



The State News

Holidays mean one thing for some people: Food. Read on for more about festive eating.

LIFESTYLE, PAGE 18

Salt, road repair prices climb

Winter sidewalk cleaning

East Lansing residents are required to keep their sidewalks clean during the winter, and for students renting a house or duplex, the procedure should be outlined in their lease, said Angela Mabin, public works administrator for East Lansing.

"The responsibility could be either that of the homeowners' or the renters' — it depends on how the lease is written," she said.

According to a city ordinance, snow must be removed from a sidewalk within 24 hours of snowfall, and ice has to be removed or have an abrasive put on it 12 hours after it forms.

If residents don't comply, a fine could be issued. Fines start at \$75.

Students should determine if they are responsible for clearing the snow before winter break, since they could still be fined even if they are not in East Lansing, Mabin said.

"I would encourage them to make arrangements before they leave, either with the property owner or neighbor," she said.

SOURCE: EAST LANSING



Rusty Sumner, an East Lansing Public Works Department maintenance worker, plows snow in the Hawk Nest subdivision in January 2007. Cars parked in roads make snowplowing more difficult, he said.

Higher salt prices force MSU to cut supplies, E.L.'s funds allow for more

By Allison Bush and Kayla Habermehl
THE STATE NEWS

With the first snows of winter come snowmen, snowball fights and salt sprinkled across the roads. However, coating campus roads with salt will be trickier this year, as an increase in the price of salt caused MSU to cut back on its purchases. Even though MSU will look at alternative ways to remove snow and ice, East Lansing will continue primarily using salt, as its bud-

See ICE on page 2A

Decreased tax revenues pose pothole problem

By Kelly House
THE STATE NEWS

Michigan taxpayers have a choice to make during the next year, experts said: Deal with a higher gas tax and possibly other tax hikes, or watch as potholes slowly consume the road.

Unless funding for transportation infrastructure doubles, Michigan's roads, bridges, airport runways and shipping ports will fall into severe disrepair, according to a report released Nov. 10 by Michigan's Transportation Funding Task Force.

"If Michigan's transportation system is to continue to serve the state adequately, our investment in transportation must increase significantly," the task force report stated.

The task force was created to find ways to pay for maintenance and repair of the state's roads, bridges, landing strips and other infrastructure. The group found that the state will need to invest at least \$6.1 billion annually to achieve minimum upkeep of roads.

The bulk of funding for transportation infrastructure traditionally has come from the federal gas tax, state vehicle registration fees and the state fuel tax. However, with Americans driving fewer miles as gas prices rise, revenues from those sources are declining, said Bill Shreck, director of communications for the Michigan Department of Transportation, or MDOT.

At the same time, the cost of infrastructure and maintenance resources, including steel, concrete and salt, is rising.

"Most all of those are up 30 percent or more in the last few years," Shreck said.

See ROAD on page 2A



EAST LANSING

The City Council will decide on a host of issues affecting student life at its meeting tonight in City Hall, page 3A.

KNOWLEDGE AT PLAY

A professor incorporates Legos into teaching students about different aspects of science and robot building, page 3A.



Weather

Snow
High 34° | Low 30°
Three-day forecast, page 2A

SOCCER

MSU aims to extend shutout streak

By Alex DiFilippo
THE STATE NEWS

The MSU men's soccer team hasn't given up a goal in 11 hours and 51 minutes of game time.

Ironically, the last goal scored on the Spartans came on a penalty kick against Illinois-Chicago — the team MSU will host in the second round of the NCAA Tournament at 1 p.m. today at DeMartin Stadium at Old College Field.

When the Spartans faced the Flames on Oct. 15, they earned a 3-1 victory and have gone 6-0-1 since then.

Senior defender David Hertel said the Spartans will have a slight advantage going into the game because of prior success, but he doesn't want to see his team underestimate Illinois-Chicago.

"We know we are in for a good match again," Hertel said. "We have somewhat of an idea what to expect. Obviously, any game you play in

"We know we are in for a good match again. We have somewhat of an idea what to expect. Obviously, any game you play in the NCAA Tournament, if you lose, you are done."

David Hertel, senior defender

the NCAA Tournament, if you lose, you are done. So we are going to go out there and battle as hard as we can."

The Spartans (13-5-1 overall) come into the game after receiving a bye in the first round of the tournament. Illinois-Chicago went to a 0-0 draw with Dayton and advanced on penalty kicks.

MSU head coach Joe Baum went to Chicago watch to the first round game between the Spartans potential opponents and he likes his team's chances in this afternoon's rematch.

"When we played them during the season and then watched them last night, they played exactly the same,"

Baum said. "They didn't do anything any different, but they seemed to get stronger as the game went on."

Baum credits Illinois-Chicago for being a very technical team that surrounds play around junior midfielder Baggio Husidic, who has recorded eight goals and 22 points this season.

"Their whole team revolves around Baggio (Husidic) and he's very, very good player," Baum said. "Controlling him is going to be a great challenge."

Sophomore defender Nosa Iyoha will be in charge of neutralizing Husidic before he can form the attack for the Flames, Baum said.

In the previous meeting,

senior midfielder Zac Scaffidi said his team wore down the Flames with their physical, in your face type of defending. Scaffidi wants to see the same level of intensity when his team takes the field today.

"We have to keep pushing and get physical because they are really technical and they are a very good fitness team," Scaffidi said. "If we bring our style of play in, I think they are going to have trouble with that again."

But sophomore goalkeeper Avery Steinlage said the key to game will prove to be the same concept that produced MSU's current nine game unbeaten streak and Big Ten regular season and tournament titles — solid team defense.

"Defense is a big part of our game and we pride ourselves in being a big physical team," Steinlage said. "Obviously we are going to want to try and continue that. We don't want to change anything up at this point."

SPORTS

Ringer, Wiley, Jones earn All-Big Ten team honors

MSU head coach Mark Dantonio and senior running back Javon Ringer failed to garner the Big Ten's top honors — but Ringer, senior strong safety Otis Wiley and sophomore linebacker Greg Jones were all selected to the 2008 All-Big Ten coaches' first team Monday.

Ringer, a senior captain who rushed for 1,590 yards and had 21 touchdowns this season and fellow senior captain Wiley, who was tied for second in the Big Ten with four interceptions, were selected to both the coaches' and media's first teams. Jones also earned first team honors.

Junior kicker Brett Swenson was a second team selection by both the coaches and media, while senior right guard Roland Martin, senior right tackle Jesse Miller, sophomore punter Aaron Bates and Jones were named to the media's second team.

CASH KRUTH