

Ticket sales low for ASMSU-backed The Fray concert

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Pulling an all-nighter? Study finds sleep might be better

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Columnist: Lions still have chance at successful season

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ACADEMICS

STUDENT ENROLLMENT UP DESPITE ECONOMY

By Meredith Skrzypezak
THE STATE NEWS

Classrooms might not seem overcrowded, but according to preliminary numbers, MSU's enrollment has topped 47,000 students for the first time in university history.

Total university enrollment for the 2009-10 academic year is estimated at 47,100 students, an increase of 450 students from last year.

The enrollment bump represents a 415-person increase in returning students and a 35-person increase in new students.

"Having (the returning numbers) be much stronger than we predicted is really a surprise and speaks well for the institution," MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon said.

New graduate and graduate professional student enrollment increased by 154 students, consistent with a national trend of more people attending grad school after failing to find jobs in the stagnant economy, experts said.

"The schools that enroll greater numbers of adult and independent learners are going to see an increase," said Jill Kramer, a senior program officer for the Indianapolis-based Lumina Foundation for Education, which works to expand access to higher education.

The university received a total of 25,392 applications for this academic year, which resulted in a first-time fall class of 7,215 students.

"Our applications and the quality of our applications continue to remain right on target," MSU Trustee Melanie Foster said. "We're not looking for students. We turn away about 1,000 more qualified students than we have the space for."

The total undergraduate class is estimated at 36,400 students, a slight decrease

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TIME IS RUNNING OUT

State lawmakers weigh deep cuts, tax hikes to balance \$2.8B budget deficit before Sept. 30 deadline

By Abby Lubbers
THE STATE NEWS

With two weeks until the Sept. 30 budget deadline, Michigan senators and representatives are racing against time to make compromises and settle a \$2.8 billion budget deficit. But legislators' conflicting plans leave the statuses of higher education, revenue sharing, community health and early education funding in limbo.

The Michigan House Republicans, Senate and Gov. Jennifer Granholm each have submitted budget plans, which are being debated in conference committees. Once the committees decide on budget targets, the House of Representatives will vote on the budget bills, said Sen. Bill Hardiman, R-Kentwood.

At least some of the bills are expected to start moving into the Legislature this week.

"(The bills) are all sort of teed up. We'll probably see some voting this week," said state Rep. Dave Hildenbrand, R-Lowell.

State Rep. Mark Meadows, D-East Lansing, said some of the less controversial budget bills are drafted, but the House is waiting to vote on multiple bills at once.

Legislators have until midnight on Sept. 30 to reach an agreement on the fiscal year 2010 budget, which would take effect on Oct. 1.

In 2007, legislators failed to meet the deadline and state government was forced to shut down for hours.

Meadows said he does not predict similar last minute voting this year.

"I can't see us waiting too long," Meadows said. Before that can be done, decisions and compromises must be made between the three plans, and legislators must prioritize funding in four controversial areas.

Higher education

Funding to Michigan's colleges and universities is under debate, and much of the conflict revolves around the future of the Michigan Promise Scholarship, which provides up to \$4,000 to students based on their Michigan Merit Exam scores.

House Republicans proposed maintaining the scholarship at 2009 funding levels and Granholm's latest budget proposal does not detail the its future. However, Liz Boyd, the governor's spokeswoman, said Granholm's plan supports the Michigan Promise.

The Senate plan would eliminate the scholarship altogether, something Meadows said the House will fight.

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To see an interactive chart explaining differences in the proposed budget plans, visit stateneews.com/multimedia.

