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MY MOVIES, 1F

The Detroit News

Friday, April 11, 2008

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Metro Final

City attorney: Texts 'explosive'

Messages called potentially 'embarrassing' to council, business leaders

By DAVID JOSAR
AND CHRISTINE MACDONALD
The Detroit News

DETROIT — City lawyers were told for years that text messages exchanged between Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick and his former chief of staff contained "embarrassing" and "explosive" com-

ments that would affect Detroit's ability to do business, chief assistant corporation counsel Valerie Colbert-Osamuede told the City Council on Thursday.

"My understanding was there could be very harmful messages," said Colbert-Osamuede, who was also the first attorney to express

regrets for not disclosing to the council the existence of the text messages. She said two of her bosses told her the text messages contained "embarrassing" comments about local leaders, City Council members and other area business people.

Sam McCargo, the attorney the

city hired to defend Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, testified he, too, had been misled about the texts, and once he saw purported excerpts that were "of a sexual nature," he no longer could represent the mayor in opposing their release.

"I concluded I would have to

withdraw from representing my client because my ability to effectively represent him had been compromised," he said. "I lost my credibility."

The City Council is expected to wrap up three days of rare public

Please see Texts, Page 6A



Brandy Baker / The Detroit News

"There was no nefarious motive," Valerie Colbert-Osamuede said.



Raising a home, rebuilding futures



Steph Hoyer

Former U-M soccer teammates Lindsey Cottrell, left, and Dory Gannes walk with Anita, an orphan, in Olevolos, Tanzania.

Former U-M soccer players head effort to erect orphanage, help kids in Tanzanian village

By JOANNE C. GERSTNER | *The Detroit News*

This was no place to cry, even though every part of Lindsey Cottrell wanted to break down. The horror and injustice was everywhere in the village of Olevolos, Tanzania: children without enough to eat, some little ones suffering from untreated medical conditions, others wearing the only ill-fitting or worn-out clothes they owned.

And nearly all of them were orphans, having lost parents to the ravaging AIDS epidemic in the East African country.

Cottrell, a star soccer player for the University of Michigan, had no experience with acute problems of this caliber. She was just a kid from Kalamazoo, raised in a loving home, and blessed with health, security and opportunity.



Dory Gannes

"They have taught me how to love and open my heart to new experiences," says Cottrell, 22, from Kalamazoo.

Instead of breaking down, Cottrell made a silent promise: She was going to

The Olevolos Project

The project is seeking financial support to help orphaned children in the village of Olevolos in Tanzania.

Details: theolevolosproject.org

Contact: Dory Gannes or Lindsey Cottrell at olevolos@gmail.com

do everything in her power to help improve this situation.

And she has kept her word.

The Olevolos Project she established in 2007 with friend and Michigan teammate Dory Gannes is proceeding full steam ahead, having broken ground on an orphanage and making a difference.

Please see Orphanage, Page 6A

Molestation claim filed against priest

Former altar boy's civil suit also alleges Detroit Archdiocese covered up ex-pastor's sexual behavior.

By KIM KOZLOWSKI
The Detroit News

When Vincent Venturini was 9, he denied that anything improper happened after he spent the night with the pastor of St. Lawrence Parish in Utica.

Years later, when the Rev. Timothy Szott pleaded no contest to possessing child pornography, Venturini of Shelby Township denied that the priest had ever hurt him.

Venturini says he can't deny the truth anymore, and that's why he filed a lawsuit Thursday alleging that Szott molested him and blaming the Archdiocese of De-

troit for what happened.

But what makes his lawsuit unique is that it's regarded as the first civil case against the Detroit

Archdiocese with the potential to go to trial since it was filed within Michigan's statute of limitations — the legal time frame alleged victims of child sexual abuse have to file for damages. In Michigan, minors have one year after they turn 18 to file civil lawsuits seeking

damages in child sexual abuse cases. Many victims in clergy sex abuse cases either never pursued

Please see Priest, Page 10A



Szott

Obama's fiery ex-pastor to keynote NAACP event

By DARREN A. NICHOLS
AND MARK HORNBECK
The Detroit News

DETROIT — The branch of the NAACP thrust itself into the national debate about race and politics Thursday, announcing that the controversial former pastor of presidential candidate Barack Obama will deliver the keynote address at the branch's signature

Detroit 27 at the Fight for Freedom Fund Dinner at Cobo Center.

"Rev. Wright has challenged the nation, challenged our comfort zone and stimulated nationwide discussions on the issues of how we must move forward together as both a nation and a people. We look forward to his participation here in the city of Detroit," said branch president

Please see NAACP, Page 7A



Wright

The Rev. Jeremiah A. Wright, whose incendiary speeches about the 2001 terror attacks and black

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