



Weather

Mostly sunny

High 80° | Low 60°

Three-day forecast, Page 2

MSU hosts camp for students to design video games

CAMPUS+CITY, PAGE 3

Children make a splash at E.L. aquatic center event

CAMPUS+CITY, PAGE 5

Local man trains actors, community to fight

FEATURES, PAGE 8

RUNNING OUT OF LUCK

Program aiding pet owners with veterinarian bills, surgeries short on funding



Robert Ward plays with 2-year-old Brittany spaniel, Buddy, while being interviewed Tuesday morning at his home in Clare. Ward and his wife, Linda, (not pictured) lost the businesses they owned after Bob was diagnosed with cancer. Today he's well past the five year mark for recovery, but money remains tight. After someone hit Buddy, the Wards were told they would have to put him down unless they could pay for a \$3,000 surgery at MSU's Vet Med Center.

KATIE RAUSCH/
THE STATE NEWS

By Kayla Habermehl
THE STATE NEWS

Looking at Buddy now, owner Bob Ward said you wouldn't know anything was ever wrong. But in August of last year, it was a different story. The then-year-and-a-half old Brittany spaniel's right front shoulder was completely broken after being hit by a vehicle when he got loose in front of Ward's home.

Ward's wife, Linda, rushed Buddy to the vet where the Wards were told they would probably have to put him down.

"They said they'd never seen anything like that before," Bob Ward said. "They wanted \$3,400 right then and there — I'm recovering from esophageal cancer; there's no way I had that kind of money."

Then, a bit of luck. The Wards' daughter made some calls and reached the Small Animal Clinic at MSU's Veterinary Teaching Hospital. It was then that the Wards learned they qualified for the Lucky Fund, which helps pet owners whose animals have a good prognosis but are short on cash pay for their pet's medical care.

"I couldn't believe it — nobody could help us, nobody anywhere," Ward said. "We were so afraid he would have to put him to sleep. They were so



KATIE RAUSCH/THE STATE NEWS

Buddy, a Brittany spaniel, rolls on the floor at his home in Clare. His owners, Robert and Linda Ward, were forced to consider putting him down after he was hit by a car because they didn't have the money for the surgery he required. They were able to use money from the Lucky Fund.

See FUND on page 2

To see a video of Buddy's story, visit stateneews.com/multimedia.

EAST LANSING

City project questioned by residents

By Kate Jacobson
THE STATE NEWS

Amid recent news of unpaid taxes and temporary foreclosure, some residents of East Lansing said a proposed development aimed at revitalizing downtown is not needed. The \$16.4 million City Center II development, slated for the corners of Abbot Road and Grand River and Evergreen avenues, would create a 10-story, mixed-use building along with a mixture of smaller buildings at the site, mere blocks from residences of students and locals. Since it was proposed some years ago, some residents have spoken against the project, citing it was too big for

"The city has been silent on how they're going to assure we don't have a giant hole there."

Ann Nichols, East Lansing resident

the city. As it has moved forward, residents still are questioning the size of the building and whether its purpose is warranted. Now the financial stability of the developer, Strathmore Development Company, also has come into question.

Ann Nichols, a resident in the neighborhood near the proposed development who has fought against the project from its inception, is less upset by the building itself than by city officials' silence on recent

information about Strathmore and its financial difficulties.

"The city has been silent on how they're going to assure we don't have a giant hole there," Nichols said.

Nichols said she is confident the city has a safety net in place if the project falls through, but is unsure as to why city officials would remain silent about those measures.

"I really do believe (City Manager Ted Stratton) is on top of it and I believe if Strathmore fails

apart we won't go with them," Nichols said. "But I can't think of a single reason except them not wanting to make it look bad."

Despite the fact few city officials have addressed the company's financial situation, Assistant Director of Planning and Community Development Tim Dempsey said Strathmore has aggressively pursued more funding.

"I think, like everyone, we're cautiously optimistic," Dempsey said. "Scott Chappelle has demonstrated that he is doing everything in his power to get the funding. He has provided updates about everything he is working on."

Although some residents are

concerned about the project's financial difficulties, others have said they understand why the city is continuing to pursue it.

Penny Draper, an East Lansing resident since 1974, said she didn't think this is the economic climate for the project. Penny and her husband Bill Draper, a lifelong resident of East Lansing, said they were concerned about the economic struggles surrounding the developer. Despite their concerns, Penny Draper said she weighed both sides of why the development would be good and bad for the downtown.

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UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES STRATEGIZE AT RETREAT

By Kayla Habermehl
THE STATE NEWS

The MSU budget and the future of state appropriations dominated the Board of Trustees' discussion during its annual retreat this week.

Bill Beekman, secretary of the Board of Trustees, said the board talked about all aspects of the budget while it was in Holland, Mich., from Sunday until Tuesday.

"There (was) a lot of strategizing about how we shift and adjust within the university to free up resources," Beekman said. "We walked through the various options like being more efficient about using buildings and how to reduce health care costs."

All of the trustees attended the retreat, along with Beekman, President Lou Anna K. Simon, Provost Kim Wilcox, Vice President for Finance and Operations Fred Poston and Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel Bob Noto. Bob Groves, vice president for University Advancement, attended the retreat to give a presentation, but didn't stay in Holland, according to information from Beekman's office.

Trustee Colleen McNamara said almost everything the board discussed was related to the budget.

"What we focused on almost completely was the really dire situation with the economy and how that's affecting MSU and how the revenue from state appropriations will continue ... to dwindle and how at the university we intend to deal with that while maintaining excellence," she said.

Trustee Donald Nugent said the board combed through all areas of the budget, from purchasing to transportation costs and focused on some key questions.

"What kind of cuts do we have to make to maintain a quality education at the least possible cost?" Nugent said. "What kind of cuts do we have to make to not damage MSU and still be financially stable?"

Despite the discussions, Nugent said more time would be needed to plan for the future.

"It'll take more than one or two days to get it all taken care of," he said.

The board also toured the MSU Bioeconomy Institute, a facility that was given to MSU by Pfizer in 2007. Wilcox and Poston didn't tour the plant since they had done so before. They left Holland on Monday night and the others stayed for Simon's evaluation Tuesday, Beekman said.

Beekman had no comment on the evaluation and said it is a personal matter.

McNamara said the facility in Holland was "terrific."

"It was a place for us to do research and for them to be entrepreneurial," she said. "It's a beautiful facility, we're lucky to have it. There's very motivated community people who want to make this work, they worked with us to get there and they have a stake in making sure it succeeds."

McNamara said the coming challenges would be tough.

"This was probably one of the most sobering retreats I've been at," she said. "We have big challenges — the president wanted to make sure we understood. There will be hard things happening this year."