

THE 411

- MARCH 14-19, 2023

“Beetlejuice” Cobb Great Hall

for times and ticket information call 1-800-WHARTON.
- MARCH 25, 2023

“Imani Winds World Premier” Cobb Great Hall 8:00pm for ticket infor call 1-800-WHARTON.
- MARCH 26, 2023

The Frame Factory Presents The Karaoke Kickback at Urban Beat

9:00pm-11:59pm 1213 Turner Street for more info call 517-331-844
- MARCH 30, 2023

“Upbeat Thursdays, Anthony Taylor Trio” 7:00-10:00pm Urban Beat

1213 Turner Street for more information call 517-517-331-8440
- MARCH 30, 2023

“Cyrille Aimee” Pasant Theatre 7:30pm for ticket information Call 1-800-WHARTON.
- APRIL 18-29, 2023

“TINA” The Tina Turner Musical Cobb Great Hall for ticket information call 1-800-WHARTON
- APRIL 28-29, 2023

“Cross That River” Pasant Theatre (April 29th Sensory friendly performance)

For times and ticket information call 1-800-WHARTON

WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

About Time: Toni Morrison Honored With New Stamp



The Nobel laureate was recently immortalized on a stamp honoring her prolific career as a writer, editor, scholar, and mentor.

Toni Morrison: photograph by Timothy Greenfield Sanders via Flickr (left)



WIB) – Nobel laureate and former Texas Southern University faculty member Toni Morrison was recently “forever immortalized” on a stamp honoring her prolific career as an uncompromising, “For the culture” writer, editor, scholar and mentor. The new stamp was unveiled Tuesday morning in a tribute at Princeton University, where she taught for almost two decades. A “who’s who” list of guest speakers shared words of celebration via Zoom, including President Barack Obama, forever First Lady Michelle Obama, and Oprah Winfrey. Houstonians and Defender readers from across the country shared their thoughts on the stamp tribute honoring Morrison, author of such must-read classics as “The Bluest Eye,” “Song of Solomon” and “Beloved,” just to name a few.

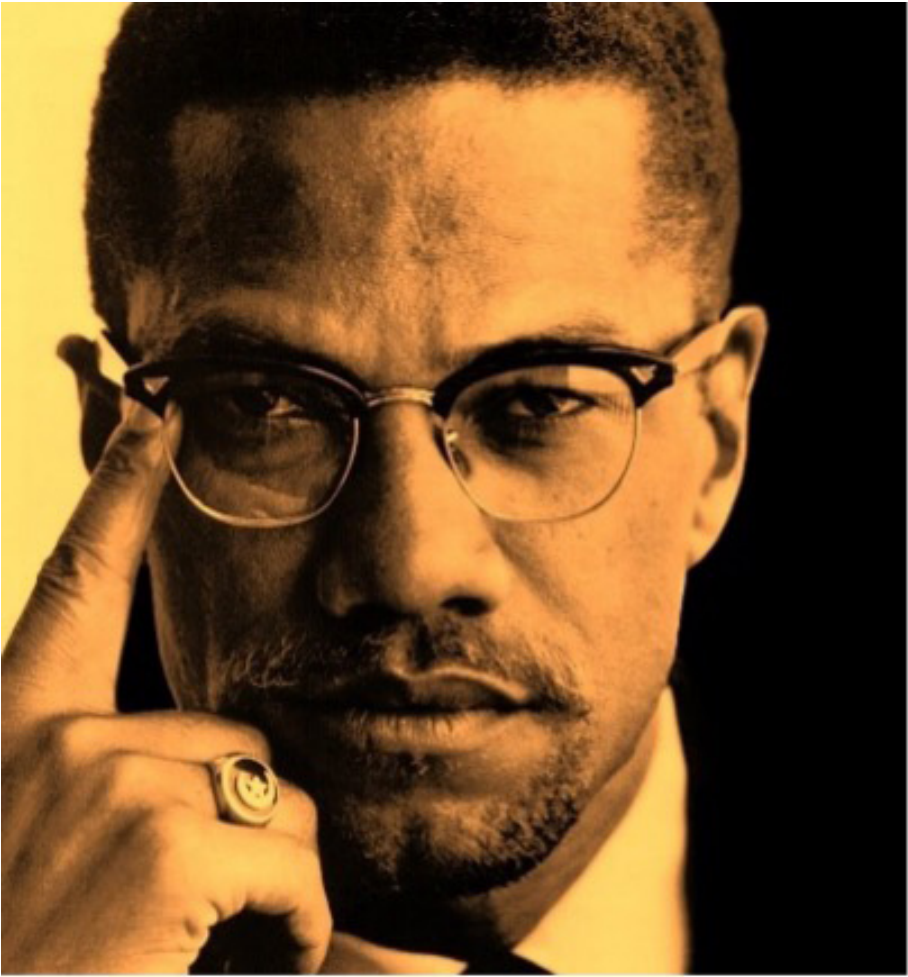
“It’s beautiful that Princeton and whoever makes these decisions about who gets placed on stamps chose to honor Toni Morrison is such a manner. But we, as Black people, should not be holding our breath, waiting on others to honor our own.” (Frederika Jamison) “I’m absolutely loving this. Morrison is my fav author of all time... since my grandma introduced me to her way back in the early 2000s—you know, the olden days. Imma go buy up ALL THE STAMPS, and I don’t even send snail mail! (ShaVoncia Quentin) “One of my all-time favorite hip-hop lyrics comes from Public Enemy when Chuck D says ‘Cause I’m Black and I’m proud. I’m ready and hyped ‘cause I’m amped. Most of my heroes don’t appear on no stamp. Sample a look back you look and find nuthin’ but rednecks for 400 years if you check.’ Well, now we have

