

Obama comes to Mich. to discuss importance of college

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MSU, local officials brace for possible swine flu outbreaks

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City Center II not foreclosed, Huntington notice was mistake

By Kate Jacobson
THE STATE NEWS

A notice of foreclosure that was published July 9 regarding a large-scale downtown development project was an error, said Eric Sanko, vice president of special assets at Huntington National Bank.

The notice, which was published in the Ingham County Legal News, stated the City Center II Project has about \$3.6 million due on its mortgage. The mortgage belongs to City Center II's developer, Strathmore Development Company.

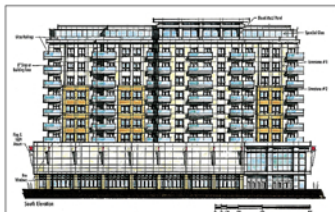
City Center II is a \$116.4 million mixed-use building slated for the area bound by Abbot Road

and Grand River and Evergreen avenues.

Strathmore President Scott Chappelle said the notice was an error and the company has resolved the issue with Huntington National Bank.

"There was no foreclosure," Chappelle said. "It has been resolved."

Sanko said Huntington was in negotiations with Strathmore about the mortgage. A notice of foreclosure was sent to the Ingham County Legal News while Huntington and Strathmore were



CITY OF EAST LANSING

in negotiations. Before Sanko could stop the notice, it already was being published.

"Our attorney did send the notice, but then negotiations continued with our customer and we

tried to stop the Legal Times from publishing it, but, unfortunately, we were too late," Sanko said.

City Manager Ted Staton said the project is up to date and nothing has fallen behind.

"I know from our standpoint, everything is current on those properties," he said.

Staton said with the current financial market, banks are being very protective of their assets and many developers are having trouble acquiring funds.

"The world is upside down," Staton said. "Nothing planned two years ago is going to be carried out the way it was planned two years ago."

Strathmore has had financial troubles in the past with other

projects. The city of Ann Arbor claimed Strathmore filed documents late on a project, causing a check to bounce. The project is currently stalled. However, Chappelle said everything with the City Center II Project is in order and that the notice was a mistake.

"Our financing is in place with Huntington Bank and there are no issues," he said.

City officials still have confidence in Strathmore.

"There is no foreclosure action. (Huntington is) satisfied," Staton said. "If the entity to whom Strathmore owes millions of dollars, if they are satisfied with Strathmore's financial conditions, why should we not be?"

HALF-BLOOD PRINCE A HIT

By Daniel Luscombe
THE STATE NEWS

Although "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" did not play until 12:05 a.m. Wednesday, Carina Teoh arrived early to make sure she was the first in line.

"We got here at 9:15 in the morning, before the doors opened," Teoh said. The film adaptation of J.K. Rowling's sixth book in the popular series about the life of a boy wizard premiered Wednesday and the lines of eager fans at NCG Eastwood Cinemas, 2500 Showtime Drive, in Lansing, stretched out into the street and wrapped around both sides of the building.

Waiting and anticipating

For Teoh, a 15-year-old Okemos resident, "Harry Potter" is more than a fad. Teoh, who first began reading the series at age 6, said the books and their characters have made a big impact on her.

"The story is just so amazing, there's so much relatability, even if I can't do magic," she said. "Harry Potter is just such a big part of my life and I was able to say that I was first in line for the movie is kind of a special experience."

Peggy Teoh, Carina's mother, said she was onboard with her daughter's request

to get in line early. Peggy said she also is a fan of the books and that the closest thing she can relate to the Harry Potter craze to was the Beatlesmania of her youth.

"That was just sitting around listening to records," she said.

During the almost 15 hours of waiting for the film to show, the group stayed occupied by rereading Harry Potter books, playing cards and watching movies.

Dressed to impress

Shelby Goss, a resident of Charlevoix who came to see the film with friends, wore the costume of the Harry Potter character, professor Sybill Trelawney.

"Well, we were coming so early and it just makes it better if you're in costume," Goss said.

