

The State News

Weekend



PHOTOS BY ANTHONY THIBODEAU/THE STATE NEWS

ABOVE: Media and information junior Marissa Berman, who started her own clothing line, Savage Colors, said it initially started from her efforts to sell tie-dye shirts. Berman stated that the clothing line's name originated from her efforts to describe her products in words. **BELOW:** At a young age, packaging sophomore Connor Ross started promoting for companies like Boom Headphones. Ross commented that promoting companies lets him create his own work schedule, allowing him to complete his tasks at any time.

CASHING OUT

While balancing school, students find creative ways to make a buck

By **Brittney Dee & Katie Abdilla**

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To see a video of how students earn extra cash visit statenews.com/multimedia.

Standing in line at 5 a.m. surrounded by the unemployed or those desperate for some extra cash, fisheries and wildlife senior Mahala Clayton would wait her turn to be poked and prodded with a needle — for money.

Until recently, Clayton would visit CSL Plasma, 5015 S. Cedar St., in Lansing, twice a week to donate plasma. "You have to get up really early, and it's definitely not the safest area," she said. "People there don't have jobs, and they don't have anything to do, so they can be there all day."

Although she already had a job on campus, Clayton said the money she earned was not enough, "I'd like to say it was for the virtue of the whole thing, but I just needed quick money," she said.

With the economy continuously in distress, distinguished professor of economics Mordechai Kreinin said stu-

dents seeking out alternative forms of employment is not unusual.

"I don't think there's that many (job opportunities for students)," he said. "It's tough going, and I don't like the idea that the average student leaves school with a very substantial debt."

When he was younger, Kreinin said he did everything from mowing lawns during the summer to shoveling snow in the winter to earn extra money, and he encourages students to be creative when job hunting as well.

"I did it, and a lot of my companions did it a long time ago, so there's no reason not to do it today," he said.

Donating Plasma

When advertising junior Andrew McIlzried needed a way to fund a trip back to his hometown of Pittsburgh, he also resorted to donating plasma.

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HEALTH

MSU insurance policy examined

By **Ian Kullgren**
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State lawmakers are planning to investigate MSU's student health care plan in an upcoming House hearing, as some representatives claim the new university insurance system implemented this year adds an unnecessary financial burden on students.

On Thursday, State Rep. Kevin Cotter, R-Mount Pleasant, announced the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education would hold a hearing Feb. 15 to address the university's new health care system, which requires students to be covered

under a health insurance policy or face being automatically billed for a university plan.

The policy mandates every student starting with this year's freshman class carry health insurance, which includes being covered under a parent's policy, or purchase the university plan, which costs around \$1,500 per year, university spokesman Kent Cassella said.

MSU is the only public university in Michigan to have such a requirement. However, the change can be paid for with federal financial aid or student loans. Cotter met with Provost Kim Wilcox and several other university administrators Tuesday

to discuss making the MSU-sponsored plan optional, but the parties didn't come to an agreement. Administrators did, however, agree to extend the deadline for students to get insurance from Jan. 31 to Feb. 29 to allow time for the House hearing.

So far, MSU has contacted 790 freshmen who don't have health care, Cassella said.

He said the policy mainly is in place to maintain public health on campus. Students packed in close quarters can be a problem if a sick student refuses to go to the doctor because they can't afford health insurance.

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INVESTIGATION

HOCKENSMITH DEATH LIKELY NOT DRUG-RELATED

By **Lauren Gibbons**
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The cause of death for MSU student Jessica Hockensmith could not be determined, but likely was not drug-related, according to a recent autopsy report from the Ingham County Medical Examiner's office.

Hockensmith, 19, was found dead in her Lansing home the morning of Nov. 23. She was a social relations and policy and secondary education junior and a member of the MSU debate team.

Twenty different types of

drugs and drug classes tested were not detected in Hockensmith's body.

Hockensmith tested positive for caffeine and cotinine, a chemical made by the body from nicotine.

Police initially believed the incident could have been drug-related because there was an empty Xocidin pill container near Hockensmith's bed when she was discovered.

Officials from the Lansing Police Department could neither confirm nor deny if a copy of the autopsy was received Thursday.

Although Anita Hockensmith, Jessica Hockensmith's mother, said it was hard to accept the final

results as inconclusive, she was at least relieved that the cause of death was not drug-related.

"Now I can show people the report and tell people she was totally clean," Anita Hockensmith said.

Abnormal spots were found on Jessica Hockensmith's heart, according to the autopsy report. Anita Hockensmith said the coroner indicated the spots might have contributed to her death, but results of the autopsy could not confirm that.

Casey Harrigan, director of the MSU Debate Team, said he and Jessica Hockensmith's close

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