



RISING FROM THE ASHES: Smoke may be seen billowing today from Metro Beach Metropark in Harrison Township. Park rangers plan to do a controlled burn at about 11 a.m. to destroy invasive reeds, park officials said. The burn is to help restore the park's 350-acre North Marsh with native vegetation, supporting more fish and birds, Metroparks communications chief Denise Semion said.

- BILL LAITNER

Detroit Free Press

METRO

313-222-6600 localnews@freepress.com

Court says no to carp lawsuit

Cox: It's up to Obama, Congress to take action

By TINA LAM
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Efforts to keep Asian carp out of Lake Michigan will now be up to Congress, after the U.S. Supreme Court said Monday it would not hear a Michigan lawsuit to close off canals that lead from the Mississippi River to the Great Lakes.

Attorney General Mike Cox said the battle to beat the carp back now falls to President Barack Obama, who has so far resisted efforts to close Chicago locks even temporarily, and Congress.

Cox filed the Supreme Court case in December after Asian carp DNA was found in

Lake Michigan. Six states joined Michigan's legal efforts.

More lawsuits could still be filed in state or federal courts, said Nick Schroeck, director of the Great Lakes Environmental Law Center in Detroit. Cox's office said he was reviewing other possible legal options.

The states wanted the high court to reopen a 1922 lawsuit in which its neighbors sued Illinois after Chicago built a massive diversion project, creating a system of canals that allow ships and barges to move between the Mississippi River and Lake Michigan.

Now, many experts argue

the canal system has become a superhighway for invasive species. Besides Asian carp, zebra mussels and round gobies have spread beyond the Great Lakes through the canals.

Environmental groups have argued for years that the canal system needs to be closed off from the Great Lakes. If the system closed, ships traveling on the canals would have to off-load cargo near Chicago and put it on trucks or trains. The Army Corps of Engineers is studying such a closure, but the study is not set to be done until 2012.

In the meantime, Asian carp could continue their push



NERISSA MICHAELS/Illinois River Biological Station

Many fear that Asian carp could continue their push into the Great Lakes, where they could wreck the \$7-billion regional fishing industry.

into the Great Lakes, where the huge fish could compete with native species for food and wreck the \$7-billion regional fishing industry.

Cox said Congress needs to pass legislation introduced last year by U.S. Rep. Dave Camp,

a Midland Republican, and Democratic U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow of Michigan to provide funding and authority to wall off the canal system from the Great Lakes.

CONTACT TINA LAM: 313-222-6421 OR TLAM@FREEPRESS.COM

Wayne

DETROIT

Blaze sends smoke over downtown

A building in the Brewster-Douglass Housing Projects in Detroit was ablaze Monday night, sending smoke billowing over much of the downtown and parts of I-75.

Detroit Fire Department officials did not release any details.

Come back to **freep.com** for details and photos.

DPS engineers, office workers ratify contracts

Two Detroit Public Schools unions — the International Union of Operating Engineers and the Detroit Association of Educational Office Employees — ratified contracts last week, according to DPS officials.

The engineers union contract, approved Saturday, results in a \$1.2-million concession per year and adoption of the district's health care plan.

The office employees union approved a three-year contract on Thursday that will have their salaries frozen for two years. The concessions total \$1.3 million.

DPS anticipates up to \$47 million in annual savings from changes to health care packages district-wide.

Ex-teacher is arraigned in sex case

A former Garden City High School teacher accused of sexually assaulting one of her male students was arraigned Monday in Wayne County Circuit Court.

Judge Timothy Kenny set a trial date of July 26 for Virginia A. Homberg, 45, of Saline. Homberg is free on \$50,000 bond.

Homberg faces five charges, including four counts of criminal sexual conduct. Two of those counts are first-degree felonies punishable by up to life in prison.

According to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, Homberg had sexual contact with a student who was 14 at the time the incidents began. She also is accused of sending the boy sexually explicit photos of herself.

The assaults are alleged to have taken place at the boy's home and at school several times from December 2007 to February.

Homberg resigned March 8.

Quick hit

TEEN DIES: Counselors are to be on hand at Plymouth High School and throughout the district this week, as students and educators mourn the death of a student who was to graduate in June. Marie-Kristin Friedow, 18, died after her Saturn slid on a rain-slickened roadway and struck a minivan on Michigan Avenue in Canton at 4:35 p.m. Sunday, police said.

- COMPILED FROM REPORTS BY ZLATI MEYER, CHASTITY PRATT DAWSEY AND ERIC D. LAWRENCE

Autistic man is accused in case

By ERIC D. LAWRENCE
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

A man wandered away from an adult foster care home in Northville Township and walked into a neighboring house, where he banged on a bathroom door while a terrified woman huddled inside and called police, authorities said.

The 26-year-old woman's father, who owns the house, wants action taken over the Saturday incident. And not just against the man — who a township official said is autistic and had come onto the family's porch earlier in the day — but against the owners of the Ranch, a group home operated by Broe Rehabilitation in Farmington Hills.

The facility is licensed to house up to six people with mental illness, developmental disabilities and traumatic brain injuries.

"My daughters cannot sleep right now," said Tom Hughes, 56, whose house in the Grand View Acres subdivision is next door to the foster care home. "I am beside myself."

