

**BoarsHead  
Theater a staple  
in the local  
theater scene,**

**FACTS + PLACES, PAGE 1B**



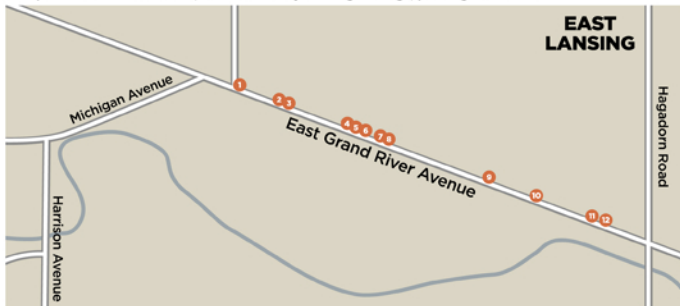
**Emily  
Sutton-  
Smith  
performs  
a song  
mocking  
the  
Broadway  
musical  
"Wicked"  
at the  
BoarsHead  
Theater in  
Lansing.**  
GABRIELLE  
MOORE/  
THE STATE  
NEWS

# The State News

## DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES GOING BUST

### Grand River Avenue vacancies

Competitive business climate, down economy causing closings, prolonged turnover.



1 Johnny's Lunch



2 Flats Grill



3 E.L. Moe's Firehouse Grill



4 101 E. Grand River Ave.

5 321 E. Grand River Ave.

6 325 E. Grand River Ave.

7 543 E. Grand River Ave.

8 551 E. Grand River Ave.

9 565 E. Grand River Ave.

10 619 E. Grand River Ave.

11 623 E. Grand River Ave.

12 1017 E. Grand River Ave.

13 1141 E. Grand River Ave.

14 1316 E. Grand River Ave.

15 1367 E. Grand River Ave.

**More  
Online...**  
For an  
interactive map of  
vacant businesses on  
Grand River Avenue,  
visit [statenews.com/  
multimedia](http://statenews.com/multimedia).

**By Pat Evans  
THE STATE NEWS**

East Lansing business owner Richard Hall has seen many businesses come and go during his 30 years in town. Lately, he's seen a few more going than coming along Grand River Avenue. Hall, a co-owner of Campus Barbers Inc., 621 E. Grand River Ave., said he doesn't believe the vacancies are caused purely by poor economic conditions.

"There are a number of businesses in transition and a few that just didn't have

the best of luck," Hall said. "Either way, empty storefronts don't help business."

Within the past month, Flats Grill, 551 E. Grand River Ave., and Johnny's Lunch, 101 E. Grand River Ave., both have closed their doors.

And since last summer, East Lansing has seen California Juice Company, 549 E. Grand River Ave.; Memo's, 321 E. Grand River Ave.; BTB Burrito, 403 E. Grand River Ave.; and E.L. Moe's Firehouse Grill, 565 E. Grand River Ave., shut down.

The closings since summer have contributed to the more than a dozen

retail vacancies along the stretch of Grand River Avenue between Burt and Hagadorn roads.

Grand River Avenue typically sees some turnover of businesses. The difference this year is that successful businesses are going under, said Tim Dempsey, a community and economic development administrator for East Lansing.

"There are always buses

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### CRIME

## Council approves riot ordinance

**By Jeff Kanan  
THE STATE NEWS**

Hurling beer cans at police and similar actions during a riot have now been defined as prosecutable acts after the East Lansing City Council on Tuesday night approved an ordinance that clarifies riot conduct.

The act doesn't change any current laws but was drafted as a way to better define what students can and cannot legally do at a riot, said Assistant City Attorney Tom Yeardon, one of the writers of the ordinance.

Prosecutable actions include obstructing police, shooting off fire extinguishers, exposing body parts and failing to leave a public street or sidewalk after police have ordered rioters to do so.

Drafters said the measure

has been well-received by students, and many students said having more knowledge about before the start of an assembly about what might get them arrested could stop a riot from breaking out in the first place.

