

GRADUAL MELTDOWN



ANGELI WRIGHT/THE STATE NEWS

Oliver Mouzon installs a row of seats into a vehicle Thursday at General Motors Corp.'s Lansing Delta Township assembly plant, 8175 Millett Highway. Mouzon has been working for General Motors for 11 years.

Current price ranges for General Motors vehicles

2009 Chevy Cobalt Coupe: \$16,330 to \$24,095

2008 GMC Savanna Passenger 3500: \$31,370 to \$33,565

2009 Pontiac Solstice: \$24,895 to \$30,105

SOURCE: GM.COM

Experts, employees ponder future of General Motors amid nation's current economic crisis

By Jeff Kanan
THE STATE NEWS

As Michigan's economy falters toward disaster, policy-makers are working to both stabilize the auto industry and reduce the state's dependence on it. "Michigan's economy is, as currently structured, totally driven by the auto industry," said Donald Grimes, senior research specialist at the Institute for Research on Labor, Employment and the Economy at the University of Michigan. "We can create jobs in health care, technology and other industries, but nothing else can come close to the auto industry."

Detroit's Big Three auto-makers were denied a place in the government's \$700 billion financial rescue program Nov. 3, but current legislation regarding a \$25 billion relief package is still being decided.

General Motors Corp. celebrated its 100th anniversary in September with falling stocks, declining credit and very little wiggle room as it faces an economic disaster.

This is the reality for the nation's largest automaker, which on Nov. 7 reported losses of \$4.2 billion for

the third quarter of 2008 on an adjusted basis, and now stands on the verge of running out of money.

Projections show the automaker will fall short of readily available assets by the first or second quarter of 2009 unless GM receives federal help or the economy drastically changes direction.

"It's pretty certain they'll hit the bottom, without a change by early 2009," said Debbie Maranger Menk, a

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"I would characterize the workplace as anxious, frustrated and scared."

Brian Fredline, president of the UAW Local 602, which represents the Lansing Delta Township assembly plant

you oughta know

CRIME Affidavit shows homicide suspect lived in victims' home

The main suspect in a four-person homicide that killed an MSU student lived with the victims during high school, according to a court affidavit.

Troy Brake, who was arraigned on four counts of open murder and three counts of felony firearm, spoke with investigators three times and denied the murders.

Brake lived with his family next door to the Zimmers in the early 1990s, and moved into the family's Wright Township home when his family moved.

Brake was arraigned Wednesday in Holland's 58th District Court.

For more on this story, see page 3A.

NATION Stock market emerges from slump as Dow jumps 550

New York — Investors did an abrupt turnaround on Wall Street Thursday, muscling the Dow Jones industrial average up more than 550 points.

After three days of selling that wiped out about \$1 trillion in shareholder value, many investors, though nervous about a prolonged economic downturn, appeared convinced the market had priced in enough bad news. The market was following in dramatic fashion its pattern of huge price reversals, one that was set early in the now 15-month-old credit crisis and that has become almost the norm on Wall Street.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARTY Lansing gay dance bar celebrates 10 years in business

Spiral Video Dance Bar, a gay bar in Lansing, is celebrating its 10th anniversary this weekend.

As part of the celebration, the bar is having a male strip show on Saturday as well as performances by drag queens from as far as Chicago.

When the bar first opened 10 years ago, there was speculation against it from the community.

Now the bar is more popular than ever before, and manager Darren Canejo makes a point to promote the bar around Lansing and on campus.

To read the full story, turn to page 6A.

SPORTS 2009 Spartans football recruiting class features best

The MSU football team is primed to build upon its successful 2008 campaign by bringing in one of the most highly touted crops of recruits in the Big Ten.

From Elite 11 quarterback Andrew Maxwell to homegrown offensive lineman Blake Treadwell to stud running backs Edwin Baker and Larry Caper, the future looks bright for MSU football.

For a peek into the future of MSU football with profiles, question-and-answer sessions, photos and more about the Spartans' class of 2009, check out The game.

To learn more, turn to page 1B.