

# The State News

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JEANA-DEE ALLEN/THE STATE NEWS

MSU head basketball coach Tom Izzo, left, and senior forward Marquise Gray take a moment during the game against Idaho on Sunday night at Breslin Center. The Spartans won, 100-62.

## BLOWOUT OVER IDAHO IN SEASON OPENER

"This was a game where I really didn't know what to expect because of the newness of (Idaho head coach Don Verlin) being there and of course their players, there are so many different ones."

Tom Izzo, head coach

For a photo gallery from the game, visit [stateneews.com](http://stateneews.com)

By Alex Altman  
THE STATE NEWS

MSU men's basketball head coach Tom Izzo said he didn't know much about Idaho's basketball team entering Sunday's game. Turns out, it didn't really matter. Junior forward Raymar Morgan and sophomore guard Chris Allen each scored 21 points for the Spartans, who opened the season with a convincing 100-62 win over Idaho at Breslin Center.

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SAM RUIZ/THE STATE NEWS

Sophomore guard Chris Allen drives the ball to the basket against Idaho's Luciano de Souza during the second half of the game Sunday evening at Breslin Center. Allen scored a career-high 21 points against the Vandals.

### TECHNOLOGY

## OBAMA'S WEB SAVVY COULD STRENGTHEN DIALOGUE

By Kelly House  
THE STATE NEWS

President-elect Barack Obama's ability to communicate with voters was a deciding factor in his campaign victory — and it could change the way



Obama

Americans interact with their elected officials. Hours after winning the presidency, Obama launched the Web site [www.change.gov](http://www.change.gov), extending his online dialogue into the presidential transition. He also has committed to posting government spending records online.

"Having a large constituency that continues to be engaged could be quite important," assistant political science professor Matt Grossmann said.

Grossmann said Obama could use his online presence to reach voters and ask for their support on initiatives he wants to pass.

"If the people who signed up for Obama's e-mail list are willing to be an advocate when it comes to passing legislation, then certainly that could be helpful," he said.

Representatives from Obama's team did not return calls for comment about technology's role in the campaign.

Although the technology will offer more ways for citizens to communicate with the government, it is unclear whether it actually will increase the amount of discourse.

Grossmann said Obama's attempt to reach out to voters is nothing new, it's just a different way of doing it. President Franklin D. Roosevelt did the same with his radio broadcast "fireside chats" and presidents have continued that tradition for decades.

"I don't know how new it is, in terms of being open to contact," he said. "Thousands of people write to the president all the time, before or after the Obama administration."

Neeharika Tumati, student director of MSU Students for Barack Obama, said Obama's online presence is what enabled him to form extensive grassroots organizations, such as the MSU group.

If Obama's campaign success of using the Web to reach voters is any indication, his continued use of online communication media could engage tech-

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### SPORTS

## Snowfall stalls field hockey match

By Joseph Terry  
THE STATE NEWS

As if the two teams hadn't seen each other enough this season, the NCAA quarterfinal match between MSU and Iowa was postponed Sunday because of heavy snowfall and is scheduled to resume at 11 a.m. today.

The snow began falling heavily during halftime, limiting visibility and prompting officials to begin using orange balls instead of the standard white.

The snow made it hard for the players to stay on their feet. The Hawkeyes almost scored a goal early in the period when, on a penalty corner, they fired a shot toward Spartans goalkeeper Elissa Unger, who stopped the initial shot but slipped on an attempt to corral the rebound before a teammate cleared the ball out of the circle.

With 27:45 left in the second half, the field covered in a thick layer of snow and event staff frantically shoveling the boundary lines to keep them visible,



ALEX BEAUDIN/THE STATE NEWS

Junior midfielder Floor Rijpma pushes through an Iowa backfielder Sunday afternoon during the NCAA Tournament at Ralph Young Field. The game was delayed until today because of snowfall.

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For galleries from the past two field hockey matches, visit [stateneews.com](http://stateneews.com).

### MICHIGAN

## Prop. 1's implications unclear, concern some

By Zack Colman  
THE STATE NEWS

Although the details regarding Proposal 1 and Michigan's upcoming medical marijuana program still are being discussed, some people have concerns about the program's implications.

The Board of State Canvassers must meet in the next two to three weeks to certify the 2008 election, after which the Michigan Department of Community Health must promulgate a series of rules to implement the constitutional amendment by Dec. 4. The administrative process must be ready to operate by April 4.

Dianne Byrum, spokeswoman for the Michigan Coalition for Compassionate Care, said the remaining steps must be taken by the Department of Community Health and she is confident they will meet all deadlines.

One of the most significant issues the department will have to tackle is how a "debilitating medical condition" is defined. It currently

encompasses conditions such as cancer, AIDS, hepatitis C and Crohn's disease.

David Fox, spokesman with the Michigan State Medical Society, said doctors could experience difficulty in determining the level of pain in patients. Considering the doctors can't physically feel the symptoms patients describe, it could open avenues to easier access to medical marijuana.

Doctors might, however, be more reluctant to prescribe medical marijuana because of its uncertainties pertaining to medicinal use.

"It may cause awkwardness between the doctor and patient because doctors prefer to use a drug that is FDA approved, has a proven track record, know what dosage to use, know the purity and quality, and that it's been tested," Fox said.

"This will be kind of a more nebulous drug because it doesn't have any kind of dosing or way to determine how much a patient should use."

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### RALLY

Students gather to protest a California proposal that banned same-sex marriage there, page 3A.

### FESTIVAL

Different cultures are celebrated at the Union, exposing people to different ways of life, page 3A.

Weather

Snow  
High 32° | Low 24°

Three-day forecast, page 2A