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3 de abril, 2020 Weekly/Semanal 16 páginas Vol. 67, No. 4

JOAQUIN CINTRON VEGA LMHA CEO, P. 5



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One Stop For All Your Hispanic Needs

Beaumont Health scrambling with hundreds of virus cases

By ED WHITE and DAVID EGGERT, Associated Press

DETROIT, March 26, 2020 (AP) — Gov. Gretchen Whitmer on Thursday again pleaded with Michigan residents to stay at home to rein in the coronavirus while the state's chief medical executive said hospitals with empty beds were stepping up to ease the burden on overwhelmed medical centers. They spoke to reporters Thursday, 2½ days after businesses were supposed to shut down unless they provide certain essential services.

THE LATEST

Dr. Joneigh Khaldun said hospitals in southeastern Michigan, where the coronavirus cases are most numerous, are "at or near capacity." She said some hospitals outside the region were willing to set aside 10% of their bed capacity to help out.

Indeed, by the end of the day, Beaumont Health said its hospitals were swamped with 650 patients who had tested positive for the COVID-19 virus and more than 200 with tests pending. It said it would transfer more people to its hospital in Wayne and get help from other health care providers.

"The number of patients coming to our emergency rooms continues to grow rapidly," Beaumont CEO John Fox said.

Khaldun said Michigan is "probably a few weeks out" from hitting a peak in coronavirus cases. The state reported nearly 2,900 cases by Thursday and 60 deaths, both ahead of Wednesday's statewide numbers.

Wayne County, home to Detroit, accounted for nearly half of the cases. Dr. Deborah Bix, the White House coronavirus response



coordinator, called Wayne a "hot spot" nationally and said she was concerned the county was "having a more rapid increase."

For most people, the coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, such as pneumonia, and death.

Henry Ford Health System said it had nearly 400 coronavirus-related patients at five hospitals Thursday morning, although the numbers can swiftly change.

STAY AWAY

Whitmer said her order that people stop gathering and keep at least 6 feet from each other at places like grocery stores was a command, not a recommendation.

"It doesn't mean inviting 10 of your closest friends over for dinner. ... This disease cannot spread if we're not out and about," she said.

Whitmer said the vast majority of businesses are "doing the right thing" and keeping their workers home in compliance with her order, which kicked in Tuesday. Grocers, restaurants preparing carry-out food, banks and gas stations can remain open.

"If you're not a life-sustaining business, you're in violation of the law and you're needlessly exposing your employees to COVID-19," the governor said. "You're needlessly endangering our communities by putting more pressure on a health care system that is very

close to the maximum already."

Grand Traverse County, which has only three cases, urged people to self-quarantine for two weeks and avoid grocery stores if returning from hot spots, such as Detroit or New York. Traverse City Mayor Jim Carruthers was blunt, urging cooped-up people to skip a trip to their northern Michigan cottage.

"Our health care systems are having a hard enough time here dealing with this virus to challenge them further," Carruthers said on Facebook.

PITCH IN, PLEASE

Whitmer made an appeal for hospital gowns, ventilators, hand sanitizer, masks, gloves and thermometers. She said a recent shipment of protective wear from the federal government "was not enough for a full shift" at a hospital.

Separately, the governor said she has asked President Donald Trump to declare a disaster in Michigan like he has in other states, which would trigger food aid and money for rental assistance and temporary housing, among other needs.

CAPITOL CASE

Rep. Tyrone Carter, a Detroit Democrat who voted last week on virus-related bills, has the COVID-19 virus but is doing well, said House Democratic Leader Christine Greig. There are questions about the House's ability to meet, and how many lawmakers will have to self-quarantine.

House Speaker Lee Chatfield said anyone who was within 6 feet of Carter during the incubation period should monitor themselves for symptoms.

Eggert reported from Lansing.

New Coronavirus Relief Fund Formed, Donations Sought

By La Prensa Staff

Toledo and Lucas County officials are joining forces seeking monetary contributions and donations of personal protective equipment (PPE) and needed supplies. Right now, hospitals, first responders, and others are scrambling to find hard-to-get items such as protective gloves and masks, hygiene wipes, bleach—all of which have flown off store shelves or in short supply.

The United Way of Greater Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation have joined forces with Lucas County and Toledo city elected leaders to launch "Donate TLC," an initiative that centralizes donations in the metro Toledo area during the coronavirus pandemic.

Local officials made the announcement Friday, March 27, 2020 at what will serve as the Donate TLC warehouse. American Interiors offered the space on South Byrne Road to the Lucas County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to better coordinate local collection efforts. The donation and distribution center will provide cleaning and personal hygiene products for first responders and health care workers.

"We hope that, after this, we're going to fill this room up. That's a goal," said Tim Jakacki, manager of donations and distribution at the Lucas County Emergency Operations Center.

"Our first responders, hospitals, need to be taken care of," said Wendy Pestrue, president and CEO of the United Way of Greater Toledo. "But then again, our homeless shelters, our domestic violence centers, our folks that treat mental health, children, food insecurities—all of those folks also need this kind of sanitizing product and other supplies."

The warehouse will be open and collecting supplies until the pandemic subsides. The idea is to create one central resource so donation efforts won't be duplicated and scarce resources can be directed where the need is the greatest at any given time.

EOC staff is reaching out to churches and others conducting donation drives to bring their collections to the warehouse. Likewise, businesses and organizations with stockpiles are being encouraged to do the same.

PPE and sanitizing products are in the highest demand for hospitals, social service providers, and first responders. Because of

social distancing, anyone wishing to drop off donations to the warehouse must email

donations@co.lucas.oh.us to set up an appointment.

"This is a marathon, not a sprint, so we're going to solve feeding children today, but we're going to deal with unemployment issues tomorrow, we're going to deal with education issues," said Keith Burwell, president/CEO of the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. "This is going to keep stacking up until the fall."

Details on financial contributions, supply donations, and volunteer needs all can be found at www.donatetlc.org. A complete list of needed supplies also is listed at the website. All requests for assistance from social services and nonprofits are to be directed to the United Way's 211 help hotline.

Anyone healthy and able to volunteer also is asked to call 211, as are people and groups with food donations.

The Greater Toledo Community Foundation will use its relief fund to meet the needs of nonprofits. The United Way will distribute donated funds to help continue necessary services like daily meal assistance to children.

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Gobiernos latinoamericanos luchan por repatriar a su gente

Por EVA VERGARA, Associated Press

SANTIAGO DE CHILE, 26 III 20 (AP): La amenaza del coronavirus ha llevado a miles de latinoamericanos a repetir una frase casi como un mantra —“*Quédate en casa*”—, pero hay otros miles que están a cientos de kilómetros de su hogar sin la posibilidad de volver a él.

Debido al cierre de fronteras en casi todos los países para tratar de contener la expansión del COVID-19, muchos han quedado varados en territorios por los que viajaban y de momento no pueden salir de ellos. En la región al menos unas 7.600 personas están contagiadas y unas 125 han fallecido.

El miércoles se informó que un mexicano murió en Perú esperando retornar a su país y su esposa se quedó sola, mientras decenas de miles de extranjeros están es espera de poder dejar las naciones donde las restricciones de viaje los tomaron por sorpresa.

En Cuba unos 30.000 turistas esperan ser rescatados por sus gobiernos, entre ellos unos 1.000 argentinos, mientras el presidente de Argentina,

Alberto Fernández, suspendió la víspera la llegada de los vuelos que llevarían de vuelta a parte de sus compatriotas.

Algunos centenares de turistas lograron salir de la isla caribeña, aunque algunos quedaron atrapados en Panamá por el cierre del aeropuerto. Otros miles están reclusos en sus habitaciones de hotel.

Aerolíneas comerciales, como LATAM y COPA, suspendieron sus vuelos ante una drástica disminución de pasajeros y porque están impedidos de aterrizar en la mayoría de los aeropuertos de América Latina, a excepción de algunos vuelos humanitarios.

En México, la cancillería informó del fallecimiento de su nacional en Perú. El hombre estaba en la ciudadela turística de Cusco y tras guardar cuarentena fue hospitalizado al dar positivo al COVID-19.