another one of our heroes on a stamp.” (DJ Big Black Afrika) “OMG. It’s so nice to see someone who was not here for the white nationalist bullsh*t get honored while the country is going through new levels of more white nationalist bullsh*t. Damn. Wait a minute. Maybe it’s not so nice. Maybe this is just one of those ploys to calm us down... No. I’m going to enjoy this little win irregardless and lift a wine glass in honor of my girl Toni.” (Cynthia Bowen-Charles) “Like the stamp. I’d like it more if Black people created what Morrison wrote about in ‘The Bluest Eye,’ that ‘SEVEN DAYS’ group. If you don’t know, you better ask somebody.” (Flinton Douglas) Article and picture courtesy of BlackWorld.com

Malcolm X’s family to sue CIA, FBI, NYPD in \$100M ‘wrongful death’ lawsuit

The family of civil rights leader Malcolm X announced on the anniversary of his 1965 assassination that they intend to sue U.S. government entities — including the FBI, CIA and New York Police Department — for \$100 million, alleging they played a part in his death. Attorneys detailed the forthcoming lawsuit at a news conference Tuesday, at the same Manhattan location where the religious and civil rights leader was shot and killed 58 years ago. “We want justice served for our father,” said one of his daughters, Ilyasah Shabazz, an administrator of Malcolm X’s estate. She spoke at the news conference alongside her sister Qubilah. The circumstances surrounding Malcolm X’s death have long been shrouded in mystery. Two men who were convicted of murdering the activist were exonerated in 2021 after serving decades in prison — and the New York District Attorney admitted that the case against them was flawed, and that law enforcement at the time withheld evidence.

The move renewed public interest in the case and fueled long-held conspiracy theories about the possible culpability of law enforcement, particularly of the New York Police Department. Ilyasah Shabazz took the first steps required under New York law by anyone planning to sue the state, filing notices of claim that said government entities at the federal and local level in New York “conspired with each other and with other individuals and acted, and failed to act, in such a way as to bring about the wrongful death of Malcolm X,” according to the Associated Press. At the news conference, civil rights attorney Ben Crump appeared to put an even finer point on it. Asked directly by a journalist if he thought government agencies were involved in the conspiracy to assassinate Malcolm X, Crump replied: “That is what we are alleging, yes.” The CIA did not respond to a request for comment Wednesday. Spokespeople for the FBI, NYPD and New York District Attor-



ney’s Office declined to comment. Malcolm X was assassinated on Feb. 21, 1965, when he was just 39. He was shot while preparing to give a speech at the Audubon Ballroom. A bodyguard shot one of the assailants trying to flee the scene, Talmadge Hayer, and captured him. Hayer, who goes by Mujahid Abdul Halim, later confessed to killing Malcolm X. He spent 45 years in prison and was released on parole in 2010. However, Hayer long insisted that the two other men who were arrested and jailed for the crime, Muhammad A. Aziz and Khalil Islam, both members of the Nation of Islam, were innocent. Hayer told authorities in 1977 that he planned the killing with four different men because they were incensed by Malcolm X’s public feud with Nation of Islam leader

Elijah Muhammad. After decades in prison, Aziz, who previously went by the name of Norman “3X” Butler, was paroled in 1985. Islam, who went by Thomas “15X” Johnson, was paroled in 1987. They were the subject of a Netflix documentary, “Who Killed Malcolm X?,” that came out the same year as the New York district attorney began to reinvestigate the case. Following a review of the available evidence from the case, the New York District Attorney’s Office recommended that the two men’s first-degree murder convictions be vacated. The office also acknowledged law enforcement failings in the case. It said the FBI and NYPD did not honor their obligation to disclose exculpatory evidence to prosecutors and the accused — including “infor-

mation that implicated other suspects; that identified witnesses who failed to identify defendant Islam; and that revealed witnesses to be FBI informants.” It said FBI records suggested “that information was deliberately withheld.” Last October, Aziz and the estate of Khalil Islam received a \$36 million settlement from the city of New York. The city’s Law Department said in a statement at the time that it agreed with former Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr.’s conclusion that the men had been wrongfully convicted. Crump said Tuesday that the city’s settlement and the District Attorney’s conclusions made it possible to build a case for wrongful death against authorities involved in the 1965 investigation and gave “Malcolm’s daughters an opportunity to seek legal redress, finally.” “If the government compensated the two gentlemen that were wrongfully convicted for the assassination of Malcolm X with tens of millions of dollars, then what is to be the compensation for the daughters who suffered the most from the assassination of Malcolm X?” Crump asked. Attorney Ray Hamlin, whom Crump identified as his co-counsel, said that family members of Malcolm X involved in the prospective lawsuit include his daughters Ilyasah, Qubilah, Gamilah and Malaak Shabazz — as well as the daughter of Malikah Shabazz, another of Malcolm X’s daughters who died in 2021.

