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Officials plan for upcoming BPS Branch Library closure

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BUDGET

E.L. OFFICIALS PREPARED FOR REVENUE CUTS

By Kate Jacobson
THE STATE NEWS

East Lansing residents will see fewer sidewalk repairs, slower action to fix damaged city property and shorter-staffed city offices during the next year, as the city struggles to cope with an 11 percent cut to its second-largest revenue source.

East Lansing city officials are planning to reduce the city's budget by nearly \$600,000 after a state legislative committee voted to cut revenue sharing by 11 percent for the 2009-10 fiscal year.

The cut — which is being carried out in municipalities statewide — will save \$144.7 million in the state budget to help ease a \$2.7 billion deficit.

Revenue sharing is money the state government allocates to municipalities to fund services such as police, fire and capital improvements. Shares are given based on tax collections from the state.

When East Lansing city officials

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Legislators go home with no budget deal

By Marissa Cumbers
THE STATE NEWS

After spending the day deliberating and passing bills, Michigan lawmakers went home for the night Tuesday without reaching a budget resolution.

But lawmakers were confident a resolution would come before a government shutdown became necessary Oct. 1.

Megan Brown, a spokeswoman for Gov. Jennifer Granholm, said lawmakers were working diligently to avoid the possibility of a shutdown and the governor believes in their ability to settle the budget.

Not all lawmakers were happy with the day's progress, however. State Rep. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge, said he feared a continuation might be a result of the holdup.

"I consider this total dysfunction," he said. "We shouldn't have been done by now."

The state of the Michigan

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Patients, scientists adapt to legalized medical marijuana, embryonic research



Legal medical marijuana patient and caregiver Lynn Allen sits in the living room of his home in Williamston where he lives with his wife and daughter. Allen was born with hemophilia and contracted HIV in 1978 from a blood transfusion. While Allen says that the marijuana helps with joint pain, the most beneficial aspect for him is appetite stimulation to counteract the loss of appetite associated with having HIV.

PHOTOS BY SEAN COOK/THE STATE NEWS

Citizens weigh impact of Props. 1, 2

By Abby Lubbers
THE STATE NEWS

Lynn Allen stores his brownies inside a zipper sandwich bag in his refrigerator, atop a plastic container of homemade cannabis butter.

The 53-year-old Williamston man was born with hemophilia, a genetic bleeding disorder, and uses medical marijuana to increase his appetite and reduce the disease's characteristic joint pain.

Allen applied for the Michigan Medical Marijuana Program registration card after medical marijuana was legalized nine months ago.

Michigan voters last November approved Proposals 1 and 2, allowing patients to grow and use the drug to treat chronic diseases and opening doors to research embryonic stem cells in Michigan.

Proposal 1 also created a patient identification system and set rules for enforcement and use of the drug.

Proposal 2, the stem cell measure, eased regulations on stem cell research to allow any federally approved stem cell research to be done in Michigan.

Nine months after the two proposals became law, citizens and officials still are sorting out their impacts.

Medical marijuana

For Allen, the legislation meant he could explore another avenue of treatment.

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Lynn Allen tends to his cannabis plants outside his home. Earlier this year when Proposal 1 passed allowing qualifying Michigan residents to grow and use medical marijuana, Allen began using it for the first time in about 30 years to combat the symptoms of having both hemophilia and HIV.

For a video of Lynn Allen speaking about using medical marijuana, visit statenews.com/multimedia.

ACADEMICS

Student, professor reactions to Friday class increase vary

By Heather Guenther and Meredith Skrzypczak
THE STATE NEWS

Reality is setting in for students and faculty regarding the university's plan for more Friday classes next fall, stirring up mixed reactions as they grapple with the possible side effects.

Timothy Vogelsang, a Frederick S. Addy Distinguished Professor of Economics, said he does not prefer teaching on Fridays and will be trying to find ways to maintain a similar schedule on

Tuesdays and Thursdays.

"The problem for me is, if I want to keep the course being taught in a way I think is most appropriate for students to learn, I'll have to try to switch to Tuesdays and Thursdays," Vogelsang said.

He said other professors also are likely to attempt switching to a Tuesday and Thursday schedule for the same reason.

Classes that have been held on Mondays and Wednesdays in the past might now be scheduled on Mondays, Wednesdays and

Fridays, a decision made mainly to reduce scheduling conflicts for students, Provost Kim Wilcox said.

The change stems from a standard schedule agreed upon more than 15 years ago, but exceptions to that procedure have led to a high number of classes meeting only on Mondays and Wednesdays, Wilcox said.

The changes will take effect for classes next fall, he said. Julia Coron, an interdisciplinary studies in social science sophomore, has Friday classes

this semester and would not mind adding a few next year.

"You can't really know what it will be like until you test it out," she said. "You have the whole weekend and ... depending on the class, it might be fun."

Providing more flexibility for students as they plan their schedules is part of the reason for the scheduling change, university registrar Nicole Rovig said.

"The immediate benefits by going back to the schedule we've had in place for years is the accessibility of students

to class schedules and reducing their time conflicts," Rovig said.

Richard Cole, professor and chairperson of the Department of Advertising, Public Relations and Retailing, said faculty in the department would adapt to the change "with a smile on their face."

"Everybody, at least in our department, ... seems to be breathing kind of a sigh of relief that the university is taking actions that are really helping us operate more efficiently,"

Cole said.

Still, Cole said, Friday classes might cut into students' social lives.

"Instead of spending Thursday night in the bar, some students will spend Thursday night studying for Friday classes," he said.

Some students worry about finding time for jobs and homework if their Fridays are spent in class.

"I can get a lot of my work hours done (on Friday)," English

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