Poco después, el presidente mexicano Andrés Manuel López Obrador dijo que “ahora que se cierran los espacios

aéreos en otros países tenemos que ir a buscar a mexicanos”. Agregó que ordenó a la Fuerza Aérea usar sus aviones para para que regresen a mexicanos varados en Argentina y llevar a ciudadanos de ese país de vuelta a casa.

México ha facilitado el retorno de más de 6.000 de sus ciudadanos en el mundo durante los últimos dos meses, dijo un comunicado oficial de la víspera.

El presidente Fernández, que había expresado su malestar porque unos 30.000 argentinos salieron después que la OMS declaró al nuevo virus una pandemia, el 11 de marzo, suspendió el regreso de sus conciudadanos pese a que había dicho que priorizaría su retorno.

“En lo inmediato, salvo algún caso excepcional que lo justifique, van a tener que quedar esperando el momento de regreso”, señaló en entrevista con el canal local Telefé. No obstante, aclaró que se está tratando de reglamentar el ingreso de mayores de 65 años porque son los que más riesgo tienen.

Venezuela, que fracasó

en su intento por obtener un préstamo de 5.000 millones de dólares del Fondo Monetario Internacional para enfrentar la pandemia, acusó esta semana a Estados Unidos, de prohibirle a la aerolínea estatal Conviasa volar a ese país para rescatar a 800 venezolanos, según un tuit del canciller Jorge Arriaza.

Conviasa fue sancionada en febrero por el Departamento del Tesoro estadounidense como parte de la política de ese país contra el gobierno del presidente Nicolás Maduro, al que considera ilegítimo.

La aerolínea venezolana trasladó esta semana a 73 personas a México y retornó a Caracas con 143 venezolanos. Luego se informó que devolvió a un centenar de venezolanos desde República Dominicana.

Chile repatrió a 10.900 chilenos entre el 18 y 22 de marzo mediante vuelos de aerolíneas de bandera nacional, informó el jueves el canciller Teodoro Ribera, que agregó que las gestiones para traer a más connacionales se ven dificultadas por varias aerolíneas comerciales.

“Quienes tienen boletos de Avianca, de Copa, de Aeroméxico, a manera de ejemplo... hemos sido extremadamente francos y directos, no dejaremos que dejen botados a los chilenos en el extranjero, tienen la obligación de traerlos de vuelta”, afirmó.

Dijo que Aeroméxico endosó pasajes a chilenos atrapados en México, que retornaron el miércoles, pero que otros siguen esperando. Agregó que Avianca anunció un vuelo humanitario para chilenos en otros países de la región. “Ellos los llevaron y tienen que traerlos”, sentenció.

Un comunicado en redes sociales de chilenos atrapados en Cuba dijo que “todos nos encontramos con los vuelos cancelados desde hace más de una semana, hecho que ha provocado la falta de recursos monetarios para poder costear estadías y alimentación del hotel”.

Desde México y Perú han llegado un par de centenares de chilenos y se espera a 146 más desde Ecuador.

Este último estima que unos 1.700 ecuatorianos quedaron atrapados lejos de casa: unos 300 en España, 200 en Estados Unidos y 170 en Brasil. El gobierno priorizará el re-

tomo de niños que viajan solos, enfermos catastróficos, madres embarazadas y gente de la tercera edad.

Por su parte, el gobierno de Trinidad y Tobago cerró sus fronteras esta semana, lo que afecta a ciudadanos de la de la nación caribeña en dos islas. Un grupo de más de 30 trinitarios intentaron volver desde Europa, pero llegaron tarde, no pudieron entrar y fueron recibidos por Barbados, que no tenía obligación de hacerlo. “Fue una decisión humanitaria,” dijo a reporteros Dale Marshall, procurador general de Barbados.

Colombia logró repatriar a unas 3.600 personas esta semana, antes del cierre de todas sus fronteras. AVIANCA, la aerolínea más antigua de Latinoamérica, realizó siete vuelos humanitarios con 890 pasajeros de 17 nacionalidades, a diversos países de la región.

En el aeropuerto de Bogotá las autoridades dispusieron de 240 camas portátiles para pasajeros varados, a los que también está alimentando. Lo mismo se observa en la terminal internacional de Santiago, Chile.

Desde Bolivia, 30 israelíes y brasileños dejaron el país, según informó a The Associated Press Luis Orlando Reyes, director regional de Migración en Santa Cruz, al este.

Mencionó que para el jueves otras 450 personas —en su mayoría de nacionalidad alemana y de otros sitios europeos— dejarán el país. Se espera que el sábado también viaje una cantidad similar de estadounidenses y de otras nacionalidades.

Con autobuses, Bolivia repatrió antes a unos 500 de sus ciudadanos desde su frontera con Chile. Otros 78 bolivianos fueron recuperados por aire desde Perú, a donde habían llegado desde Miami. Y 70 por la frontera con Brasil.

Centenares de estadounidenses también quedaron varados en varios países de América Latina tras el cierre de las fronteras aéreas y terrestres. Unos 640 volaron de regreso a su país en vuelos charter que salieron de Guatemala la semana última.

Guatemala impulsó

varios vuelos de rescate. La semana pasada retornaron más de 80 guatemaltecos desde Costa Rica. Otros llegaron desde Colombia y Perú. Uno de los viajeros también estaba contagiado con el nuevo virus.

Por su parte, El Salvador cerró todas sus fronteras el 17 de marzo y sólo se permite el tránsito de aviones de carga y de misiones humanitarias.

Casi al mismo tiempo que se decretó la pandemia por la Organización Mundial de la Salud, el británico Scott Lambert, de 36 años, volvió a Brasil y desde hace una semana permanece encerrado en el departamento de un amigo en Río de Janeiro.

Lambert tenía una reserva de regreso a Gran Bretaña, pero se canceló. Recurrió a todas sus millas de viaje y obtuvo un cupo en un vuelo de British Airways que tiene programado volar el miércoles por la noche. Contactó por Twitter a un empleado del consulado británico en Río, pero nunca le respondió.

“Ha sido un viaje extraño”, dijo telefónicamente a The Associated Press. Lambert es director de publicidad digital de la revista Wallpaper. “Aun así, creo que soy afortunado. Hay gente en situaciones mucho peores, pero obviamente no han sido las mejores vacaciones”.

Los miles de latinoamericanos repatriados guardan estricta cuarentena en sus países, la mayoría en sus domicilios, pero están en casa.

En la mayoría de la gente, el nuevo coronavirus provoca síntomas leves o moderados que desaparecen en dos a tres semanas. En algunas personas, sobre todos los adultos mayores y quienes padecen trastornos de salud subyacentes, puede provocar enfermedades más graves, como la neumonía, e incluso la muerte.

La pandemia global provocada por el nuevo coronavirus ha infectado al menos a más de 521.000 personas y causado la muerte a más de 23.500 en todo el mundo, paralizado economías e impuesto restricciones a los desplazamientos para tratar de impedir su propagación.

Corresponsales de The Associated Press de América Latina y Nueva York colaboraron en esta nota.



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Consulado de México invita al Concurso de Dibujo Infantil “Este es mi México: Alebrijes, figuras fantásticas en el mundo”

Por: Isabel Flores, corresponsal La Prensa

DETROIT, MI: Una excelente actividad para hacer con los niños en este tiempo de contingencia es dibujar y que mejor manera de hacerlo que participando en la XXIV edición del Concurso de Dibujo “Este es mi México: Alebrijes, figuras fantásticas en el mundo”.

La convocatoria concluye el 29 de junio de 2020. Jesús Gutiérrez, Coordinador de Asuntos Comunitarios en el Consulado de México en Detroit, dijo que todos los niños y niñas entre 6 y 14 años de edad, están invitados a participar en este gran concurso mundial que se lleva a cabo cada año, mediante el cual podrán demostrar sus habilidades artísticas y echar a andar su imaginación.

El tema de este año son los alebrijes ya que forman parte indiscutible del imaginario cultural y artístico de México, a través de los cuales se representan figuras fantásticas que combinan elementos de diferentes animales, ya sean reales o imaginarios, con pintura vibrante y alegre. Gracias a este tipo de artesanías, la cultura mexicana sigue trascendiendo fronteras.

Para participar se deben cumplir con los siguientes requisitos:

1.- Dibujar o pintar sobre una cartulina o

cartoncillo tamaño A3 (297 x 420 mm/11,7 x 16,5 pulgadas).