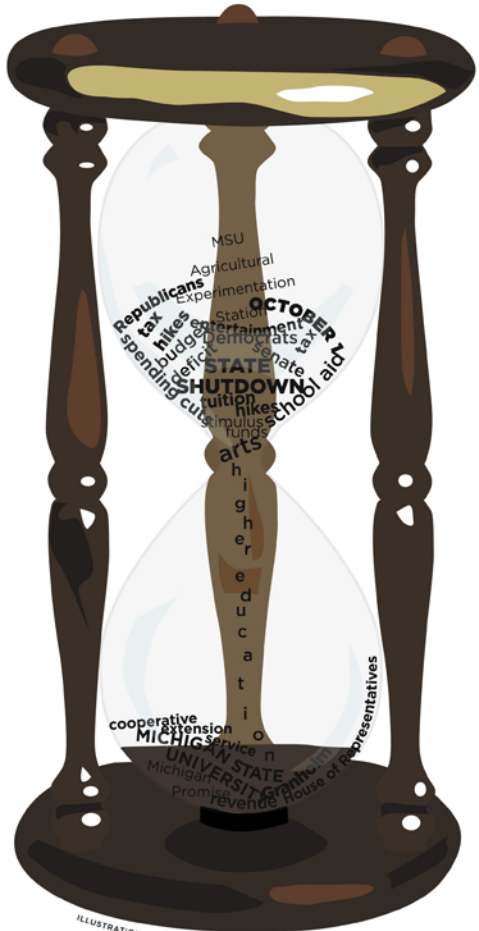


ILLUSTRATION BY ANDREA ZAGATA/THE STATE NEWS

POLITICS

Talk show host's upcoming visit draws criticism, causes tension

By Meredith Skrzypezak
THE STATE NEWS

Television personality and radio talk show host Glenn Beck's scheduled visit Tuesday has caused debate among students and sparked controversy surrounding his beliefs and past political statements.

Beck, who recently has come under fire for calling President Barack Obama a racist, is scheduled to speak at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce "Future Forum" hosted by the Michigan Chamber of Commerce at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Kellogg Center.

The event is scheduled to run from 8-8:30 p.m., and will include talks regarding the state and its future from various speakers including state Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop and Thomas J. Donohue, president and

"We have an equal right to stand up and say, 'Enough is enough. We don't approve of this.'"

Mitchell Rivard, president of the MSU College Democrats

CEO of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Beck's appearance at the event has drawn support from some students, while others have criticized the decision.

"The MSU College Democrats are planning to protest Beck's appearance and his recent statements against Obama and the Democratic party from 5:15-8:45 p.m. at the Kellogg Center."

"This is a man who has called our president a racist," said Mitchell Rivard, president of the MSU College Democrats. "He has supported the myths and lies of the Republi-

can Party." Officials from the Michigan Chamber of Commerce could not be reached for comment.

Rivard said the Michigan Chamber of Commerce's invitation to Beck is disrespectful and the protest also will target Beck's financial supporters, such as advertisers.

But other campus political groups are welcoming Beck's visit.

Ashley Turner, vice chair of the MSU College Repub-

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LEGISLATION

Bill calls for insurance-backed birth control

By Marissa Chambers
THE STATE NEWS

Legislation on its way to the Michigan House floor would require insurance companies to provide prescription coverage for birth control.

The package of nine bills, part of a 15-bill initiative proposed by Planned Parenthood's Prevention First campaign, was passed by the House Judiciary Committee on Sept. 9.

The package was created to expand access to contraception and improve sex education, said Sarah Scranton, executive director for Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Michigan.

"The package was intended to really put forth common sense prevention measures so we could improve women's health and prevent unintended pregnancies," she said.

On average, birth control costs between \$30 and \$70 for both the insured and uninsured depending on the plan,

said Liz Ratzloff, president of MSU Students for Choice and a zoology junior.

"Birth control can be as much as \$65 to \$75 a month, and what college woman can afford that?" she said.

Education freshman Allie Schwall said her mother had to fight with the family's insurance company to receive birth control coverage, and even after that, the medication cost about \$60 a month.

"It should be paid for and available for everyone," Schwall said.

But state Rep. Bill Caul, R-Mount Pleasant, said requiring insurance companies to cover contraceptives would unnecessarily raise insurance prices for all consumers.

"In this day and age, when we are already having a debate about the rising cost of health care, insurance prices for everyone would come up as a result of (companies) having to provide these particular

services to everyone," he said.

Legislation in the package also would require all pharmacies to fill birth control and emergency contraception prescriptions, require insurance companies to cover yearly Pap tests and set standards for sex education curriculum in Michigan schools.

State Rep. Mark Meadows, D-East Lansing, introduced House Bill 928, a part of the package that would require crisis pregnancy centers to disclose all information about provided services. He said he strongly supports the package.

"It is a pretty broad-reaching and expansive package," he said. "(The package) runs the gamut of making sure emergency contraception is offered to people in hospitals when rape is involved to making sure when someone has a

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