Controversial commencement
Some students are questioning the chosen December graduation speakers — PAGE 4

The MSU football season report card
Football reporter Robert Bondy gave the team a B+, because despite many successes this season, MSU is not in the College Football Playoff — PAGE 10

The State News will resume publication on Jan. 12, but check statenews.com for updates

You asked, we delivered. Readers told us on social media the articles they wanted us to write. In this issue we answer your questions about the MSU Alumni Association, MSU’s party school reputation, the health of alumna Stacy Blakeslee and how MSU decides when we have a snow day. See pages 6-7
Kinesiology junior Jason Johnson pours a blended smoothie into a cup Wednesday at Tropical Smoothie, 1201 E. Grand River Ave., in East Lansing. Tropical Smoothie hosted a fundraiser at the store for the MSU Honors College. Read this week’s Good Eats on page 9. PHOTO: DYLAN VOWELL

“People always look better in retrospect and the memories are always happier and more pure. Sometimes, when looking back on your time with a person, it’s a lot harder to see the ways they hurt you…”

Opinion editor Casey Holland, on how to get closure. Read more on page 3.
Facebook still the most reliable social media site

Many people have started to argue that Facebook is dying. Facebook is full of old people. Facebook has a ton of ads. Facebook is too complicated. To some degree, these arguments are correct.

I will be the first to tell you Facebook isn’t perfect. But, unlike many other people my age, Facebook is still my favorite social network.

In middle school, Facebook was huge. People added “friends” like it was their job. Millions of photos were posted. Everyone knew what people were doing every second of their life. Many plants were watered in FarmVille. Facebook was the place to be.

When my parents finally let me create my own Facebook profile in eighth grade, I was ecstatic. I was scrambling to find the best photo of myself to impress all the ladies I would be looking at my profile.

Photo of myself to impress all the ladies was something I was looking for, this person slowly stopped invading my mind. This is what closure should actually feel like. Closure does not mean still being completely entangled with thoughts of the person who hurt you.

I'd previously used the cold turkey strategy on friends I once considered close, on guys I was interested in and on people who ended up being toxic to my well-being. If I was hurt, I cut them out. No questions asked, no chances to look back. I thought it'd be easier if I had no chance to reach out to them and therefore could not open any old wounds I'd attempted to close. I wouldn't be putting myself in harm's way, at least that was how I viewed it at the time. But recently I found myself reaching out to someone I'd tried to cut off, because they were someone I still wondered about to the point that they completely clouded my thoughts.

Finally, I put everything out in the open and they did the same. Once I had the answers I'd been looking for, this person slowly stopped invading my mind. This is what closure should actually feel like. Closure does not mean still being completely entangled with thoughts of the person who hurt you.

I'm not someone who can be considered a role model for expressing oneself and owning your emotions. In fact, until recently my motto was to keep any hurt and pain bottled up inside myself and find a way to deal with all of it on my own.

When rifts began to form between myself and other people, closure seemed to be achievable only through blocking phone numbers and social media pages. I thought people were something that could be quite cold turkey.

But recently I found myself reaching out to someone I'd tried to cut off, because they were someone I still wondered about to the point that they completely clouded my thoughts.

Finally, I put everything out in the open and they did the same. Once I had the answers I'd been looking for, this person slowly stopped invading my mind. This is what closure should actually feel like. Closure does not mean still being completely entangled with thoughts of the person who hurt you.

To experience closure, sometimes you need to ask for answers.

Many people are so thirsty for likes, they feel like they have to look absolutely perfect in every photo they post. But don’t worry, there are many filters and photo applications to enhance your photos.

With Facebook I don’t feel the same sort of judgment and superficiality that essentially runs Twitter and Instagram.

Facebook has evolved nicely throughout the six years I’ve been on the site.

It’s the only place online where I’m connected to a huge variety of friends and family of all ages. Although this may appear as a negative to some, Facebook makes it very easy to block a certain post or photo that you may not want grandma to see.

Facebook also serves as a great resource. With class Facebook groups, it makes it easy to ask other classmates about homework or tests without having to waste days waiting for your TA or professor to respond. It is also fairly easy to create awareness of an upcoming event without having to send out physical invitations.

