PLANTS, 7B

COUNTY NEWS CONTINUES ON 2B AND 3B >>

DETROIT

City to give ticket amnesty

The City of Detroit will offer an amnesty program beginning Monday and ending June 13 for those with outstanding parking tickets.

Individuals with outstanding parking tickets will be allowed to pay half the amount owed on tickets issued before May 29. No break will be given to those who already have entered into a payment agreement.

Those paying will need to provide their driver's license number, and all license plates that have received tickets.

Payments can be made to the Municipal Parking Department, P.O. Box 2549, Detroit 48231, or at drop boxes throughout the city.

For information, call the department at 313-963-9630, anytime.

STATEWIDE

State settles with family

The State of Michigan and the family of a prisoner whose 2006 death at a Jackson prison prompted medical reforms in the state corrections system have tentatively settled a federal lawsuit for \$3.25 million, according to court papers.

Paperwork filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court says the state would pay the settlement to family members of Timothy Souders, 21, a mentally ill inmate who died in August 2006 after spending most of his last four days strapped on a slab in a hot, isolated cell. He died of dehydration.

U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman has set a hearing for June 18. The Michigan Attorney General's Office declined to comment. The Souders family's law firm didn't respond to a call.

ACROSS THE REGION

Suspect lied, but which time?

Jury deciding whether he really killed

MACOMB COUNTY

By **AMBER HUNT**
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

One way or another, David Wright is a liar.

He either lied to police when he said he killed Marilou Johnson, or he lied under oath Tuesday and Wednesday when he insisted he didn't.

Now, it's up to jurors to ferret out what they believe is the truth.

Closing statements in the case against Wright, 38, wrapped up Wednesday in Macomb County Circuit Court. The jury is to begin deliberating today.

Johnson, 50, of Washington

Township disappeared last June.

In determining whether they believe Wright killed Johnson, the jury has three choices: find Wright guilty of first-degree murder, find him guilty of involuntary manslaughter or decide he is not guilty at all.

Even Wright's lawyer, Randy Rodnick, acknowledged that his client has told multiple stories — "at least eight that I can count," he told the court.

The difference between the tales he previously told and the one he told in court was simple, Rodnick said: "Today and yesterday, he's under oath."

Jurors were shown video-



David Wright has at least eight stories, his lawyer says. In one, he confessed to killing Marilou Johnson of Washington Township. Now he says he just watched.

taped police interrogations, during which Wright said he slipped and stabbed Johnson by accident when he was trying to force her into his work trailer so he could extort money from her boyfriend, Roger Blanchard.

He told investigators he needed money to support a gambling habit. Wright said he

buried her body, then dug her up and tossed her into Cass Lake in Oakland County, where Macomb County Sheriff's Detective Mark Grammatico found her nearly two weeks after she disappeared.

Assistant Prosecutor Bill Cataldo spent Wednesday morning hammering away at Wright, who testified that he'd lied when he confessed to the slaying and in reality had watched Blanchard stab her to death.

"My job is to bring forward the evidence to prove him guilty beyond a reasonable doubt," Cataldo told jurors in his closing statement. "Justice is not mercy. Justice is the verdict."

Rodnick told jurors that Blanchard had motive to kill

his live-in girlfriend. He once had kicked her and her three children out of his home while his family helped get him treated for alcoholism. Johnson also left him once.

Blanchard never testified. Family members and friends described him as an alcoholic whose health was so deteriorated at the time of Johnson's death that he rarely left his bedroom and developed bed sores.

But Rodnick told jurors that if they decide Blanchard didn't kill Johnson, they should, at most, find Wright guilty of involuntary manslaughter, a charge that stems from negligence.

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SHE SAID

"There is no compelling scientific reason to protect these deer, as albinism represents a mutation that is not desirable in a deer herd."

State Department of Natural Resources Director **REBECCA HUMPHRIES**, who said she would ask the Natural Resources Commission to reverse a moratorium on killing albino deer. She said it was "burdensome" for hunters to determine whether a particular deer meets the criteria for albinism.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

STERLING HEIGHTS

Free forum on digital television set for June 12

A free public awareness program about preparing for the change to digital television will be held June 12 at the Sterling Heights Public Library.

On Feb. 17, because of new federal rules, television will switch from analog to digital format. Analog television sets will work if owners have a converter box or cable or satellite service.

