MSUPD keeps tailgaters, fans safe on game day

MADDIE CURLEY // PUBLIC SAFETY

When Big Ten football show-downs can attract upward of 100,000 people to campus, public safety on game day at Spartan Stadium is no small task. MSU Police, alongside their on- and off-campus partners, work together to ensure that “it’s a beautiful day for football.”

“Before the season starts, we look at the schedule and anticipate what games will have a high impact and draw big crowds,” said Deputy Chief Penny Fischer, who heads the MSUPD Support Services Bureau. “The season’s schedule also determines our hiring and training needs for the upcoming year.”

Hiring and training of football staff goes beyond police and security; however. Volunteers and staff who work concessions, the box office, ushering, custodial and more fall to MSU Athletics, Auxiliary Services and Infrastructure Planning and Facilities.

“The collaboration among all the groups involved in Spartan football is an incredible example of teamwork,” Fischer added. “Each group is responsible for a piece, and all the pieces come together for it to work.”

MSUPD also receives police support for home football games from the city of East Lansing, Ingham County and the Michigan State Police, with local fire and ambulance services on standby as well.

Employee accountability

To keep track of all staff and volunteers who enter and exit the stadium, as well as officers’ responses and movements, MSUPD relies on an employee accountability software.

Background checks and assignments are recorded in the days leading up to the game, and all workers check in through security on game day. Uniquely numbered ID badges are assigned and printed on site.

“This system allows us to generate a digital fingerprint for all the workers inside the stadium,” said Steve Beard, employee accountability coordinator. “It’s really improved our ability to respond quickly when a situation arises and move officers to where they are needed.”

Traffic and parking

The Special Events Division is responsible for managing traffic routes, parking areas and staffing for big events on campus. Headed by Lt. Jon Martin, the division supports around 1,300 events per year, with football drawing the most.

“MSUPD uses a K9 on game day to check and monitor Spartan Stadium inside and out for explosives. Megan Parviainen (left) and her partner, K9 Blue, search pedestrian traffic and monitor the stadium’s perimeter throughout the day. PHOTO: DERRICK L. TURNER

The Michigan State Police, for all the workers inside the stadium, to make sure they have the support that they need. It's a beautiful day for football.”
NEW CHAPTER BEGINS FOR LIBRARY WITH GREEN ROOF

TOM YUHASZ /SUSTAINABILITY

For some, the idea of a "green" roof conjures up visions of landscaping staff pushing lawnmowers over the tops of campus buildings. But in reality, installing a green roof is a low-maintenance way of replacing natural spaces that were lost as part of building construction.

In August, the MSU Library received the "green carpet" treatment on its southwestern roof, where 2,200 square feet of sedum mats that can withstand both drought and deluge, were installed. The library joins other campus buildings that sport green roofs, including Plant and Soil Science, Wells Hall, Rather Hall, Bailey Hall and Brody Hall. Developed in Germany in the 1960s, modern green roof technology involves covering a rooftop with a waterproof membrane, growing medium and vegetation.

The waterproof membrane forms the "work of keeping the building dry," said Wayne Buck, roofing skilled trades supervisor. "In addition, there is a drain mat and root barrier system sandwiched between the water-proofing and vegetative layers of the membrane." He adds, "The root barrier prevents the vegetation from growing into and damaging the waterproofing, and the drain mat adds separation and helps in proper drainage of runoff." The plants arrive in modules, which are trays complete with soil-less growing medium and vegetation, designed to be installed side-by-side on top of the waterproof membrane. The modular design allows sections of the roof to be replaced with maintenance without disturbing the remainder of the plants. "Green roof systems have many benefits besides just a good view," Buck said. "They reduce airborne pollutants, capture and hold water, provide habitat for various animals, reduce sewer overflows, save energy by providing additional insulation, and in the case of rain, contribute to the decay of existing roofing materials."

He adds, "European studies have found that a green roof can double, or even triple, the life expectancy of a roof."