At the end of the day, Facebook is like looking through that old scrapbook your mom made — you may not want to acknowledge that you love it, but you know you do.

Anthony Herta is an intern at The State News. Reach him at aherta@statenews.com.

TODAY’S QUESTION

When did you start studying for your final exams?
Police urge students to take valuables home during break

In light of recent home invasions, MSU police and ELPD are saying it’s better to be safe than sorry

Controversial public figures to speak at MSU commencement

“Our main goal is to focus on individuals who have made an impact in the world and are interesting to students.”

University spokesperson Jason Cody, on choosing speakers

OF NEWS@STATENEWS.COM

Commencement speakers were announced this week for winter graduation at MSU, and the university is not shying away from controversial public figures.

Two of the speakers — University of Virginia President Teresa Sullivan and Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist George Will — have found themselves in the middle of the sexual assault issue in 2014. The third speaker is filmmaker Michael Moore, a documentarian known for his outspoken, left-wing views.

Will, a writer for the Washington Post whose columns are syndicated in newspapers across the country, penned a deeply divisive and controversial public figures.

University is not shying away from controversial public figures.

Graduation at MSU, and the university announced this week for winter commencement.

TOP LEFT: University of Virginia President Teresa Sullivan addresses the Virginia Senate Finance Committee April 1 in Richmond, Virginia. PHOTO CREDIT: MARSHALL BRONFIN


News

ONAHAN@STATENEWS.COM

Monahan

BY GREG MONAHAN
GMONAHAN@STATENEWS.COM

Although finals week is still looming on the horizon, many students are eagerly anticipating going home and having some time off during winter break.

Students may head home free of stress, but campus is still a busy place over break, making residence halls susceptible to home invasions.

Due to a notable increase in the report of home invasions after students return from break, the East Lansing Police Department increases focused patrols in popular neighborhoods to safeguard vacant residences.

Lt. Steve Gonzalez of the ELPD said most of these are late reports, meaning the home was broken into at some point over break, and the students found out when they returned.

In addition to the increased police patrols, Gonzalez recommends students take extra precautions when leaving their homes for the holiday break, including taking home belongings and making sure all doors and windows are securely locked.

“We recommend simple things such as ensuring the mail is picked up or stopped, sidewalks shoveled and leaving a few lights on timers,” he said.

Following police warnings, students are beginning to take more of their valuable belongings home with them when they leave the school for a long stretch of time.

The residence halls will close December 12, and MSU recommends that students to unplug appliances like refrigerators and fans to save power. Students prefer taking their more valuable items, such as televisions, home with them over break.

Only Hubbard Hall, McDonel Hall and Wonders Hall will house students during break, as they are designated for between-semester transitional housing. Students who currently live in those buildings should take extra care to lock their rooms and secure their belongings before leaving campus.

For students who will be living in the dorms during winter break, MSU police stress that strangers should not be let into buildings and suspicious activity should be reported promptly. Aside from employees and transitional students, no one is allowed back in until 8 a.m. January 11.

Although security employees will be working, MSU police stress that students must make sure their doors are locked.

“If a student has taken their expensive properties with them,” said MSU police Sgt. Florene McGrath-Taylor, “and secured the doors, there should be no reason to worry about theft.”

Police records indicate the number of on-campus larcenies over winter break is steadily decreasing. There were about 13 residence hall break-ins in January of 2013 and only eight reported after last year’s break.
It's a Boy!!!

And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6).

Nearly 2,000 years ago, God became one of us in the person of Jesus Christ. As Christian Faculty, Staff, and Graduate Students, we wish you a truly joyous and meaningful Christmas season. We are united by the common experience that Jesus Christ gives intellectually and spiritually satisfying answers to life’s most important questions. Ask any one of us about this incredible event.

