Greater Detroit DETROIT FREE PRESS/FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 1987 44



metro dateline

Acquitted of poisoning, parents regain their son

By WYLIE GERDES Free Press Staff Write

A West Bloomfield couple acquitted in March of poisoning their six-year-old son with mercury have regained custody of the boy.

Oakland County Probate Judge Barry Grant on Thursday returned Daniel Fritts to his parents, Mark and Barbara Fritts.

Daniel was taken away from the couple in June 1986, after physicians at Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit found high levels of mercury in his body.

The Frittses were charged with four counts of child neglect stemming from Daniel's mercury levels, but Grant dismissed two of the charges based on lack of evidence. A probate jury acquitted the two

DETROIT - A proposed out-of-

court settlement in a bankruptcy and a series of lawsuits against John

DeLorean was filed Thursday in

approval of Bankruptcy Judge Ray

Reynolds Graves, would have De-

Lorean or companies he controls

pay \$9.36 million to the creditors of

his bankrupt sports car company.

DeLorean would retain other assets.

Graves has set a hearing for Aug. 3.

Earlier this week, the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld

sanctions against DeLorean lawyer

Mayer Morganroth. In December 1985, Morganroth accused the Hon-

igman Miller Schwartz & Cohn law

firm, which represents the trustee

of the creditors, of conflict of inter-

est. Graves called the accusation

"frivolous" and imposed sanctions

U.S. District Court in Detroit. The settlement, which needs the of the third count, which involved the alleged poisoning, but convicted them of medical neglect, the fourth, charge. The couple filed an appeal of the conviction Wednesday with State Court of Appeals.

Doctors and psychologists testified at the trial in March that they couldn't explain why Daniel's mercury level was so high. They also said there was no evidence the level was the result of anything his parents had done.

The parents testified that they had taken Daniel to more than 12 doctors in the last two years. A neurological disorder, the cause of which also is not known, has left Daniel unable to walk or talk.

Gerald Goulet, the couple's lawyer, would not allow his clients to comment on the case Thursday.

UM-Dearborn probing vandalism

By JOHN CASTINE Free Press Staff Writer

University of Michigan-Dearborn officials are investigating a former editor of the school newspaper and six of his staff members in connection with \$6,000 worth of theft and vandalism at the paper's offices that prevented publication of its June issue.

The current editor wants a police investigation of the damage, but Richard Sypula, director of student activities at UM-D, has asked for only a school probe under the university's student code of non-academic conduct. A student found guilty of breaking the code could face suspension or expulsion

"We've chosen at this point to keep it within the university," Sypula said Thursday, "but we still have the option of going to the Dearborn police.'

The former Michigan Journal staff members, including ex-editor Kevin Evans, 24, of Livonia, were named in a campus public safety department re-

7 from newspaper staff investigated

port on the damage and are among a and computer system were vandalized, dozen students Sypula said should be interviewed about the vandalism by the UM-D Judicial System, which enforces the conduct code.

"Once I heard there had been some damage done, I expected my name would be on there (as a suspect)," Evans said. "... I'm not liked at the university, by the administration and most of the faculty, because of my role as editor."

Evans has asked the American Civil Liberties Union to help him challenge the selection process used to name his replacement - Shirley Horn, 22, of Detroit, who had quit the Journal staff in January in protest of Evans' policies. Sypula, who headed the staff-faculty-student committee that chose Horn as the new editor May 15, discovered the damage and theft at the Journal offices on May 22. Its photo darkroom

graffiti covered some walls, and three cameras, a printer, newspaper files and other items were missing.

Evans, a political science major taking three credit hours this summer to graduate in August, said his access to the offices "was minimal at best" after his last issue was published in April.

There were a large number of people who had keys," Evans said.

ACLU Executive Director Howard Simon said Evans' request for aid is being examined by the ACLU staff.

EVANS BEGAN making waves last fall when the Journal ran a contest to see who could guess the number of house fires Detroit would have on Devil's Night, the city's worst night for arson each year. The Journal offered 10 gallons of gasoline to the winner.

Under Evans, the paper also launched a petition drive against a student mall renovation project and reported over university objections UM-D Chancellor William Jenkins' prostate surgery.

Horn, who was chosen editor over two candidates from Evans' staff, said she quit the paper when the petition drive story was published under the phony byline "Ben Dover."

Sypula said there were "concerns about (the Journal's) quality and sophistication" under Evans' leadership.

"There were some articles not reflective of life on the student campus," he said. "It was not a question of freedom of speech. It was a question of good taste.

Horn said the vandalism incident should have been taken immediately to the Dearborn police.

'I see no reason to keep it within the university," she said. "It's very serious - it's a felony."



IOHN COLLIER/Detroit Free Press

Marie Fortin, wife of police diver Richard Fortin, holds the flag given to her during his funeral Friday outside St. Jude Church in Detroit. Family members are, from left, son Kevin Fortin, holding his son; daughter April McCullough; Marie Fortin, and son David Fortin. At right is funeral director Tim Lynch.

