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

THE ERA OF COVID-19

Estados reimponen restricciones por coronavirus

Por PAUL WEBER y MICHELLE R. SMITH, Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas, 26 VI 20 (AP): Texas y Florida dieron marcha atrás el viernes y adoptaron de nuevo medidas contra los bares, mientras el número diario de infecciones confirmadas de coronavirus en todo Estados Unidos alcanzaba la cifra sin precedente de 40.000.

El gobernador de Texas, Greg Abbott, ordenó el cierre de todos los bares, mientras que Florida prohibió el consumo de alcohol en dichos establecimientos. Ambos estados se sumaron a una pequeña pero creciente lista de entidades que han suspendido una mayor reapertura de sus economías debido a rebrotes, principalmente en el sur y el oeste del país.

Los expertos en salud han dicho que se está registrando un preocupantemente elevado número de infecciones entre personas jóvenes que están saliendo otra vez, a menudo sin mascarillas y sin acatar otras medidas de distanciamiento social.

"Es evidente que el aumento de los casos es impulsado principalmente por cierto tipo de actividades, como la asistencia de texanos en los bares", declaró Abbott.

Abbott había emprendido una de las calendarizaciones más dinámicas de reapertura en

el país. El republicano se había resistido a las exigencias de que ordenara el uso de mascarillas y también se había rehusado hasta la semana pasada a permitir que los gobiernos locales impusieran esa medida.

"Los médicos nos dijeron en su momento, y lo manifestaron a quien escuchara, que esto sería un desastre. Y lo hemos", declaró el juez demócrata Clay Jenkins, la autoridad de más alto rango del condado Dallas. "Una vez más, el gobernador actúa con lentitud. Ahora se ve obligado a hacer las cosas que le exigimos hiciera en el último mes y medio".

Texas reportó más de 17.000 casos nuevos en los últimos tres días, y el jueves alcanzó un récord de casi 6.000. El segundo estado más poblado también ha registrado récords diarios de hospitalizaciones, y el viernes rebasó por primera vez los 5.000 pacientes de coronavirus internados.

En Florida, por instrucción del gobernador republicano Ron DeSantis, la agencia que regula los bares adoptó medidas después de que el número diario de nuevos casos confirmados se acercara a los 9.000, casi el doble del récord de hace apenas dos días.

Colleen Corbett, una camarera de 30 años que trabaja en dos establecimientos en Tampa,

se dijo molesta y preocupada de quedarse de nuevo sin trabajo, pero señaló que las restricciones son la medida correcta. La mayoría de los clientes no utilizaban mascarillas, apuntó.

"Parece como si hubieran olvidado que hay una pandemia o simplemente dejaron de preocuparse", señaló Corbett.

Varios de los estados más afectados, como Arizona y Arkansas, tienen gobernadores republicanos que se han resistido a decretar como obligatorio el uso de mascarillas y han reiterado el deseo del presidente Donald Trump de reabrir la economía rápidamente pese a las advertencias de que podría haber nuevos brotes de coronavirus.

La cifra de muertes por coronavirus en Estados Unidos ha estado rondando las 600 por día a últimas fechas, comparadas con unas 2.200 en el pico alcanzado en abril. Algunos expertos dudan que se alcance ese nivel nuevamente debido a los avances en tratamiento y prevención.

El virus ha causado unas 125.000 muertes y ha infectado a casi 2,5 millones de personas en Estados Unidos, según un conteo de la Universidad Johns



Hopkins. Pero las autoridades de salud creen que el número de casos es 10 veces mayor. A nivel global, el virus ha cobrado cerca de medio millón de vidas.

Luisiana reportó su segundo día con más de 1.300 casos confirmados, una cifra que hizo que el gobernador demócrata John Bel Edwards suspendiera un mayor levantamiento de las restricciones a la movilidad. El gobernador republicano de Arizona, Doug Ducey, hizo lo mismo, ya que los casos nuevos en su estado superan los 3.000 al día y 85% de las camas de hospital están ocupadas.

Por segunda vez en una semana, Tennessee reportó su mayor incremento diario en infecciones confirmadas, con más de 1.400, pero el gobernador republicano Bill Lee ha sido reacio a reimponer restricciones o a exigir el uso de mascarillas.