Speaking briefly from the podium during Tuesday’s news conference, Ilyasah Shabazz — who was in the room when Malcolm X was assassinated — described her father as man who “gave his life for human rights.” “The truth about the circumstances leading to the death of our father is important, not only to his family, but to many followers, many admirers, many who look to him for guidance, for love,” Shabazz said. Sydney Trent, Shayna Jacobs and Marisa Iati contributed to this report.

WHAT’S INSIDE

March

Woman’s History Month

Rest In Peace

Jason Gentry 2008-2023

Judy Ann Robbins 1953 to 2023

Ervin Johnson Sr 1934 2023

POETREE N MOTION

TAKING A SEAT

©Dee Freeman



A hero in her own right, Rosa Parks will forever hold a special place in my heart. She displayed courage above and beyond duty, with grace and calm; doing her part. When destiny came her way, she would not be threatened, nor be alarmed. She would reach deep within and accept this challenge with open arms. When chance tugged at her coat-tail, she stood her ground firmly, with no fears. When the powers demanded obedience, she refused with the pride of four hundred years. When injustice of the law grabbed at her dignity, she faced it down with no fears. When ordered to get up from her seat, she sat quietly; with a spirit to fight. For she knew time had come, time to put the Satans of injustices to flight.

She would sit in her seat! That FAMED SEAT: not knowing that resting her tired body that day would make history...Worldwide. Not knowing her sitting down on that day meant she was 'standing up for justice' as Martin Luther King Jr. so eloquently

stated. Not knowing her sitting down meant she was putting into action her inalienable right; Not knowing her sitting down meant she was showing a people they didn't have to settle for such ignorance and injustice; Not knowing her sitting down meant she was leading a people into their future of equality for all; Not knowing her sitting down meant she was speaking out against four centuries of hatred, condescension, apathy, abuse, and injustices; Not knowing her sitting down meant she was using her love to elevate a downtrodden and unjustly cast people; Not knowing her sitting down meant she was thinking of what could be and what should be in a land so tarnished and divided by myths and stereotypes;

Rosa Parks sat down then; now we must get up now we must wake up now we must lift our heads up now we must speak up

She sat down then; now we must stand up... Stand up in our families...pulling them close together Stand up in our communities... making them become better Stand up in our churches... beseeching an Almighty God Stand up everywhere we go... making the road easier for others to trod Whenever we get the chance... we must stand up for good and for right Stand up when the prison bars hold us from making a productive life We must stand up when scrub-

bing floors on our knees Stand up when times are hard and we're not expected to succeed

Stand up at the voting booths...to bring in a caring government... A governing body that will help us to help ourselves, as it is inherently meant...

We must continue to make Rosa Parks' sitting down mean more than just taking a seat on a bus...for all ethnicities-for all of us... We must make it mean we've grown over these past years We must make it mean we have broken down negative myths and fears We must make it mean we are finally straightening our bent backs and as a united people...getting our bodies and our minds synchronized and back on track We must make it mean we are willing: to walk together to talk together to play together to pray together to laugh together to cry together to work together to bond together to unite and stand together to march and press forward together We are our sister's and our brother's keepers and as such, we must fight and even die together when our backs are against the wall for that just cause that's of benefit to us all...

As Rosa Parks sits in heaven, watching us carry the torch of commitment Let's make her proud of our stance and proud of our accomplishments Let's now take our seats...on the bus of life: On the seat of right On the seat of justice

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CONGRATULATIONS! REV. KENNY CRAIG Senior Pastor-Elect

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Union Missionary Baptist Church family is excited to welcome Pastor-Elect Kenny Craig and First Lady-Elect Corrie Craig to Lansing MI. Please stay tuned for updates about their arrival and the work that God is doing in our ministry.

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APPLICATION PERIOD: FEBRUARY 20TH - APRIL 15TH, 202

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For more information go to www.lansingjuneteenthcelebration.org or email: education@lansingjuneteenthcelebration.org

Calling all 6th-12th grade students!

The 2023 Lansing Juneteenth Mr. Cordell Henderson Essay Competition and Scholarship Program

Juneteenth PREPARING THE ESSAY WORKSHOPS Competition Dates: February 20 – April 15, 2023 Workshop Dates and Locations


March 8, 2023 6:00 p.m. Capital Area District Library – South Branch 3500 S. Cedar St. Lansing, MI 48910 Conference Room

March 15, 2023 6:00 p.m. VIRTUAL Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85908259001?pwd=bnR4ckNlcZKcVdtNWWh2aXhkdUIPQT09> Meeting ID: 858 0825 9001 Passcode: 511834

March 22, 2023 6:00 p.m. East Lansing Public Library 950 Abbott Road East Lansing, MI 48823 The Meeting Room

April 5, 2023 6:00 p.m. VIRTUAL Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87554033347?pwd=eU9HYWVWRnZHZStLSHBzMW10N1Zsdz09> Meeting ID: 875 5403 3347 Passcode: 730854

For more information go to www.lansingjuneteenthcelebration.org or email: education@lansingjuneteenthcelebration.org




SOUL II SOUL INFLUENCE: UNEXPECTED BLESSINGS! 03142023

Pastor/Chaplain Pamela June (PJ) Anderson, DMin.