2.-Elaborar un dibujo o pintura con pincel, lápiz, acrílicos, acuarela, crayones o cualquier otro material de tu elección.

3.-Pegar el formato de registro con todos los datos solicitados al reverso de tu dibujo y escribir una breve descripción de la imagen. Firmar y anotar la fecha de elaboración.

El formato de registro se puede obtener en el sitio web <http://www.gob.mx/ime> o bien, comunicándose directamente al Consulado de México al (248) 336 0320

4.-Enviar el dibujo antes del 29 de junio al Consulado de México en Detroit que se encuentra en el 1403 de E 12 Mile Rd. en Madison Heights, Michigan. 48071

De todos los dibujos que se reciban, el Instituto de los Mexicanos en el Exterior (IME), seleccionará a 12 ganadores y realizará 28 menciones honoríficas clasificadas por las siguientes regiones: América Latina y el Caribe, África y Medio Oriente, Asia y Oceanía, Europa, México, Estados Unidos-Región Oeste, Estados Unidos-Región Este y Canadá.

En total se seleccionarán 40 obras, las cuales conformarán la exposición itinerante



que se inaugurará en la Ciudad de México y posteriormente será exhibida en otros países del mundo, para que muchas niñas y niños puedan disfrutar de las mejores obras de arte que se reciban este año.

12 ganadores recibirán un reconocimiento y algunos de los 40 dibujos seleccionados serán publicados en el calendario IME 2021.

El jurado para elegir a los ganadores estará integrado por las siguientes personas:

- Un representante de la Secretaría de Cultura de México.
- Una madrina o padrino del Concurso de Dibujo.
- Un niño o una niña de 6º grado de primaria, hijo/hija de alguna trabajadora o trabajador de la Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores.
- Una persona que represente al Instituto de

los Mexicanos en el Exterior.

Las 28 menciones honoríficas serán elegidas mediante votación de la comunidad a través de la página de Facebook del IME (@IMESremx) del 17 al 21 de agosto. La votación se cerrará el 21 de agosto a las 18:00 hrs (hora de la Ciudad de México)

En la selección de los 12 dibujos ganadores, el jurado deberá tomar

en consideración las siguientes categorías de edades:

- Categoría 1: 6 a 8 años
- Categoría 2: 9 a 11 años
- Categoría 3: 12 a 14 años

Serán motivo de descalificación los dibujos que no se apeguen al tema y que sean copiados, calcados o donde se advierta la mano de una persona adulta.

Es importante tomar en cuenta que al participar en el concurso se ceden los derechos del dibujo al IME para que lo pueda utilizar en la exhibición y en publicaciones para fines de promoción, por lo que los dibujos que se reciban no serán devueltos a los autores.

Los resultados serán publicados en la página y redes sociales del IME el lunes 31 de agosto de 2020.

La Prensa Weekly Newspaper

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Aztlán Communications Inc.
 PO Box 792, Saline MI 48176
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DETROIT CITY COUNCIL

The Arts Commission is seeking qualified artists for a large public mural in Downtown Toledo tunnels

TOLEDO, March 2020: The Arts Commission of Greater Toledo's Art in Public Places Program is soliciting qualifications from artists who specialize in producing large-scale murals to beautify sections of the Downtown Toledo tunnel system.

The Art in Public Places committee will select up to two artists to paint murals within the tunnels to create an engaging experience for pedestrians walking to and from the Vistula Parking Garage into One Seagate and to and from the lower entrance of the Imagination Station.

Contact Nathan Mattimoe, Art in Public Places Coordinator, at 419-254-2787 x 1011 or nmattimoe@theartscommission.org for more information.



UToledo announces leadership change at UTMC

The University of Toledo Medical Center will soon be under new leadership with the promotion of its chief financial officer.

Richard Swaine will serve as chief executive officer of UTMC effective April 17, 2020.

Dan Barbee, who had led the hospital since 2016, has accepted a position as president of rural market for Mercy Health – Toledo.

"Rick will provide stable leadership amid the ongoing planning efforts underway to set a path forward for UTMC. I am confident that with the support of our outstanding physicians and hospital staff, our hospital is well positioned to weather this current global pandemic and future changes." *UToledo President Sharon L. Gaber said.*

"We look forward to working with Rick and continuing to pro-

vide high-quality healthcare for our patients," said Dr. Samer Khouri, UTMC chief of staff and chief of the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine. "There's never been a more critical time for teamwork in the healthcare industry."

Swaine was named UTMC's chief financial officer in March 2019. He joined UTMC from Beaumont Health System in Southfield, Mich., where he had served as senior vice president and hospital president of the 280-bed *Beaumont Hospital Grosse Pointe* since 2008. Swaine's long career at Beaumont spanned from 1985 to 2019 in which he also served as vice president of finance for Beaumont Hospital Royal Oak and Beaumont Hospital Troy.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The University of Toledo Medical Center (UTMC)*



Richard Swaine

has been serving the health needs of our community since 1964 offering best-in-class specialties, better outcomes, and expert physicians, nurses and medical technicians in a superior continuum of care. Established as a teaching hospital to train future physicians and medical professionals, UTMC remains dedicated to providing advanced care and healing in a patient-centered environment. Visit utmc.utoledo.edu for more information on UTMC's role in the health and healing of the Toledo region.

Joaquin Cintrón Vega becomes new LMHA CEO

By La Prensa Staff

There's a new president and chief executive officer now in place at the *Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA)*, but he's "homegrown" after rising through the agency's ranks following a move from his native Puerto Rico.

Joaquin Cintrón Vega officially took the helm at LMHA March 18, 2020. He previously served as the housing agency's chief financial officer and director of asset management during a two-year stint with the agency from 2017 to May last year.

"I feel blessed to be back as part of this community, to represent as well, the Latino community," he said. "I am not here just to represent a specific part of the population. I am here to make a change to make the difference for everybody, including the Latino community as well. All the communities we serve have an ally in me. I will always be looking for the best interests of all."

Cintrón Vega is now responsible for overseeing all aspects of LMHA's operations, including a portfolio of 2,633 public housing units; 4,657 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) allocated units; 322 Low-Income Housing Tax Credit units; 198 Market Rate units, and 107 Homeownership Properties. There are approximately 17,500 people who reside in LMHA housing.

"I have experience with the agency. I have experience in the communities, so I know them," he said. "I have experience working hand-in-hand with community leaders, the elected officials. So, taking all of that into consideration, I have all the tools necessary to hit the ground running and get this agency to the next level of excellence."

Cintrón Vega has spent the past two decades working in various aspects of public housing management, including federal housing assistance programs and policy development. He earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from the Inter American University of Puerto Rico.

Prior to joining LMHA, Cintrón Vega worked at the second-largest public housing authority in the U.S., the Puerto Rico Public Housing Administration. As the head of the Budget Bureau, he managed annual budgets over \$400 million. He also was responsible for overseeing different federal programs and a key partner in one of the largest low-income housing tax credits transactions in the nation, involving rehabilitation of 4,132 housing units across 33 properties on his native



Joaquin Cintrón Vega

island.

Cintrón Vega left LMHA last year to work as director of public housing for the nation's seventh-largest housing authority in Miami-Dade County. There he was responsible for overseeing all operational aspects for more than 100 properties and directing public policy, federal programs, and regulations research for public housing and urban development programs.

But Cintrón Vega quickly saw an attractive opportunity to come back and lead the housing agency he had just departed, one where he already knew the operations and personnel.

"In 2017, the people, the staff at LMHA embraced me in a really good way. They received me as part of the family," he explained. "I look at them as part of my extended family. That is something I cannot describe in words, the kind of feeling to come into a place in which you can feel you know everybody, everybody embraces you, and they are fully supportive of the vision I want to put in place here. That's a blessing for me."

Cintrón Vega has some specific next steps to fulfill the vision he has for LMHA's future:

- Assemble a leadership team that will put community first;
- Establish effective partnerships;
- Treat all of the housing agency's underserved communities with compassion; and
- Solve the Toledo area's housing crisis with "out-of-the box thinking."

LMHA currently has a waiting list of about 2,500 individuals and families seeking housing. The agency recently closed that list, lacking the housing to stock to meet that kind of demand.

The very first meeting he held was with LMHA's central resident advisory board, a committee of agency residents who represent the community.