Smith informó desde Providence, Rhode Island. Los periodistas de The Associated Press en el todo EEUU contribuyeron a este despacho.

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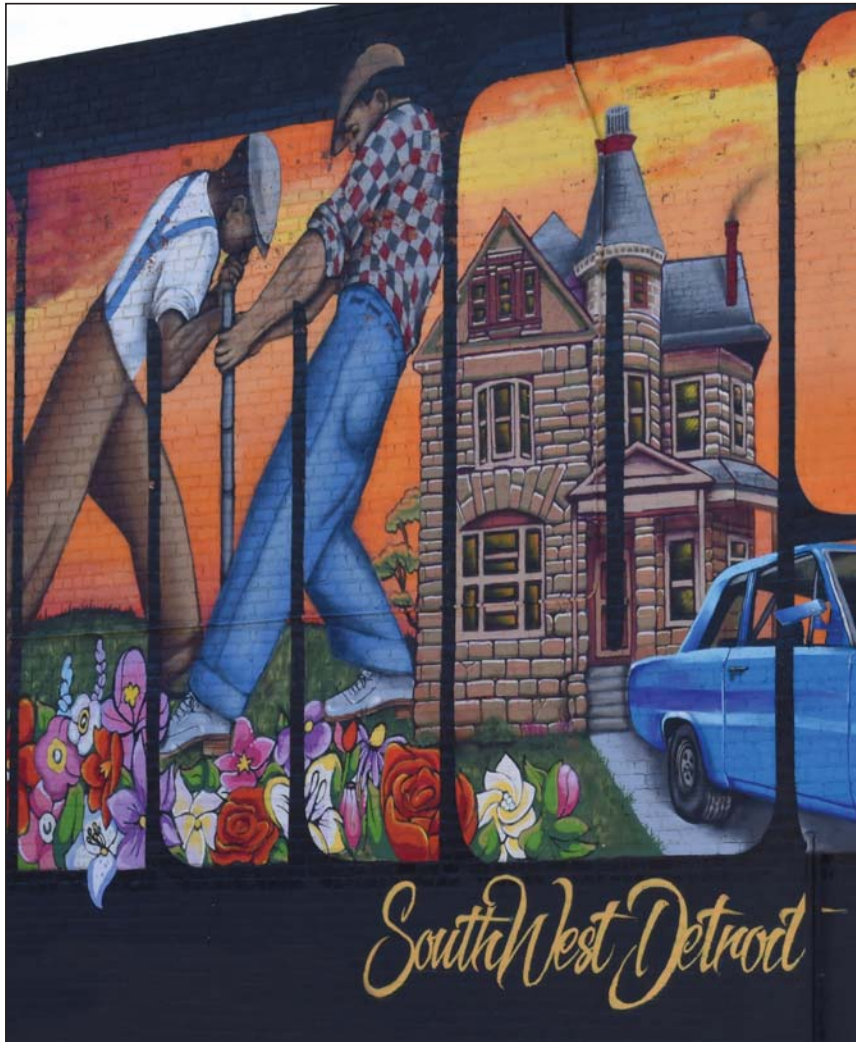
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World hits coronavirus milestones amid fears worse to come

By NICOLE WINFIELD and KEN MORITSUGU, Associated Press

ROME, June 28, 2020 (AP)—The world surpassed two sobering coronavirus milestones Sunday—500,000 confirmed deaths, 10 million confirmed cases—and hit another high mark for daily new infections as governments that attempted re-openings continued to backtrack and warn that worse news could be yet to come.

“COVID-19 has taken a very swift and very dangerous turn in Texas over just the past few weeks,” said Gov. Greg Abbott, who allowed businesses to start reopening in early May but on Friday shut down bars and limited restaurant dining amid a spike in cases.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom rolled back re-openings of bars in seven counties, including Los Angeles. He ordered them to close immediately and urged eight other counties to issue local health orders mandating the same.

More Florida beaches will be closing again to avoid further spread of the new coronavirus as officials try to tamp down on large gatherings amid a spike in COVID-19 cases. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said interactions among young people are driving the surge.