Ashley Ahlin
Mathematics
Chris Ahlin
Economics
Vangie Alocilja
BioSystems & Ag Eng
Tim Barney
Teaching & Learning
Christopher Beal
Family & Community Medicine
James Beck
Mechanical Engineering
John Bell
CEPSE, College of Education
Jeff Biddle
Economics
Thomas Bieler
Chem Eng & Materials Science
Carl Borchgrevink
School of Hospitality Business
Mike Bosko
IT Services
Reynard Bouknight
Human Medicine
Bartt Brenton
Cyclotron
Daina Briedis
Chem Eng & Materials Science
Jay Bryde
Human Medicine
A. J. Burandt
Osteopathic Medicine
Dana Burandt
Osteopathic Medicine
Joella Cogan
College of Education
Leland Cogan
CEPSE
Carol Cole
Res College Arts & Hum
Dallas Cole
NSCL - FRIB
Paul Cooke
Comm Sci & Disorders
Judy Cordes
Engineering Undergrad Studies
Jon Dahl
Plant, Soil & Microbial Science
Tom Davis
IT Services
Kirk Dolan
Food Science & Human Nutrition
Larry Drzal
Chem Eng & Materials Science
Van Frazee
FRIB
John Gburek
Human Medicine
Ben Gilbert
MSU COM
Rick Halgren
Physical Med & Rehab
Jim Hakema
Surgery-Medicine
Bruce Harte
Packaging
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Bernie Holmes
AIS
Dan Klann
IPF
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Pharmacology & Toxicology
Christopher Long
Horticulture
John MacDonald
Supply Chain Management
Charlie Mack
MSU Fellowship
Tony Meier
Human Medicine
Dennis J. Miller
Chem Eng & Materials Science
Kent Miller
Management
Aaron Minnis
Res Ed & Housing Svcs
Becky Murthum
Science & Math Education
Linea Nicholls
IT Services
Christine O’Brien
Human Medicine
James Olson
Family & Community Medicine
Karen Parlor
DCPAH
John Partridge
Food Science & Human Nutrition
Amy Peebles
Teacher Education
Robin Pline
Office of the Provost
Tim Potter
MSU Bikes Service Ctr
Paul Rieke
Plant Soil & Microbial Sciences
Phil Rieke
ANR Technology Services
Fred Rodammer
Accounting & Info Systems
Jon Rohrer
Osteopathic Medicine
Rosemary Roper
Osteopathic Medicine
Steve Roskos
Family Medicine, CHM
Dale Rozeboom
Animal Science
Jamie Ruff
Office of the Provost
Lynn Sage
Horticulture
Ray Schmidgall
School of Hospitality Business
Dan Singer
Culinary Services
Alvin Smucker
Plant Soil & Microbial Sciences
Delores Sullivan
Office of the Provost
S. Mark Terman
University Development
Teresa Thomas
College of Education
Mark Thomson
Osteopathic Medicine
Gregory Tyler
Infrastructure Ping & Facilities
Mike VandeHaar
Animal Science
Laila Vandenberg
MSU Extension
John Whims
Ag, Food & Resource Economics
Bill Whitbeck
Campus Living Services
Agnes Haigh Widder
Libraries
Al Winters
ATS
Mark Worden
Chem Eng & Materials Science
Bernie Zandstra
Horticulture

Sponsored by the MSU Fellowship
The Alumni Association connects Spartans

The Alumni Association offers a variety of career and educational services as well as connection opportunities in order to help Spartans across the globe launch a career, get settled, save money, learn something new, reinvent themselves and retire or find a friend, according to the association's website.

Alumna Kristin Burgard, who received her master’s degree in business in 2001, said she does not feel connected to MSU despite being impressed by the quality of students and teaching staff. She said she may have developed stronger connections had she used employment searching services or other services that the association now offers, but being an older student with real world experience allowed her to jump back into the professional world rather quickly.

Before Westerman took the position of executive director almost five years ago, he said the association focused on what alumni could do for the university. Westerman said he felt the aim of the association should rather be what could the Spartan nation do for each other in this international community of Spartans and set out to try and evolve the association.

The original purpose of the association was to garner financial support for the university via donations and contributions from successful alumni, according to the website. While fundraising for support of the university is still a key component of the association, it now has resources that help to give more Spartans the chance at success.

The association allows “friends” of MSU wishing to support the university to become a member for an annual fee of $45. This fee gives members access to other benefits like deals with local businesses and at the university.

