

From the upscale to the economical, find the perfect Valentine's Day date for you and yours

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SEAN COOK/THE STATE NEWS

Premedical and philosophy sophomore Vinay Patel, right, and genomics and molecular genetics sophomore Samrita Varde share a vanilla milkshake at Fleetwood Diner, 221 S. Cedar St., in Lansing.

The State News

GOVERNMENT

GRANHOLM TO UNVEIL 2010 STATE BUDGET, MSU FUNDING

By Allison Bush
THE STATE NEWS

MSU should have a better idea today of how much money it will receive from the state in the next year after Gov. Jennifer Granholm announces her proposed budget for the 2010 fiscal year.

With the \$790 billion federal economic stimulus package awaiting President Barack Obama's final approval, Michigan has to work around the money the package is expected to bring to the state.

See BUDGET on page 2A



SHARING A RAINY DAY

Stroll

Zachary Pollock, a parks, recreation and tourism resources and kinesiology junior, walks with Renee Duncan, a parks, recreation and tourism resources junior Wednesday afternoon on the path alongside the Red Cedar River. "I'm really happy about the temps, just not this rain," Duncan said of the recent weather. Temperatures have neared 133-year highs this week.

NICK DENTAMARO | THE STATE NEWS

UNIVERSITY

Dorms, FRIB, stimulus plan on trustees' docket Friday

By Justin Harris
THE STATE NEWS

An economic stimulus bill-related infrastructure plan, dorm upgrades and budget revision for construction at the Cyclotron are among the agenda items to be discussed at Friday's MSU Board of Trustees meeting.

The meeting is the first of the semester and first for new Trustees Dianne Byrum and Diann Woodard. The board meets at 9:30 a.m. in 401 Administration Building.

Stimulating campus

The Trustee Finance Committee will advise the board to identify a set of infrastructure projects and begin its planning in anticipation of the proposed federal stimulus package.

Public universities with prepared construction plans are among the institutions in line to receive part of the near-\$800 billion in federal funding.

Institutions with construction plans that have favorable investments, potential for job creation and sustainability will have priority for federal stimulus money. Criteria for the federal funds mandate that construction must begin within 90 days of receiving the money and be completed within two years.

"I think we want to help President Obama to put more people back to work, and I think we need to complete some construction projects that will make MSU a stronger university," MSU Trustee Faylene Owen said.

"This is a great opportunity for the university to get some big projects done and to help the economic recovery."

Going up?

The board also will vote to proceed on a plan to replace elevators in Holmes and Wilson halls.

The two halls, built in 1965 and 1962, respectively, each have five original elevators still in use. In November 2008, the board authorized planning for the project. After consulting with faculty, staff and students who live and work in the two halls, the board will vote on whether to proceed with the construction.

If approved, construction would begin in both halls in December

See TRUSTEES on page 2A

NEW RESTAURANT
Teryaki and Gyro replaces Lou & Harry's on East Grand River Avenue, page 3A.



Weather
Snow showers
High 37° | Low 27°
Three-day forecast, Page 2A

Grand Rapids awaits MSU school

Construction of Secchia Center may finish under \$90M budget

By Justin Harris
THE STATE NEWS

Although it's more than a year away from its completion date, the MSU College of Human Medicine's Grand Rapids campus is projected to be completed almost \$3 million under budget.

The Secchia Center — scheduled to be completed in June 2010 — broke ground in April 2008. Initially, the project was estimated to cost about \$90 million, but progress made thus far indicates \$3 million in cost reductions could be made.

"Of course there's a lot of construction to do yet, but at this point, it looks like the cost is going to be somewhere around \$87 million," said Bob Nestle, a university engineer at the Physical Plant.

Chris Burns, the university's project representative for the Physical Plant, said every construction plan has a contingency monetary amount built into the maximum budget that is set aside for unexpected costs. To this point, Burns said larger problems have been avoided.

"We're not finding a lot of existing problems with the site," he said. "We're also finding that the plans are very good plans and they're not missing a lot of things. So we're not having to dip in the lot of construction contingencies, and that's why we have a high level of confidence that it's going to be brought in under budget."

Although projections are positive, College of Human Medicine Dean Marsha Rappley said it was difficult to guarantee the project would finish under budget.

"You never know until the end of the project because all of these things are highly vari-

Grand Rapids College of Medicine

Classes begin in 18 months at the Secchia Center, home of MSU College of Medicine's Grand Rapids campus.



More online ...

To check out current progress on the Secchia Center and see time-lapse footage of construction, go to <http://oxblue.com/pro/open/christian/msucollegeghm>.

SOURCE: COLLEGE OF HUMAN MEDICINE

Secchia Center timeline

June 2009 — Exterior of building expected to be fully enclosed

June 2010 — Construction scheduled for completion

Summer 2010 — Faculty and staff move into facility

August 2010 — Students arrive, classes begin

SOURCE: MSU COLLEGE OF HUMAN MEDICINE

able, in terms of market prices that fluctuate," Rappley said.

"We're not overspent, at least at this point in time, what we were supposed to spend up until now."

After the 180,000-square-foot facility is completed, faculty from the college will move into the building during the summer. Classes are expected to begin in August 2010. Douglas Norton, project manager for construction, said the exterior portions of the building are still being completed, including the roof and masonry that covers the metal studs and sheathing of the building.

"The next big milestone would be to complete the enclosure of the building in June 2009," Norton said.

During the summer, interior work also will be completed, including mechanical and electrical ducts and piping that lines the ceiling and walls.

Rappley visited the site last week and walked through auditorium, classroom, lobby and commons spaces.

"The quality of the workmanship is amazing," she said. "I can just see the students and the faculty occupying all of these wonderful spaces."

Group could guide med schools in time of growth

By Kayla Habermehl
THE STATE NEWS

A nationwide medical school expansion boom is causing institutions to re-evaluate how students are admitted and taught.

Findings from a nationwide conference hosted last fall by the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation found medical schools should take advantage of what has been their first enrollment increase in 30 years by updating their teaching methods and changing admissions processes to be less based on standardized testing.

The foundation is a Manhattan-based philanthropy group that focuses on programs to improve the education for those in the health field.

Marsha Rappley, dean of the College of Human Medicine, said the nationwide expansion comes as univer-

sities try to combat a nationwide shortage of physicians.

MSU is entering the first part of an expansion of its medical school. Last year, 156 students graduated from the school. By 2010, that number is set to increase to allow for the admission of 200 students, Rappley said.

The foundation's report suggests medical schools place less of an emphasis on grades and standardized test-

ing and instead consider applicants holistically.

Christine Shafer, assistant dean of admissions for the College of Human Medicine, said although MSU does look at the test scores and grades, these aren't the only factors for admission.

"Testing does come in to play, but for instance when faculty interviews an applicant, their academics are not included," Shafer said. "We interview them without reference to academics. But when we get to the final meeting, we see the whole package."

Years ago, MSU was one of a smaller group of schools that took this approach, but it's a trend that is becoming more widespread, Shafer said.

MSU takes clinical experience, communicative skills and work ethic, among oth-

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