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Lt. Commander (RET) US Navy Chaplain Corps

Certified Peer Support Specialist



BE STILL AND YOUR SOUL WILL SPEAK

16“For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. John 1:16

FROM HIS ABUNDANCE
WE HAVE ALL RECEIVED
ONE GRACIOUS BLESSING
AFTER ANOTHER.
JOHN 1:16

Eternal God and Faithful Friend, thank You for allowing my Niecee Jo and her daughter, Grand Niecee Candace, to visit me from Seattle. It is their visit to Michigan, though probably not their last. Grand Niecee is house hunting and planning to move to Detroit around October, my favorite month for its beauty. Her mom and I are relieved in that I am within 90 miles and we will have family nearby. Their visit is one of many unexpected blessings!

The other unexpected blessing comes from Niecee Jo. She helped me prepare Sunday’s dinner. Grand Candice set the table and offered the blessing. And, while we are eating and chatting, suddenly, Jo says, “Wait! It’s time for me to pray.” I reminded her that her daughter had prayed already, to which Jo said, “I pray prayers of thanksgiving every day at 12:30 pm.” So, Candice and I lowered our silverware, and Jo prayed a special prayer of appreciation for traveling mercies, for meeting me in Michigan for the first time, for her husband, by name her children, grandchildren, and sisters back in the west, friends, exercise partner, and prayer partner. She also thanked God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

I am offering the invocation for the Mayor’s State of the City tonight. I’m praying about making it a prayer of gratitude. I am also praying about daily prayers of appreciation at 12:30 pm – out loud, no matter where I am or what I am doing.

We live in a world where thanksgiving seems to be mentioned only on Thanksgiving Day. We are bombarded with lies, disappointments, and broken promises from the governments and many legislatures. I might add that not so few churches are missing the mark in many instances. Some have stopped preaching about Christ and Him crucified.

Unexpected Blessings are ways for God to remind us that when God calls us to do something, God provides the way for us to accomplish it. God also uses unexpected blessings to teach us that we are never alone.

Will you join me in setting a daily time to pause and show gratitude for family, friends, and God’s faithfulness? It is a privilege and a pleasure to pray, breathe the breath of life, and give God appreciation for all things, especially unexpected blessings.



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Celebration

Announcements

Mr. Party, The Ambassador of Celebration

Birthdays in March 2023

Ms. Justice Foster celebrates her birthday on March 16th with her Mother, brothers and sisters.

Mrs. Emogene Leek celebrates her birthday on March 17th with her husband and family, all of them expressing their Love!

Ms. Ciara Wireman celebrates her 23rd birthday on March 17th.

Ms. Briana Gonzales-Jefferson celebrates her birthday on March 19th. Dad says, Happy Birthday little Princess!!!

Ms. Virginia Lewis celebrates her birthday,” 36 years young”, on March 19th. She says, “Much Love!”

Mr. Mark Anthony Brown, in memory , was born on March 20th. Family and friends say “We miss You”.

Ms. Annette Johnson, born on March 20, 1959, celebrates her 64th birthday.

Ms. Pamela Renzi celebrates her 50th birthday on March 21st, celebrating with friends and family.

Ms. Theresa Daniels celebrates her birthday on March 22nd.

Ms. Keesha Home celebrates her 42nd birthday on March 22nd, enjoying time spent with her beautiful children.

Mrs. Nya {Chopper’s Wife} celebrates her 40th birthday on March 22nd, along with Mr. Chopper {Nya’s Husband} celebrating his 47th birthday on March 25th and their 15th year anniversary on March 23rd.

Mr. Robert Brown Jr., in memory, was born on March 23rd . Truly missed: He and his lovely wife, Joy.

Master Brayden Konen enjoys his 13th birthday on March 23rd. “Happy Birthday! Mommy loves you!”

Ms. Valerie Floyd celebrates her 46th birthday on March 23rd with family and friends.

Ms. Quintine Medley celebrates her 36th birthday on March 23rd.

Mr. John K. Elliott celebrates his birthday on March 23rd. “A friend in need is a friend indeed.”

Ms. Monica Burrell celebrates her birthday on March 23rd. She says,” A special day spent with family and friends; thanks so much!”

Ms. Nellie M. Garvie born March 24th, celebrates her 73rd birthday with her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren... We love you so much!!!

Mr Matt McCoy, Scratch Pilots DJs, celebrates his birthday on March 25th . Love You, Your wife Bree

Ms. Melinda M. Ball born March 25th celebrates her birthday with her Mother, sisters, brother, children and grandchildren... We love you so much!!!

Ms. Gina Mojica celebrates her birthday on March 26th, with family and friends. “The Puerto Rican Lady”

Ms. Shelly Ryan celebrates her birthday on March 28th, with family and friends.

Mr. Bill Ryan, in memory, was born on March 28th,missed by family and friends.

Ms. Nikki Holman celebrates her birthday on March 13th.

Ms. Esther Rodea celebrates her birthday on March 15th; partied with my family.

Ms. Mary A. Clark celebrates her birthday on March 25th.

Mr. Brandon Henderson celebrates his birthday on March 25th.