“We really (have become) the central pivot for aggregation of everything cool that’s going on in the Spartan nation,” Westerman said. “(As a member you) get to take advantage of the immense power of that network.”

Alumnus Beau Preston, who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in finance in 2002, said he still feels very much connected to MSU and revels in the camaraderie that is always present in the stands during game days. He said being around Spartans anywhere is a very family-like atmosphere, whether you know the individuals or not.

Though he may not be on campus or in the stands of Spartan Stadium on a typical day, Preston said that his “first and foremost association (is as) a Spartan.”
Progress has been slow but stable for Stacy Blakeslee

Blakeslee, who fell sick last December with a severe staph infection that eventually led to her being in a semi-responsive state, is still working through therapy.

Patty Blakeslee, mother of Stacy Blakeslee

“...Well, why do you want to keep her alive if she's not going to be alive like she was before? You know she's our daughter and she does respond.”

BY IAN MARTIN
IMARTIN@STATEENews.com

It was just last December when MSU alumna Stacy Blakeslee suddenly fell sick with a severe staph infection that ended up creating a hole in one of her heart valves. The infection spread to other parts of her body, including her brain, every time her heart beat.

This led to aneurysms forming in her brain, one of which burst last Christmas Eve, which sent her to the hospital, “She was going to the hospital,” he said. “We had fun. It was a blast,” Dale Blakeslee said. “People here at MSU have been more focused on having fun as a large group.”

Stacy received Botox medication in October. According to Dale, she had her head turned or hurting and “every now and then you’ll find a little smirk in Stacy’s face.”

Stacy received Botox medication in October, which helped to reduce her muscle tone. According to Dale, she had her head turned and can straighten it out now because of it. “It doesn’t look like Stacy is going make a full recovery at all so it’s hard to justify to people,” Patty Blakeslee said. “Well, why do you want to keep her alive if she’s not going to be alive like she was before?” You know she’s our daughter and she does respond.”

While Patty Blakeslee said Stacy Blakeslee doesn’t have the same facial expressions as she used to, you can tell when she’s upset or hurting and “every now and then you’ll find a little smirk in Stacy’s face.”

Patty Blakeslee said Stacy Blakeslee is still able to call commands and she makes good effort in exercise and therapy. She can say “yes” and “no” with arm movement.

“...Well, why do you want to keep her alive if she’s not going to be alive like she was before? You know she’s our daughter and she does respond.”

Patty Blakeslee, mother of Stacy Blakeslee

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Patty Blakeslee, mother of Stacy Blakeslee

Making national news for burning couches and receiving attention for sport successes, MSU has a reputation for being a well-known “party school.”

Outsiders may have a flawed perception of the frequency and amount of partying students participate in. Many of the stories and assumptions are true, but many are also false.

“The frats are exclusive here, you have to know people,” neuroscience sophomore Sam Bagnasco said. “I feel like that’s because greek life here is a big deal, whereas at other schools they don’t put such an emphasis on it.”

Bagnasco hadn’t visited MSU until she arrived at her academic orientation program. She said that she thinks perceptions of MSU being a party school is true, but it is the result of the high number of enrolled students and its infamous school spirit.

“Our school being in the Big Ten and having so many opportunities to celebrate such as the Rose Bowl and our past GameDay, it’s only right to live it up,” she said.

Biochemistry junior Nick McNamee said MSU’s party reputation slightly influenced his decision to enroll. His expectations were not met. “I had a trainer at MSU and they told me party stories they experienced that were way crazier than what I’m experiencing now,” he said.

McNamee also said it depends on where you live. “Obviously living in Cedar Village is a step up,” McNamee said. “Being here does increase your chances of drinking on an average night.”

Applied engineering sophomore Brandon Mathews said that his experiences at parties have had a relaxed feel. Mathews said his party experiences at other universities such as Central Michigan University and Western Michigan University have been more focused on having fun as a large group.

“People at other universities go out to exceed their limits and want to look back on their experiences at parties,” Mathews said. “People here (MSU) are always focused on who they’re going to hook up with next. That’s the goal here.”

Packaging sophomore Samantha Murphy said an MSU there’s enough people here and many opportunities to party. She said at smaller universities, everyone always wants to go out, but at MSU it’s not that imperative or as easy.

