

# Detroit Free Press

November 27, 2007 Tuesday METRO FINAL Edition

BIZ; BUSINESS; Pg. 2

## MICHIGAN BUSINESS BRIEFS

### AGRICULTURE

#### Disaster areas named

The U.S. Agriculture Department has designated 12 Michigan counties primary natural disaster areas because of tornadoes, hail, heavy rains and high winds from May through September.

Acting Agriculture Secretary Chuck Conner says farmers can seek low-interest emergency loans from the Farm Service Agency. Authorities are to consider the extent of losses in making loans.

The counties are Berrien, Eaton, Grand Traverse, Ingham, Isabella, Kalamazoo, Leelanau, Midland, Ottawa, St. Joseph, Shiawassee and Van Buren.

The department declared all 83 counties a disaster area earlier this month because of drought last summer that affected corn, soybeans and other crops.

### ENERGY

#### Gas prices decline

Michigan drivers are paying about 6 cents less per gallon for gas than a week ago, but 82 cents more than last year at this time.

AAA Michigan reports the average statewide price of regular self-serve is \$3.09.

For more information go to: [www.fuelgaugereport.com](http://www.fuelgaugereport.com)

### HEALTH CARE

#### Hospital joins network

A 122-bed Mt. Pleasant hospital has joined the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital's regional network to bolster pediatric care in its community.

The affiliation of Central Michigan Community Hospital, to be announced Thursday in Mt. Pleasant, brings to 22 the number of out-state hospitals with access to pediatric specialists through the

Grand Rapids-based hospital.

For details about the network, go to [www.devoschildrens.org](http://www.devoschildrens.org).

### INVESTING

#### Student fund invests

The Frankel Commercialization Fund, a student-managed project capital seed fund at the **University of Michigan's** Ross School of Business, has announced its first investment.

The fund will provide \$85,000 to Arbor Photonics, an Ann Arbor company commercializing technology that originated in **U-M's** Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS).

Financing was led by Ann Arbor-based RPM Ventures. These ventures invest in technology-focused companies that target Midwest customers.