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Business news briefs

LOCAL

ECIC moves to new spot in Boji Tower

The Early Childhood Investment Corp. has moved into the Boji Tower, 112 E. Allegan St., in downtown Lansing. The nonprofit group moved from its former location at 221 N. Pine St. to be closer to state government departments with which it works, officials said. The ECIC was founded in 2005 and operates 55 Great Start Collaboratives and 70 Great Start Parent Coalitions throughout the state in an effort to improve early childhood care and education.

MICHIGAN

Ford's Europe sales down, profit rising

DEARBORN - Ford Motor Co. said Friday its profit is increasing in Europe even though sales and market share of its new cars and trucks is declining. The automaker said its sales dropped 22 percent in July to 97,800 vehicles in its 19 major European markets as industry sales dropped 16 percent. In July, the company's market share slid to 8.3 percent, down 0.7 percent from the same month last year. During the first half of the year Ford made a pre-tax profit of \$429 million, or about \$957 million more than the first half of 2009.

NATION

Emergent buying Seattle company

ROCKVILLE, Md. - Emergent BioSolutions Inc., a biopharmaceutical company with facilities in Lansing, plans to buy Seattle-based Trubion Pharmaceuticals Inc. for up to \$135.5 million. Trubion has two clinical-stage product candidates focused on oncology and autoimmunity. Emergent also will form a joint venture with Singapore-based Temasek Life Sciences Ventures Pte. Ltd. called EPIC BIO Pte. Ltd. The venture, to be based in Singapore, will focus on a broad spectrum pandemic flu vaccine and a treatment for bird flu.

Construction union rejoins AFL-CIO

WASHINGTON - The Laborers' International Union is rejoining the AFL-CIO five years after leaving in a bitter dispute that split the U.S. labor movement. The 800,000-member laborers' union represents workers in the construction industry. The Laborers and five other unions left the AFL-CIO amid complaints the nation's largest labor union focused too much on politics and not enough on organizing new members. Those breakaway unions formed the Change to Win federation.

IBM to buy Unica in \$480 million deal

ARMONK, N.Y. - IBM said Friday that it will buy Waltham, Mass.-based marketing services company Unica Corp. in a \$480 million deal that would give International Business Machines Corp. more tools to meet its customers' growing demand for targeted advertising. The deal brings IBM deeper into the advertising business. Unica has software that automates the process of predicting customer preferences, designing advertising campaigns based on that information and measuring how effective they are.

Local and wire reports