Mr. Ralph Riddle Sr. We honor his memory, celebrated his birth on March 25th.

Ms. Allison Chenault celebrates his birthday on March 25th.

Mr. Michael Bower celebrates his birthday on March 25th.

Ms. Rita Pizana celebrates her birthday on March 26th with family and friends.

Mr. Bishop Cousin celebrates his birthday on March 26th.

Ms. Taurean A. Jackson celebrates her birthday on March 26th.

Mr. Don Rodriguez celebrates his 64th birthday on March 26th, with his beautiful wife Julia and family.

Mrs. Gwendolyn Bodiford celebrates her birthday on March 27th, with her husband and family.

Ms. Brittany Eaton celebrates her birthday on March 27th.

Mr. Marcus Turner celebrates his birthday on March 27th.

Ms. Sheila Fuller celebrates her birthday on March 27th.

Ms. Angela Eaton celebrates her birthday on March 28th.

Mr. James Edward Garvie Sunrise March 30th, 1954 - Sunset February 18th, 2002. “WE will always LOVE and KEEP you FOREVER in our HEARTS and YOUR memory ALIVE for as long as we live!” Rest in Paradise Daddy!!!

Ms. Eunice F. Foster celebrates her birthday on March 31st.

Ms. Jessie J. Storey-Fry celebrated her birthday on March 31st.

Anniversaries

Mr. & Mrs. Myron & Dee Freeman celebrated their 33rd wedding anniversary on February 14th.

Announcements

Mr Ronnie Brown , celebrated his birthday on January 27th.

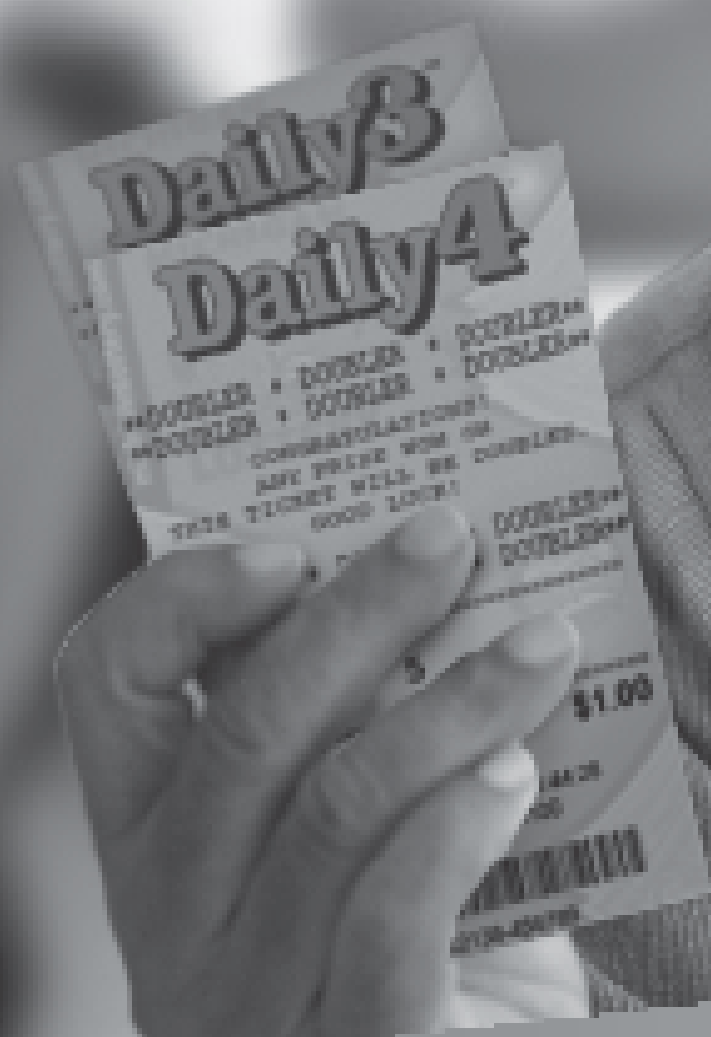
Friendship is Forever; We’re in this for Life!!!

Face book Page: www.facebook.com/mrparty1985

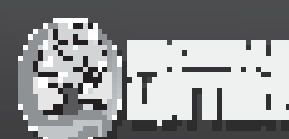
Celebration Gram: Your special message delivered by; Mr. Party, The Ambassador of Celebration!!!

Contact 517 391-4849; email: mrparty1985@gmail.com

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[illegible]

This winter...
**KEEP YOUR
COVID-19 VACCINES
UP TO DATE »**



Help protect yourself, your family and the community by keeping your COVID-19 and flu vaccines up to date. Let's enjoy all the togetherness we can this winter. Find a vaccine location near you at **Michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine**.



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Dr. Paul Elam (above) is an enthusiastic and dedicated leader. He has a passion to see believers walk in the Word of God to fulfill their kingdom destiny and experience the abundant life. His ministry focuses on the total man and woman and encourages the people of God to apply Kingdom principles to all aspects of their lives. Pastor Paul joined the Tabernacle of David Church in 2005, accepted the call to ministry in 2012 and became an Associate Pastor in 2017. He has served in numerous roles, including president of the church Board of Directors. In 2022, Senior Pastor Larry M. Trice, Jr. installed Pastor Paul as one of two leaders to succeed him as a Pastor at the Tabernacle of David Church (TOD). He oversees the ministry's administration, business, and community outreach and engagement initiatives.