Cintrón Vega stated it is important to establish "a direct line of communication with the people about the conditions and needs in the (LMHA housing) communities." He next plans to meet with elected leaders and private funders to see "what they can bring to the table."

"I just want to make sure that LMHA is not only known as the housing authority, but the authority in housing," he said. "For me, civic engagement is key and I want to let them know we are open for business and I want to make a change and embrace everybody who wants to work hand-in-hand with LMHA for the benefit of the people we are serving."

Cintrón Vega signaled a desire to expand LMHA's portfolio by seeking more affordable housing solutions and solicit both proposals and funding to make that happen. He also wants to establish "wraparound services" for residents once they are housed—young people, elderly, and others.

Cintrón Vega was born in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, and calls Barranquitas, Puerto Rico, as his hometown. He is married with two sons, ages 19 and 11. He and his wife are expecting the birth of a baby girl at the end of April. He hopes to expand his role as a Latino leader locally.

"I just want to make a difference and open doors for other members of the Latino community," he said. "So, this is a huge opportunity and I carry a lot of weight because of that."

EDITOR'S NOTE: LMHA's mission is to create and maintain sustainable, affordable housing opportunities, provide pathways to a better quality of life, and empower vibrant communities. The housing agency's vision is to be a premier partner in creating communities of choice in the Greater Toledo area.

Entre todos frenamos al virus

Los presidentes de EEUU que encararon grandes crisis

Por **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON, DC, 23 III 20 (AP): *Woodrow Wilson* se concentró en el fin de la Primera Guerra Mundial y no tanto en una gripe que recorría el mundo, y terminó contagiándose.

George W. Bush se subió a una pila de escombros tras los ataques del 11 de septiembre y, megáfono en mano, prometió que los responsables “sabrán pronto de nosotros”.

Barack Obama llevaba pocos meses en la Casa Blanca cuando surgió un brote del virus *H1N1*, que pronto sería declarado una pandemia, como el coronavirus actual.

La mayoría de los presidentes de Estados Unidos han confrontado una o más crisis, ya sea un desastre natural, una guerra, una declinación económica, una amenaza a la salud pública o un acto de terrorismo.

Lo que importa es cómo responden a esas crisis, según los historiadores.

“Lo mejor que puede hacer un presidente en uno de esos momentos es calmar a la nación”, dijo Julian Zelizer, historiador presidencial de la Universidad de Princeton. Eso es lo que hizo *Franklin D. Roosevelt* durante sus 12 extraordinarios años en el cargo, guiando a la nación durante la depresión de los años 30, marcada por un altísimo desempleo, una severa sequía en el centro del país y la lucha contra los nazis y los japoneses en la Segunda Guerra Mundial.

Durante el brote de gripe bajo la presidencia de *Wilson*, que mató a unos 50 millones de personas en todo el mundo, incluidos 675.000 estadounidenses, el mandatario no se involucró personalmente en el tema como lo está haciendo ahora *Donald Trump* con el coronavirus.

Esos asuntos quedaban en manos de profesionales del campo de la salud a nivel estatal y local.

“Wilson jamás emitió una declaración pública sobre el asunto”, dijo John M. Barri, autor de “The Great Influenza” (La gran gripe). “Se concentró exclusivamente en la guerra”.

Tan enfocado estaba *Wilson* en las conversaciones de paz en que participó en París una vez concluido el conflicto que él mismo contrajo la gripe. Pero se recuperó.

Trump, por su parte, parece empeñado en ser el rostro público de la lucha contra un brote que es el problema más serio que enfrenta su campaña de reelección. *Trump*, quien no tiene conocimientos científicos ni médicos, encabeza los informes diarios que da la Casa Blanca sobre el trabajo de una fuerza de tareas cuya dirección encomendó al vicepresidente.

Trump se presenta como “un presidente en tiempos de guerra” que combate a “un enemigo invisible” responsable de cientos de muertes y de miles de infecciones en Estados Unidos—cifras que seguirán subiendo a medida que se propaga el virus—, y que ha trastornado la vida de todos.

Se les ha pedido a millones de personas que permanezcan en sus casas por tiempo indefinido, privándose de los simples placeres como ir a restaurantes, centros comerciales y al cine.

El manejo de la crisis de *Trump* genera distintos tipos de reacciones. Sus partidarios lo aprueban, sus detractores lo cuestionan, incluidos alcaldes y gobernadores que quieren que *Trump* use su autoridad para ayudarlos a conseguir equipo de protección y otros materiales para médicos y enfermeras.

Inicialmente *Trump* trató de minimizar la gravedad de la situación y dijo que tenía todo bajo control. Posteriormente, no obstante, cambió de actitud e intensificó sus esfuerzos.

Pero el daño estaba hecho, de acuerdo con *Steve Morrison*, del Centro de Estudios Estratégicos e Internacionales (CEEI), quien dice que se percibe una falta de confianza en el público debido al manejo inicial de *Trump*.

“La falta de confianza es problemática cuando se lidia con algo tan catastrófico”, dijo *Morrison*, vicepresidente y director del Centro de Políticas Mundiales hacia la Salud del CEEI.

Obama llevaba pocos meses en el cargo en el 2009 cuando circularon los primeros informes sobre la gripe *H1N1* en abril. Ese mes designó un equipo abocado a combatir el brote y



el 11 de septiembre del 2001.

Después, *Bush* se subió a escombros de las torres y pronunció un discurso memorable.

“¡Los escucho!”, dijo con un megáfono ante el clamor de personal de emergencias. “¡El resto del mundo los escucha! Y quienes derribaron estos edificios nos van a escuchar pronto”.

Pocas semanas después, *Bush* autorizó ataques aéreos contra instalaciones del Talibán y contra centros de entrenamiento de al-Qaida en Afganistán. Todavía hoy Estados Unidos mantiene una presencia militar en Afganistán.

Bev Banks colaboró en este despacho. *Darlene Superville* está en <https://www.twitter.com/dsupervilleap>. The Associated Press recibe apoyo para su cobertura de salud y ciencia del Departamento de Educación Científica del Instituto Médico Howard Hughes. La AP es la única responsable de todo su contenido.

declaró una emergencia nacional.

“Es obviamente una situación muy seria y todos deben saber que el gobierno en su totalidad está tomando todas las precauciones y haciendo todos los preparativos”, dijo *Obama* en una conferencia de prensa ese mes.

Agregó que los funcionarios de salud pública habían recomendado que las escuelas con casos confirmados considerasen la posibilidad de cerrar temporalmente y que había pedido al Congreso 1.500 millones de dólares para vigilar el comportamiento del virus y almacenar medicinas y equipos.

“Todo el mundo debe saber que este gobierno está preparado para hacer lo que sea necesario para controlar el impacto de este virus”, dijo *Obama*.

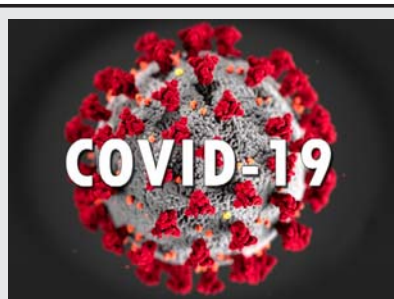
Howard Markel, director del Centro para la Historia de la Medicina de la Universidad de Michigan, dijo que *Obama* estuvo “muy involucrado” en la lucha contra el *H1N1*, aunque sin tanta visibilidad como *Trump*. Los informes diarios sobre el estado de cosas lo dio el director del Centro para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades en Atlanta.

“Dio un paso al costado y permitió que los expertos tuviesen el control”, dijo *Markel* sobre *Obama*. “No tenía que estar en el estrado, pero tu sabías que estaba allí”.

En Estados Unidos se informó de casi 12.500 muertes por el *H1N1* entre abril del 2009 y abril del 2010, en que la Organización Mundial de la Salud dio por concluida la pandemia.

Obama empleó casi 1.000 millones de dólares y envió a personal militar a África para ayudar a controlar un brote de ébola en el 2014.

Bush estaba medio recién llegado a la presidencia cuando terroristas secuestraron aviones y los estrellaron contra las *Torres Gemelas*, el Pentágono y un terreno de cultivo en Pensilvania



Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update March 28

The COVID-19 numbers for Lucas County for today, March 28, 2020 are as follows:

- 75 total cases
- 2 deaths
- 32 male cases
- 43 female cases
- The ages range from 22 to 96

Parks and open spaces are safe with social distancing. All playgrounds are closed and should not be used.

