

Ellen's biggest dance card



Hosting Oscars tonight likely a waltz in the park

MIKE DUFFY, 1F

Smith judge should've left tears at home

MITCH ALBOM, 1B

Big Ben's back; boo not, Billups says

SPORTS, 1D



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FEB. 25, 2007 METRO FINAL



WIN McNAMEE/Getty Images-AFP

NATION OF ISLAM

Farrakhan's Detroit speech

A look at the controversial leader of the controversial group as he readies for today's Ford Field sermon. **1B**

Following Muhammad

One metro family's journey of faith leads to the Nation of Islam. **Life, 1J**

LOCAL NEWS

Search comes up short

Police prowl the Stony Creek area for nearly five hours Saturday. The search is to resume Monday for clues in the disappearance of Tara Grant. **1B**

TRAVEL

Special cruise section

More than 250 ships are plying the seas this season. Travel writer Ellen Creager points you to cool Mediterranean ports of call. **1K**

TWIST

Answer: Hip dancing

Question: What's another name for belly dancing? See the belly dance teacher's Q & A. **With your inserts.**

WEATHER

32 HIGH 28 LOW

SLEET

Winds from the East. **Chuck Gaidica's forecast, 8B**

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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW MARK FIELDS: SAVING FORD HIS JOB 1



WAY FORWARD: More problems than expected

SETBACKS: Pickups and other U.S. sales off

THE FUTURE: Working to be profitable by 2009

By SARAH A. WEBSTER
 FREE PRESS BUSINESS WRITER



Mark Fields, Ford Motor Co.'s president of the Americas, with Chairman Bill Ford.

MORE ABOUT FIELDS

At Freep.com: The interview
 Questions and answers, 13A

After more than 16 months of toiling to turn around Ford Motor Co.'s Americas division, Mark Fields is putting his long-guarded personal and professional cards on the table for all to judge: Does he have what it takes to save Ford?

Fields, 46, president of the Americas, seemed destined to be Ford's next chief executive officer. But since Fields began leading the company's biggest and most crucial division, the automaker has repeatedly missed its targets, leading to criticism of Fields and speculation he might be fired by CEO Alan Mulally.

Fields' rising star, it seems, is at risk along with Ford's future.

In interviews with the Free Press in recent months, Fields sought to soften his image, get the troops on his side and show he can succeed in the critical role that will define his career.

"I wanted to be pretty open and say there were a couple of things we didn't meet," Fields said in an hour-long interview at his Dearborn office this month. "I'm human. ... I would have liked to have gone faster."

While Fields has amassed his fair share of doubters, some experts say he is more prepared than ever to fix Ford.

"The future of the Ford Motor Co. is carried on his shoulders," said David Cole, president of the

See FIELDS, 12A

State facing a new pest

Weird water weed could move into lakes

By TINA LAM
 FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Using the language of cancer, studded with words like "early detection" and "aggressive growth," environmental officials in Michigan are gearing up to battle hydrilla, a dreaded water weed that could show up soon in state lakes.

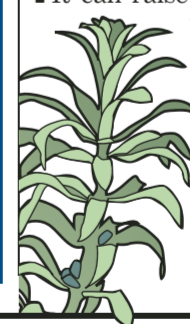
Michigan already is home to more than 140 invasive species, but this one is especially fearsome.

"Hydrilla is our No. 1 concern this year," said Roger Eberhardt of the Department of Environmental Quality's Great Lakes Office.

Hydrilla hasn't reached the state border yet, but last fall it was found just 55 miles south, in an Indiana lake — the first time it has been found in the Midwest.

The name itself sounds sinister and dangerous, like a lurking water monster. Experts say the description fits.

Consider:
 ■ Hydrilla is an aggressive, fast-growing weed that needs little light to grow, can reproduce in four ways (including from tubers that can lie dormant up to four years on lake beds), and it spreads like a blanket on lakes, choking out fish and plant life below.
 ■ It tangles boat motors and clogs water intake pipes.
 ■ It can't be hurt by deep freeze winters.
 ■ It can raise water temperatures and create stagnant water that breeds mosquitoes.



Hydrilla: Almost its actual size.

See PEST, 10A

What's next

United Nations Security Council diplomats meet Monday to develop a plan to pressure Iran to halt its nuclear program. The plan's teeth could include:

- Travel restrictions.
- An expanded list of technology and materials banned from export to Iran.
- Creating stiffer economic sanctions.

Bush policy may end in war with Iran

Analysts: Diplomacy aside, fight likely

By RON HUTCHESON AND WARREN P. STROBEL
 MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON — Is the United States headed for war with Iran?

Increasing tensions with

Iran over its nuclear program and actions in Iraq have fueled speculation that President George W. Bush may be planning military action.

Bush has said he isn't looking for a fight. With U.S. forces tied down in Iraq and

Afghanistan, no one expects a ground invasion, but analysts put little stock in Bush's insistence that he is focused only on diplomacy.

"I still believe, at the end of the day, that he will bomb the Iranian" nuclear facilities, said Joshua Muravchik, a neoconservative scholar at the Ameri-

can Enterprise Institute, a think tank with close ties to the Bush administration.

Muravchik, who favors military action, said he sees Bush's current focus on diplomacy as a prelude to attack.

"When he does it — if he

See IRAN, 10A



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