Pastor Paul was born in 1972 and raised in Detroit, Michigan. Holiness was instilled in him by two spirit-filled parents, the late Deacon Herman Daniels and Missionary Brenda Daniels. In 1981, Pastor Paul accepted Christ as his Savior during a youth service at his church, Greater Love Tabernacle Church of God in Christ. After graduation from Cass Technical High School, Pastor Paul joined the Army Reserve and moved to East Lansing to attend Michigan State University where he earned his bachelors and doctorate degrees in criminal justice, urban studies and family and child ecology. Pastor Paul employs the same Kingdom principles in his business ventures as he does in the church and has

experienced much favor from God and men. He currently serves as Chief Strategy Officer of MPH, a Michigan-based and nationally engaged non-profit public health institute. Pastor Paul has been the loving husband of Eldress Kendra Elam since 1997. Together they have six children, Tayler (Elam) Harps and husband Taylor Harps, David Elam, Kaleb Elam, Lyndyn and Justyce Elam. **Mark A. Parker (below)** is an impactful, relevant pastor and teacher of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He has dedicated his life to discovering God through His Word and expressing

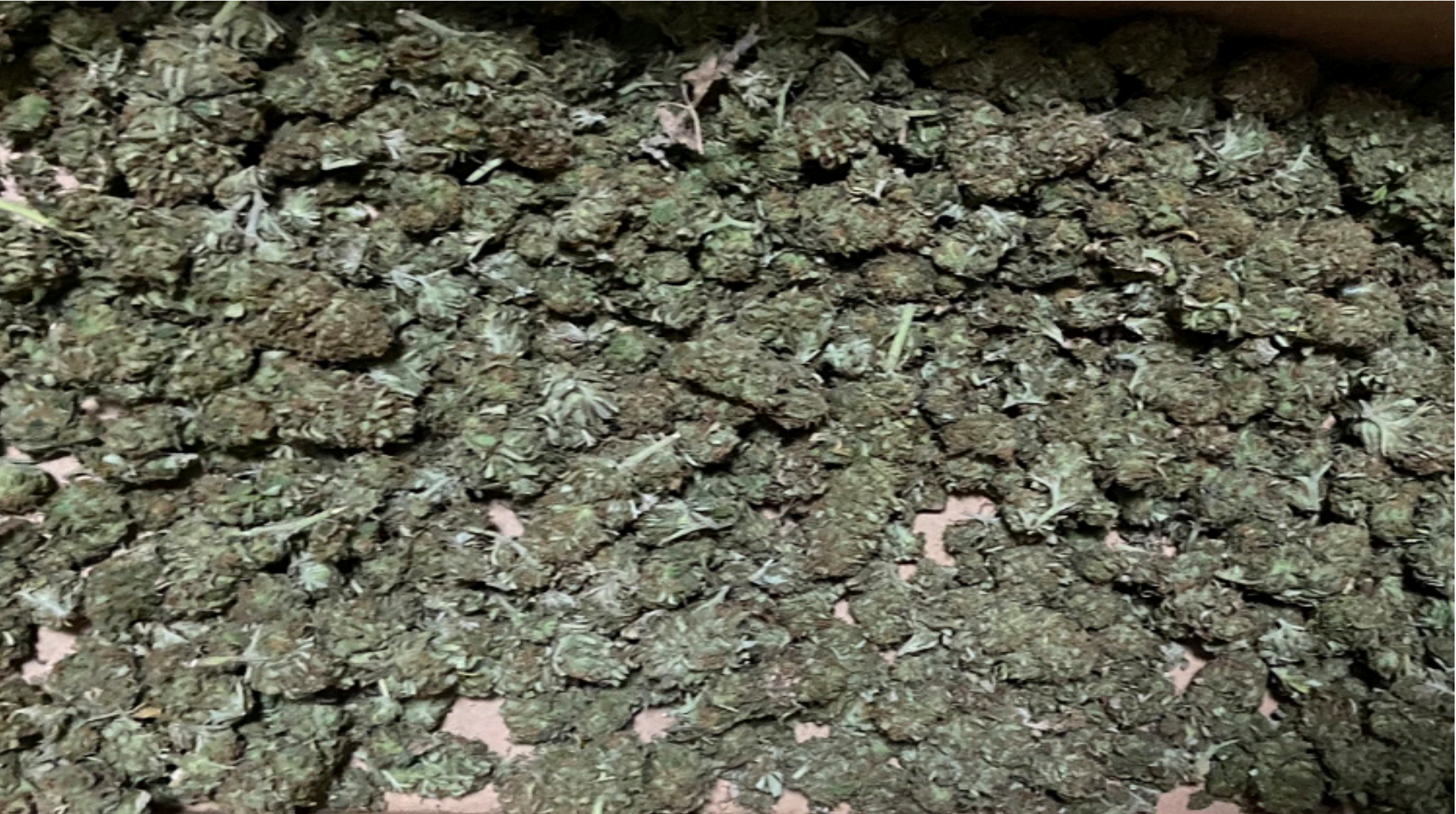


God through teaching and worship. Pastor Mark has been

**Tabernacle of David Church
Embraces new Pastors**

in ministry for 37 years, serving 32 of those years as a full-time minister. Pastor Mark served faithfully as second man at thriving churches for 30 years, gleaning experience and wisdom along the way. In 2022, after serving as Senior Associate Pastor for 10 years, Senior Pastor Larry M. Trice, Jr. appointed him as one of two leaders to succeed him. Pastor Larry Trice, Jr. installed Pastor Mark as one of two leaders to succeed him as a Pastor at the Tabernacle of David Church (TOD). As the Spiritual ministry Pastor at Tabernacle of David Church, he is responsible for the spiritual wellbeing of the church. Called as a ministry gift of a teacher, with a prophetic edge, he has been called upon to teach and preach both nationally and internationally. Pastor Mark is a reliable source of information and impartation as it relates to comprehensively understanding the Bible. He has found personal success through accurate Biblical interpretations and applications as he consistently preaches and teaches a word seasoned with grace. Pastor Mark's heart is to see the people of God walk in victory through knowledge and commitment to scripture and to pursue God through intimate worship. Over the years Pastor Mark has served as minister of music, associate pastor, and Bible college teacher. He has helped equip many ministers to confidently teach and preach the word of God with power and authority. His students leave his classes ready to fulfill their call, having discovered their unique gifts, and the best way to release them. Pastor Mark is an accomplished singer songwriter and musician with music recorded and performed by well-known artists. A native of Jackson, MI, he diligently serves in ministry with his wife, Eldress Nissi Parker. Combined they have 6 children, and 3 grandchildren. Tabernacle of David Church embraces new Pastors

CANNABIS CORNER



Washington Marijuana Social Equity Application Nears Deadline

The state of Washington is set to dole out more than 40 new cannabis retail licenses this month to so-called social equity applicants—but the deadline is fast approaching. With the application period kicking off on March 1, qualified prospective license holders have until March 30 to apply. The Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board, a state regulatory agency overseeing the two industries, is handling the social equity applications. According to the agency, more than 40 licenses that “were forfeited, cancelled, revoked or never issued will be available in specific jurisdictions across the state” as part of the