DIRECTOR OF MSU CRYOGENIC INITIATIVE
HONORED FOR ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENTS
Venkatarao (Rao) Ganni, director of the MSU Cryogenic Initiative, professor of accelerator physics and adjunct professor of mechanical engineering, received the Samuel C. Collins Award, given for lifetime achievement, at the 2019 Cryogenic Engineering Conference and International Cryogenic Materials Conference. The CEC grants the award to individuals who have given outstandingly of themselves in the identification and solution of cryogenic engineering problems, and who have demonstrated their concern for the cryogenic community with their dedicated and unselfish professional service and leadership.

NOMINATIONS FOR EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AWARDS DUE Nov. 5

The fall nomination period for the statewide and welcoming campus must include diversity, equity and inclusion. Every year, MSU’s Excellence in Diversity Recognition and Awards Program recognizes individuals, teams, units and organizations across campus for exemplary commitment to these principles and for their contributions to MSU. Members of the MSU community are encouraged to nominate those whose efforts reach the level of excellence essential to making MSU a welcoming and inclusive community. The deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 15. Learn more at go.msu.edu/4nPp.

PROFESSOR EARN DARPA FELLOWSHIP

PAT MROCEK /ACADEMICS

Jeffrey Nanzer has been awarded a director’s fellowship from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. Nanzer is the Den- nis P. Nyquist assistant professor in MSU’s Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

The one-year $250,000 award extends Nanzer’s efforts to make dramatic improvements in radar, remote sensing and communications applications. Nanzer joined MSU as a faculty member in 2016. In 2017, Nanzer won a $400,000 DARPA Young Faculty Award, or YFA, to create technologies enabling separation, small wireless systems to collaborate as a single system. Rather than redesigning new and larger systems when performance increases are needed, he said adding small and cheap nodes to the distributed system will reduce both costs and development time.

"The aim is to develop methods for precise coordination among multiple nodes and explore the new capabilities enabled by heterogeneous distributed arrays," Nanzer said.

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MSU is developing a large genomic database to assist in cancer immunotherapy research. Bin Chen, assistant professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Human Development and Pharmacology and Toxicology, is developing a database to help scientists discover new drugs to fight cancer. This bin Chen, assistant professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Human Development and Pharmacology and Toxicology, is developing a database to help scientists discover new drugs to fight cancer. The database will be available for use by said company immediately. From there, the sponsor will give the Chen Lab feedback to shape the research and make it more translational.
MELANIE KAUFFMAN //ACADEMICS

A critically acclaimed exhibit at the Morgan Library and Museum in New York City tells the dramatic story of how the great Italian operatic masterpieces “Otello” and “Falstaff” came to be.

The curator of the scholars have City tells the dramatic exhibit at the Morgan Library of a commercial activity A critically acclaimed ex- cant cultural contributions the business of culture;

Melanie Kauffman

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PRESS DIRECTOR CURATES EXHIBIT IN NEW YORK CITY

TONY VUHASZ //FACILITIES

Red water…black water…root balls…no, it’s not some kind of home energy drink — it’s just another day in the life of a steam, distribution and outside weld crew member. This 20-man team, headed by supervisor Sam Fortino, is made up of three individ- ual crew with almost 400 years of combined experi- ence.

The steam crew is responsible for maintaining the steam heating and cooling systems within buildings, as well as installing systems in new construction.

The outside weld crew takes care of various welding needs across campus. And the distribution crew (affectionately known as “dirty workers”) is responsible for the lines that bring steam from the power plant to individual facilities, the pipes that bring water from the reservoir to individual structures and the lines that transport sewage away from buildings.

A typical day starts out with a meeting to discuss projects and needs. From there, workers return to the locations of their projects, with those manning the two trouble trucks handling overnight calls, as well as other urgent needs. Their work takes them across campus, and they often find themselves collaborating with engineers, managers and other skilled trade workers.

