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INSIDE

Quiet campaign

Detroit mayoral candidate Rosa Garmendia is a first-time politician keeping a low profile. Page 5.

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LOCAL DATELINE

Detroit Negotiators told to keep quiet

Michigan Employment Relations Commission mediator Charles Janerson has asked officials for the Detroit Federation of Teachers and the Detroit Public Schools not to talk with the news media about ongoing contract negotiations. Janerson, who is mediating the negotiations, wants both sides to avoid making comments that could turn the talks, officials said Wednesday. The DFT represents 10,000 teachers. Negotiations have continued daily since Monday. School is scheduled to start with a half-day Tuesday morning. *By Jennifer Anne Robles*

Farmington Hills Dad must prove forced death

The father of a New York woman whose suicide Dr. Jack Kevorkian assisted last week called the retired pathologist a murderer Wednesday and said he wants him prosecuted. But Farmington Hills police said Wednesday that unless Gunmar Alkerelle can provide evidence that his 34-year-old daughter Karen Shofstall did not want to die, Kevorkian won't face criminal charges. Kevorkian's attorney, Geoffrey Fieger, was vacationing and unavailable for comment. Shofstall's body was found Aug. 13 at a Farmington Hills hotel near a note stating that Kevorkian had been present. A medical examiner said Shofstall, of Long Beach, N.Y., ruled the death a homicide. Meanwhile, Kevorkian's attorneys this week asked the Ionia County Sheriff's Department and County Prosecutor Ray Viet to allow a lawsuit seeking payment for damage. Kevorkian says was done to his suicide machine and a video camera while they were in police custody. *By Brian Murphy*

Warren Church to host rummage sale

Members of St. Paul United Church of Christ will have a rummage sale Sept. 13. Clothing, books, tools and other household items will be on sale, and the proceeds will benefit the church. The sale runs in three phases: 8 a.m. Admission is \$1, and buyers get to skim the best stuff. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. No admission fee. 12:30 p.m. Buyers may stuff all they can into a bag for \$2. The church is at 31654 Mound, Warren. For information, call Beverly Pivotal at 1-409-264-4777, 8 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m. weekdays. *By Jeanne May*

Detroit Powell to speak at awards dinner

Retired Army Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Persian Gulf War, will be the guest speaker at the Michigan Minority Business Development Council's 14th annual awards dinner, set for Sept. 15 at Cobo Hall.

local news

Parents get probation

Couple changed, judge says

By ILIANA JONAS

Had he sentenced a former Warren couple when he first saw footage of their 7-year-old twins being forced to fight, Macomb County Circuit Judge George Stech III said Wednesday, he would have ordered them jailed forever. But more than a year after Gary and Terissa Downes were arrested and charged with child abuse in a case that has gotten international media attention, Stech said he had been swayed by their efforts to change and regain custody of their kids.

Despite Macomb County Prosecutor Carl Marling's call for prison, Stech on Wednesday sentenced the couple to five years probation, which will be strictly monitored by mental health counselors, probation officers and the courts.

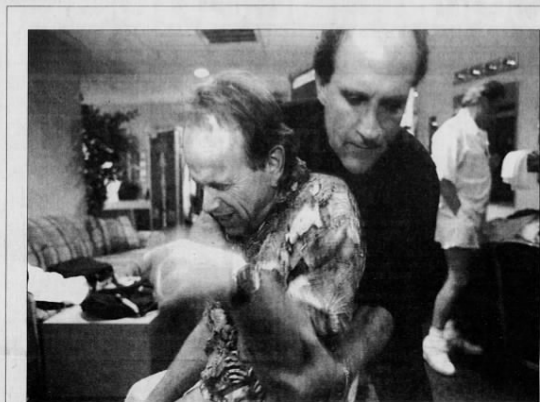
Each faced a maximum of five years in jail on one count of first-degree attempted child abuse. Stech told the couple that when he first saw the tape, he felt they "deserved to be locked up and the key should be thrown away. The children should have been taken away for good. That was my reaction. I suppose it was the reaction of an awful lot of people that watched that tape."

"I have come to recognize that you have demonstrated a serious commitment to resolving the problems that led to your behavior, a commitment to each other and a commitment to being reunited with your children," Stech said. Gary and Terissa Downes de-



Terissa Downes

clined to comment during the sentencing in Courtroom 11. In June, the couple pleaded no contest to charges of first-degree attempted child abuse. They were arrested June 15, 1996, after Terissa Downes was charged with child abuse. Please see A18A1, Page 2B.



Dr. David Kirsh, right, of Birmingham treats Al Jardine, one of the original Beach Boys. Years of sitting, slumping and sleeping in bad hotel beds have taken their toll, the doctor said.