The 2 p.m. program, "Are You Ready for DTV?," is sponsored by the library and the Michigan Association of Broadcasters. It is to include an overview of how standard television will be affected, what you need to do to be ready for the change, how to obtain a converter box and a question-and-answer period.

Attendees must register online at www.shpl.net or by calling the library at 586-446-2669.

The event will be in the programming center of the library, 40255 Dodge Park at Utica. For more information, check out the Michigan DTV for me! Internet site at www.michigandtv.com.

WEST BLOOMFIELD

First-graders to perform 'Stone Soup' next week

More than 200 first-graders from Getchko Elementary are to present an original production of the folktale "Stone Soup" at 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday at West Bloomfield High School.

The high school is located at 4925 Orchard Lake Road. Admission is \$5 for individuals or \$20 per family.

DETROIT

Event on fireworks night to benefit shelter

The Coalition on Temporary Shelter is to host the second annual Rockin' Rooftop Blast on June 23, the night of the International Freedom Festival fireworks in Detroit.

The 6 p.m.-midnight party atop the Courtyard Marriott, 333 E. Jefferson, will feature a buffet, an open bar, live music and a spectacular view. Fox 2 sportscaster Ryan Ermanni is to emcee the event, which raises money to help homeless people.

To buy tickets — \$50 for children, \$100 for adults and \$2,000 for a 10-person private cabana — go to www.cotsdetroit.org.



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Casinos at center of liquor dispute

STATEWIDE

By **JENNIFER DIXON**
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Patrick Devlin, a lawyer and employee of the Michigan Gaming Control Board, has sued Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox in an effort to force him to require the state's 19 tribal casinos to obtain liquor licenses.

Devlin, a former assistant attorney general, said that while American Indian tribes generally do not have to comply with state laws, he believes they must follow state liquor laws, which require establishments that sell liquor to be licensed and regulated by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

Devlin, who until Monday monitored tribal casinos for the gaming control board, has pressed state officials for four years to address his concerns that Michigan should be regulating liquor sales in the tribal casinos.

Devlin, who is now a regulation officer assigned to Detroit's three casinos, filed his suit Tuesday in Ingham County Circuit Court.

Rusty Hills, a spokesman for Cox, said Wednesday the agreements that allow tribal

casinos to operate in Michigan are negotiated by the tribes and the governor's office.

"If Mr. Devlin has a beef, he should bring it to the attention of the governor's office," Hills said. "And he's not only an attorney but a former employee of the AG's office; he should know better."

Devlin said it is important that the casinos are regulated like other establishments in Michigan that sell liquor to protect against drinking by minors or the visibly intoxicated. Kathryn Tierney, attorney for the Bay Mills Indian Community, which operates two Upper Peninsula casinos, said the tribes have been regulating their casino liquor sales themselves for years.

"The tribe's law has a minimum age, 21, and prohibits serving visibility intoxicated people," Tierney said. "This is not a vacuum which only state law can fill."

"While the attorney general has zero tolerance for all kinds of conduct, he apparently has unlimited tolerance for tribal casino violations. He just gives them a free pass," Devlin said.

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Photos by **ANDRE J. JACKSON**/Detroit Free Press

The program has Judge Kenneth King and other judges, prosecutors and public defenders available to settle the outstanding warrant cases on the spot. Nonviolent offenders are likely to receive favorable consideration.

SURRENDER | Fugitives turn selves in

From Page 1B

for child support, another warrant for failure to appear for a traffic violation, and he was trying to get a 1994 gun charge expunged.

Morgan, who works as a security guard, had his bench warrant for the child support cased dismissed within the hour. By November, he said, he wants to move to Hawaii, to "start a new life."

Nearby, Kendria Watson highlighted passages in her Bible. She had \$500 in parking tickets from 1988 and a suspended license turn into a warrant for failure to appear.

By noon, Watson, 36, had her fine reduced to \$500 and received community service. She waited to register for employment training through Detroit Workforce Development.

"It was a blessing," she said of Safe Surrender. "It turned out better than I expected."

Safe Surrender is a collaboration between the U.S. Attor-



Lester Barnett, 40, of Detroit awaits his turn, wearing a wristband all who surrender receive.

ney's Office, the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, the state Defender's Office, Michigan State Police, the Wayne County Sheriff's Office, the Detroit Police Department, the 36th District Court and Wayne County Third Circuit Court.