“Caution was thrown to the wind and so we are where we are,” DeSantis said.

South Africa’s health minister warned that the country’s current surge of cases is expected to rapidly increase in the coming weeks and push hospitals to the limit. Health Minister Zwelini Mkhize said the current rise in infections has come from people who “moved back into the workplace.”

New clusters of cases at a Swiss nightclub and in the central English city of Leicester showed that the virus was still circulating widely in Europe, though not with the rapidly growing infection rate seen in parts of the U.S., Latin America and India.

Poland and France, meanwhile, attempted a step toward normalcy as they held elections that had been delayed by the virus.

Wearing mandatory masks, social distancing in lines and carrying their own pens to sign voting registers, French voters cast ballots in a second round of municipal elections. Poles also wore masks and used hand sanitizer, and some in virus-hit areas were told to mail in their ballots.

“I didn’t go and vote the first time around because I am elderly and I got scared,” said Fanny Barouh as she voted in a Paris school.

In Texas, Abbott appeared with Vice President Mike Pence, who cut campaign events from upcoming visits to Florida and Arizona because of rising virus cases in those states.

Pence praised Abbott for both his decision to reopen the state, and to roll back the

reopening plans. “You flattened the curve here in Texas ... but about two weeks ago something changed,” Pence said.

Pence urged people to wear masks when unable to practice social distancing. He and Abbott wore face masks as they entered and left the room, taking them off while speaking to reporters.

Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar, meanwhile, defended the fact that President Donald Trump has rarely worn a mask in public, saying he doesn’t have to follow his own administration’s guidance because as a leader of the free world he’s tested regularly and is in “very different circumstances than the rest of us.”

Addressing spikes in reported coronavirus cases in some states, Azar said on NBC’s “Meet the Press” that people “have to take ownership” of their own behaviors by social distancing and wearing masks if possible.

A reported tally Sunday from Johns Hopkins University researchers said the death toll from the coronavirus pandemic had topped 500,000.

About 1 in 4 of those deaths - more than 125,000 - have been reported in the U.S. The country with the next highest death toll is Brazil, with more than 57,000, or about 1 in 9.

The true death toll from the virus, which first emerged in China late last year, is widely believed to be significantly higher. Experts say that especially early on, many victims died of COVID-19 without being tested for it.

To date, more than 10 million confirmed cases have been reported globally. About a quarter of them have been reported in the U.S.

The World Health Organization announced another daily record in the number of confirmed coronavirus cases across the world - topping over 189,000 in a single 24-hour period. The tally eclipses the previous record a week earlier at over 183,000 cases, showing case counts continue to progress worldwide.

Overall, the U.S. still has far and away the most total cases. At more than 2,450,000 - roughly twice that of Brazil. The number of actual cases worldwide is much higher.

New York, once the nation’s pandemic epicenter, is now “on the exact opposite end,” Gov. Andrew Cuomo said in an interview with “Meet the Press.”

The state reported five new virus deaths Saturday, its lowest reported daily death toll since March 15. During the state’s peak pandemic in April, nearly 800 people were dying every day. New York still leads the nation in COVID-19 deaths with nearly 25,000.

In the state of Washington, Gov. Jay Inslee put a hold on plans to move counties to the fourth phase of his reopening plan as cases con-

tinued to increase. But in Hawaii, the city of Honolulu announced that campgrounds will reopen for the first time in three months with limited permits to ensure social distancing.

Britain’s government, meanwhile, is considering whether a local lockdown is needed for the central English city of Leicester amid reports about a spike in COVID-19 among its Asian community. It would be Britain’s first local lockdown.

“We have seen flare-ups across the country in recent weeks,” Home Secretary Priti Patel told the BBC on Sunday.

Polish voters were casting ballots, in person and by mail, for a presidential election that was supposed to have taken place in May but was chaotically postponed amid the pandemic. President Andrzej Duda, a 48-year-old conservative, is running against 10 other candidates as he seeks a second five-year term.

Iwona Goge, 79, was encouraged to see so many people voting in Warsaw.

“It’s bad. Poland is terribly divided and people are getting discouraged,” she said.

French voters were choosing mayors and municipal councilors in Paris and 5,000 towns and cities in a second round of municipal elections held under strict hygiene rules.