Drowned police rescue diver praised as hero

By JIM FINKELSTEIN Free Press Staff Writer

front of the Grand Prix race course. boaters were out of the water.

Police officials are investigating

several possible causes of the drown-

ing, including the possibility that an air

valve in his diving suit may have

daughter, was hailed for his helpful-

Fortin, the father of two sons and a

"He died doing the work he loved to

malfunctioned.

Chaplain James Wieging pointed to

retiring. Bryan has been secretary since June 1972. Sudek

of \$11,235.

Out-of-court settlement

filed in DeLorean lawsuits

DETROIT

Award goes to Shultz

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Charles Joseph Clark, Canadian secretary of state for external affairs, will receive the International Freedom Award during a luncheon July 2 at Cobo Hall. The award is given annually by the Economic Club of Detroit and the International Freedom Festival for a distinguished contribution to world peace and understanding.

John Kominar, Windsor Raceway rental manager and a Freedom Festival volunteer since its inception in 1959, will receive the Paul Lutzeier Memorial Award for service to the festival.

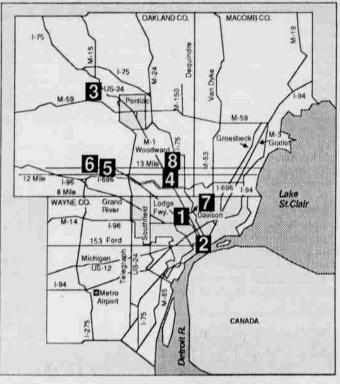
people

Frank Sudek has been appointed secretary of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, which operates the 13 Metroparks in Wayne, Macomb, Oakland, Livingston and Washtenaw counties. Sudek, of Hartland, also will remain the authority's purchasing manager, a job he has held since November 1977. He joined the park system in January 1960 as a member of the field engineering staff. The appointment is effective July 4. Sudek succeeds Robert Bryan, who is



who foundered in the Detroit River in secure a swamped boat and make sure do," said Chaplain Ronald Lund.

road report



Travel on these Detroit area roads will be limited temporarily, according to the state Transportation Department and the Michigan **Emergency Patrol.**

1. All northbound lanes of the Lodge Freeway (U.S.-10) will be closed from downtown to Seven Mile until late July. Outbound traffic can use Woodward or Grand River (signals on both favor northbound traffic), northbound I-75 to Eight Mile, or westbound I-96 to the northbound Southfield Freeway. Traffic leaving downtown can use the Abbott entrance ramp to northbound or southbound I-75 and westbound I-96, or can take Michigan to Rosa Parks north to the I-75 and I-96 entrance ramps.

2. Until February 1989, the Larned exit from the southbound Lodge will be closed. Traffic exits from the Lodge downtown at Howard or W. Jefferson.

3. In the Waterford area, expect severe traffic backups on Dixle Highway (U.S.-10) from Sashabaw to Telegraph. Traffic is reduced until fall to one lane in each direction and a center lane for left turns.

Hatchery Road is closed at Dixie Highway until late July.

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4. Main Street in the Royal Oak area near Ten Mile is closed until August

5. Twelve Mile west of Inkster Road in Farmington Hills will be closed until late November.

6. Thirteen Mile between Halstead and Haggerty roads in Farmington Hills is closed until late June

7. The right lane of the westbound Davison Freeway in Highland Park is closed from the Chrysler Freeway to the Lodge Freeway.

8. Crooks Road between Thirteen Mile and Main in Royal Oak is closed until mid-October. Webster between Woodward and Crooks in Roval Oak will be closed beginning Monday until September.

Among lane closings in the metropolitan area are Telegraph near Pennsylvania Road and Telegraph near Goddard Road, the northbound and southbound Southfield Freeway at the I-94 interchange, and I-96 between Kent Lake Road and Wixom Road. In East Detroit, Kelly Road southbound is closed between Toepfer and Eight Mile.

All lanes of westbound I-94 between mile markers 187 and 185 near Ypsilanti are detoured until November 1988.

A helicopter flyover and a 21-gun salute punctuated the silence Thursday outside St. Jude Church on Detroit's east side as police diver Richard Fortin was laid to rest.

"I've never seen a better cop," said attorney Jack Ramsdell in eulogizing the Detroit officer who drowned last week after aiding pleasure boaters

FBI investigating officer's slaying of unarmed man

FBI officials have launched a preliminary investigation into the shooting death of an unarmed Detroit man by a Detroit police officer, a spokesman said Thursday.

Investigators will review the killing of Lee Berry, 26, to "determine if there has been any violation of federal civil rights laws," said Special Agent John Anthony of the Michigan FBI office.

Berry was shot to death Tuesday in the driveway of his W. Outer Drive home during a struggle with traffic officer Joseph Hall.

