



Weather
Stormy

High 81° | Low 65°

Three-day forecast, Page 2

Children, teens not horsing around at 4-H event on campus
CAMPUS-CITY, PAGE 3

Spirits high at wine tasting event at Kellogg Center
CAMPUS-CITY, PAGE 3

Lansing to use 2 events to help revitalize downtown
FEATURES, PAGE 8

FOLKS FIND FESTIVE BEAT

E.L. hosts Great Lakes Folk Festival; turnout smaller than past celebrations



SEAN COOK/THE STATE NEWS

Daire Bracken of the Irish band Slide entertains the excited, clapping crowd Saturday night at the Great Lakes Folk Festival with his fast fiddle playing during the last song of the band's set at the M.A.C. Stage. Slide's set ended with a crescendo of three increasingly up-tempo songs that got an enthusiastic response.

By **Kate Jacobson**
THE STATE NEWS

Rain, shine or humidity, people flocked to the Great Lakes Folk Festival this weekend in East Lansing. The festival, produced by the Michigan Traditional Arts Program at the MSU Museum, offered festivalgoers an opportunity to partake in a multicultural experience of food, music, arts and dance. For three days, downtown East Lansing was transformed into a cultural center with heritages ranging from African to Scandinavian.

"Every year we change things," said Marsha MacDowell, MSU Museum curator and one of the two founding directors of the festival. "We have different music groups, we have different thematic programs — it's just a festival of unique experiences."

Multicultural experience

Despite the weather being temperamental, MacDowell said she expected to see about 80,000 people in attendance for the weekend. MacDowell said attendance hasn't diminished since inception, although several festivalgoers noted crowds smaller than previous years. Putting an exact number on participants is hard because the festival has no ticketing system.

"With a variety of musical acts and foods to eat in the food court, many

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STATE

RAISING BEER TAX POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO BUDGET CRISIS

By **Meredith Skrzypczak**
THE STATE NEWS

A plan to increase the state's beer tax might seem like a buzz kill, but some state officials are hopeful the increase would alleviate the budget deficit.

"By adding less than a quarter to a six-pack, we could save some of these programs that we believe are very important to our future," said Judy Putnam, spokeswoman for the Michigan League for Human Services, or MLHS.

Raising the beer tax is one of many ideas to increase revenue in the state and something the MLHS has been discussing for years, she said.

In June, the MLHS presented a package of information about the proposed increase of 4 cents per can of beer to a state House committee.

"The cuts that the legislators and the program are looking at are just unacceptable," Putnam said. "They will absolutely pull the rug out from under poor and vulnerable people in our state."

The Michigan beer tax has been gradually increasing since 1933, the last increase in 1966 to \$6.30 per barrel, or about 2 cents per 12-ounce can of beer, according to the state Senate Fiscal Agency.

Some students said the tax increase might hurt residents with lower incomes.

"I feel like vice taxes, as they're so-called, tend to affect lower income (residents)," English senior Brandon Lake said.

Although the increase the MLHS is proposing barely would reach a quarter per six-pack, the increase still would have a negative affect on these residents, he said.

"Twenty-five cents is a big deal to people of lower incomes, obviously because they are lower income," Lake said.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm's administration is neither confirming nor denying the increase as a solution to the budget problems in the state.

"We are just simply saying our discussions on how to resolve the budget deficit will continue," Granholm spokeswoman Tiffany Brown said.

Increasing prices for beer will not keep away customers, said Sam Wazow, co-owner of Jackpot Party Store, 2922 S. Cedar

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SEAN COOK/THE STATE NEWS

Otsego residents Mark and Diane Hanlin dance together Saturday during the Great Lakes Folk Festival. The husband and wife have been dance partners for about 22 years after meeting at a contra dance in Lansing.

WAR ON TERROR

Detainees might be moved to Mich.

By **Meredith Skrzypczak**
THE STATE NEWS

The possible move of Guantanamo Bay detainees to a Standish Maximum Correctional Facility is inciting debate among state officials as they weigh its pros and cons.

Last week, U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., confirmed the prison, which is set to close Oct. 1, is a potential facility for the detainees.

"Sen. Levin believes that the idea should be considered if the

arrangements are acceptable to state and local officials," Levin officials said.

President Barack Obama's administration has until October to present a plan to Congress for the movement of the detainees, said Nick Choate, a spokesman for U.S. Rep. Bart Stupak, D-Menominee.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm is not in favor of the move because of safety concerns for the state.

"Granholm continues to have concerns about the homeland security implications of relocating Guantanamo detainees to Michigan," Granholm spokeswoman Liz Boyd said in an e-mail. "Until the federal government can address the governor's concerns she is not in

favor of moving detainees to Michigan."

Minimal objections from the residents of Standish, combined with the economic impact, might make this an optimal move, Standish City Manager Michael Moran III said.

"We're welcoming them with open arms," he said. "I think the majority of people are on board."

Other state officials are wary of the economic impact in light of the dangers associated with bringing the detainees to the state.

"The small economic impact would in no way make up for the terrible impact they could

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CRIME

ELPD apprehends suspect in local explosions

By **Kate Jacobson**
THE STATE NEWS

The East Lansing Police Department has identified a suspect for at least two of the five explosions that occurred during the summer months.

Police said they identified a 20-year-old male MSU student from Linden, Mich., who might have been responsible for two of the recent series of explosions.

Wibert

On May 25, the first explosion at the intersection of Grove and Elizabeth streets was reported. A second explosion occurred June 9 in the Cron Management parking lot, 117 Center St.

Two more explosions occurred in July, with a July 15 explosion in a Granger Container Service Dumpster behind 348 Oakhill Ave. and a July 16 explosion at the intersection of Evergreen Avenue and Fern Street.

Another explosion was reported to police Aug. 5 in a stairway at The Oaks apartment complex, 136 Reniger Court. East Lansing police Chief Tom Wibert said police are looking into whether the

latest explosion is connected to the previous four, although they believe there are other people involved.

Wibert said police were led to the suspect after receiving a tip based on information about a possible employer of the suspect.

"That description was close enough that someone recognized (it) and gave us a tip," Wibert said.

Police said earlier this week they believed the suspect worked as a repo man and acquired the explosives in a repossessed vehicle.

East Lansing Police Detective Sheriff Fadly said a witness

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