

ILLUSTRATION
BY CHELSEA
MCCOIRIK

The State News

A touch of the holidays comes to Lansing

LOWDOWN, PAGE 1B

FAMILY, FRIENDS SHOCKED AFTER STUDENT GOES MISSING

By Abby Lubbers
THE STATE NEWS

A 34-year-old student has been missing for nine days, Michigan State Police reported.

Krista R. Lueth, who is pursuing her second MSU bachelor's degree in horticulture, was last seen Nov. 11 at her Eureka Street home in Lansing. Lueth's father reported her

missing to State Police around noon Saturday.



Lueth

Police are still investigating the incident and would not comment if the circumstances surrounding Lueth's disappearance are suspicious.

"The case is still a missing person until we've conducted interviews with family and friends," said State Police Sgt. Kevin Mark.

But Lueth's sister, Elizabeth Crum, said she fears the case will not end well.

"We are all extremely, extremely worried. We fear the worst because she was doing so well, and she was so cheerful," Crum said. "There's just no way

that she took off."

Lueth was last seen by her friend Rick Stilgenbauer, who has subleased the apartment below her for the past five months. She recently broke up with her boyfriend, who had lived with her. He moved out of the apartment they shared between Nov. 6 and 11, Stilgenbauer said.

"She was dealing with everything how she always does

— confidently and soundly," he said. "She's a very strong-headed woman, she takes care of business."

Lueth and Stilgenbauer talked in his kitchen Nov. 11 between 5:30 and 6 p.m., after Lueth returned from class at MSU. She was concerned because her ex-boyfriend moved out and her rent would increase. She was planning to sell her truck and start working as a

waitress to pay her bills, Stilgenbauer said.

"She was hopeful, sound, planning for the future," he said.

After Lueth left his apartment, Stilgenbauer did not hear anything from her upstairs apartment.

"I didn't hear anyone come back in or out, I never heard

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MSU STOMPS DETROIT MERCY

By Sean Ely
THE STATE NEWS

Not even two big handfuls of mistakes could knock the MSU women's basketball team off its path. Despite 24 turnovers and 40 missed shots from the floor and free-throw line, the Spartans still rolled over Detroit Mercy 85-48 on Wednesday at Breslin Center — remaining unbeaten this season.

Afterward, MSU head coach Suzy Merchant's foremost concern was her team's unnecessary tendency to foul, not keeping their hands off the opponent's shooters.

"(On) any dribble penetration, we foul and then we turn it over too much again, silly turnovers too," she said. "We're working at it, we're aware of it, we just have to do a better job of people staying focused and stepping through the ball."

MSU (3-0 overall) shot an icy 42.9 percent from the floor and 38.1 percent from behind the arc. But the Titans (0-2) couldn't even come close to those numbers, shooting 26.4 percent from the field and just 14.3 percent from the behind the arc. The Spartans also grabbed 12 more rebounds than Detroit Mercy and dished out 15 more assists.

Junior forward Aisha Jefferson said she loves the fact Merchant pushes her since Jefferson returned from knee surgery last season, allowing her to become a vital part of the offense even sooner



GEORGIA RHODES/THE STATE NEWS

Sophomore guard Brittney Thomas drives past Detroit Mercy guard Lauren Allen in the first period of Wednesday's game. The Spartans beat the Titans 85-48 at Breslin Center.

than she may have expected.

"I'm getting a lot more confidence in (my knee)," she said. "I do think I need to work on dribble drives a lot more, just staying with the play and not fouling. But my knee feels good right now."

Detroit Mercy guard Zomora Davis led her team with 13 points and eight rebounds while shooting just 2-of-12 from the floor, making nine free throws on the night.

Only scoring three points didn't affect sophomore

guard Brittney Thomas in the slightest. She said she was overjoyed to be back in the lineup after injuring her right hand and missing more than a week of action.

See GAME on page 2A

UNIVERSITY

Massive Brody cafeteria renovation to begin soon

By Dan Faas
THE STATE NEWS

MSU's largest cafeteria is getting a face-lift in the next two years, as renovation plans for the Brody cafeteria are under way.