The effort is designed to reduce a backlog of nearly 18,000 outstanding misdemeanor warrants and more than 29,500 outstanding felony warrants in Wayne County, the sheriff's office said.

The doors opened at 9 a.m.

The waiting room was packed by noon. By 5 p.m., more than 700 people had been processed in the atrium lobby at Second Ebenezer. A line of 500 remained when officers closed the gate to the church parking lot at 5 p.m. More than two hours later, authorities were still processing cases inside.

Grubbs and Sheriff Warren Evans were surprised by the large turnout, as was 36th District Judge Kevin Robbins, who said he was "very impressed."

But Detroit Police Chief Ella Bully-Cummings said her department is painfully aware that many more fugitives remain at large.

"What's tremendous about the program ... all the resources are in one spot," she said. "There's no way to shorten that up in the normal scheme of things."

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Graduation rates up; Detroit still struggles

STATEWIDE

By **LORI HIGGINS**
FREE PRESS EDUCATION WRITER

More teens in Michigan — including in Detroit — are getting high school diplomas, according to a report released Wednesday.

Although the graduation rate in Detroit Public Schools rose significantly — from 24.9% in 2004 to 37.5% in 2005 — the district still had the worst rate of the 50 largest districts in the country.

The graduation rates released are based on Class of 2005 data.

The report also found that Michigan — though its overall rate is improving — has the lowest graduation rate for African-American males, with only 34.6% graduating on time. That compares with the national average of 48.2%.

Rates were also low for Hispanic and American Indian students.

The research center at Editorial Projects in Education, the Bethesda, Md., nonprofit that publishes the journal Education Week, released the report. The report has been criticized because it uses a formula that doesn't account for mobility.

Still, Martin Ackley, spokesman for the Michigan

Department of Education, said the state is concerned about all kids who don't graduate, and "the large number of African-American males who don't graduate certainly reflect issues that manifest outside of the school walls as well as keeping them interested and engaged in their education."

Ackley said there is a need to identify and subtract those challenges from their lives.

Carol Goss, president and chief executive officer of the Skillman Foundation, a nonprofit that works to improve schools, particularly in Detroit, said those efforts need to start early, before students get behind academically.

"We really need to begin to provide support for African-American boys through mentoring and focused work," Goss said.

The state's overall graduation rate in 2005 was 70.5%, up from 69.1% in 2004. The national rate improved from 69.9% to 70.6%.

The Detroit Public Schools' graduation rate varies wildly depending on who is crunching the numbers, but Steve Wasko, spokesman for the district, said it's clear there is a problem.

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U-M marks anniversary of crash

Survival flight's victims remembered

ANN ARBOR

By **ROBIN ERB**
FREE PRESS EDUCATION WRITER

For Debra McCloskey, it was a painfully fitting way to spend Wednesday afternoon, the one-year anniversary of a fatal University of Michigan Survival Flight accident over Lake Michigan.

The nurse of 21 years had readied for an afternoon memorial. Instead, she was in the operating room, helping knit a donor heart into a failing body, saving yet another life.

"I really wanted to go to the service," she said later, referring to the private memorial that U-M held for friends, fam-

ilies and coworkers of those who died in the crash. "But it seems appropriate, you know?"

McCloskey of Ann Arbor did make it to Burton Tower, one of several bell towers around Ann Arbor that tolled at 5 p.m. to mark the anniversary of the June 4, 2007, deaths of the six members of a transplant team.

En route to Willow Run airport that day, the two pilots and four medical personnel had taken off from Gen. Mitchell International Airport near Milwaukee about 5 p.m. Detroit time aboard a Cessna Citation. They carried with them a set of donor lungs.

Struggling almost immediately with the controls, the pilots tried to return to Milwaukee but plunged into Lake Michigan.

Killed were Dr. David Ashburn, a physician-in-training in pediatric cardiothoracic surgery; Dr. Martin Spoor, a cardiac surgeon; transplant specialists Richard Chenault II and Rick LaPensee, and pilots Bill Serra and Dennis Hoyes.

At his home in Canton on Wednesday, transplant specialist William R. Miller's pager beeped at 6:45 a.m. Another heart was ready.

Hours later, he handed off the heart at U-M to the team that included McCloskey, then made his way to the Burton Tower, where others hugged and wept as the bells tolled.

"You know, this is what they would have wanted — for us to carry on."