Hughes said he and his wife were out of town when the man came into the house about 8:40 p.m. Saturday through an unlocked front door while his daughter was home alone. She heard some noise coming from downstairs, went to check and then fled into an upstairs bathroom with her cell phone when she spotted the man. As she called police, the man walked to the bathroom door and began pounding, Hughes said. Police arrived a short time later.

The 24-year-old man, whose identity has not been released, is expected to be arraigned in the next day or two on a home invasion charge, according to John Werth, Northville Township public safety director.

Werth said police have been called 21 times in the past year to the foster care home on Maxwell Street or to neighboring houses for incidents involving the foster home's residents. He said the incidents have escalated in severity from just mere walkaways.

Ann Manning, Broe's vice president, said its resident did not pose any danger because the facility does not serve residents with violent histories.

"He made a poor decision," she said.

The Michigan Department of Human Services is investigating a complaint received Monday against the Ranch.



BRIAN KAUFMAN/Detroit Free Press

Two-year-old Trista Kirby of Taylor gets ready to ride off on Moe, a 14-year-old quarter horse gelding, at her family's house on Saturday.

A CHANCE TO ESCAPE

For kids sick with cancer, Horsey House Calls can be just what doctor ordered

By ALEXANDRA BAHOU
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Moe stood patiently in the barn at Pine Meadow Ranch in Novi. Overcast skies and rain in the forecast could result in a cancellation of a special delivery.

The package: Moe, a chestnut-colored, 14-year-old quarter horse with big brown eyes and a mellow attitude.

"He's great with kids," said Lauren Maiman, director of public affairs for Camp Casey. "He has the perfect temperament for children."

Maiman and equine director Amy Gill decided to take a chance Saturday and loaded Moe into his trailer for Camp Casey's first Horsey House Call of the season, to the home of 2-year-old Trista Kirby of Taylor. Trista was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia in October.

A Horsey House Call is two-hour event in which Camp Casey volunteers bring a horse, food and crafts to the front door of a child with cancer. The organization has 20 regular volunteers and plans to do at least 12 house calls this year. Camp Casey also hosts horse ranch vacations and visits to sporting events for sick kids and their families.

Molly Melamed of Ferndale was in-



Camp Casey volunteers guide Moe while equine director Amy Gill holds Trista steady. Trista has leukemia; having a good time with the horse "will help erase the bad things she had to go through," her mom, Kristen Kirby, said.

How you can help

To donate to Camp Casey or Horsey House Calls, contact Molly Melamed at 248-705-2780 or go to www.camp-casey.org.

Free.com
Watch the video of Trista's big day with Moe

spired to start the nonprofit horseback riding and outreach program by Casey Foote, a 12-year-old girl who loved horses but lost her battle with cancer in 2003. Later that year, Melamed created Camp Casey. Its slogan: "Helping kids conquer cancer one neigh at a time."

"It gives them a sense of empowerment, to be in control of this horse," Mai-

man said. "We're hoping that sense of empowerment and control can be instilled in them because everything in their life is so uncertain at the time."

In Taylor, Trista's battle with cancer has done little to squash her playful spirit.

"I gonna ride Moe!" Trista said, beaming.

As the Camp Casey volunteers settled her in the saddle, she held on with all her might, showing excitement and fear.

"Walk on, Moe!" Trista shouted. Her family watched, laughing and wiping away tears as their girl rode down the block.

"I think it will help erase the bad things she had to go through," said her mother, Kristen Kirby. "She will just remember that people loved her and didn't really even have to know her."

CONTACT ALEXANDRA BAHOU: 313-223-4543 OR ABAHOU@FREEPRESS.COM

Trial starts for ex-Kilpatrick bodyguard

By M.L. ELRICK
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Former mayoral bodyguard Tony Davis is yet another cop punished for speaking to investigators about Kwame Kilpatrick, or an opportunist seeking to cash in on antipathy toward the former Detroit mayor.

Those competing scenarios were presented Monday in opening statements at the trial in Davis' whistle-blower suit against Kilpatrick and the city.

"Why would a man who has

a 25-year career — unblemished — jump on a bandwagon to be a whistle-blower?" Carl Edwards, Davis' attorney, asked jurors. "There's nothing in his background that would suggest that he would jump on the bandwagon for money."

Edwards said Davis, acting on orders from supervisors, didn't tell State Police investigators much of what he knew about Kilpatrick's conduct when interviewed in 2003 in a probe into alleged wrongdoing

by Kilpatrick's inner circle and rumors of a party at the Manogian Mansion. Still, Edwards said, a pattern of transfers and retaliation followed.

City attorney June Adams countered that Davis didn't work closely with Kilpatrick, waited five years to claim retaliation, and largely parroted the accounts of other bodyguards that had been widely reported in the news media when he filed his lawsuit in June 2008.

"Why would Mr. Davis jump on the bandwagon?" Adams asked. "Because there's a lot of money involved."

Adams noted Davis' lawsuit was filed after a jury awarded former cops Gary Brown and Harold Nelthrope \$6.5 million in their whistle-blower lawsuit against Kilpatrick and the city.

The trial before Wayne County Circuit Judge Michael Sapala is expected to last a week. Davis is to be the first witness this morning.