

Don't forget!
Pick up the Friday edition of The State News for a special Final Four section that's a must-have for any fan



Senior forward Marquise Gray hugs senior guard Lucas Walton after the Spartans beat the Jayhawks 67-62 March 27 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. NICK DENTAMARO/THE STATE NEWS

The State News

HEALTH

VIRUS SICKENS 28 STUDENTS; SHAW DINING HALL CLOSED

By Jacob Carpenter
THE STATE NEWS

Health officials are awaiting lab results to determine the cause of a viral outbreak that sickened 25 to 30 MSU students and caused the indefinite closure of Shaw Hall's cafeteria Wednesday.

Investigators completed student interviews Wednesday afternoon looking for common links among students who were hospitalized with a stomach virus. The students, many of whom live in Shaw Hall, began arriving at Lansing's Sparrow Hospital at about 2 a.m. Wednesday with nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

As of 7 p.m. Wednesday, about a dozen of the estimated 28 students remained hospitalized, Sparrow Hospital spokeswoman Rose Tantraphol said. None of the students were ever in serious condition, Tantraphol said.

Shaw Hall's cafeteria and Totally Takeout were shuttered Wednesday morning when it became apparent the virus could have been contained to the dorm.

"We had enough indication from the university physicians that it appeared to be something at Shaw Hall," MSU spokesman Kent Cassella said.

As a precaution, fresh produce was pulled from cafeterias across campus by the university.

Officials at the Ingham County Health Department, which is leading the investigation, are seeking into whether the virus was food-borne.

"It's a possibility, but it's not that we're leaning to that or jumping to that conclusion," Ingham County Medical Director Dean Stenken said. "We know that when we have a cluster of people fall ill like this at the same time, oftentimes food is the responsible vehicle."

Sienko said health officials expect to receive the first round of lab tests today, which could shed light on what type of virus sickened the students. It's unclear whether the virus could have passed between students, Sienko said.

Animal science freshman and Shaw Hall resident Victoria Cann said she was awake throughout the night after her boyfriend, finance freshman Joe Hackett, was rushed to the hospital at about 3 a.m.

Cann said Hackett was in a Sparrow emergency room until 8 a.m., when he was moved to another room separate from other Shaw Hall residents suffering from a stomach virus.

"He feels better now and he wants to come home," Cann said Wednesday afternoon.

MSU Division of Housing & Food Services employees worked Wednesday to disinfect Shaw Hall bathrooms and door knobs, and windows in the hall were opened to improve ventilation to prevent the possibility of the virus' spread.

The closing of Shaw Hall's cafeteria and Totally Takeout set off a chain of events Wednesday that affected students' daily routines.

an informed spartan's guide to

THE FINAL FOUR

DETROIT



ANDREA ZAGATA | THE STATE NEWS

For an interactive map of Final Four events in Detroit this weekend, visit statenews.com.

FINAL FOUR

Fans show outside Breslin to send off team

By Joseph Terry
THE STATE NEWS

Crowds of MSU basketball fans showed at Breslin Center parking lot and lined Grand River Avenue on Wednesday to wish the men's basketball team good luck as they left for Detroit.

Matt Hargis, a park, recreation and tourism resources senior, showed up early to the event outside Breslin Center sporting a white No. 1 jersey, hoping to see some of the players before they left to face the University of Connecticut in the Final Four.

"I think we're just going to get to see the bus," Hargis said. "I think it's great." Hargis said, "No one gave us a chance against Louisville, but every-one here believed in them. It's just great that we finally get some respect and the Final Four is in Detroit this year, which is a big plus."



JASON CHIU/THE STATE NEWS

Students and fans crowd the loading dock ramp outside Breslin Center to show their support during a send-off of the men's basketball team as it left for Detroit on Wednesday to play in the Final Four this weekend.

Psychology junior Gary Miller said he was going crazy when the team won last weekend and was planning to go to Detroit even if he didn't have tickets.

"I was trying to get tickets but the link stopped working and I was too late," Miller said. "I'm going down to Detroit and I'm still trying to get tickets whether they're \$200 or not. I'm just trying to go down there."

While the Spartan Marching Band blared the fight song and the team bus pulled out of Breslin Center's tunnel and onto Shaw Lane to start its journey, hope was abundant amongst the crowd.

"I've had faith in them all along," Miller said. "I believe we can beat UConn just as we beat Louisville. They've been real good. I'm proud to be a Spartan."

Other fans weren't as ambitious, planning to stay closer to campus after missing out on tickets.

"I'm gonna stay up here and

By Justin Harris
and Jeff Kanan
THE STATE NEWS

Arne Dorshimer knew last summer she was going to the Final Four on Saturday. As part of an NCAA-sponsored lottery last May, the no-preference freshman was selected to purchase two tickets to the Final Four in Detroit. Now that the MSU men's basketball team will also be making the 91-mile trip Saturday, Dorshimer is all the more excited she'll be in the crowd at Ford Field.

"I almost died," Dorshimer said of her reaction to the Spartans' Final Four berth. "I was just excited to be going and (now) that the Spartans are going, oh my goodness, it's just amazing." Dorshimer is one of hundreds of Spartans fans planning to make the trek to Detroit to cheer on their team. Whether you have a ticket or not, The State News offers its guide to make your trip a successful one.

Detroit drive'

With 100,000 people expected to flood the Motor City this weekend, traffic congestion is almost guaranteed, Michigan Department of Transportation spokesperson Rob Morosi said.

The crowd at the game will be similar to a Detroit Lions sellout, but he said the difference in game time — 1 p.m. for a Lions game compared to 6 p.m. for the MSU game — could create some problems.

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GRADUATION

Nobel Prize-winning activist will address spring grads

By Jacob Carpenter
THE STATE NEWS

The man known as South Africa's Martin Luther King Jr. will deliver the university's keynote speech at commencement.



Desmond Tutu, a South African activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner, is scheduled to speak at 1 p.m. May 8 at Breslin Center. The event will be free to the public.

Tutu is known worldwide for his outspoken, nonviolent stance against apartheid, as well as his work in fighting AIDS, poverty and homophobia.

For decades, Tutu has combined "personal charisma with moral conscience and spiritual leadership," he has become one of the world's foremost peace activists, said Peter Alegi, an assistant history professor and a faculty member of MSU's African Studies Center.

"I think Desmond Tutu is probably on the same level as Nelson Mandela in South Africa," Alegi said. "He is arguably the moral conscience of the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa."

Tutu, 77, has been a teacher at various times throughout his life in South Africa, and in the United States. In 1960, he became an ordained minister and in 1978 he served as the first Black General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches.

From that position, Tutu denounced apartheid and organized nonviolent protests of the social system.

In 1984, six years after joining the South African Council of Churches, Tutu was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his passionate work fighting for equal rights in South Africa. The Desmond Tutu Peace Foundation partners with universities and organizations across the globe to spread peace and justice.

Tutu's presence at commencement reinforces MSU's

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PARTY'S OVER
E.L. police finish Cedar Fest prosecutions, prep for Final Four weekend, page 3A

Weather
PM Showers
High 61° | Low 44°
Three-day forecast, Page 2A

What do fans think about the team? Visit statenews.com/multimedia for a video.