“I’m in a sorority now so it’s easy but last year it was a lot harder,” Murphy said. “You had to go searching for them. If you don’t try you can just sit in your dorm room and not do anything and not feel that bad about yourself.”

According to College Atlas, MSU is not listed in the top 10 party schools in 2012, 2013, 2014 or the projections for 2015.
LIVING CITY

Gamers can join the MSU League of Legends Club

Supply chain management sophomore Tim Cummings enjoys an evening of gaming Nov. 26 in his home. Cummings avidly plays League of Legends, a popular online-multiplayer game. PHOTO: DYLAN VOWELL

Founded in October 2011, the MSU League of Legends gives students on campus a place to meet fellow players and sponsors events like tournaments and giveaways.

League of Legends is a free team-oriented and strategy-based multiplayer online battle arena. Typically, two teams compete to slowly work their way into the enemy base and destroy an object called a "nexus." It takes a lot of strategizing to win the fast-paced game.

Teams are made up of five players and games last 35 minutes on average. League of Legends has become one of the most popular games in the world with more than 27 million people playing every day and 67 million playing each month. The game’s popularity has surpassed many championship sporting events like the World Series, NBA Finals and the Stanley Cup Finals. In the 2013 League of Legends World Championships, 32 million people watched two teams battle it out at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

The MSU League of Legends Club hosts meetings every Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Engineering Building. Players are encouraged to bring their computers and participate in locally hosted matches and tournaments. Players who win a tournament hosted by the MSU League of Legends Club are awarded with special prizes, which range from in-game items like skins and riot points to novelty hats and League of Legends toys.

BY DYLAN VOWELL
DVOWELL@STATENNEWS.COM

MSU alumnus creates textbook app

MSU alumnus Darin Gross expands his Spartan start-up company, reaching more than 4,000 students at six Michigan universities, including MSU.

With an idea to improve the buying-and-selling process of books on campuses, Gross started Booklify in 2012, a website with the mission to deliver the best prices for textbooks for students.

“One of my buddies and I shared the same major, while at MSU, and we couldn’t even communicate what books we were selling,” Booklify founder and CEO Darin Gross said. "I found out afterward that he sold one of the books I needed back to the bookstore for $10 or $15 and I bought it from the bookstore for $80.”

Gross said he was frustrated with the bookstore, especially after he discovered him and his friend could’ve split the $80 book price down the middle, benefiting them both.

“He could’ve gotten more money back for his book and I could’ve spent way less on it,” Gross said. “I knew there needed to be some form of communication among a university before they reached the bookstore.”

BY AMANDA CHODNICKI
ACHODNICKI@STATENNEWS.COM

Post-graduation, MSU alumnus Darin Gross expands his Spartan start-up company, reaching more than 4,000 students at six Michigan universities, including MSU.

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THE PROCESS
Advertising junior and MSU Booklify representative Annie Thurber said not only does Booklify allow students to purchase books at the cheapest prices, but it also puts students in contact with other students on their same campus, who are selling a book they’re in need of. This way, Thurber said they can discuss where to meet up to do the exchange.

You can read more about Booklify on statenews.com
The most refreshing beverages in town

BY KAYMAN WHALEY
KWHALEY@STATENEWS.COM

BUBBLE ISLAND

“I think what I love most about Bubble Island is the amazing smell right when I walk in. The cashiers are always nice, and the strawberry milk tea is delicious cold or hot.” – Cheyenne Gaillard, no preference sophomore

Bubble Island offers green tea mixes that allows customers to add in cream flavors including almond, honeydew, papaya and more. Customers can add in fruit flavors as well including kiwi, blueberry and mango. Calpico Coolers are also a sweet and fruity option. With any drink you can add black bubbles for 25 cents, or mango stars and rainbow jellies for an extra 35 cents.

HITTEA

“I don’t always get bubbles with my drinks, but I enjoy the tea and the authentic atmosphere.” – Caitlin Czerwinski, chemistry freshman

With raw materials used for their teas directly imported from China, HiTea provides a contemporary feel to a traditional tea shop. HiTea features 26 bubble flavors and other bakery items to compliment their drinks. They offer the option of less sugar or ice in their tea to accommodate customers.

