

The State News



MSU overcomes Northwestern on Saturday

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OUTBREAK

COMPANY FACING E. COLI SUIT DENIES INVOLVEMENT

By Heather Guenther and Kayla Habermehl
THE STATE NEWS

Aunt Mid's Produce Co. continues to deny claims that its lettuce was the source of an E. coli outbreak that sickened nine MSU students and 25 other Michigan residents.

The company has based its claims on the Michigan Department of Agriculture's findings that stated there was no E. coli bacteria found in Aunt Mid's iceberg lettuce or its packing facilities.

"We did not find E. coli," said Jennifer Holton, a spokeswoman for the department. "However, we know that the samples we did take were not from the outbreak time frame."

Testing of the specific lettuce was not possible because lettuce only has a shelf life of a few days, said James McCurtis, a spokesman for the Michigan Department of Community Health.

"By the time we were testing, it was too late," McCurtis said.

Dominic Riggio, president of Detroit-based Aunt Mid's, did not return phone calls made by The State News on Sunday.

In a previous interview, Riggio said various forms of testing, including swabs taken from the company's machinery and conveyor belts, showed no signs of E. coli contamination.

"All we know is that all products in our facilities and that were shipped from our facility have come back negative, as well as environmental tests," he said.

Lyman Briggs freshman Samantha Steffen filed a lawsuit against Aunt Mid's on Thursday in Ingham County Circuit Court after being hospitalized, according to Marler Clark, the Seattle-based law firm representing Steffen.

Steffen said a hospital bill that arrived last week and called for more than \$1,600 for her Sept. 16 visit caused her to file the lawsuit. She is unsure if her parents' insurance will cover the costs.

"I got the bill about two days ago and it was the full amount," she said. "I don't know if they've not processed it yet or didn't cover it."

Steffen began experiencing E. coli-related symptoms

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Animal science junior Anthony Klingler supports animal science junior Michelle Dawes after she finishes the Spartan Sprint Triathlon at MSU Sunday morning. Dawes was the 14th woman to finish and finished 57th overall.

GABRIELLE MOORE/THE STATE NEWS

Triathletes meet

MSU hosts triathlon Sunday; alumni, others compete for top honors

"(It's hard) just having somewhat of a life still, going to football games and hanging out with friends and family."

Michelle Dawes, animal science junior



More online ...

To see photos of the first annual Spartan Sprint Triathlon, visit statenews.com/multimedia.

By Thea Neal
THE STATE NEWS

In the hours before a triathlon, Jon Ruud eats a bagel and a PowerBar, and drinks half a liter of water and half a liter of grape G2 Gatorade. Michelle Dawes eats mountains of pasta and cereal.

In the minutes before a triathlon, Ruud surveys the swim course, reminding himself to hold his goggles as he jumps in the tepid pool. Dawes, an animal science junior, stretches and hops, waiting for the swimmer in front of her to leap into the first leg of the competition.

But in the seconds before a triathlon, both triathletes are focused on one thing — the race.

The inaugural Spartan Sprint Triathlon brought hundreds of triathletes to MSU — including students from 11 other universities — to compete in a 400-meter swim, 20-kilometer bike ride and 5-kilometer run Sunday. The race was part of the U.S. Collegiate



ALEX BEAUDIN/THE STATE NEWS

University of Michigan student Justin Arnosky jumps into the pool for the 400 meter event at the first ever Spartan Sprint Triathlon on Sunday. Arnosky placed second overall at the event. Twelve schools were represented at the event.

Triathlon Series and hosted by the MSU Triathlon Team and 3 Disciplines Racing.

The entire race took place on campus with Spartan women leading the way. Biochemistry and molecular biology junior Jackie Brosius

won first place and dietetics junior Alissa Thompson finished second among female collegiate participants.

The race brought current and former Spar-

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Dantonio's key to success lies in team smarts



es hired in college football: You're either a program architect or a program builder.

