

# MILLEN: WE'RE STAYING THE COURSE



SPORTS, 1C

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# Detroit Free Press

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## Electric rates to see big increase

Legislature OKs energy changes

By CHRIS CHRISTOFF  
FREE PRESS LANSING BUREAU CHIEF

LANSING — Electric rates will increase sharply for homeowners and decline for businesses, and utilities will have to double the electricity produced from renewable sources like wind farms under sweeping changes the Legislature approved Thursday and Gov. Jennifer Granholm vowed to sign into law.

A package of three bills dramatically changes the way Michigan utilities are regulated, giving the state's two largest power generators — DTE Energy and Consumers Energy — near monopolies in the markets they serve and allowing them to raise rates with no oversight until after the fact.

The utilities are guaranteed at least 90% of the state's electric market under the changes.

The action came on the same day that DTE Energy proposed the first new nucle-

See **POWER**, 4A



File photo from Monroe Evening News via AP  
The new plant would be next to DTE Energy's Fermi 2.

## DTE seeks to build \$10-billion nuke plant

Reactor next to Fermi 2 near Newport would be first new one in Michigan in 20 years.

Story, 4A

## ROCHELLE RILEY: BING CONFIRMS HE'LL RUN

'I'VE MADE MY DECISION' TO GO FOR DETROIT MAYOR, HE SAYS. PAGE 1B

### KILPATRICKS EXIT MANOOGIAN FOR LAST TIME

Kwame Kilpatrick and his family drive away from the mayoral residence Thursday after the city's youngest elected mayor became the first to plead guilty to felonies while in office. A judge allowed him to fly to Dallas, and he and his wife left Thursday night.

STORY AND HIS FINAL STATEMENT, PAGE 9A



SUSAN TUSA/Detroit Free Press

# Cockrel's debut draws applause



ANDRE J. JACKSON/Detroit Free Press

Ken Cockrel Jr. is to be sworn in as mayor at a public ceremony today at city hall, but he already has begun work.



ANDRE J. JACKSON/Detroit Free Press

Mayor Ken Cockrel Jr. shakes hands Thursday with his newly appointed police chief, James Barren. Cockrel promised the new chief would be "the general," without his intervention. Barren, 57, served 31 years with the department before retiring in 2004.

## CHOICE FOR TOP COP CALLED ANOTHER PIECE TO PROMISING START

By ZACHARY GORCHOW  
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

The Mayor Ken Cockrel Jr. era has begun. Even before the clock struck 12:01 a.m. this morning — marking the end of former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick's tenure and the beginning of Cockrel's — the city's 61st mayor already was beginning to put his stamp on city government.

Cockrel, who will be publicly sworn in this morning at city hall, announced Thursday what probably will be his most important appointment when he named James Barren, a respected former police executive with 31 years in the Detroit Police Department, as the new chief.

The Barren pick, along with Cockrel's promise not to meddle as Kilpatrick did in the Police Department, came one day after Cockrel turned heads with his high-profile choice for deputy mayor, Saul Green, a highly respected former U.S. attorney.

The impressive names on Cockrel's administration list and the mayor himself have garnered positive reviews from city hall offices all the way to the suburbs — each person expressing cautious optimism that Cockrel's regime will move Detroit forward and bring about

See **COCKREL**, 8A

### 'GROUNDED' FAMILY STEPS UP TO SPOTLIGHT

The son of a firebrand community activist, Ken Cockrel Jr. brings a relaxed style, a wife and five children into the whirlwind of major office. Profile, 8A

**JOURNAL: LATE FATHER LEFT A SIZABLE RECORD**  
Ken Cockrel Sr.'s philosophies as city leader differ in some ways from his son's. Bill McGraw, 8A

**NEW TOP COP BRINGS A PHD, DEEP EXPERIENCE**  
James Barren, 57, made his name dealing with barricaded gunmen. Profile, 9A

**MORE AT FREEP.COM**  
Video of Barren's announcement  
Come back today for the swearing-in

74 | 58  
HIGH | LOW

### SUNNY

Golden autumn day ahead.  
Chuck Gaidica's forecast, 6B



50¢ (75¢ outside Wayne, Oakland & Macomb counties)

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## THE RIPPLE EFFECT

# Wall Street woes add to Michigan's economic misery

By BRENT SNAVELY AND JEWEL GOPWANI  
FREE PRESS BUSINESS WRITERS

### Stocks soar 410 in wild day

Reports that the government may find a permanent solution to the credit crisis sends market to close at 11,019.69. 1E

### Comerica must pay \$1.5-billion settlement

The bank must buy back securities from more than 1,500 investors so they won't lose money. 1E

The financial meltdown on Wall Street is adding another layer of economic pain onto Michigan companies and consumers that have already been struggling for several years.

An already tight credit market has been choked off, making it even tougher for companies large or small to find the financing needed for restructuring and new investments.

Would-be franchisees can't get loans to open pizza stores. Investors have seen their port-

folios battered. And a domestic automotive industry in dire need of recovery may need to hold out even longer.

But few in Michigan can expect to feel the impact of the financial industries failures — Lehman Brothers went bank-

See **ECONOMY**, 3A

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