"If they know exactly what the punishments would be, it would be helpful," packaging sophomore Kelsey Johnson said. "It could possibly even deter them."

Other students, like mathematics junior Ryan McBride, said by defining illegal actions, the ordinance could benefit nonparticipants who happen to be at the scene of a riot.

"It would be nice in that people who are just bystanders wouldn't necessarily be prosecuted," McBride said.

The Interfraternity Council and the Residence Halls Association are among student orga-

nizations that have shown support for the measure.

Some East Lansing residents, however, said city officials should remain open to other strategies before drafting the ordinance.

Erick Williams, a city resident, cited tactics employed by the police department of Champaign-Urbana, Ill., in which city officials, police officers and students help plan celebrations to make sure a crowd is organized.

"Very few people get arrested and hurt there," Williams said. "They've discovered an understanding for crowd behavior."

East Lansing police Chief Tom Wibert said during the Tuesday meeting his department uses several tactics

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### TRAINING

## Business schools adapt, emphasize responsibility

**By Kayla Habermehl  
THE STATE NEWS**

Along with Wall Street executives and employees, the business schools that trained them are now under fire for their failure to avert a near-collapse of the economy.

Instead of feeling burned, however, schools are using the recent meltdown as an example to teach students to avoid similar mistakes in the future.

"Business schools are listed among those entities that created this problem and business schools know that they must now be part of the solution, whether they were really part of the problem or really not," said Douglas Viehland, executive director of the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs, or ACBSP, based in Overland Park, Kan.

ACBSP is one of the national associations that accredits business schools.

Karyll Shaw, executive director of the MBA program at MSU, said the business college is always adapting curriculum to teach students.

"Through the '80s and '90s, there was such an emphasis on increasing shareholder wealth without thinking about the impact of short-range things," Shaw said. "Today we talk about being responsible and about the long term and sustainability."

Shaw said although no new classes about the current economy have been added, professors are integrating the topic into their courses.

"Whether it's MBAs or undergrads, it takes over a

See ECONOMY on page 2A

### RESEARCH

## MSU to apply for stem cell funding after ban lifted

**By Allison Bush  
THE STATE NEWS**

Following the lifting of a ban on federal funding for human embryonic stem cell research last week, MSU researchers could receive federal funding for their work for the first time in eight years.

President Barack Obama lifted the ban March 9, a move that will allow researchers to use embryonic stem cell lines that were not available under the Bush administration.

"Before, we were limited with the cell lines that were available for us to use," said Jose Cibelli, an animal science and physiology professor. "Those lines were getting very old, and with this new lifting of the ban, we can apply for federal funding with any cell line."

The \$787 billion federal stimulus package allocates for up to \$10 billion to be used for biomedical research, which could help fund stem cell research.

"Of course, there will be multiple institutions applying and the chances are not great, but we will try," Cibelli said.

Cibelli's research focuses on taking adult stem cells, which already have been tagged for specific organs, and turning back their development to make embryonic stem cells from them.

"Still, we're going to need some cell lines produced from embryos to be able to compare the stem cells," he said.

Although researching embryonic stem cells could lead to cures for diseases such as diabetes and cancer, opponents say using an embryonic stem cell requires the taking of human life.

By deciding whether to engage in federally funded research, the university faces controversial ethical questions, said professor Leonard Fleck, an expert in ethical issues related to stem cell research.

"Harvesting the stem cells needed will be done with public dollars, and some of those dollars will come from right-to-life folks who are going to say they object vigorously to supporting their tax dollars to support this research they're totally opposed to," Fleck said.

The university will have to address these concerns and explain why research should go

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**GONE IN 60 SECONDS  
A New Mexico  
community college  
is experimenting  
with minute-long  
"microlectures," page  
3A**

**Weather**  
Showers  
High 52° | Low 31°  
Three-day forecast, Page 2A