However, the word “typical” is used loosely. Besides the day-to-day “business as usual” tasks, these guys tackle a huge range of unanticipated urgencies. However, the overwhelming sentiment from crew mem- bers is that they really enjoy the variety of work they do and the challenges it offers.

“I used to have a large welding crew that I had to train. It’s a complicated business, and it’s a business that few people have,” says that people who

Tony Vuhasz

Steam, Weld, Distro Crews Get Dirty, Keep MSU Running

Jason Poli, a member of the steam, weld, and outside weld crew, works on a condensate return line that is part of the campus steam system. The weld crew makes up a 20-member team that keeps the steam and water flowing across MSU.

Photo// Courtesy of MSU

WHAT CAN A HACKER DO WITH YOUR STOLEN FINGERPRINTS?

There are multiple ways to fool fingerprint readers, according to Anil Jain, who heads the Biometrics Research Group at Michigan State University. “This particular data breach is serious, because not only were the fingerprints of the individuals exposed, but also the metadata” — that is, the associated identities and login information. Stolen fingerprints are more helpful to hackers if they also have that info, since two-factor security systems often require both conventional passwords and fingerprint scans.

SLATE

go.msu.edu/mFP

1 in 8 girls has faced ‘reproductive coercion’

“Reproductive coercion is a form of power and control exerted via influencing women’s health, sexuality and health care behavior,” said study co-author Heather McCauley, an assistant profes- sor of social work at Michigan State University.

She added that the findings highlight a broader public health issue.

HealthDay

go.msu.edu/gFP

>> MSU IN THE NEWS

News featuring MSU research, experts and successes

IT’S ON US WEEK OF ACTION

Members of the It’s On Us week of action planning committee hand out T-shirts and cookies to MSU students during the kickoff of the week dedicated to raising awareness of the issues of relationship violence and sexual misconduct. Events were held across campus Oct. 14-18.

Photo//OVERKIN L. TURKHH

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Photo// Courtesy of MSU

HAVE POLICE REALLY THwarted MORE MASS SHOOTINGS SINCE EL PASO AND DAYTON, OR ARE WE JUST PAYING CLOSER ATTENTION?

David Carter, a criminal justice professor at Michigan State University, says that people who are already thinking about committing a mass shooting can be influenced by seeing other at- tacks.

“It’s almost like a cult mentality. They see other people to say, ‘Oh, look what he did. I can do that,’” Carter tells TIME. “It infects other people to say, ‘Ohh, look what he did. I can do that.’”

TIME

go.msu.edu/gFP

STUDENT SAYS SHE’S BEEN REPortED 13 TIMES FOR BEING A ‘FRAUDSTER’

The student’s attorney, Tony Pihl, said the university unfairly labeled the student and did not allow her to present her case.

The student, who is seeking a bachelor’s degree in accounting, said she was first reported in August 2017, after a college administrator said she was not her own student.

She was told by the university’s Office of Student Conduct that she would be suspended if she was reported again.

“I don’t understand why they’re targeting me,” she said.

The university did not respond to requests for comment.

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NEW REPORT EXPLOres MENTAL HEALTH PROBlems AMONG JUNIORS AND SENIORS

The study, which is the first of its kind at the university, found that students in their final two years are more likely to be struggling with mental health issues, including anxiety, depression and substance abuse.

The findings are based on a survey of 1,000 students.

“Juniors and seniors are in a very vulnerable period of their lives," said Jeanne C. Parry, the study’s lead author.

The survey found that 41 percent of the students reported feeling “very anxious” or “extremely depressed” at least once in the past year.

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>> IN MEMORIAM

RICHARD H. FRANCIS

Richard H. Francis, MSU Food Stores system analyst supervisor, died Oct. 3. Francis joined the staff in 1971 and retired in 1997.

M. ALI ISSARI


EUGENE STAUFAFFER


CHARLOTTE THOMPSON