

COULD CLINT EASTWOOD HAVE ANOTHER MILLION DOLLAR BABY? AN MSU JUNIOR DEBUTS IN 'GRAN TORINO.'

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The State News

DEVELOPMENT

City Council sets date for development district hearing

By Jeff Kanan
THE STATE NEWS

East Lansing City Council members took a first step in bringing industrial growth to the city by setting a Jan. 20 hearing date for the creation of an Industrial Development District at Tuesday's council meeting.

The district would designate facilities at unspecified locations for future tax incentives in an effort to lure industries to the city.

"We designated an area that, in hopes for future companies and industries, will provide tax abatements," said Tim Dempsey, community and economic development administrator for East Lansing.

Council members decided on the development measure hours after MSU and IBM announced a partnership for a computer programming center, which is expected to bring some industry of its own to East Lansing and create hundreds of jobs in the state during the next year.

"Looking at the recent news, it's good for the short term," Mayor Vic Loomis said. "It will create jobs, strengthen the market and be very positive."

During their discussion of the district, council members stressed the importance of fostering a high-tech, knowledge-based economy in East Lansing.

The council also was set to discuss the proposed Delta Township rezoning project, which could lead to the building of more multiple-student and multiple-family homes.

The project involves 3.8 acres of land along Louis Street, Michigan Avenue, Delta Street and Elm Place that is occupied by several sorority and fraternity-type buildings.

The buildings are aging, and a developer is considering building more multiple-family and multiple-student homes, said Darcy Schmitt, East Lansing's planning and zoning administrator.

"Currently, the master plan is to redevelop homes that are old-

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JASON CHIOU/THE STATE NEWS

MSU director of Jewish studies Dr. Ken Waltzer recently discovered that the Holocaust memoir, "Angel at the Fence: The True Story of a Love That Survived," was completely fabricated. The memoir, which canceled its publication after Waltzer's discovery, was proven to be false with the help of Holocaust survivors, maps of the Schlieben concentration camp (Nazi concentration camp transport list pictured), camp records and the fact that the "angel," Roma Radzicky, and the author, Herman Rosenblat (family portrait pictured), never were in the same city at the time that the story took place.

MSU PROFESSOR DEBUNKS COUPLE'S HOLOCAUST HOAX

By Kayla Habermehl
THE STATE NEWS

Theirs was a love story that could rival Romeo and Juliet.

He was a boy trapped in a Holocaust concentration camp. She was a young Jewish girl in hiding who threw him apples over a fence. Years after the boy was liberated and the war ended, a chance blind date in New York City brought them together. They would marry months later.

The tale, which was featured twice on The Oprah Winfrey Show, made into a children's book, slated to be published as a memoir and made into a movie, seemed too good to be true. After some probing by MSU professor Dr. Kenneth Waltzer and other researchers, it turns out it was.

"The Holocaust is an event of serious magnitude ... and its essence is brutality, terror and suffering," said Waltzer, director of Jewish studies at MSU. "So to dress up a Holocaust story in the

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The Evidence

To debunk a fictitious love story about a couple in a Nazi concentration camp, MSU professor Dr. Kenneth Waltzer, Sharon Sergeant and Colleen Fitzpatrick used dozens of documents, including:

Transport lists: The names of prisoners who were being sent to the camps.

Historical records: Information that came from the United States, Israel and Poland

Maps of the camp: The maps were drawn by former prisoners and survivors of Schlieben.

Survivor testimonies: Alerted Waltzer to the story and helped bring the truth to light

To view some of the documents Waltzer and Sergeant used plus a timeline and audio with this story, visit statenews.com.

SAFETY

E.L. gets grant for bigger fire ladder truck

By Kyle Feldscher
THE STATE NEWS

If the top floors of some residence halls were to go ablaze, the East Lansing Fire Department doesn't have a ladder truck able to reach them.

That will soon change, as the department learned earlier this month it had been awarded a \$531,000 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA. The department will use the money to buy a 100-foot aerial ladder truck.

Fire Chief Randall Talifar-

ro said the department had been saving money for a new truck, which he said is necessary because of the increasing height of buildings in East Lansing. Currently, the department has two 75-foot ladders at its disposal.

"The next level is 100 feet, and that is where we were lacking," Talifarfarro said.

The grant will not cover the entire cost of the new aerial ladder truck, which costs \$590,000, but the department has enough money to cover the remaining cost, Talifarfarro said. Without the grant, the

department might have settled for an additional 75-foot aerial ladder truck.

"There was a financial need," Talifarfarro said. Although the department was setting aside money, the financial burden on the department without the grant could have been extremely heavy, he said.

"It places a significant burden on a community our size. To have to replace those types of units and have the original price as well, you can see what that does to our budget," he said.

Talifarfarro said the new 100-

foot aerial ladder truck will have more capability to reach taller buildings in East Lansing, such as the proposed building included in East Lansing City Center II project on Grand River Avenue and Abbot Road.

"Currently, the department doesn't have that ability," Talifarfarro said.

The money was distributed through FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, which awarded 81 grants totaling \$7.6 million to fire departments around the country, according

to a department press release.

The program has been "instrumental" to providing resources for firefighters, FEMA Administrator R. David Paulison said in the press release.

Talifarfarro credited Sens. Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow and U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Brighton, for their help securing the money.

David Pollock, Levin's spokesman, said the senator assists departments with putting together applications to the program.

TECHNOLOGY

MSU, IBM PARTNER FOR COMPUTER TECH CENTER

By Justin Harris
THE STATE NEWS

As part a new partnership between IBM and MSU, students and graduates won't have to look farther than south campus to find a job.

A new computer programming center scheduled to begin operations on campus this spring is expected to create 1,500 new jobs during the next five years.

The center is the first of its kind in the U.S. and will work in conjunction with MSU's recruiting, education and research, IBM and MSU officials said.

"I think there will be opportunities for students to work at internships as well as potential employment opportunities at this global development center," MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon said. "Part of the goal of the state, as well as part of the role the university can play, is to have Michigan be viewed as part of the 21st century economy. IT (information technology) operations play an important roles in that."

The facility, called the IBM Global Delivery Center for Application Services, will provide support services to modernize IT systems at government agencies and corporations in Michigan, as well as other areas of the country in the future. Simon said IBM considered a number of states and universities to host the center but decided on MSU.

Randy Zane, communications manager for IBM Global Business Services, said Michigan was a logical choice.

"For Michigan, it fits within Governor Granholm's plan to improve the economic base in the state via technology," Zane said. "For IBM, it strengthens our long relationship with the state and enables us to help train the workers we will need in the future."

Kurt Weiss, a spokesman from the Michigan Department of Information Technology, said the agreement will help the Lansing area develop a strong technological job base and help keep Michigan graduates in state.

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TUITION HELP

Granholm signs a law to ease higher education costs in low-income areas, page 3A



Weather
Snow
High 8° | Low 1°
Three-day forecast, Page 2A