For information on COVID-19, visit: www.LucasCountyHealth.com. The 24/7 Lucas County Community COVID-19 Call Line Numbers are: 419 251-4000 (English only) and 419-291-5355 (multilingual).

The Ohio Department of Health website is www.Coronavirus.Ohio.Gov and the Ohio Department of Health hotline is 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

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Congresswoman
MARCY KAPTUR

Coronavirus changes life for Escuela SMART, Latino-focused Agencies

By La Prensa Staff

The coronavirus pandemic abruptly ended classes for Escuela SMART, Queen of Apostles, and other schools in the Toledo area. Now Latino agencies are bracing for a “new normal” with the governor extending those school closures until May 1, 2020.

Escuela SMART canceled its annual *Día de los Niños* celebration in April, which has developed into a school fair allowing families to celebrate the academic success of their children. Likewise, Latino nonprofits have canceled programs and events and postponed fundraisers, while repurposing their missions to meet needs related to the ongoing pandemic.

For example, the *Sofía Quintero Art and Cultural Center (SQACC)* is providing free meals to students in the Old South End. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, the center’s staff and volunteers join forces to pack 100 brown bag lunches and hand them out at noon. Since there is no high school in the Old South End providing free meals to students, *Nana’s Kitchen* has become an important source of nutritious meals for kids.

“Bowsher (High School), when you don’t have transportation, can still be far for families in the Old South End,” said *Taylor Burciaga, SQACC* executive director. “So that’s when we looked at *Nana’s Kitchen* and looked at one of our grants, which is supposed to be teaching about healthy cooking and thought about how we could still use the grant, still use the kitchen and donations.”

Ms. Burciaga stated the Tuesday-Thursday lunches helps fill the entire week for kids, adding to other free meals being provided by Queen of Apostles on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. By the end of the first week in April, SQACC will have handed out 600 brown bag lunches, which has reinvigorated the staff—because they see the direct impact of their efforts.

“It’s awesome. It allows them to see firsthand why it’s so important for us to do what we do,” said Mrs. Burciaga. “They’ve been really excited we’ve been able to do this. For me, I

don’t always get to have those direct interactions with the community. It’s been awesome for me because I’ve been in the kitchen twice a week putting these meals together.”

The SQACC executive director spoke with one mom by phone who needed food for her family and a neighbor’s brood. Between them, they had nine kids. SQACC was able to meet their need.

The nonprofit’s art coordinator already had been thinking beyond the lunches when the governor announced schools would be closed until May 1. Now, SQACC is adjusting its arts mission by putting together 800 art kits to give to students from Escuela SMART and Queen of Apostles.

“It’s really cool. Each kit is cultural,” said Mrs. Balderas. “We totally understand that clothing, food and transportation are essential right now. But for the kids, art can be such a huge way for them to express themselves, especially right now. It can be really scary for them. It can be really stressful for them. Some of them need that creative outlet. These art kits can really help with that part of the curriculum they’re really not having right now.”

SQACC is working to secure the \$4,000 in funding that will be needed to pay for the art kits, which Mrs. Balderas hopes to distribute sometime in mid-April.

The art kits were welcome news to Escuela SMART school officials, who now have to plan for kids being out of the classroom for at least seven weeks, instead of the original three. Educators there have turned into social workers, too—trying to help struggling families as much as possible. A survey just went out to parents to gauge their ongoing concerns and needs.

“We just want to make sure we’re meeting the parents’ needs,” said *Jessica Molina Kuhlman, Escuela SMART* principal. “We can sit back and guess what our parents need, but we really need to hear from the parents what they need. With the most recent announcement, finding out what

our parents need is more urgent now.”

Trying to keep elementary students sharp on their bilingual skills is an added challenge other schools don’t face, admitted Mrs. Kuhlman. The so-called “blizzard bags” sent home with academic lessons can only do so much.

School officials have compiled online outlets for speaking Spanish, but most families don’t have Internet access at home. Escuela SMART leaders have tried to spread the word about an offer by Buckeye Broadband to provide free Internet service to families who cannot afford it and qualify.

“Hopefully we’ve connected most of our families in need of Internet to Buckeye directly so they can get that need met,” said Mrs. Kuhlman. “I’m really grateful for our staff in all of this. These are unprecedented times and I think everybody’s just figuring out what do we need to do and how quickly can we do it.”

Adelante staff is mostly working from home, checking by phone on the overall well-being of clients and families and answering questions related to the coronavirus pandemic.

“When this thing first started, there was a real sense of panic,” said *Sabina Elizondo-Serratos, Adelante* executive director. “People were calling to say they had never bought sanitizing wipes before because they can’t afford them and not something in their budget. So they’re panicking because people are telling them they need them.”

Adelante this week received word it would receive a \$5,000 emergency grant from the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. That money will go toward “household help kits,” to provide needy Latino families a variety of items they cannot afford—disposable wipes, personal hygiene items, and even food, in some cases. Ms. Serratos estimates those will be available mid-April.

“That way I think we’ll be able to help more families as opposed to first-come, first-served, and all of sudden all of the money is gone,” she said. “We have to think creatively in order to impact more fami-

lies than just a few.”

Community health workers continue to make home visits with pregnant clients and mental health caseworkers are doing the same with the families they see on a regular basis. In addition to client families, *Adelante’s* staff has become the go-to for the local Spanish-speaking population.

“There’s a genuine fear of the unknown. But you add in the language barrier, you add in an undocumented status and that anxiety, in some cases, is quadrupled for our clients,” said Mrs. Serratos. “We have to make sure we are there to answer a call of ‘what do I do?’ or ‘I don’t understand what the governor just said.’ We’re serving a different purpose just because it’s become a free-for-all now.”

Mrs. Serratos fears for the academic progress of students from Spanish-speaking families who may not understand the nuances of homeschooling their children during the pandemic. *Adelante* staff are reaching out and offering homework help to the 200 or so students in the nonprofit’s youth programs—but she called that a “drop in the bucket” for the number of students enrolled elsewhere besides Escuela SMART and Queen of Apostles.

“I’m really concerned about that,” she said. “I’m hoping by the end of this, we make some intentional changes for some impact.”

The Believe Center had

to close its sports programs and afterschool activities ceased on schools

went on a three-week hiatus. But the center’s toughest decision was to temporarily end its child care operation when state restrictions forced day care centers to seek a special pandemic license to continue operating.

Instead, leaders at the Believe Center have been working the phones, talking to and encouraging kids, and passing out food baskets to needy families who participate in the center’s activities.

“A lot of what we’ve been trying to do is share information with our families,” said assistant director *Elaina Hernandez*. “When we hear about food giveaways, lunches, different kinds of programs as far as education, we’ve been really trying to get that information to our families.”

El Corazón de Mexico Ballet Folklorico, which normally practices at The Believe Center, instead has the dance troupe holding practices digitally via the teleconferencing service Zoom.

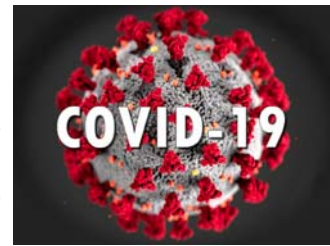
But the biggest impact at The Believe Center these days is ensuring the kids have someone they can talk to, helping them maintain their mental well-being during a time of social isolation.

“A lot of the kids are

lonely and just able to talk to somebody. Text messaging is great, but it’s not the same as actually talking to somebody,” said Ms. Hernández. “But we’ve always had that aspect to us. It’s not just about the sports. Sports just give us access to the kids. Our mission has always been that we have happy kids or they know there’s an adult who cares about them.”

Opening Day festivities originally scheduled for this weekend at the new multi-purpose sports complex at *Danny Thomas Park* are now canceled. Baseball hall-of-famer *Cal Ripken, Jr.*, was supposed to fly into town to throw out the first pitch. Now Believe Center leaders fear a spring and summer baseball season could fall victim to the coronavirus pandemic, too.

According to Ms. Hernandez, they’re looking at creating an informal intramural fall baseball league that would run alongside soccer and flag football programs at the multi-sport complex. That’s just another example of how everyone is trying to adjust to that “new normal,” while also planning for the uncertainty that still lies ahead—and the prospect that “new normal” could last a long time to come.



