



Happy St. Patrick's Day! Local bars aren't worried about less celebrating due to the economy.

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LIZ KERSJES | SN

# The State News

## NO TEARS THIS YEAR

Junior forward Aisha Jefferson, reacts to the news that the MSU women's basketball team received a No. 9 seed in the NCAA Tournament. They will face off against No. 8 Middle Tennessee State on Sunday at Breslin Center. The winner will go on to possibly play Duke in the next round, which is led by former MSU head coach Joanne P. McCallie.



### Spartan women take No. 9 seed, start tournament at home

By Joseph Terry THE STATE NEWS  
A collective cheer took a year's worth of grief off the shoulders of the MSU women's basketball team. After being left out of the NCAA Tournament last season, the Spartans were awarded a No. 9 seed this season and will play No. 8 Middle Tennessee State in the first round of the tournament. MSU is hosting the first two rounds of the women's tournament at Breslin Center on Sunday and Tuesday. "Obviously we're excited," head coach Suzie Merchant said.

"We're really looking forward to playing here in Breslin, and having our fans here. (We're) going to play a very challenging game in that first round against Middle Tennessee State." Middle Tennessee State, the Sun Belt Conference champion, sports a record of 28-5 and has won 23 of its last 24 games. Some of the Blue Raiders' key wins this season have come over larger teams like Indiana, Arizona, LSU and Alabama.

The star of Middle Tennessee is forward Alysha Clark, who is averaging 27.2 points, 9.8 rebounds and two steals per game this season. "They're a very, very good team top to bottom, and it starts with her," Merchant said. Although the Spartans missed the NCAA Tournament last season, their deep

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### COURT MSU ATHLETE SENTENCED 30 DAYS JAIL TIME FOR ASSAULT

By Jacob Carpenter THE STATE NEWS  
MSU football player and track runner Mitchell White was sentenced Monday to 30 days in jail for his part in an off-campus fight involving several MSU athletes last October. In addition to the jail sentence, White, 18, was placed on 24 months' probation, ordered to serve 80 hours of community service and fined \$500. The 30-day jail sentence, handed down by East Lansing 54-B District Court Judge David L. Jordan, was halfway between the two-month sentence requested by the Ingham County prosecutor and the request for no jail time by White's attorney, East Lansing-based Kerry Cole. White, a freshman walk-on football player and track sprinter, pleaded guilty last month to



White

assaulting Sean Lerg, who was visiting friends when a fight broke out at the 130 Center St. house where several hockey players live. Lerg sustained minor injuries and didn't wish to press charges. His age is not listed in an East Lansing police report obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, but the report stated he was visiting East Lansing from Livonia. In his request for a light sentence, Cole said any jail time "seems to be excessive based on the particular facts and circumstances of this case, especially when the victim stated he wasn't interested in pursuing criminal charges." Cole declined to comment on the sentencing after it was handed down. In his ruling, Jordan cited a previous offense that White committed as a reason for the sentence. He did not elaborate on what the previous offense was, and no record of the offense could be found by The State News.

White was scheduled to be sentenced Oct. 22 — three days after the fight — for the previous offense. "To me, if there's ever a time to say, 'This is the best somebody is going to be,' this is about it," Jordan said of the days before White's sentencing in October. "Yet, this is the worst. This is unacceptable behavior." According to the police report, several witnesses stated that prior to the fight, which took place at about 1:45 a.m., White was involved in a small scuffle at 130 Center St. He left the house and later returned with several MSU football players, who witnesses said attacked people at the house, the report stated. White, who was dressed in a black suit on Monday and had family members in the courtroom, spoke briefly before the sentencing. "I want to apologize and

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### EAST LANSING City Council likely to vote in riot ordinance

By Jeff Kanan THE STATE NEWS  
As city officials prepare for a second public hearing and possible vote tonight on an ordinance that clarifies riot conduct, drafters of the ordinance said they continue to receive positive feedback from students. Students and residents will have a second chance to address the East Lansing City Council, which likely will vote on the ordinance at its meeting tonight, at 7:30 p.m. in Courtroom 2 of 54-B District Court, 101 Linden St. The ordinance defines more specifically the types of actions that will get students prosecuted at a riot. Such actions include throwing objects, discharging fire extinguishers, wearing gas masks, exposing body parts, taunting police and refusing to leave a street or sidewalk after being ordered to by police. Assistant City Attorney Tom Yeardon and East Lansing police Chief Tom Wibert, two drafters of the ordinance, have presented it and a short video of last April's

Riot conduct An ordinance that clarifies riot conduct will be discussed at the East Lansing City Council meeting tonight. The item more specifically defines prosecutable actions at a riot so students have better clarification in future event. Officials said the ordinance clarifies prosecutable acts in a riot and doesn't make the actions illegal in other circumstances. SOURCE: TOM YEARDON, ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY AND ONE OF THE DRAFTERS OF THE ORDINANCE

More online... To read the ordinance, visit statenews.com. Cedar Feet to various student and community groups in the weeks since the ordinance was introduced to council. Yeardon said students should See COUNCIL on page 2A

### OBITUARY

#### Family recalls prof's caring gestures, love of teaching

By Jacob Carpenter THE STATE NEWS

When Tom Luster left to visit family members in Chicago last weekend, he brought along a bunch of bananas to the Windy City for his father.



Luster

Luster knew his dad loved to eat bananas and worried his hotel wouldn't have any at breakfast. In this small gesture, Luster put his best trait on display in his final days. "He always worried about other people," said his wife of 29 years, Carol Luster. "He always put himself second and wanted to take care of everybody. He was the mediator who said, 'Let's think it out.'" Luster, an MSU family and child ecology professor known for his humble and generous nature, died Saturday of a heart attack while in Chicago. He was 55.

On Monday, family and MSU faculty remembered Luster as a dedicated teacher, loving family man and avid outdoorsman. After receiving his doctorate degree in 1985 from Cornell University, Luster arrived at MSU and poured his heart into teaching students about families and child development. He always tried to learn all of his students' names — even in large lectures — and made an effort to keep three-hour-long graduate classes entertaining, colleagues said. "He was just incredibly committed to students," said chairwoman of the Department of Family and Child Ecology Karen Wampler. "He took his teaching very seriously. He cared

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More online... Dr. Dennis Martell of Olin Health Center shares his thoughts on dealing with death in his weekly column, Dr. D. at statenews.com.

EARNING INTERNSHIPS Wonder how to make your resumé sparkle? Learn how to land an internship in today's Lifestyle section, 1B

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