The night was special for Goss because the film, which began just after midnight, pre-

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Carina Teoh, 15, waits with her mother, Peggy, right, at 2:30 p.m. as they pass hour five of their wait to see the midnight showing of "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" at NCG Eastwood Cinemas 2500 Showtime Drive, in Lansing. Teoh arrived before the cinema opened to be the first person in line. "It's a sentimental thing," Carina said of her choice to wait in line for roughly 15 hours to be first. "It's something I will sell my grandkids about when they start reading the books."

SEAN COOK/THE STATE NEWS

Dean chooses temporary director of journalism

By Zane McMillin
THE STATE NEWS

After weeks of uncertainty among faculty and students, Lucinda Davenport, an MSU professor of journalism, was announced Wednesday as the interim director of the MSU School of Journalism.

Davenport's appointment was announced in a press release two weeks after the school's Briggs-Bunting Jane Briggs-Bunting was asked to resign or face suspension by Pamela Whitten, dean of the College of Communication Arts and Sciences.

"I'm very excited," Davenport said Wednesday. "I am with a great group of people and there's no place to go but up."

Whitten, who requested Briggs-Bunting step down on the same day she became dean of the college, said Davenport was selected as interim director after she held a meeting with school faculty last week. During that meeting, she asked the faculty to submit nominations for the role.

Whitten is the president of the State News Board of Directors.

"Dr. Davenport emerged as the obvious choice," Whitten said. "(Her) first step is to hit the ground running with some ambitious goals for the future of the School."

Those goals, she said, include turning the school into an international leader that will shape and redefine the field of journalism.

"She really needs to be able to have the next 12 months or so to be able to jump in and work on some immediate steps to move us toward this vision," Whitten said.

Whitten said she requested Briggs-Bunting's resignation to restructure her leadership team.

"As a new dean, when you come in you want to put

To see people in Harry Potter costumes, visit statenews.com/multimedia.

POLITICS

Lt. Gov. Cherry in favor of keeping Mich. Promise

By Zane McMillin
THE STATE NEWS

Michigan Lt. Gov. John Cherry was on campus Wednesday to speak in support of the Michigan Promise Scholarship, a merit-based student grant that provides up to \$4,000 to students who complete up to two years of post-secondary education in the state.

The rally kicked off a statewide campaign to save the scholarship, which the state Senate recently voted to slash from Michigan's budget, said Mitchell Rivard, president of the MSU College Democrats, which hosted the event.

"Ninety-six thousand students across Michigan are depending on the Michigan Promise to help them pay their expenses for school this fall," Cherry



KATIE BAUSCH/THE STATE NEWS
Daren Kregger, a Saginaw Valley State University student, exchanges a word with Lt. Gov. John Cherry, center, at the conclusion of a rally Wednesday at the International Center.

said. "It's a program that we ought to expand, not cut, if we want our children to find

good jobs in the 21st century economy." Approximately 11,000 MSU

students receive the Michigan Promise Scholarship, Rivard said.

"If you're lucky, you have enough money to pay for college," he said. "But most people don't, and they're going to be living in debt. They're going to be taking out loans with high interest. This is something we need to get under control."

Laura Klinger, a comparative cultures and politics sophomore, spoke at the rally about how the scholarship helped her family pay for academic expenses. She said she doesn't qualify for financial aid and that every little bit helps when trying to pay for school.

"(MSU is) increasing tuition 5-6 percent this year and if (the state takes) away this scholarship, they're hitting us from

both sides," she said. "It's just not fair. It's not right."

The scholarship was first created as the Michigan Merit Award under former Michigan Gov. John Engler as a merit-based scholarship that offered \$2,500 to students based on scores attained on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program, or MEAP. Gov. Jennifer Granholm increased that amount to \$4,000 in 2006, Cherry said. The scholarship was renamed the Michigan Promise Scholarship that same year.

"Those who are able to borrow tuition funding will simply add to their heavy debt load," he said. "The less fortunate will post-

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