



Weather
Partly cloudy

High 77° | Low 58°

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Michigan State University's independent voice | www.statenews.com | East Lansing, Mich. | Wednesday, September 9, 2009

MSU unveils first large animal MRI machine at a university
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Rough week? Ten songs to help you make it through
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Twin brothers create dynamic duo on men's soccer team
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Reduce, reuse, RESULTS



PHOTOS BY GEORGIA RHODES/THE STATE NEWS

Using a Bobcat, materials handler and equipment operator John Stepancewich shifts paper into piles to be sorted on the floor of the new MSU Recycling Center.

Recycling center, surplus store to make recycling easier, more accessible

By Marissa Cumbers
THE STATE NEWS

Worn cardboard, crinkly white paper and soggy newspaper are just some of the items piled in a campus building off Service Road. These materials, once considered trash, will become more valuable to the university with the grand opening of MSU's new Recycling Center and Surplus Store tomorrow.

The center is the end result of a \$13 million project that began in June 2008 to create the 74,000-square-foot recycling center, surplus store, concrete and metal scrap areas, an outdoor compost area and additional storage space. The facility will allow the university to sort and bale recyclable items on campus instead of sending them elsewhere, increasing the items' resale value by about 60 percent, manager Ruth Daoust said. The center's completion comes about a year after consistent recycling was phased into all MSU residence and academic halls, project coordinator Jennifer Sowa said.

"We've been recycling at MSU for years and years," Sowa said. "But we saw a need a few years ago to really make it more consistent." And since then, an across-the-board improvement in MSU's recycling results shows the effort is paying off.

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Khamphou Keomany, an employee at the new MSU Recycling Center, sorts paper coming off a belt Friday afternoon. Employees must sort white office paper from colored and glossy paper as it comes across a belt.

For a video tour of the work inside the new recycling center, visit statenews.com/multimedia.

ACADEMICS

Provost meets with students about program controversy

By Heather Guenther
THE STATE NEWS

Another set of ears is listening to student concerns in the continuing MSU Chicano/Latino Studies Program controversy.

Provost Kim Wilcox met with about 20 students Tuesday to listen to complaints about CLS Director Sheila Contreras and College of Social Science Dean Marietta Baba. The students gathered at about 8 a.m. on the fourth floor of the Administration Building after several students heard President Lou Anna K. Simon had a meeting scheduled with Contreras. Students expressed their outrage that Baba didn't remove Contreras as director after a CLS advisory committee submitted a report including a recommendation calling for her immediate removal.

The CLS Office Operations and Implementation Advisory Committee was formed last spring in response to student concerns about Contreras' performance.

Lynne Goldstein, an anthropology professor and member of the CLS advisory committee who abstained from voting on the recommendation, said she was uncomfortable voting because the committee was not formed to evaluate Contreras. "I didn't feel it was appropriate to have the vote," Goldstein said. "The charge specifically told us not to do that."

The congregation of upset undergraduate and graduate students came amid a Tuesday announcement from Baba about the formation of a CLS Faculty Policy Advisory Committee without student representation.

The Faculty Policy Advisory Committee was created after the CLS advisory committee cited the dean's office for providing inadequate mentoring and resources to Contreras during her transition.

On Tuesday, Baba appointed Rubén Martínez, Director of the Julian Samora Research Institute and a professor of sociology, as the CLS Faculty Policy Advisory Committee's chairperson. Baba said she looked for someone with extensive administrative leadership and expertise of the CLS Program.

The five-person committee will provide ongoing advice and guidance to Contreras. Nomi

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CITY COUNCIL

E.L. BUSINESSES MIGHT RECEIVE ECONOMIC BUMP

By Kate Jacobson
THE STATE NEWS

East Lansing businesses might receive preference when submitting bids for city projects if an amendment to the city's purchasing policy is enacted at the Sept. 15 City Council meeting at City Hall, 430 Abbot Road.

At Tuesday's City Council work session, members of council discussed a resolution amending purchasing policies to allow preference for

local and regional businesses bidding for city-contracted projects.

The amendment stated if a local business placed a bid 7.5 percent above the lowest bid, it could bid again to match the lowest bid. Regional businesses would need to be 5 percent above the lowest bid.

Finance Director Mary Haskell said the purpose for the change would be to pro-

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LEGISLATURE

Mich. bill could affect parking ticket offenders

By Abby Lubbers
THE STATE NEWS

Students prone to parking tickets might be better off taking the bus if a new bill is passed in the Michigan Legislature.

The bill would lower the number of tolerated outstanding parking tickets to three — half the number allowed in the current law.

A driver logging three unpaid tickets would not be able to renew his or her driver's license and would face a

possible license suspension.

The change would be dramatic for East Lansing, said Nancy Moylan, the court administrator for East Lansing's 54-B District Court.

"It's a huge problem," she said. "We have a lot of parking tickets, period — lots of transient people coming through."

Applied engineering sciences senior Nick Prajko, who commutes to MSU from Grand Rapids, said the city's overnight parking regulations make it difficult to stay with friends during the week. He has received two parking tickets in East

Lansing. "There's nowhere to park overnight; that's a huge challenge," he said.

But the goal of the law is two-sided, said Rep. Roy Schmidt, D-Grand Rapids, the bill's sponsor.

The bill would increase cash flow for local governments that haven't received money from state revenue sharing, which distributes a portion of Michigan sales tax income between state and city governments.

"(The bill) will help cities who are struggling during this

economic challenge," Schmidt said.

East Lansing has \$2.2 million in outstanding revenue from unpaid parking tickets and MSU is waiting on \$18,995 from unpaid tickets.

MSU has 4,242 outstanding parking tickets, and 501 of those tickets are from repeat offenders.

"Schmidt said the bill leaves less wiggle room for those people with multiple tickets.

"We try to reign in on the (drivers) who have abused the

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