

MSU hockey earns four points in weekend series versus Ohio State

SPORTS, PAGE 1B



JEANA-DEE ALLEN/THE STATE NEWS

Senior forward Kurt Kivisto (26) tries to steal the puck from Ohio State forward Peter Boyd Friday night at Munn Ice Arena. The Spartans tied the Buckeyes, but won in the shootout.

The State News

Easing the pain from losing a pet



SEAN COOK/THE STATE NEWS

Carson City resident Karin Nyland grips her water bottle while recalling a pleasant memory of her dog, who passed away roughly a year ago, to veterinarian Page Yansley, left, and pet loss support group coordinator Linda Lawrence, two of the roughly 20 members of the bimonthly support group. Being the only currently running group of its kind in Michigan, many members, such as Nyland, drive an hour or more to attend the meetings. Like Nyland, many of the members are recovering from losing pets a year ago or more.

"It needs to be understood that this cat, dog, rabbit, guinea pig was a member of this person's family first."

Linda Lawrence, coordinator of MSU's Veterinary Social Work Services

By Mallory McKnight
THE STATE NEWS

A room in the Small Animal Clinic of the MSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital becomes a place to remember, share and, ultimately, heal twice a month for a group of people struggling with the death of a pet. The room contains a square conference table that slowly fills with people on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. Some have come from just down the road, and one has driven three hours from Traverse City. Awkward silence gives way to small talk as the group members recognize familiar faces and welcome new ones.

A woman clad in black greets the group members and offers them water and tissues in preparation for the sadness ahead. That woman, Linda Lawrence, coordinator of MSU's Veterinary Social Work Services, offers this group the only safe place that specializes in dealing with their kind of grief in Michigan.

"Many of them think they must be going crazy," Lawrence said. "We try to give their loss the attention it deserves."

Lawrence's pet loss support group serves clients of the MSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital and other veterinary practices who recently had a pet die and need a safe place to discuss their feelings.

The makeup of the group changes from

See THERAPY on page 2A

Get support

If you are struggling with the death of a pet, the pet loss support group meets at 6:30 p.m. every second and fourth Thursday of the month in Room A174 in the Small Animal Clinic of the MSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital, at the intersection of Bogue and Wilson streets.

FUNDING

Simon poses possibility of staff layoffs, tuition hikes

By Justin Harris
THE STATE NEWS

MSU would have to cut 703 faculty and staff or raise tuition 8.9 percent to overcome Gov. Jennifer Granholm's proposed \$9.1 million cut in state funding, President Lou Anna K. Simon said Friday.



Simon

On Thursday, Granholm proposed a 3.1 percent decrease in operating funds for MSU, which means the university would receive about \$283 million in 2009-10 as opposed to about \$293 million in 2008-09.

By estimating next year's standard inflation costs for the university—such as faculty salaries, utilities and health care—and taking into account the 3.1 per-

See TRUSTEES on page 2A

MSU satellite programs may face \$32M cut

By Allison Bush
THE STATE NEWS

All state universities lost funding in Michigan's recommended 2010 budget, but MSU took a harder hit than others with severe cuts to its satellite programs.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm called Thursday for combining the

MSU Extension program and MSU's Michigan Agriculture Experiment Station and reducing their funding by 50 percent, or \$32 million.

Tom Coon, director of MSU Extension, said he did not expect a recommendation for a cut of that size. In addition to causing problems for MSU, the funding cut also could cause a drop-off in the state's economy, he said.

See BUDGET on page 2A

ANNIVERSARY

NIU shooting victims seek closure 1 year later

From wire reports

Dekalb, Ill. — When Maria Ruiz-Santana talks about the day a suicidal gunman shot her in the throat during her geology class at Northern Illinois University, she sounds as if she's describing a nightmare from long ago.

"It feels like it happened to me years and years ago," said a calm, upbeat Ruiz-Santana, 21, who was among the 25 people shot in the Cole Hall lecture.

In reality, it's just been one year.

Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn joined thousands of mourners gathered at Northern Illinois on Saturday to mark the one year ago when a gunman fatally shot five students in a lecture hall before turning the gun on himself.

School administrators, students, and friends and families of the victims attended a commemoration ceremony and a wreath laying at a planned memorial site near the still-closed Cole Hall. Later, after the sun had gone down, hundreds stood outside the school's

student center holding vigil with candles for a moment of silence.

Police said Steven Kazmierczak, a 27-year-old former Northern Illinois student, stepped from behind a screen on the lecture hall stage on Feb. 14, 2008, carrying four guns. He fired dozens of shots into the geology class.

Officials and friends have said Kazmierczak struggled with mental health troubles, but no motive has been determined and no suicide note was ever found.

Kazmierczak's victims and their families have found different ways to cope. Some, like Ruiz-Santana, found closure in a visit to the still-closed Cole Hall.

"I wanted to go back because I felt that was the way for me to heal completely, emotionally," she said.

"Right after I got out of the room I felt like it was over. The doors are closed. Let's move on."

School President John Peters said the community had been "strengthened by a renewed

sense of unity and purpose." He was joined by Quinn and the victims' families in hanging wreaths at the site of last year's shooting, where five markers engraved with the names of each student killed, along with the words "Forward Together," stood.

University officials on Saturday announced a plan to plant 20 trees and erect five slabs of granite on a site near Cole Hall as a per-

See NIU on page 2A

LAST LAUGHS
University Activities Board is holding auditions for Last Spartan Standing, page 3A

Weather
Mostly Cloudy
High 31° | Low 22°
Three-day forecast, Page 2A