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## Hockey team prepares to take on OSU in tough road game

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# WASHED AWAY

One year after MSU's first snow day in decades, signs of winter have become scarce

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It was dubbed Snowmageddon, Snowpocalypse and online, snowMG.

Whatever you called it, the February 2011 blizzard dumped more than a foot of snow on mid-Michigan and flipped a typical day at MSU on its head one year ago today.

"I was in the Women's Lounge at the Union, keeping up with what was going on," said Alex Hahn, an interdisciplinary studies in social science and health studies junior.

She debated with herself that Tuesday — to party that night, or not — and hoped for cancelled classes. Her wish, like many other Spartans' wishes, came true.

Looking out any window in East Lansing today, one would never know that a year ago today was a winter wonderland. Snow plows have gone unused, Ugg Boots barely broken in and warmer weather seems to be the new norm.

And although her dreams came true on Feb. 2, 2011 with a snow day, Hahn — like many others — isn't protesting the warmer winter.

### A 'classic' storm

"We got right in the sweet spot," said Bob Dukeshner, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Grand Rapids, of the storm that caused the snow day.

A few days prior, meteorologists were tracking an area of low pressure moving out of the Rocky Mountains toward the Great Lakes region. Weather service offices as far south as Texas issued warnings for the impending storm, and a blizzard warning went into effect for East Lan-

sing on Feb. 1, 2011 because of the threat for snow, cold and wind that night and the next day.

This system, along with a great deal of moisture from the Gulf of Mexico, created the conditions necessary to drop more than 13 inches of snow on MSU. Dukeshner said, along with winds gusting to near 50 mph.

"(Those storms) don't come around that often," he said.

The jet stream, which directs storm systems across the country, this year has oriented itself west to east rather than north to south — which would bring colder air from Canada to Michigan, Dukeshner said.

"The cold air has been bottled into Canada," he said. "We've been above average (temperatures) pretty much all winter long."

### Response to the elements

The storm in 2011 was enough to kick in emergency procedures, university spokesman Kent Cassella said.

MSU officials — including MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon, Provost Kim Wilcox, police, human resources staff and others — occasionally conduct drills to test the preparedness of the university in an emergency situation.

In 2009, a flood emergency scenario was carried out, Cassella said. A year later, officials met to practice how they would react if an illness struck campus. And in February 2011, a real emergency occurred.

"We don't want students to walk out to class in those dangerous conditions," Cassella said, referring to cold temperatures and the wind chill. "Once we reach those dangerous levels, we make a decision."

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JUSTIN WAN/THE STATE NEWS



STATE NEWS FILE PHOTO

Above: Political science senior Rachel Coleman does her daily workout Wednesday afternoon as she jogs by Lansing River Trail. The weather in East Lansing has been exceptionally warm this year, with fewer snow showers and higher temperatures. Below: Students drive down Albion Ave. waving a Michigan State flag and pulling their friend on a sled celebrating the snow day, Feb. 2, 2011

To watch a video of snow day memories go to [statenews.com/multimedia](http://statenews.com/multimedia)

# MSU introduces 18 incoming players on National Signing Day

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For MSU head football coach Mark Donantonio, recruiting has everything to do with the program's identity and where it aspires to be.

Headlined by four-star recruits wide receiver Aaron Burbridge and defensive back

Demetrius Cox, Donantonio introduced the 18 incoming players — 17 incoming freshman and one transfer — to the MSU football team on Wednesday at National Signing Day.

"When you go out and you recruit, first of all, I don't think it's a science, you look for things and people that are going to improve your football team," Donantonio said. "When you look at that and the process and the evaluation process, a lot of that has to do with who we are as a program and how we're going forward."

Wednesday was the first day high school seniors officially could sign a National Letter of Intent to universities.

The Spartans' class, which is ranked No. 39 nationally behind Big Ten opponents Ohio State (No. 4), Michigan (No. 7), Nebraska (No. 24) and Purdue (No. 34) according to college football recruiting website Rivals.com, features a cavalcade of players at skill positions to replace a talented departing group. In an effort to replace staples such as quarterback Kirk Cousins and wide

receivers B.J. Cunningham, Keshawn Martin and Keith Nichol of the 2011 squad, Donantonio scavenged talent from seven different states, including continuing his dominant presence in Michigan and Ohio.

In addition to Burbridge and Cox, the Spartans landed three four-star players and 13 three-star players, not including wide receiver transfer DeAnthony Arnett.

Of the team's new additions, Arnett and three-star wide receiver Kyle Kerrick are the only ones to have enrolled early at MSU.

"I want to be a big, strong, fast receiver," said Kerrick, who is 6-foot-3, 195 pounds and looking to add close to 15 more pounds before the fall. "I've got a lot of things to work on in my game, the route running, the getting off the press. I want to be a big, fast and strong receiver and get better."

Donantonio redshirted all but two of the 21 freshmen from his 2011 recruiting class. With a class of 17 seniors departing from MSU following the 2011 season, Donantonio and his staff have evaluated his young team and will look for

"immediate contributors" before the start of spring practice.

"It's important to recognize that our players have a lot to do with this recruiting class. I would publicly like to thank our players and what they had to do with recruiting this class," Donantonio said. "The numbers are not big, but when you look at the numbers of four seniors this year, those numbers were not big either. For that point, we have a lot of players coming back, and the future is extremely bright at Michigan State."

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## SAFETY

# Cafeteria overcrowding sparks controversy

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When no preference freshman Cassie Brignole first went to Case Hall's new South Pointe cafeteria after it opened early this semester, she saw people standing against the wall.

In the first few weeks after its opening, the cafeteria was filled to the brim with students standing on its perimeter walls or wandering around waiting for a seat to open up, she said.

"(It) can get a little overwhelming because of how

crowded it gets, so I try and go after the rush if I can," she said.

Despite the opening of the new cafeteria, other on-campus dining areas — particularly the Gallery at Snyder and Phillips halls — continue to have a high turnout of patrons, Associate Director of Residential Dining Bruce Haskell said.

Haskell addressed the crowding issue with the Residence Halls Association, or RHAs, last week after representatives brought their concerns for student safety because of the high-traffic flow at some cafeterias. Haskell said although the

Gallery is only about five years old, some of its seating has incurred damages from the volume of students coming in and out.

There has been some talk of changing seating in the Gallery to better alleviate the lunch-time crowding, although no plans officially are in the works, he said.

He mentioned adding an elevated seating section with a staircase to create more space on the floor or enclosing the current outdoor seating area to add about 80 additional seats as possible solutions.

"It might be kind of a dream,"

he said.

"It would be costly and require some work."

Accounting junior Natalie Beutler said she rarely eats at the Gallery because she lives off campus, but when she does, it is always busy and the lines are long.

"SnyPhi is always crowded," she said.

Haskell also said with potential construction plans in the works for the cafeterias in Akers and Landon halls, expanding the Gallery would require the dining ser-

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## NEWS BRIEF

### CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTS MEDICAL AMNESTY

The East Lansing City Council passed a resolution at its Tuesday night work session supporting medical amnesty legislation, which currently is making its way through the Michigan House of Representatives.

The legislation would protect minors who turn a friend or themselves in for medical treatment when intoxicated to the point of illness.

East Lansing Mayor Diane Goddeeris said city officials always look to support measures that protect personal safety of residents or students.

"We all have to be in this together," she said. "We want all the possibilities to be there (for assistance)."

The legislation — which recently was passed by the House Judiciary Committee almost unanimously — has been supported by ASMSU's undergraduate student government.

Another amnesty bill passed in the House before dying in a Senate committee at the end of 2010.

BEAU HAYHOE