

The State News

For cutout masks of Tom Izzo, Mark Dantonio and a few other MSU people, go to statenews.com

MICHIGAN

SECRETARY OF STATE OFFERS EXTENDED ABSENTEE VOTING

By Kelly House
THE STATE NEWS

The Michigan secretary of state has announced another way for first-time voters who registered by mail to obtain an absentee ballot after the state attorney general condemned a similar initiative by Michigan county clerks.

"This is an opportunity for students that maybe can't make it to their county clerk or to their city or township clerk to present themselves and request an absentee ballot," secretary of state spokeswoman Kelly Chesney said.

Under Michigan law, first-time voters who registered by mail — including through third-party groups such as the ones on campus this fall — must vote in person, not by mailed absentee ballot.

The secretary of state has agreed to offer "duplicate registrations" for first-time voters who registered by mail, making them eligible to obtain an absentee ballot.

To get a duplicate registration, voters can go to any secretary of state branch office and present a valid form of identification to receive clearance to request an absentee ballot, Chesney said.

The agreement among 65 of Michigan's 83 county clerks allows them to cross-deputize one another to verify first-time voters' identities without requiring voters to travel to their hometown.

But the agreement has come under fire from Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox, whose office issued a statement opposing it last week.

John Sellek, a spokesman for the attorney general, said the program is unfair to voters in the 18 counties whose clerks have not joined the initiative.

"This is an opportunity for students that maybe can't make it to their county clerk or to their city or township clerk ..."

Kelly Chesney, spokeswoman for the Secretary of State

"Say you're from Wayne County and your suitemate is from Oakland County," he said. "You get to participate in this program, but your roommate doesn't. That's a violation of equal protection of the law."

Susan Kalenbach, president of the Michigan Association of County Clerks, has said the groups will continue to cross-deputize unless the attorney general's office takes legal action, but Ingham County Clerk Mike Bryant said he would encourage students to use the secretary of state's program first.

"The cleanest way for them to do it is to go to the secretary of state branch office," he said. "However, if for any reason that's a problem, I'll certainly accommodate the situation."

Bryant said he has received very few requests to participate in the program.

East Lansing City Clerk Nicole Evans agreed with Bryant that students should turn to the secretary of state's program first. But the important thing, she said, is that students have easy access to an absentee ballot to ensure they have full voting rights.

"When the voting registration

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FEDS ARREST 64 IN RAIDS

On the rise

Immigration officers on prowl for illegal immigrants living in the Lansing area

95

total fugitive operations teams nationwide

↑

75

In 2007

↑

52

In 2006

SOURCE: U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

By Abby Lubbers
THE STATE NEWS

A sign reading "Now hiring experienced servers" in the window of El Azteco serves as a quiet reminder of what happened at the East Lansing restaurant 10 days ago. Four people were arrested Oct. 19 at the restaurant, 225 Ann St., Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) spokesman Mike Gilhooly said.

The arrests, which were part of a National Fugitive Operations Program initiative, aimed to apprehend people illegally working in the U.S.

Sixty-four people in the Lansing area were arrested during the Oct. 17-20 initiative. Among those arrested, 40 were targets who had warrants out for their arrest, Gilhooly said.

Immigration officers arrested four people at El Azteco at about 11 a.m. Oct. 19. The officers were looking for three targets, and arrested another person who was identified as an illegal alien after attempting to flee, Gilhooly said.

One of the people arrested had worked at El Azteco for 18 years and another person had been there for 10 years, said the restaurant's owner, Arturo Santa Cruz.

Santa Cruz said the men, to his knowledge, were U.S. citizens, and he had helped the 18-year employee with immigration papers.

"They were model citizens. They paid their income taxes, they paid social security — one was even in the process of buying a home," he said. "They were part of the economy."

The four employees were initially handcuffed with zip ties, and told to sit against the trash bin behind the restaurant, said Steven Knapp, a waiter at El Azteco. The detainees were later chained together, he said.

"They treated them like dogs," Santa Cruz said. "If I shackled an animal like that, I'd be in trouble. Something's got to be done so this

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Arturo Santa Cruz, owner of El Azteco