PANERA

“Whenever I have the time, I order their Superfruit Power Smoothie with Ginseng. It’s a great thing I love to start my day off with.” Rachael Joseph, marketing freshman

Panera offers five smoothie options that are either low in fat or fat-free. Their smoothies are blended with a mix of pureed fruits and juice concentrates. Joseph’s favorite smoothie is the Fat-Free Superfruit Power Smoothie with Ginseng. According to their website, it is a superfruit base with a mix of fruit purees and juices blended with organic, plain Greek yogurt and boosted with Ginseng.

TROPICAL SMOOTHIE

“When I started eating healthy I fell in love with kale, so I always order their Island Green smoothie.” – Holly Harestad, education freshman

Tropical Smoothie has an abundance of smoothie options from four different categories. Low-Fat, Get Nutrified, Supercharged and Indulgent smoothies are on the menu.
OFFENSE
Grade: A
What can we say about the MSU offense this season? Explosive? Efficient? At times unstoppable? All three can apply in 2014 as the Spartans set a school record for most points in a season. MSU averaged 496.5 yards and 43.1 points per game, both of which rank in the top 15 nationally. The Spartan offense was led by its three-headed monster of junior quarterback Connor Cook, senior running back Jeremy Langford and senior wide receiver Tony Lippett. Cook and Lippett were both honored as All-Big Ten recipients and Langford reeled off nine consecutive 100-yard games to finish the season. By far one of the best offenses in the country, which is a complete 180 degree turn from a couple of years ago.

DEFENSE
Grade: B
If you look at the numbers, MSU’s defense had a solid season and similar to those of the past here in East Lansing. However, it doesn’t have the same “No Fly Zone” dominance. MSU averaged only 293.5 yards and 19.9 points against this season, which both ranked in the top 15 in country. The rush defense was impressive yet again, ranking No. 5 in the country and overall creating a tough front seven for opponents. But in the big games the defense failed to show up. MSU surrendered 46 and 49 points in its two losses to Oregon and Ohio State, with both teams ripping off big plays against the Spartan secondary. The poor performances left a sour taste in the mouths of the Spartan faithful, ultimately leading to a more disappointing season on that side of the ball. In the end, fans shouldn’t ever complain about a top 25 defense, but when it mattered the most the “Spartan Dawgs” were nowhere to be found.

OVERALL
Grade: B+
MSU finished the season 10-2 and most likely will play in one of the New Year’s Day six non-playoff bowl games. That’s a pretty successful season and something Spartan fans should be pleased with in the end. However, MSU gets only a B+ grade simply because the Spartans didn’t live up to the high expectations. From the beginning of the season it was all about making the inaugural College Football Playoff, and Nov. 8 that dream was ruined by Ohio State. MSU failed to win either of its two biggest games of the season and ultimately failed on reaching its goal. Like I said, MSU fans should be happy with the season and be excited about a big time bowl game in a warm destination, but the Green and White surely missed out on a golden opportunity this season.
Senior midfielder Fatai Alashe heads the ball against Washington forward Josh Heard Sunday at DeMartin Stadium at Old College Field. PHOTO: AERIKA WILLIAMS

Consistency, strong play on defense will be keys for men’s soccer Saturday against Providence in Elite Eight

BY MATTHEW ARGILLANDER
MARGILLANDER@STATENEWS.COM

As the No. 3-seeded men’s soccer team (12-4-6 overall, 4-2-2 Big Ten) prepares for its second Elite Eight game in as many years, the team has to be confident that what they’ve done all season will lead them to a win over the No. 11-seed Providence Friars (15-4-2 overall, 5-2-2 Big East) Saturday at noon in DeMartin Soccer Stadium.

“(Providence is) a good team, they’re not necessarily a team that jumps out at you as a huge soccer powerhouse, but that doesn’t mean they’re not extremely good,” junior goalkeeper Zach Bennett said.

Senior midfielder Fatai Alashe believes that if the team sticks to what it’s been doing all year long it will translate to success on the field. At this point in the season all of the remaining teams know their identities and the Spartans must stay true to theirs to come away victorious.

