

Weekend

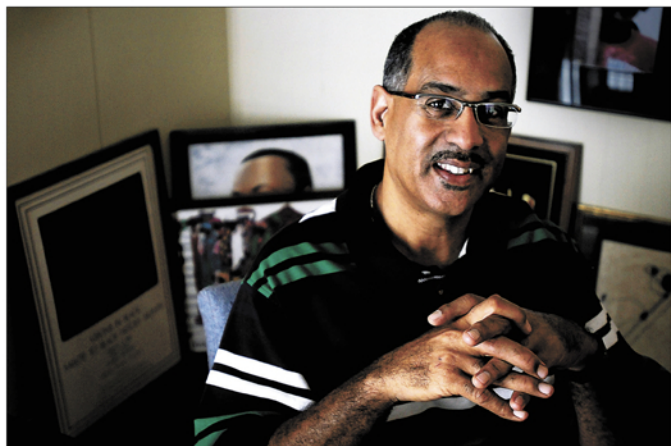
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Check statenews.com throughout the weekend for coverage from D.C. of inauguration events

WASHINGTON BOUND

The Presidential inauguration is four days away, and MSU students, along with members of the local community, are gearing up to make the trip to Washington, D.C. Political science senior Nic Clark said he hasn't had any problem getting hyped up for the event. "Just the amount of people that are going to be there, and their energy and enthusiasm — it's almost addicting," he said.

— By Allison Bush, The State News



PHOTOS BY KATIE RAUSCH/THE STATE NEWS

"For me, personally, it's been about the church (and) the community. Leaving is very difficult but this new season of ministry is filled with wonderful opportunities," said the Rev. Michael C. Murphy, the senior pastor at St. Stephen's Community Church in Lansing. Murphy is leaving the church he founded 22 years ago to become the ninth senior minister with the Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ in Washington, D.C. The Obamas are members of the United Church of Christ and Murphy said he felt blessed to move to Washington at around the same time the nation's first black president takes office.

Lansing pastor could be head of Obama's Washington congregation

"I have no doubt in my mind that he will continue to be the kind of pastor he's always been, and it will give him an opportunity to do things in a new venue."

Shameerah Shareef, assistant pastor of St. Stephen's Community Church

When the Rev. Michael Murphy travels to Washington, D.C., for the inauguration, he won't just be celebrating. He will be preparing for a new job.

In late February, Murphy, founder of St. Stephen's Community Church, 1007 Kimberly Drive, in Lansing, will become the ninth pastor at Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ, a multiracial congregation in D.C. Although he will visit the church during his trip, Murphy said he would have gone to the inauguration even without the new job. "I was there when former President Clinton was sworn in 1993," he said. "That was a very exciting experience, and I'm looking for the same thing with this one." In addition to his work

at St. Stephen's, Murphy has served on the Lansing City Council and in the state Legislature. "My ministry is both within the church and within the community," he said.

Rubin Tendai, Interim Minister for Peoples Church, said Murphy was among about 40 candidates for the position. He underwent a lengthy interview process, but after teaching a sermon on Nov. 22 at the church, Murphy won over the congregation.

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MSU Debate Team brushes up to face off in nation's capital

Members of the MSU Debate Team will be in Washington, D.C., next week, but its top priority will not be seeing the inauguration.

Political theory and constitutional democracy senior Carly Wunderlich and international relations senior Garrett Abelkop will debate the Obama administration's priorities on energy and climate change Monday against students from Wake Forest University.

"The whole purpose is to discuss what (President-elect Barack Obama's) pol-

icy should be," Abelkop said. "We will propose that Obama should enact a specific solution right at the beginning (of his administration) — something that we and the coaches came up with through research."

The debate will be at 9:00 a.m. at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History's Baird Auditorium.

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For audio ... Visit statenews.com/multimedia.



Political science senior Nic Clark, left, looks at the paper with his brother Kyle Clark, a human biology sophomore, before leaving Tuesday to drive down to Washington, D.C.

Students head to inauguration to network, experience history

MSU students will be scattered among the millions of people attending the inauguration — and each of them has their own reason for attending.

But whether they are going for business or fun, they will all have the chance to join in one of the nation's largest celebrations.

Zoology senior Cara Cal-

lison, who is driving to the inauguration, said she just wanted to be a part of history, and this is one of the biggest events to happen during her lifetime.

Callison will travel with a friend and stay with her sister in Washington, D.C.

"She could have gotten celebrations."

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Women's basketball defeat Wolverines 41-37 in 'ugly game'

By Joe Terry THE STATE NEWS

To call the 41-37 game between the MSU women's basketball team and in-state rival, Michigan, a defensive battle would be an understatement. Both teams locked down to start the game and never relaxed. MSU started the scoring and held U-M without a field goal for the first 5:29 of the game, but were only able to mount a 4-1 lead before Wolverines forward Melinda Queen scored on a breakaway layup to cut the lead to one. The Spartans hit another jumper but failed to score for more than six minutes after

ward, allowing U-M to go on an 11-0 run to take the lead 14-6. The Spartans had trouble scoring in the paint the entire half, with junior center Alyssa DeHaan being hassled by 6-foot-6 center Krista Phillips, making her first start of the season. DeHaan only attempted one field goal and pulled in two rebounds as MSU went into the locker room down 17-16. "When they started Phillips we knew exactly why," head coach Suzy Merchant said. "She's doing a really good job of being physical with (DeHaan). I thought (DeHaan) let her get to her in the first half." For all of her troubles in

the first half, DeHaan turned it around to start the second, scoring six of the first eight MSU points, and putting the Spartans back in the lead 24-22. She finished the game with 12 points. The Wolverines refused to give up behind the arc as U-M forward Carly Benson brought her team back with two deep threes to give U-M the lead, 30-24. But, the MSU defense again locked down, not allowing a basket for 9:23, going on a 12-1 run and building a 36-31 lead behind the strong play of sophomore guard Britney Thomas. "I did a lot of mental preparation today just to try to get

out of my own head," Thomas said. "A lot of times when I'm struggling in games it's because I'm analyzing too much. So today, if I saw an opening, I'd go for it and play it from there. Just play basketball." The game remained tight down the stretch as Benson again hit a 3-pointer to bring U-M within one point, sending the crowd into a frenzy. However, MSU was able to pull away with free throws and punctuate the win with a block by sophomore forward Kalisha Keane, as the team went on to win the game, 41-37. "It was a very emotional game. We were all into it,"



JASON CHIOU/THE STATE NEWS

Sophomore guard Britney Thomas looks to block Michigan guard Jessica Minnifield from scoring a layup Thursday night in the second half at Crisler Arena in Ann Arbor.

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