



## Campus prepares for Black History Month speakers

CITY+CAMPUS, PAGE 3

## Student starts MSU United Way to educate, volunteer

FEATURES, PAGE 9

## Senior guard Porsché Poole named player of the week

SPORTS, PAGE 11

## MARIJUANA

# COURT RULING CONTINUES TO CONFLICT WITH CITY INTEREST

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THE STATE NEWS

After a court decision to ban medical marijuana dispensaries in Michigan last fall, those involved with medical marijuana, city officials and others continue to wonder what's next.

The Michigan Court of Appeals ruled commercial marijuana sales illegal Aug. 24, 2011, rendering the practice of dispensaries in Michigan unlawful. Medical marijuana still is legal in the state, but patients are required to get medical marijuana directly from their caregivers or grow it themselves because of the ruling.

No dispensaries ever were established in East Lansing — only one application for a medical marijuana dispensary was received before the ruling, and it was denied by both the East Lansing Planning Commission and the East Lansing City Council.

Lansing, however, was affected more by the change. About 40 to 50 dispensaries were operating within Lansing city limits at the time of the court ruling, and more applications for dispensary locations were being processed, Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope said.

After the decision, the city sent dispensary owners a letter bringing the ruling to their attention and advising them to shut down the businesses or change business practice to fit the legal mold, Swope said. He said he has heard a few dispensaries in the area managed to stay afloat by changing their business model, but the vast majority of dispensaries in Lansing closed in the wake of the ruling.

Because the business was specialized to a specific audience, the overall economy of Lansing wasn't affected, Swope said,

See MARIJUANA on page 2

# ADDERALL DEFICIT DISORDER

Shortage of Adderall medication affects students, local pharmacies

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THE STATE NEWS

When junior Thomas Henderson wanted some Adderall, all he had to do was ask. After getting the drug from friends on occasion, Henderson, whose name has been changed to protect anonymity, decided he wanted a more consistent supply of medicine and asked his doctor for a prescription.

"I talked to my doctor and told him, 'Hey, I take Adderall a couple times a week anyway, so you might as well give me a prescription,'" he said. "He was pretty cool with that, so that's how I got it." But not all Adderall users are able to gain access to the drug as easily as Henderson was.

Because of a recent shortage of Adderall, a medication commonly used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, or ADHD, millions of people nationwide who are prescribed the drug are faced with the obstacle of finding it.

Throughout the past several months, multiple drug manufacturers have announced their drugs are in short supply and consequently, pharmacies and other distributors of the drug have been experiencing a shortage as well, making it less accessible to those who rely on it.

### A drain on the brain

As many students do, junior Trevor Bathe, whose name has been changed to protect anonymity, began taking Adderall to

See ADDERALL on page 2

To watch a video about the effects of adderall, go to [statenews.com/multimedia](http://statenews.com/multimedia).

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY THIBODEAU | SN

## TECHNOLOGY

# Researchers close in on origin of the universe

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THE STATE NEWS

Most people might not wake up every day and wonder, "Where did the universe come from?" But for professor Raymond Brock, it's a question always on his mind.

The answer might be closer than expected, thanks to the work of researchers including those from MSU.

Scientists at the Large Hadron Collider, or LHC, near Geneva are on the hunt for the Higgs boson particle, the key to potentially figuring out how the universe came about and how particles obtain their mass.

In mid-December 2011, Brock, an MSU professor of physics and astronomy, was at the LHC for a series of talks as the data collected following the smashing together of protons was made public.

The answer to the universe's beginning was so far inconclusive, and the mysterious particle remained elusive, but that

doesn't mean experiments to find it are over.

"(We're) trying to discover this particle, but at the same time, we're excluding places that it might hide," said Wade Fisher, an MSU physics professor.

The LHC is located at the European Organization for Nuclear Research, or CERN. The large collider there and a smaller one located at Fermilab outside of Chicago create conditions similar to those following the Big Bang of the universe, Fisher said.

To aid in the search, two different yet similar experiments, called ATLAS and CMS, at the LHC currently are being called to find the particle, he said.

Brock has worked on the ATLAS detector, a more than 7,000-ton machine that collects data following the collisions at the LHC. About 30 MSU-affiliated people — including faculty and students — are working on the research, six of whom are living in Switzerland for this experiment, he said.

In the U.S., Fisher also has conducted research at Fermilab in Batavia, Ill.

If either ATLAS or CMS finds something promising and the other verifies the information, the Higgs boson "God particle" to explain the origins of the universe might be found.

But Brock wouldn't call it that.

He said the name brands the particle as having something to do with religion when it does not.

Although the data released still is being pored over, he said scientists are preparing for the next set of particle collisions slated to begin in March. The electronics within the LHC need to be repaired and upgraded to collect even more data.

James Koll, a physics graduate student, said he's traveled back and forth from the U.S. to Geneva to work on ATLAS for the past three

See CERN on page 2

## FUNDING

# Council discusses future financing for City Center II's parking area

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THE STATE NEWS

The East Lansing City Council struggled to come to a decision on financing a portion of the controversial City Center II development project during its work session Tuesday night, debating the pros and cons of both long- and short-term financing.

The council is scheduled to bring up the matter again during its Feb. 7 meeting.

The \$97 million development project would bring a theater, office and retail space and other amenities to the area near Abbot Road and Grand River Avenue.

The BAN's — which last three years — were purchased in anticipation of the start of project, East Lansing Finance Director Mary Haskell said during the meeting, but with the project

"This is a problem. I don't know how we got ourselves into this, but we are here now."

Don Power, council member

delayed, the city must refinance the parcels.

The payment is due April 1.

The city can refinance the bond anticipation notes for an additional three years before it would have the option to either take on long-term debt or pay off the notes, Haskell said.

Council members debated the merits of both long-term financing and refinancing the BAN's in the short-term for an additional three years.

Councilmember Vic Loomis said the city needs to "look long and hard" at the various interest rates and financing associated with the parcels of land.

Councilmember Don Power speculated that the property on which the parking garage would sit might not be necessary to the entire City Center II project, but Tim Dempsey, East Lansing's planning and community

development director, said during the meeting the potential customer demand for the project requires extra parking.

"If those are all occupied, ... the answer would be, 'Yes, you do need some additional parking,'" Dempsey said of the proposed businesses in the area.

The project has been riddled with financial troubles, including foreclosure of portions of the property in 2009 and the June 2011 decision that Scott Chappelle, president of the project's development company, owed hundreds of thousands of dollars in personal taxes to the IRS.

Power also said during the meeting that the timeline in which council must make a decision is so short.

"This is a problem," he said. "I don't know how we got ourselves into this, but we are here now."