“(To win on Saturday), I would say we just need to play our game,” Alashe said. “There’s not too much we need to change. …For the most part we will try to play our game, try to play our style of soccer and make them try to adjust to us.”

The Spartans have relied on strong defensive play led by redshirt senior defender Ryan Keener, junior defender Zach Carroll and Bennett in front of the net.

“(Providence is) a very talented team, they share with us (our) hard-working blue collar mentality,” Keener said. “I think we need to stick to what we do best … if we stay sound defensively and keep everything tight on set pieces then I think we’ll give ourselves a shot.”

The MSU defense will need to stop Providence leading scorers senior forward Markus Naglestad and sophomore forward Mac Steeves. Naglestad leads the team in total points with 22 on 10 goals and two assists, Steeves is not far behind with 20 total points on nine goals and two assists.

Senior midfielder and forward Tim Kreutz, who scored the equalizing goal in the Spartans Sweet Sixteen match-up with the Washington Huskies last Sunday, said the team is confident they will be the better team when it is all said and done.

“I think it’s going to be a good game, they’re pretty well coached, they’re Big East Tournament champions which is a pretty tough feat any year,” Kreutz said. “We expect it to be back and forth but we have no doubt that we’ll be the better team.”

Should the Spartans win Saturday, the team will head to Cary, North Carolina for the Final Four Dec. 12.
Volleyball will begin first round of NCAA Tournament Friday

The Spartans will depend heavily on senior libero Kori Moster against Loyola Marymount, lock to extend winning streak to six

BY TROY JEFFERSON
TJEFFERSON@STATENNEWS.COM

It’s dancing time for the volleyball team.

MSU (18-13 overall, 11-9 Big Ten) will play in the first round of the NCAA Tournament Friday night against Loyola Marymount (23-7 overall, 11-7 West Coast Conference) at Stanford’s campus in Palo Alto, California at 7:30 p.m.

“We believe in us and that’s all that matters,” sophomore right side hitter Chloe Reinig said.

The Spartans were selected to the NCAA Tournament for the fourth straight year and it’s the seventeenth overall selection in program history.

“It’s so exciting. We wanted that rebirth because we know what we’re capable of,” senior libero and team co-captain Kori Moster said. “We’ve had a great couple of days of practice and we’re excited to get out to California to see what we can do.”

The Spartans will rely heavily on Moster, who has made a great couple of days of practice and we’re excited to get out to California to see what we can do."

Moster averages 4.60 digs per set, which ranks third in the Big Ten conference and she moved into fifth all-time on the conference digs list (2,179) with her 21 digs in MSU’s last game against Iowa.

Her defense will be key against the Lions, who have an explosive offensive attack. Loyola Marymount averaged 14.20 kills per set, which ranked third in the West Coast Conference and hit at a .258 clip, also good for 3rd in the conference.

“Their offense is a very good team,” head coach Cathy George said. “They have a lot of savvy kids and don’t make a lot of mistakes.”

The Lions enter the matchup on a two-game losing streak with their most recent loss coming at the hands of No. 12 BYU, 1-3 (28-30, 12-25, 25-23, 21-25).

MSU, on the other hand, is on a five-game win streak and has not lost a set since Nov. 19 against Northwestern.

“(The win streak) was definitely needed for us to get into the tournament,” freshman middle blocker Alyssa Garvelink said. “We ended strong, we’re ready to take on the challenge and we can surprise a lot of teams.”

If MSU can get past Loyola Marymount then they will play the winner of No. 1 Stanford (29-1 overall, 19-1 PAC-12)/CSU-Bakersfield (16-14 overall, 9-5 WAC) Friday night at 10 p.m.

BIG TEN HONORS

Four players were named to various All-Big Ten teams on Tuesday.

Reinig earned All-First Team honors. It’s the seventh straight time MSU has had a player recognized with the honor.

Moster was named an honorable mention selection for the third straight year.

Freshman setter Rachel Minarick was selected to the All-Freshman Team. Minarick’s selection marks the third straight season MSU has had a selection on the All-Freshman Team.

Senior middle blocker Jazmine White was the team’s Sportsmanship Award honoree.