Fugitive arrests in Lansing area

64 people arrested from Oct. 17-20

40 were targets who had warrants out for their arrest

24 were determined illegal aliens during target arrests

Four people arrested at El Azteco, three of those arrested were targets

One other identified as an illegal alien after attempting to flee

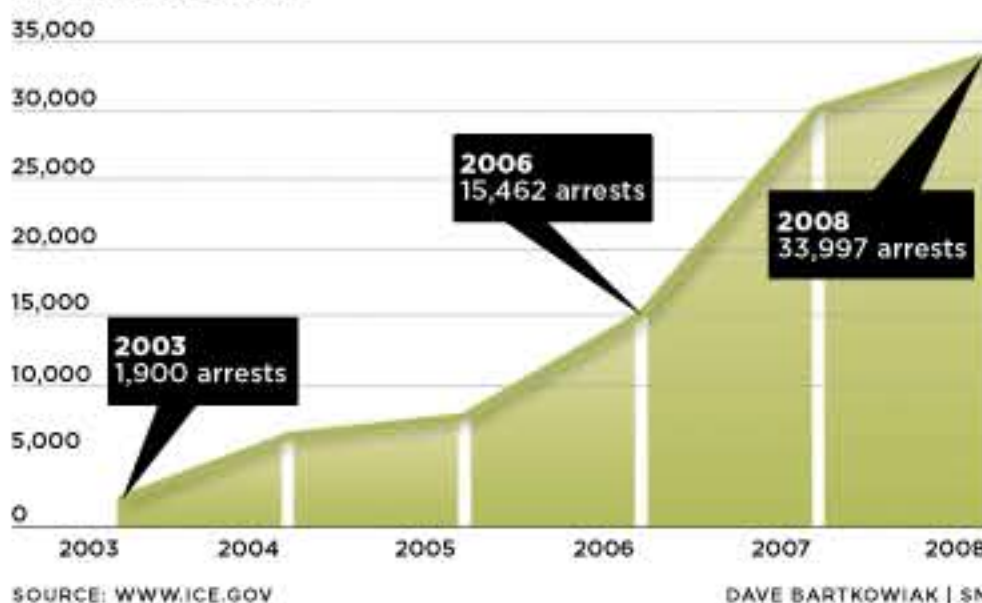
SOURCE: U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

"Their mission is to seek out those individuals who have failed to follow the immigration order of a lawful judge."

Mike Gilhooly, Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokesman

National arrests by Fugitive Operations Program

Fiscal year 2008 arrests increased by 1,689 percent since the fiscal year of 2003.



CRIME

2 being questioned in Ark. school shooting, no arrests

By Jon Gambrell
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Conway, Ark. — The head of the University of Central Arkansas said Monday that the campus was safe after a shooting left two students dead and a third person wounded.

Police said the killings did not appear to be acts of random violence and that there was no remaining threat on the 12,500-student campus.

Police said they were questioning two people and seeking two others. All four are male and from the central Arkansas area. Police said they were not students.

Police had no motive yet for the shooting.

"It does not seem at this time that it was a random act," campus police Lt. Preston Grumbles said.

Interim president Tom Courtway, who canceled classes Monday, said, "Our campus is safe."

University police Lt. Rhonda Swindle said two people were being questioned Monday morning but that neither was under arrest. One was pulled over by police during the night and another turned himself in, authorities said. Police said they believed they knew the identity of the other two suspects.

After the shots rang out Sunday night, one victim died on the sidewalk along a narrow alley between a dormitory and a fine arts center. Police said the two other victims rushed into the dorm, where paramedics found them.

Swindle identified the dead as

College campus shooting
Two students killed and third person wounded in shooting at the University of Central Arkansas



Ryan Henderson, 18, and Chavares Block, 19 — both students. A nonstudent, Martrevis Norman of Blytheville, Ark., was shot in one leg and was released from a hospital after treatment.

"This is just an awful tragedy. It's the worst thing that can happen on a college campus," Courtway said earlier.

The campus was quiet Monday morning. Police cars cruised its quiet streets and officers roamed the grounds in flak jackets.

Student Aprilie Hanson, 20, of Mountain Home, said the shooting was "definitely an eye-opener" in the quiet city of Conway, about 30 miles north of Little Rock, Ark.

"This campus is very safe. I've never felt afraid on this campus," Hanson said. "Everyone's going to be a little more tense."

Faculty and students received calls and e-mails through an automated system shortly after 9:30 p.m. Sunday warning them of the shooting and urging them to stay inside behind locked doors. School spokesman Warwick Sabin said it was the first use of the uni-

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POLITICS

Rogers runs for 5th term

Editor's note: This is the first in a two-part series profiling the candidates.

By Zack Colman
THE STATE NEWS

U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers, of Brighton, has been in office for four terms, and he's done it as a Republican.

Rogers' opponents and detractors would like to position him alongside Republican Party colleagues such as President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney during his run for a fifth term as the 8th District's U.S. representative. They would like to say he is part of the Republican-controlled Congress that racked up more than \$10 trillion in debt, led the nation into two wars and enacted legislation that infringed on civil rights during six of the last eight years.

Rogers said he's aware of his party's reputation, but he isn't trying to alter its perception. He said he is confident his record will speak for itself.

"In a very partisan envi-



Michigan's 8th district U.S. House of Representatives Republican incumbent Mike Rogers speaks to the Kiwanis Club of Lansing Thursday afternoon at the Fairbanks Grill, 2400 S. Cedar St., in Lansing.

ronment, I have been able to work in a bipartisan way to move some important ideas," he said.

For those who know Rogers, party alliance doesn't begin to define him, they said.

"He's actually a Democrat in Republican clothing," said Marcus Jefferson, executive director of Closing the Digital Gap, a

Lansing-based nonprofit organization that teaches underprivileged people how to use technology. "Mike does things that we would call 'untraditional' for his party. He actually cares about people and can get things done."

Jefferson said he had begged

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ENVIRONMENT

The greek community goes green by taking part in a cleanup effort throughout the city. Different greek groups collect copious amounts of litter after the weekend, page 3A.

SPORTS

The women's basketball team gets a few additions who used to be high school rivals, page 6A.



Weather

Mostly cloudy

High 42° | Low 31°

Three-day forecast, page 2A