Estrellas latinas se unen en concierto virtual de Telemundo

MIAMI, 20 III 20 (AP): Un especial de Telemundo reunirá este sábado de manera virtual a artistas que incluyen a *J Balvin, Luis Fonsi, Alejandro Sanz, CNCO, Prince Royce y Farruko*. El “Concierto en Casa” (#ConciertoEnCasa), organizado en respuesta a la pandemia del coronavirus, podrá verse a partir de las 7 pm hora del este (2300 GMT) en Telemundo, UNIVERSO y todas sus plataformas.

La idea es unir a las familias en cuarentena para que disfruten de las

actuaciones musicales e intervenciones de artistas latinos del momento en estos tiempos difíciles, dijo la cadena el jueves en un comunicado.

“En medio de esta crisis, queremos ofrecerles a nuestros televidentes un especial de entretenimiento en familia alentador, que puedan disfrutar juntos y seguros desde la comodidad de sus hogares”, dijo *Ronald Day*, vicepresidente ejecutivo de entretenimiento de Telemundo, en la misiva.

Gloria y Emilio Estefan, Reik, Sofía Reyes, Carlos Vives, Wisin, Jesse & Joy,

Alejandra Guzmán, Mau y Ricky y Camila aparecen en la lista de participantes que transmitirán directamente desde sus casas o estudios. También están *Emilia, Angela y Pepe Aguilar, Paulina Rubio, Raymix, Franco De Vita, Calibre 50, El Bebito, Banda Los Sebastianes, Banda El Recodo, Banda Los Recoditos y Daniel Habif*.

El programa, que también podrá verse a través de la aplicación de Telemundo, será conducido por *María Celeste Arrarás y Jorge Bernal*.

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Fighting COVID-19: Tri-C Donates Medical Supplies to Health Professionals

CLEVELAND, March 26, 2020: Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C[®]) has donated hundreds of boxes of respiratory masks, gloves and other protective equipment to health professionals working on the front lines of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

The desperately needed supplies came from academic programs across the College. The protective gear was intended for use in hands-on instruction at Tri-C. Those classes, however, are not in session given a shift to remote instruction to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Shortages of masks and gloves have created challenges for health care workers and first responders already straining to meet demands created by the virus.

"In extraordinary times such as this, it's critical that we all work together to meet community needs," Tri-C President Alex Johnson said. "The College is

doing its part to protect those delivering treatment and providing safe care for patients."

Tri-C staff emptied shelves while gathering supplies at every campus. Items came from nursing and health career programs, culinary class kitchens, plant science labs, manufacturing workspaces and other sites.

Campus police loaded up the donations and took them to a collection point created by Cuyahoga County, which recently issued a plea for protective equipment.

Tri-C joins a growing list of community colleges across the nation offering supplies to local efforts.

"It is remarkable to see how the institutions that are preparing students to work in the health care field are stepping up to help their partners and communities during this crisis," said Walter Bumphus, president and CEO of the American Association of Community Colleges.

Greater Cleveland COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund awards \$500,000 in initial round of grantmaking

CLEVELAND, March 27, 2020: The Greater Cleveland COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund coalition announced today its first round of weekly grants to support the Greater Cleveland nonprofit community during the ongoing pandemic. In total, \$500,000 was awarded to the following organizations:

- **Greater Cleveland Food Bank** (\$300,000): To support the dramatically increasing needs of individuals impacted by food insecurity including children, families, seniors and individuals with health challenges. This funding will help to subsidize emergency food resources as well as programming and supplies that will be needed in the coming weeks and months. The Greater Cleveland Food Bank is the largest hunger relief organization in Northeast Ohio, having served more than 350,000 people in Cuyahoga, Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Ashland and Richland counties in 2019.
- **MedWish International** (\$70,000): To hire temporary staff to collect and provide access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other in-demand medical supplies for local health care institutions. MedWish will

identify the most needed items and pull those from its inventory to make them available as quickly as possible upon request. This includes ventilators, PPE and respiratory supplies.

This grant will also help MedWish coordinate local donation drop-off locations throughout the community to collect excess items individuals may have in their homes that are in high demand by local health care facilities (such as gloves, masks and hand sanitizer).

• **Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless (NEOCH)** (\$70,000): To provide emergency lodging that will allow unsheltered individuals to remain quarantined before the pandemic reaches its peak. By placing these individuals in emergency lodging, they will have the opportunity to avoid risks associated with sleeping outside and can practice more effective social distancing. Further, NEOCH will be able to centralize outreach and coordinate efforts more effectively since it will be easier to get food and supplies to the people it serves.

• **Senior Transportation Connection (STC)** (\$60,000): To continue to provide essential medical and food access services to older adults in the community. In many cases, STC serves as a last-resort service for older adults with mobility needs and limited social supports. More than half of those served by STC are 75 years and older, while nearly 60% are low income – two demographic groups identified as particularly vulnerable populations during this crisis.

The partners plan to continue to make grants once a week through June, with the potential to extend grant opportunities as needed and as additional funding resources become available through new partners joining the effort. Frontline nonprofits that have press-



ing needs related to the COVID-19 crisis response should email covid19response@clevefdn.org to receive more information about the streamlined funding process. The funding collaborative will continue to identify potential grantee partners, solicit guidance on proposed projects from community advisors and recommend final awards. Organizations that have already submitted funding requests will remain in consideration for future grant distributions until further notice.

Overall contributions to the Rapid Response Fund now total more than \$5.73 million from 35 different corporate, civic and philanthropic partners alongside individual donations from across the region. New funding partners (since March 23) include Dominion Energy, Giant Eagle Foundation, The Gries Family Foundation, Karry & Jonathan Hatch, The McHale Family Foundation, The Sherwin-Williams Company, TEGNA Foundation and Three Arches Foundation. Funding partners urge other foundations, corporate entities, individuals and organizations to contribute to the fund via ClevelandFoundation.org/Response, where you can also view a list of partners to date. Donations of any amount are welcomed, and all contributions are tax deductible.

The Rapid Response Fund is designed to complement the work of public health officials and expand capacity in Cuyahoga, Lake and Geauga counties by strategically and efficiently addressing impact from the

outbreak. Initially, grant funding will support nonprofit organizations that provide community safety nets (e.g., food pantries, homelessness and housing assistance, etc.) and have strong experience working with the immediate needs of populations made vulnerable by the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the Rapid Response Fund will support nonprofit organizations that serve:

- People over 60 years of age, people with compromised immune systems, those who are pregnant, and others with increased health risks associated with the novel coronavirus
- Low-income residents
- Homeless people
- Residents without health insurance and/or access to paid time off work
- People with limited English language proficiency
- Healthcare, service workers, and part-time workers
- People of color
- People with disabilities
- Incarcerated and returning individuals
- Other populations emerging with needs as the crisis unfolds

Based upon the charitable structure of the Rapid Response Fund, grants are limited to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, corporate entities, individuals and organizations to contribute to the fund via ClevelandFoundation.org/Response, where you can also view a list of partners to date. Donations of any amount are welcomed, and all contributions are tax deductible.

The Rapid Response Fund is designed to complement the work of public health officials and expand capacity in Cuyahoga, Lake and Geauga counties by strategically and efficiently addressing impact from the

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Invitan a participar en clases de zumba en línea para apoyar a familias mexicanas

La meta es recaudar \$1000 dólares

Por: Isabel Flores, corresponsal La Prensa

GRAND RAPIDS, MI: La asociación sin fines de lucro *Ama sin Fronteras* y la maestra de zumba *Yeli Romero*, invitan a participar en la gran Fiesta de Zumba en Línea que se realiza el lunes 23 y miércoles 25 de marzo; así como lunes 30 de marzo y miércoles 1 de abril de 6:00pm a 6:45pm, en la página de facebook: @yelizumbainstructor

Aunque se sugiere un pago de \$5 dólares para tener acceso a las clases, en realidad la donación es voluntaria, ya que la meta es recaudar \$1000 dólares en apoyo a familias de Zapopan, Jalisco, afectadas por el coronavirus.