Good, good, gyrations

Chiropractor aids band naturally

By BILL LATIMER

Their music is forever young. But classic rock stars lose their hair, gain paunches, and suffer the aches and pains of aging. Backstage at Pine Knob on Wednesday night, the Beach Boys lined up for what has become a

ritual in Detroit and many other tour stops for the last 12 years — treatments by Birmingham chiropractor Dr. David Kirsh. "He's the rock 'n' roll doctor," quipped guitarist Al Jardine, who has been a Beach Boy for more than 35 of his 54 years. As he has done hundreds of times for Kirsh, Jardine duffed

as he slid onto Kirsh's portable treatment table, surrounded by the group's huge wardrobe trunks, brimming with silk shirts. Pressing on areas of Johnson's spine, Kirsh performed a treatment in several minutes that had Johnson grinning. Kirsh said his connection with the group began a dozen years ago on a stop in Detroit. Please see BEACH BOYS, Page 2B.

Stadium parking disputed

Group wants more development in area

By JENNIFER DIXON

A group of property owners is asking the Detroit-Wayne County Stadium Authority to reconsider its plans to build 2,500 parking spaces on land west of Woodward and instead allow the area to be developed for housing, offices, retail and entertainment.

The West of Woodward Development Association, or WWOV, said Wednesday that its blue-prints for 25 acres across Woodward from the planned Lions and Tigers stadiums would provide the necessary parking — with multi-level garages — while leaving room for other uses. The neighborhood, which is bounded by two proposed casino sites, could be home to more than 600 restored and new apartments, said WWOV chairman Blair McGowan.

Mike Duggan, co-chairman of the stadium authority, said the group would be given a hearing — if it can show it owns the property. The authority has yet to decide where it will build the west Woodward parking, how much land will be required and whether its air structures will be used, Duggan said.

The authority has almost finished acquiring properties on the east side for the stadiums. One of the businesses on the site — Loverde's Wholesale Florist — has asked that the shop remain open through Christmas. But stadium authority officials said they need the property by Oct. 1.

A timetable released Tuesday shows that the team hopes to start construction by Dec. 1. A Wayne County Circuit Court judge will decide the case Tuesday.

Staff writer Jennifer Dixon can be reached at 1-313-222-4542.

A respected pro says let the public decide how to limit terms

Earlier this month, Betsy DeVos, who chairs the Michigan Republican Party, ripped "elitist lawyers and other persons big government proponents" for filing a lawsuit aimed at blocking term limits for Michigan legislators. She said Democrats were behind it.

In response, the anti-term limit crusader, Wayne State University law professor John Magp, who heads Citizens for Legislative Choice, acknowledged that he'd talked to Democrats, including his friend House Speaker Curtis Hertel, about the issue. But he flatly denied acting as a front for Democrats or anyone else. "Anyway, I for one was confused. That's because, last time I checked, a number of Republicans — as well as Democrats — were opposed to term limits, including former House Speaker Paul Hillegonds, a thoughtful, respected



Hugh McDiarmid

regular election process guarantees turnover and what he calls a healthy "diversity of experience." But he said term limits, by forcing constant turnover once they take effect next year, selecting 67 members of the Michigan House), will diminish that diversity. "The legislative process is messy enough, this is going to make it messier," he said, predicting more and more turnout as legislative turnover produces "constant jockeying for leadership and influence" and invites outsiders — lobbyists, staffers, the governor's office, etc. — to fill the vacuum created by inexperience. And so on and so forth. "Having said all that," said Hillegonds, "I am not a proponent of trying to block term limits through court action." He noted the legislature (59 to 41 percent margin) by which voters approved the term-limitation amendment to the state constitution

in 1992, and predicted that a noisy court fight will result in a lackluster public support for relaxing the harshest aspects of term limits. One change already being discussed would extend term limits for House and Senate members to 12 years. Hillegonds said he, for one, would actively campaign for such a change, but not immediately. "The current experiment will have to be tried and experienced before we change it," he said, suggesting that the year 2000 would be the earliest it should be attempted. Hillegonds said a citizens group, not the Legislature — which would be seen as "the old boys' network" — should lead the way. But not now — and not via lawsuit, he said. "Like it or not, the people have done this," he said. "And the people should undo it."

In brief

'No' TO CASINO? Yes, they're for real, inside the principals behind an embryonic referendum campaign (on formal name as yet) to force a statewide vote in November 1998 on reversing Proposal E, last year's ballot measure that OK'd three new casinos in Detroit. The group, including representatives from the Salvation Army, Michigan Family Forum and Michigan Christian Coalition, has been meeting regularly at the Lansing headquarters of the Michigan Interfaith Council on Alcohol Problems. MICAP's longtime director, Alan Rice, said the timetable includes a campaign kickoff in November, filing of petitions in May and a celebration and prayer service of gratitude on Nov. 5, 1998, two days after their proposal comes to a winner... ah, if it does.