A program architect is a finessed, white-collar coach who talks loudly, works from his high-rise building and favors lower taxes. Think U-M's Rich Rodriguez or Florida's Urban Meyer.

A program builder is a hard-nosed, blue-collar coach who speaks softly, labors at the construction site and belongs to the local union. Think Oklahoma's Bob Stoops or Ohio State's Jim Tressel.

Twenty-three months into his tenure, MSU head coach Mark Dantonio has found a middle ground between the two labels. He has created a solid foundation of toughness, while crafting a winning blueprint executed to perfection during Saturday's 37-20 win against Northwestern.

Dantonio's blueprint is a five-point plan epitomized in Evanston during the sea-

"We came out, got hot quick, and we were able to move the ball. I think what really helped us out were the turnovers. We had great field position all day."

Brian Hoyer, senior quarterback

son's most well-rounded win:

1. Play smart

Dantonio took over a team that was once a mental case and made it mentally strong.

With five penalties Saturday, including only two in the first three quarters — you wondered if the referees left their yellow flags in the hotel room.

Senior quarterback Brian Hoyer, the much-scrutinized second-year starter, has been the picture of brainy consistency with

three interceptions on the season and solid throws — especially this weekend with his mistake-free 14-of-20 passing performance.

2. Be mentally tough

In MSU's first game as a ranked team since 2005, the groundwork was there for a building collapse against an upstart pack of Wildcats.

It's been rare that MSU has had to play the role of "bully" when headed into a Big Ten game, but the Spartans pushed Northwest-

ern up against the playground wall Saturday and made sure not to leave Evanston without a win (and the Wildcats' milk money).

"Whether we won or we lost — it was important that we respond because it shows football character, it shows preparation and it shows work ethic," Dantonio said.

3. Win the turnover battle

With three more take-aways Saturday — a pair of interceptions and a fumble recovery — and zero giveaways, MSU now ranks sixth in the nation with a plus-10 turnover margin.

This week's turnovers became great field position for Hoyer and a balanced offensive attack that

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CRIME

Police: Motive for homicide still under investigation

By Abby Lubbers
THE STATE NEWS

Investigators are still searching for a motive in a three-week-old homicide case in which one MSU student and three other people were killed.

Katherine Brown, 18, who was an agribusiness management sophomore, was killed Sept. 29 in a quadruple homicide.

Jeremy Zimmer, 20, who was dating Brown; his mother Sharmaine Zimmer, 53; and his brother Tyler Zimmer, 17, also were killed.

The Zimmers were shot, and Brown was killed by blunt force trauma before the Zimmers' home was set on fire. The fire was set to cover up the homicide, Ottawa County sheriff's Lt. Mark Bennett said.

Investigators spent the week-end going through tips and evidence, Bennett said.

"This is an extraordinary investigation because of the number of victims," he said. "There's still a lot of evidence to be gone through."

Jim and Margie Wahlfield ate dinner at the Zimmer home Sept. 28. They were the last people to see the Zimmers and Brown alive.

The Wahlfields arrived at the family's home at about 6:30 p.m. Sharmaine Zimmer had cooked a turkey that night, and the couple ate dinner while their daughter attended a class across the street, Jim Wahlfield said.

"Everybody was very happy," he said. "There was nothing out of the ordinary."

Margie Wahlfield was one of Sharmaine Zimmer's best friends, and the couple had met Brown a few times before Sept. 28. They were teasing Brown and Jeremy Zimmer for not taking care of their dishes, Jim Wahlfield said.

After dinner, Brown and Jeremy Zimmer went upstairs, and Tyler Zimmer went to sleep downstairs. Sharmaine Zimmer talked to the Wahlfields

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MAKING MUSIC

Two musicians with ties to MSU return to the area to hear pieces they wrote performed, page 3A.

GAMING

Local gamers get together to attend a conference about video games on campus, page 3A.



Weather

Partly cloudy

High 80° | Low 61°

Three-day forecast, page 2A