



GABRIELLE MOORE/THE STATE NEWS

Then-presidential candidate Barack Obama holds an "Obama 08" MSU jersey at his rally Oct. 2.



JASON CHIDU/THE STATE NEWS

Men's soccer head coach Joe Baum coached his last regular season game Nov. 2 with a 1-0 victory over Northwestern.



HANNAH ENGELSON/THE STATE NEWS

People stand on a balcony overlooking the 200 block of Cedar Street on the night of April 5 for Cedar Fest.



JEANA-DEE ALLEN/THE STATE NEWS

Third-year chemistry graduate student Heather Crawford works on the morning of Sept. 22 at the Cyclotron.

8

MOST MEMORABLE MOMENTS OF 2008

A look back at eight of the biggest stories of the year reported by The State News

"It's important for the entire country. The auto industry supplies millions of jobs across this nation. I don't think anyone can envision our nation without a manufacturing sector."

Liz Boyd, spokeswoman for Gov. Jennifer Granholm, in regard to the economic crisis and its Michigan impact

By Kelly House
THE STATE NEWS

It's been a heck of a year. Between a presidential election, a worldwide economic crisis, local mayhem and sports successes — there was no shortage of news in 2008. Here's a look back at some of the most notable stories of the past year.

Election

Unquestionably, the most-reported story of the past year was the race for the presidential election. It was a historic campaign, with the first female candidate to win primaries, the first woman Republican vice presidential nominee and the first black president-elect of the United States.

In the end, Barack Obama soundly defeated his Republican opponent, Arizona Sen. John McCain, with a message of change and heightened attention to young and disenfranchised voters.

"He didn't disregard them the way others had done," said Georg Schuttler, president of MSU College Democrats. "People really responded to that."

With a little more than a month before Obama takes office, there is still much work to be done. He has begun appointing cabinet members — including former rival Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., as Secretary of State — and unveiling the policies that will carry him into the Oval Office. But with an economic crisis looming over his presidency, Obama's appeal on the campaign trail is not enough. He will have to prove to the American people

See TOP 8 on page 2A



GEORGIA RHODES/THE STATE NEWS

MSU senior quarterback Brian Hoyer celebrates a touchdown Sept. 20 against Notre Dame. The Spartans defeated the Fighting Irish 23-7, improving to 3-1 on the season.

For additional photos featured in eight of the most memorable stories of the past year, check out www.statenews.com

you oughta know

CAMPUS New proposal could allow for creation of more minors

A proposal winding its way through MSU's Academic Governance system would allow academic units to offer minors in a field of study where no major is offered.

"Removing the limitation would allow departments to develop, propose and offer minors in a wider variety of fields of study than currently possible, both in fields of study where no major exists as well as in fields of study where the name of the major is quite broad," wrote Linda Good, chairperson for the University Committee on Curriculum, in an e-mail.

For the rest of the story, turn to page 3A.

CITY Local businesses prepare for winter break without students

Businesses all over East Lansing will alter their schedules for winter break.

Some will be hampered by the weather, while the lack of students will force other businesses to change hours.

"We'll probably have shortened hours and small opening parties to gear up for when students come back," said Eric Gunn, owner of Brother's Grill, 403 E. Grand River Ave., which is scheduled to open Dec. 12.

Despite being supported mainly by students, some bookstores will stay open full time.

For the rest of the story, turn to page 5A.

DANCE Classic ballet features three MSU student performers

The Greater Lansing Ballet Company will be performing the seasonal classic "The Nutcracker" Dec. 14 at Fairchild Theatre.

The performance is under the artistic direction of the Ballet Company's founder Barbara Smith.

Smith has been trained in the style of Russian ballet from the Vaganova Academy in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Three MSU graduate students and company members will perform as well as guest performances by two New York City-based professional dancers.

For the rest of the story, turn to page 7A.

SPORTS Spartans hockey prepares for matchup with U-M

The puck drops on the bitter rivalry between MSU and Michigan this weekend.

The two teams will meet four times this season, and this Saturday's game will be the Wolverines' only trip to East Lansing.

The Spartans went 0-7-2 in the month of November and are looking to turn the season around before the winter break.

The Wolverines have dropped three of their last four contests.

Find out why the Spartans think they'll bounce back this weekend and more about the upcoming home-and-home series.

For the rest of the story, turn to page 8B.