Guy Procopio, associate director of auxiliary services, and Bruce Haskell, associate director for MSU Dining Services, presented a plan for "integrated dining" in the cafeteria — one of the largest in the world.

"The main Brody building is a huge space," Haskell said. "We want to create an entry point to campus that makes a statement. We're going to build a new, unique, dynamic and interactive gathering space to try and bring MSU up to where we need to be."

Haskell outlined a plan similar to The Gallery in Snyder-Phillips Hall, with a large dining space surrounded by different "restaurant venues." The plans were announced to the

Residence Halls Association at its meeting Nov. 12.

Venues will include a sports bar-themed grill with TVs, elevated and soothing seating by a fireplace, a "light garden" outside with plants and clear windows on the ceiling, as well as a closed-off dining area that can be reserved for groups.

Haskell said the cafeteria seats about 1,000 diners, which is more than the Brody cafeteria currently can hold.

Changes also will be made to food choices.

A stress will be put on an international-themed area with authentic ethnic offerings. There also will be a vegetarian and vegan area with no cross-contamination from nonvegan foods.

"The 'Projects' have been completely phased out, which is great," said Mark Dobson, RHA president. "I think that this is really going to redefine

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MEN'S HOOPS

NO EARLY SEASON UPSET FOR MSU

The No. 5 MSU men's basketball team rallied back from a second-half deficit Wednesday to defeat Indiana-Purdue-Fort Wayne, 70-59, at the Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Junior forward Raymar Morgan finished with a game-high 22 points and sophomore guard Kalin Lucas added 17 for the Spartans (2-0), who avoided the type of early season upset that has plagued them in recent seasons.

Forward David Carson's jumper gave IPFW a 44-42 lead with 10:59 left in the game, but MSU responded with 13 straight points to build a commanding 55-44 lead with 6:02 left. The Spartans iced the game at the free-throw line.

ALEX ALTMAN

VACATION

Americans making shorter holiday travel plans

By Jeff Kanan
THE STATE NEWS

Students are choosing to stay home for the holidays, travel experts said.

Travel is down across the board, and people looking to get away are planning trips closer to home, said Eddie Lindow, branch manager for STA Travel, 207 E. Grand River Ave.

"The economy is the biggest thing — people don't have the money for this," Lindow said. "There used to be a lot of international travel, but a lot of peo-

ple are just going home now."

Earlier this week, AAA predicted holiday travel would decline for the first time in six years because of the economy and the high cost of airline tickets. According to AAA, 41 million Americans will travel at least 50 miles from their homes, which decreased from 41.6 million in 2007.

The holiday season typically is the second most popular travel season, behind the summer months, Lindow said. The period between Dec. 15 and Jan. 7 is the busiest travel time dur-

ing the holidays.

Despite a significant drop in international travel, domestic travel has seen a slight increase, Lindow said.

"People are definitely driving more and taking the train more," Lindow said. "Washington, D.C., New York, Boston, Miami, Chicago and Los Angeles are the most common places asked for."

Darren Swan, a parks, recreation and tourism resources senior, said he would like to travel and see relatives this winter, but that all will be deter-

mined by cost.

"It just depends on cash and my personal economy," he said.

Megan Thoma, meanwhile, said she'd like to go to New York with friends for a weekend if fares are cheap enough.

"We'd have to find some cheap flights on a whim," the kinesiology senior said.

Students seem to be shying away from traditional beach destinations in order to find more versatile trips, said Debbie Gibb, associate executive director of the Student Youth

and Travel Association, in Lake Orion.

"Kids today are more worldly, talk to people on the Internet and want to go more places," Gibb said. "People want to go do more hands-on things."

Fewer trips will hurt countries that rely on tourism, namely Belize and Costa Rica, as well as hotels, car rentals and tour companies, Lindow said.

"We may see a trickle-down effect where luggage stores get hurt too," he said. "Anything associated with travel is hurting."

BUSINESS

Two sisters open a cheer facility to train children how to execute proper cheerleading moves, page 3A.



Weather

Cloudy

High 33° | Low 21°

Three-day forecast, page 2A