Erika Dawn, Directora de *Ama Sin Fronteras*, dijo: "Hay muchas familias de escasos recursos en México que trabajan para vivir día a día. Con el coronavirus no pueden ir a trabajar, los costos de los productos han aumentado, hay muchas comunidades sin agua ni electricidad, es por eso que nuestros socios ya realizaron una primera donación para las familias de escasos recursos de las comunidades en Zapopan para que pudieran tener comida. Por nuestra parte, ya enviamos dinero para cubrir el costo de los alimentos de 100 familias que han perdido sus ingresos; se les entregaron productos de la canasta básica como arroz, frijoles, aceite, azúcar, entre otros. Con los \$1000 dólares que recaudemos en las clases de zumba, lograremos llevar alimento a más familias".

Con la donación que se realice, no sólo se apoyará a las familias en México, sino que también se podrá disfrutar de una excelente fiesta de zumba para reducir el estrés y ganar excelentes regalos. "La situación que estamos viviendo no es fácil. En lo personal, cuando practico zumba me olvido de todo, me renuevo porque me ayuda para quitar el estrés. En este momento que la gente siente miedo, no hay mejor ejercicio que la zumba", comentó *Yeli Romero*.

Al final de cada clase se sortean diferentes regalos donados por los siguientes patrocinadores: *La Casa del Pollo Loco*, *Pure Vanity Salons*, *Dora Hoge Photography*, *Tamales el Kora*, *Guelaguetza Designs*, *Acceso VIP*, *María*

Erazo y Yeli's Fitness.

Yeli es una maestra que cuenta con tres certificaciones: zumba regular, zumba niños y zumba con pesas. Originaria de Puebla, disfruta el baile desde que era chica y tiene un gran don para motivar a la gente. Practicó zumba en el YMCA durante seis años, en donde su maestra la motivo a certificarse para dar clases. Ahora trabaja para *Spectrum Health* para dar clases comunitarias gratuitas en la Grandville.

"Es la primera vez que hacemos zumba en línea, batallamos un poco con la tecnología en la primera clase, pero logramos salir adelante. Teníamos planeado dar la clase en un grupo cerrado para las personas que donaran, pero no pudimos realizar la transmisión en vivo por lo que tuve que hacerlo desde mi página: @yelizumbainstructor, es ahí donde se estarán dando las siguientes clases", señaló *Romero*.

Cabe destacar que originalmente *Ama Sin Fronteras* estaba realizando un evento de recaudación de fondos en donde *Yeli* participaría modelando ropa de algunas tiendas locales del oeste de Michigan, pero por la contingencia se tuvo que posponer hasta nuevo aviso.

Sin embargo la maestra de zumba decidió tomar la iniciativa de realizar una clase en línea para poder continuar con la recaudación de fondos y buscar patrocinadores para hacerlo todavía más interesante. Lo cual ha sido muy aplaudido por todos sus seguidores.

Por su parte, *Erika* explicó que *Ama* es una organización local sin fines de lucro con un propósito global que es empoderar a los niños pobres en México a través de la educación y los recursos holísticos. "Hacemos esto creando espacios seguros para que los niños amplíen su aprendizaje, abriendo sus oportunidades de conocimiento. El conocimiento es poder y la oportunidad trae

esperanza. A través de la esperanza y el empoderamiento, los niños pueden romper el ciclo de la pobreza y reescribir el paisaje para las generaciones futuras".



Se eligió trabajar en *Zapopan, Jalisco* por ser la ciudad hermana de *Grand Rapids*, ahí se encuentran áreas de extrema pobreza. *Ama Sin Fronteras* construyó un centro comunitario, *The Connection Center* en esa ciudad, en donde se realizan diferentes proyectos como la instalación de una biblioteca de 500 libros, atención médica, refugio para niños, entre otros.

El director de *Ama* en México es *Benjamín Hernández*. "Hemos estado trabajado durante cinco años aproximadamente en apoyo constante para ayudar a las familias de escasos recursos", dijo *Erika*. "Cuando realice trabajos en República Dominicana por la escuela conocí al suegro de *Benjamín* y es así como lo conocí a él y a su esposa. Formamos alianzas y así fue como creamos la asociación".

Aunque el coronavirus es una pandemia que está afectando al mundo en general, las familias de escasos recursos necesitan el apoyo en este momento para poder comer. Únete a las clases de zumba, diviértete, relájate, obtén regalos y dona porque juntos podemos hacer una gran diferencia. La meta son \$1000 dólares. Inscríbete HOY mismo en facebook: Fundraiser for *Ama*

Para mayor información sobre *Ama*, visita el sitio web: <https://amawithoutborders.org>. Para donaciones, favor de enviar correo a erika@amawithoutborders.org o llamar al 616-550-9574.

How my parents unknowingly prepared me for the COVID-19 pandemic

OP Ed By Raquel Castaneda

Thursday night I checked our cabinets to see if we needed groceries after listening to stories about chaos at the stores. We had three packs of Costco toilet paper, rice and other grains to last for months and a freezer filled with frozen fruits & veggies- all we were out of was fresh produce and beans.

I texted my 65yr old mom to ask how she & my 90yr grandmother were doing & if they needed any groceries. Like me, they only needed a few things, toilet paper being one of them.

I smiled and laughed reading her reply. We were already stockpiled for a crisis... we always had been.

As a child I remember my mom arriving at home with a case of green peppers, smiling and proudly announcing "I got this whole case for \$2." We were excited by her find and because we knew we'd be eating delicious stuffed green peppers, filled with cheesy mexican rice, for days.

We never questioned why she bought cases of food, or stockpiled sale items- food stamps limited what she could buy and there were 10 of us to feed. She knew buying in bulk and cooking from scratch was the only way to feed us all.

Grocery shopping was our family outing and each trip she taught us how to get the most for every dollar. She'd calculate the price per ounce and inspect cases of produce to find the one with the least amount of moldy fruit- we'd eat some and freeze the rest. If we questioned our need for the quantity or size of an item, she'd say "someone else will need some" or "it's best to buy it on sale and save it for later, so you never run out."

My father didn't always agree with this food hoarding, but admired my mother's shopping skills.

He had his own "thriftiness" mindset: never waste anything. For him, all you really needed to survive were beans and tortillas. With that, we'd be fine. But he

loved fresh fruit, thus the cases my mom bought.

My mom grew up in the Herman Garden projects on Detroit's west side and my father in Coahuila, Mexico in the 1930s. Needless to say they were both poor. They passed the skills they developed to survive onto my siblings and I as we grew up in poverty in Detroit.

While there is so much pain and struggle in their stories and mine, I am reminded in moments of crisis of their resiliency and pulsating strength. I'm grateful for the skills I learned from them.

Many of our parents have been through so much struggle and prepared us for this pandemic without even knowing it. This resiliency, preparedness, and strength is what makes our community beautiful and is what will get us through this struggle.

I told her I'd bring her some toilet paper & tortillas this weekend 'cause I'd already bought it for her just in case ...

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Health director: Ohio making progress flattening the curve

By JULIE CARR SMYTH and JOHN SEEWER, Associated Press

COLUMBUS, March 26, 2020 (AP) — Early projections show Ohio is making progress flattening the curve of coronavirus cases in the state. Gov. Mike DeWine is poised to sign a sweeping relief package passed by lawmakers to address effects of the virus, while new figures on jobless claims show those numbers skyrocketing. Ohio now has at least 15 deaths and more than 860 cases of the virus, including three at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. A look at virus-related developments in Ohio on Thursday:

FLATTENING THE CURVE

Ohio's efforts to slow the spread are showing positive results, the state's health director said.

Early modeling suggests Ohio is on track to cut the effect on the state's health care system by 50% or more, said Amy Acton, state health director.

But it's no time for a victory lap, she said, adding that residents must remain committed to practicing social distancing and staying at home.

"Ohio, what you're doing absolutely is saving lives," Acton said.

JOBLESS CLAIMS

Jobless claims skyrocketed from about 7,000 to nearly 188,000 in the week ending Saturday, according to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. That total for a single week was more than Ohio has seen in any full month except one, during the heat of the 1980s recession.

NO HOOPS

DeWine said it's critical that everyone follow his advice to stay home and avoid getting together in large groups, even on playgrounds.

He said he spoke

with several mayors on Thursday and some said they were taking down basketball hoops in parks to stop people from gathering.

"Social distancing buys the hospitals, everybody more time," he said.