program. The Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board says that, in order to qualify for the social equity cannabis program, applicants must meet the following criteria: “At least a 51 percent majority, or controlling interest, in the applicant, must be held by a person(s), who has or have resided in Washington state for six months prior to the application date, and meets at least two of the following qualifications: lived in a disproportionately impacted area (DIA) in Washington state for a minimum of five years between 1980 and 2010 ... OR applicant or a family member has been arrested or convicted of a cannabis offense; OR household income was less than the median household income within the state of Washington (\$82,400).”

According to Axios, applicants “who have served time in prison for a cannabis offense will get higher priority when it comes to distributing the social equity licenses,” as will those applicants who “make less than the state’s median income, and who have lived in areas with high rates of drug convictions, poverty, and unemployment.” Social equity provisions have become the norm in states that legalize recreational cannabis for adults, as advocates have stressed the importance of remedying harms inflicted on individuals and communities in the era of prohibition. But in Washington, which became one of the first two states to legalize recreational marijuana back in 2012, those social equity provisions did not come until later. The ballot measure approved by voters there more than a decade ago, Initiative 502, “did not include provisions or create programs to acknowledge the disproportionate harms the enforcement of cannabis laws had on certain populations and communities,” the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board explained earlier this year, when it announced the more than 40 social equity applications that would be made available. The state created the social equity cannabis program in 2020, when the state’s Democratic governor, Jay Inslee, signed a bill into law that provided “the opportunity to provide a limited

number of cannabis retail licenses to individuals disproportionately impacted by the enforcement of cannabis prohibition laws.” “The LCB recognizes that cannabis prohibition laws were disproportionately enforced for decades and that the cumulative harms from this enforcement remain today,” the agency explains on its website. “In 2020, in response to a policy priority identified by the Board, the LCB developed agency-request legislation created the state Social Equity program, the Social Equity in Cannabis Task Force and the opportunity to provide a limited number of cannabis retail licenses to individuals disproportionately impacted by the enforcement of cannabis prohibition laws.” But the state clearly still has a lot of work to do; as Axios noted, more than 10 years after the voters there made history, Washington’s cannabis industry “remains dominated by white entrepreneurs.” The State Liquor and Cannabis Board reported in January 2020 that 82% of cannabis retailers in Washington were owned by white individuals. Only 3% were owned by Black residents, and 2% were Hispanic-owned.

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SPORTS

Izzo Sets Record for Most Consecutive NCAA Tournament Appearances as Spartans Extend Streak to 25 Straight

EAST LANSING, Mich. – Michigan State has earned a bid to its 25th consecutive NCAA Tournament, extending the longest NCAA Tournament streak in Big Ten history.

And in the process, MSU head coach Tom Izzo became the first head coach in history to lead his team to 25 consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances (previous record: Duke’s Mike Krzyzewski with 24 straight from 1996-2019).

The seventh-seeded Spartans (19-12, 11-8 Big Ten) will face No. 10-seeded USC (22-10, 14-6 Pac-12) in the first round of the East Region on Friday, March 17 at 12:15 p.m. (TV: CBS). The game will be played at Nationwide Arena in Columbus, Ohio.