Hall said in his report that he had chased Berry for reckless driving.

Detroit Police officials still are investigating the shooting. Hall has been reassigned pending the outcome of that investigation.

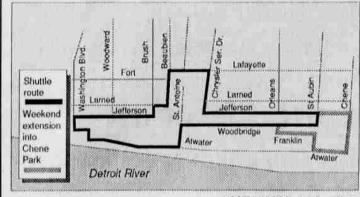
- Brian Flanigan

nunareas of uniformed police from Detroit and nearby departments saluted in formation before and after the ceremony, which took place along several blocks cordoned off by a police barricade.

Fortin, 45, a 23-year department veteran and an experienced diver, died ness and his activity with several police Friday when he jumped off a Detroit rescue teams. Fire Department boat into the river to

Shuffle 'Round Downtown in New Shuttle

"Downtown Get-Around," the Detroit Department of Transportation's shuttle bus system linking downtown restaurants, hotels, nightclubs and other attractions, kicks off today with free rides through the weekend. The shuttle service will operate 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and 5 p.m.-2:30 a.m. Friday; 10 a.m.-2:30 a.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday. After this weekend, the fare will be 45 cents. Two buses will run during weekday lunchtime service, and three buses will run on weekends. The buses, which will have "Downtown Get-Around" signs in their windshields, will pass 17 specially marked stops every 10 minutes, the DOT says.



MOSES HARRIS/Detroit Free Press

County OKs Pontiac incinerator site

By DAWSON BELL Free Press Staff Wr

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners voted Thursday to build a garbage incinerator on county-owned property in Pontiac despite last minute pleas by commissioners from Pontiac to delay the decision.

Commissioner Hubert Price, D-Pontiac, said the city will almost certainly sue to block the construction, possibly delaying the project and adding millions of dollars to its cost.

"I can assure you that the City of Pontiac is not going to roll over and play dead," Price said.

The proposed incinerator site is on the west side of Oakland Avenue just south of Telegraph Road near the Waterford Township border.

Price said the county's process for picking the site was flawed, and that

the board did not give enough consideration to the environmental impact of emissions from the incinerator.

The commissioners' 20-7 vote, along party lines on the Republicandominated board, came two weeks after Price and fellow Pontiac commissioner John Rowland won a delay in the decision to give city officials time to negotiate concessions from the county in exchange for the incinerator. Discussions were held between county leaders, Pontiac Mayor Walter Moore and City Council members, but no agreement has been reached.

City officials are seeking economic development assistance from the county, including favorable terms on the sale of county-owned property on the city's east side and help on a proposed entertainment center in downtown Pontiac.

"There are circumstances under which the City of Pontiac will support the location of an incinerator within the city limits," Rowland said

Pontiac is not among the 29 Oakland County communities committed to participating in the \$110 million incinerator, which is expected to burn 1,200 tons of garbage a day. Price said Pontiac needs a long-term waste disposal plan but a county offer of cut-rate incinerator charges does not go far enough.

Construction of the incinerator is expected to begin in late 1988. Steam generated by the burning would be used by the county for heating and cooling county buildings.

Price argued that delays from a legal battle between city and county over the incinerator location could add \$4.3 million a year to the project's cost.

Fortin's scores of commendations and citations as the best evidence of Fortin's value to the department.

"He was recognizing the abilities he had, and systematically set out to be available to help in saving lives," said Wieging. "It's not only for what happened last Friday that we call him a hero."

You'll need a Lotto luck to hit jackpot on Saturday

The jackpot for Saturday's Super Lotto game will be at least \$13 million - and the chance that you'll win it on any one ticket is one in seven million.

The chance you'll be killed by lightning is a whole lot better - one in two million - but thousands of Michiganders who never worry about being struck by a bolt from the blue will plunk down a buck or so today and Saturday on the chance of bagging the 13 mill.

"This is the first time the Super Lotto jackpot has grown past \$10 million," Lottery Commissioner Michael Carr said Thursday. "At \$13 million, a lone jackpot winner on Saturday would receive annual payments of \$650,000, but the final amount could be higher, depending on sales."

Two years ago, a Lotto jackpot grew to \$15 million, but that was a different game in which gamblers picked six of 40 numbers. In Super Lotto, they pick six of 44 numbers.

The deadline for buying tickets in Saturday's game is 7:08 p.m. Saturday, and players are advised to bet early to avoid the lines. But Jack Schaffer, the Lottery's chief deputy commissioner, doesn't think long lines will be much of a problem.

'We now have 3,750 Lotto terminals out there," he said, "and I think (for the \$15 million game) we had just under 2,000 terminals. So even though we have a lot of playing, I don't think the lines will be so long.

And even at one in seven million, the odds could be worse. The chance of winning the Reader's Digest Sweepstakes is one in 17.5 million.

- Jeanne May

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