CASES

Among the more than 860 cases, about 220 people have been hospitalized, with nearly 100 in intensive care.

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base declared a public health emergency and set up a command center after three cases were confirmed there. Unit commanders have been given latitude to let employees work from home if they're able, the Dayton Daily News reported.

The state is limiting testing to those who are hospitalized and to health care workers. The Department of Health said people with suspected symptoms should call a medical provider first but seek immediate help if symptoms are serious, such as difficulty breathing or shortness of breath.

For most people, COVID-19 displays mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can be more severe, causing pneumonia or death.

STATE ACTION

DeWine plans to sign on Friday a (backlash)relief package. Mandatory state testing for schools would be ditched this year, mail-in voting for the postponed primary would be allowed until April 28, and the deadline for filing state income taxes would be extended until July 15 under the wide-ranging bill.

Meanwhile, the Ohio Democratic Party plans to drop a lawsuit against the state elections chief after its concerns about the establishment of a June 2 primary were ad-

dressed in the legislation.

The state says anyone who wants to donate masks, goggles, gloves, gowns and face shields for healthcare workers and first responders should send an email to together@governor.ohio.gov.

Ohio's two U.S. attorneys and Attorney General Dave Yost promised swift action, including criminal charges, against doctors found to have improperly prescribed the drugs chloroquine or hydroxychloroquine for COVID-19 for patients who don't have a positive test.

PRISON LAWSUIT

An inmate with HIV has asked to be released during the pandemic, telling the Ohio Supreme Court that being in prison could be a death sentence for him.

Derek Lichtenwalter told the court that social distancing guidelines are not possible among inmates, adding that he is within 3 feet of a dozen people and that the virus would spread quickly if it enters the prison.

The court on Thursday gave the state until Monday to respond to the lawsuit.

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

There will be no high school basketball, ice hockey or wrestling state championships this year.

The Ohio High School Athletic Association on Thursday officially canceled the remaining winter sports tournaments, ending any hope that they could be resumed.

"Even if our schools reopen this spring, it will be difficult to find facilities willing to host the tournaments," said Jerry Snodgrass, the group's executive director.

Seewer reported from Toledo.



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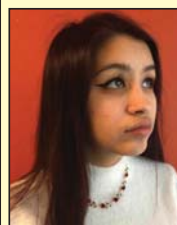
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Notice of Civil Service Examination Firefighter City of Fremont

The Fremont Civil Service Commission will be holding an entrance exam for the position of Firefighter on Sunday April 19, 2020 at 7 am. This will be held at the Fremont Community Recreation Complex at 600 Saint Joseph St. Fremont, Ohio 43420. Applications for the test can be completed by visiting www.fremontohio.org and clicking on the job postings tab. Applications are due by Friday, April 10, 2020 at noon. For questions, please contact the Office of the Safety Service Director at 419-334-2687 or e-mail Amanda Sears at asears@fremontohio.org.



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Toledo-Lucas County Health Department Building Closed

The Toledo-Lucas County Health Department building at 635 North Erie St. is closed to the public until Tuesday, March 31, 2020. A deep cleaning of the building will be performed over the weekend.

Tuberculosis Clinic appointments that are already scheduled as home visit tests will continue but new appointments cannot be scheduled until after at least April 6, 2020.

There are two positive COVID-19 test results among health department staff and two presumptive positive tests. Health Commissioner Eric Zgodzinski is in self quarantine out of an abundance of caution. He is asymptomatic. All staff working at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) began working virtually today.

The health department site for WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) is closed through Monday, March 30. All other WIC sites are open, but nearly all have changed operating hours. Health department WIC participants with appointments will be contacted regarding when they can come and have their cards loaded. All other participants should call their home WIC office if they have questions.

March 23, 2020: Two Lucas County Auto Title offices to remain closed indefinitely and procedures put in place at remaining two offices. U.S. Passport Application processes suspended indefinitely.

The Lucas County Clerk of Courts is announcing that two Lucas County Auto Title offices will remain closed until further notice due to the COVID 19 crisis and to reduce the possible contact between the public and our employees. This is being done voluntarily and in the interest of safety for our citizens and our employees.

The offices that are closed and will remain closed are as follows: Lucas County Auto Title, 1600 Madison Ave., Toledo, OH 43604 and Lucas County Auto Title, 4456 Heatherdowns Blvd., Toledo, OH 43614. Our two remaining Auto Title offices located at 4900 N. McCord Rd., Sylvania, OH 43560 and Lucas County Auto Title, 3034 Navarre Ave., Oregon, OH 43616 will be open at regular business hours, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

However, we will not be processing person to person title transactions. Individuals needing title work should mail their information to either the Sylvania office or the Oregon office for processing. Should individuals have questions they can contact those offices by phone at either 419-213-2400 or 419-213-8580. All dealer work shall be dropped off for processing at either office and a staff member will contact dealers for a scheduled pick up. We understand the inconvenience this may cause, but it is necessary to limit person to person contact.

Finally, we have ceased all U.S. Passport application processes at our Lucas County Auto Title offices until further notice.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Lucas County Clerk of Court's J. Bernie Quilter on his mobile phone at 419-450-0174 or at his office at 419-213-4405.

Top 4 Ways for Older Adults to Stay Healthy During the Coronavirus Crisis

While some of the ways on this list may come as no surprise, there are some new resources that have been developed to help older adults to stay healthy in the following top 4 ways to stay healthy during the Coronavirus Crisis list:

1. Another Reason to Remain at Home – Those age 60 and better needing groceries and meals but wanting to abide by the Governor's Remain at Home order have a new, quick easy and low-cost way to have groceries and meals brought right to their homes. The Area Office on Aging and senior centers have stepped up to help make sure older adults get their groceries and meals delivered. The Area Office on Aging and its provider network have delivered groceries or meals to over 6,000 older northwest Ohioans during the last week. Older adults simply call the Area Office on Aging at 419-382-0624 to place your order and before they know it their groceries and/or meals will be on their doorstep.

2. Well-Check Calls – Recent studies show that loneliness has a negative impact on the health of older adults equivalent to smoking 15 cigarettes a day. While this time of remaining at home can be lonely for many, the Area Office on Aging and its volunteers have been and continue to call thousands of older adults at least weekly to check in on them to make sure they are okay and to provide them with an opportunity to socialize.

3. Continue to Get Essential Medical Care – The Area Office on Aging is continuing its partnership with Black & White Transportation so that those older adults who still need a way to get to the doctor's office or hospital for essential medical care can get to the essential care they need. For more information on this free medical transportation service, contact the Area Office on Aging at 419-382-0624.

4. Wash hands – Washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or using hand sanitizer frequently throughout the day are some of the best ways to stop the spread of the Coronavirus.

The vast majority of these services supported by the Area Office on Aging are available for any Lucas County resident age 60 and over. The demand for these services has also increased as more older adults are staying home due to people age 65+ being more susceptible to the Coronavirus and have a higher mortality rate, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Those interested in receiving these services can call the Area Office on Aging at 419-382-0624 or via e-mail at adri@areaofficeonaging.com. Those who are interested in volunteering to help with delivery of home-delivered meals or with grocery delivery can contact the Area Office on Aging at 419-382-0624 or e-mail volunteers@areaofficeonaging.com. The Area Office on Aging is vetting volunteers to help ensure they have no history of criminal behavior.

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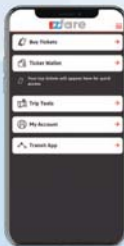
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01 Step One

DOWNLOAD EZfare
Download the EZfare App. The app is free to download and is available on both Android and Apple. Once your app is open, create an account or sign-in.

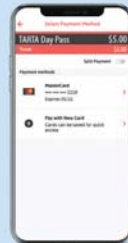
02 Step Two

PICK YOUR TRANSIT
Choose the transit system you wish to travel with. You may purchase tickets to more than one transit system by going into each



03 Step Three

SELECTING YOUR FARE
Select the fare you wish to purchase.



04 Step Four

PURCHASING YOUR TICKET
Enter your payment information. You can store payment information for quick reuse next time.



05 Step Five

USING YOUR TICKET
Go to your "Ticket Wallet" and select the ticket(s) that you want to use. Activate your ticket just prior to boarding. Show your phone to your driver when getting on the bus. You DO NOT have to be online to activate your ticket.