The winner between the Spartans and Trojans will take on the winner of second-seeded Marquette



(28-6) and No. 15-seeded Vermont (23-10) on Sunday, March 19.

Michigan State’s streak of 25 straight NCAA Tournaments is not only a Big Ten record, it’s also the third-longest in NCAA history (Kansas, 33, 1990-2023; North Carolina, 27, 1975-2001). In addition, MSU’s streak is the second-longest active streak in the nation (Kansas, 33).

USC finished tied for second place in the Pac-12 standings with a 14-6 league record.

This will mark the seventh all-time meeting between MSU and USC; the series is currently tied, 3-3. The schools last met in the second round of the 2009 NCAA Tournament, as the second-seeded Spartans beat the No. 10 seed Trojans, 74-69, en route to reaching the NCAA Championship game.

Michigan State is making its 36th appearance in the NCAA Tournament with a record of 70-34 (.673) in its previous 35 tournaments. MSU has made 10 trips to the Final Four (1957, 1979, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2005, 2009, 2010, 2015, 2019) and captured the NCAA Championship in 1979 and 2000. MSU’s .673 winning percentage is the eighth-best all-time in NCAA Tournament play, while the program’s 70 total victories rank sixth all-time. Michigan State’s 10 Final Four appearances are tied for sixth most.

The East Regional is set for March 23 and March 25 (Thursday, Saturday) at Madison Square Garden in New York. The 2023 Final Four will be held at NRG Stadium in Houston on April 1 and April 3 (Saturday, Monday).

Michigan State Announces Women’s Basketball Leadership Change

Dean Lockwood begins his fourth season as associate head coach of the Spartans. Lockwood came to East Lansing with an extensive knowledge of basketball in the state of Michigan.



EAST LANSING, Mich. - Michigan State Vice President and Director of Athletics Alan Haller and women’s basketball head coach Suzy Merchant have come to a mutual decision that Merchant will step down as the program’s head coach, effective immediately. Associate head coach Dean Lockwood will serve as interim head coach while a national coaching search is conducted.

“We are grateful to Coach Suzy Merchant for her contributions to Michigan State women’s basketball and Spartan Athletics over the last 16 seasons,” Haller said. “We appreciate everything Coach Merchant has meant to our community. Her two Big Ten titles and 10 NCAA Tournament appearances provided lasting memories. Beyond the team’s on-court success, she invested considerable time and energy into our local community as a leader and a role model for young people.”

Merchant ended her tenure with a record of 327-186 at MSU and an overall career record of 528-306. She captured two Big Ten titles (2011, 2014), earning Big Ten Coach of the Year honors in 2011. Under Merchant, the Spartans reached the NCAA Tournament 10 times, including advancing to the Sweet Sixteen in 2009.

In 16 seasons under Merchant, 52 Spartans have earned All-Big Ten recognition and 76 have been

named Academic All-Big Ten. A trio of Spartans have earned major Big Ten awards - Kalisha Keane was the Big Ten Player of the Year in 2010-11, following up the Sixth Player of the Year award as a junior, while Lykendra Johnson (2011) and Allyssa DeHaan (2010) were each named Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year.

She coached some of the most MSU’s most prolific scorers, including Aerial Powers who earned first-team All-Big Ten honors three times (2014-16), as well as being named an All-American her final two seasons. During the 2017 season, Tori Jankoska became the Spartans’ all-time leading scorer as well as capturing first-team All-Big Ten and All-America honors. In 2022, Nia Clouden was named first team All-BIG, as well as capturing AP and WBCA honorable mention All-America honors.

During her tenure, Merchant coached three WNBA first-round draft picks in Powers (2016), Jankoska (2017) and Clouden (2022).

Full Statement from Coach Suzy Merchant “It is with a heavy heart that I announce I am stepping down from Michigan State University due to health reasons. After much consideration and consultation with my healthcare providers, I have come to the difficult decision that it is in my best interest. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude

source: from msuspartans.com to the entire Michigan State community, including the administration, faculty, and staff.

“I have had the privilege of coaching some of the most talented and dedicated young women in the country. The opportunity to mentor, lead, and empower young women has been the honor of a lifetime. Over my 28 years as a head coach and the last 16 years at MSU, I have been blessed to work with incredible assistant coaches as well as staff members that have shared the love of the game, mentoring young women, and were passionate about the Green and White. I am truly grateful to each of you for your time, energy, and dedication to our program. Much admiration and love to you all.

“And of course, it goes without saying to express my heartfelt appreciation to the best fans in the world, the SPARTAN NATION! You have supported our team through thick and thin and your unwavering enthusiasm has been a constant source of motivation and inspiration. Finally, I would like to extend a special appreciation to Mark Hollis and Dr. Lou Anna Simon for giving a small-town kid from Northern Michigan the chance of a lifetime to live my dream as a Spartan. I’m eternally grateful.

“It has been an incredible journey...Thank you, Spartan Nation.”



Gretchin Whitmer
Governor, State of Michigan

Elizabeth Hertel
Director, Michigan Department of
Health and Human Services

Dr. Renée Branch Canady
CEO, MPHI

Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha
Pediatrician and professor who
exposed the Flint water crisis



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