Italy was honoring its dead later Sunday with an evening Requiem concert in hard-hit Bergamo province. The ceremony in the onetime epicenter of the European outbreak came a day after Italy registered the lowest daily tally of COVID-19 deaths in nearly four months: eight.

European leaders were taking no chances in tamping down new clusters. German authorities renewed a lockdown in a western region of about 500,000 people after about 1,300 slaughterhouse workers tested positive.

Africa’s confirmed cases of COVID-19 continued to climb to a new high of more than 371,000, including 9,484 deaths, according to figures released Sunday by the African Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

China on Monday reported a further decline in new confirmed cases, with a total of just 12, including seven cases of domestic transmission in Beijing, where nearly 8.3 million people have now undergone testing in recent weeks. No new deaths were reported Monday, leaving the total at 4,634 among 83,512 confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Editor’s Note: Associated Press journalists around the world contributed to this report.

Follow AP news coverage of the coronavirus pandemic at <http://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

Census shows white decline, nonwhite majority among youngest

By MIKE SCHNEIDER, Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla., June 25, 2020 (AP)—For the generation of US-Americans not yet old enough to drive, the demographic future has arrived.

For the first time, nonwhites and Latinos were a majority of people under age 16 in 2019, an expected demographic shift that will grow over the coming decades, according to figures released by the U.S. Census Bureau on Thursday.

“We are browning from bottom up in our age structure,” said William Frey, a senior fellow at The Brookings Institution. “This is going to be a diversified century for the United States, and it’s beginning with this youngest generation.”

At the same time, the number of non-Hispanic whites in the U.S. has gotten smaller in the past decade as deaths surpassed births in this aging demographic, according to the Census Bureau population estimates.

Since 2010, the number of whites who aren’t Hispanic had dropped by more than 16,600 people. But the decline has been escalating in the past three years, with the number of non-Hispanic whites dropping by more than a half million people from 2016 to 2019, accord-

ing to the Census Bureau population estimates.

In 2019, a little under 40% of the total U.S. population was either nonwhite or Hispanic. Non-Hispanic whites are expected to be a minority of the U.S. population in about 25 years.

A natural decrease from the number of deaths exceeding births, plus a slowdown in immigration to the U.S., contributed to the population drop since 2010 for non-Hispanic whites, whose median age of 43.7 last year was by far the highest of any demographic group. If these numbers hold for the 2020 census being conducted right now, it will be the first time since the first decennial census in 1790 that there has been a national decline of whites, Frey said.

“It’s aging. Of course, we didn’t have a lot of immigration, that has gone down,” Frey said. “White fertility has gone down.”

In fact, the decrease in births among the white population has led to a dip in the number of people under age 18 in the past decade, a drop exacerbated by the fact that the much larger Millennial cohort has aged out of that group, replaced by a smaller Generation Z.

Over the past decade, Asians had the biggest growth rate of any demographic

group, increasing by almost 30%. Almost two-thirds of that growth was driven by international migration.

The Hispanic population grew by 20% since 2010, with almost three-quarters of that growth coming from a natural increase that comes when more people are born than die.

The Black population grew by almost 12% over the decade, and the white population increased by 4.3%.

The nation’s seniors have swelled since 2010 as Baby Boomers aged into that demographic, with the number of people over age 65 increasing by more than a third. Seniors in 2019 made up more than 16% of the U.S. population, compared to 13% in 2010.

In four states—Maine, Florida, West Virginia, and Vermont—seniors accounted for 20% of the population. That’s a benchmark that the overall U.S. population is expected to reach by 2030.

“The first Baby Boomers reached 65 years old in 2011,” said Luke Rogers, chief of the Census Bureau’s Population Estimates Branch. “No other age group saw such a fast increase.”

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Por PAUL WEBER y MICHELLE R. SMITH, Associated Press

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manifestaron a quien escuchara, que esto sería un desastre. Yo lo he dicho”, declaró el juez demócrata—la autoridad de más alto rango del condado Dallas. “Una vez más, el gobernador actúa con lentitud. Ahora se ve obligado a hacer las cosas que le exigimos hiciera en el último mes y medio”.

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El virus ha causado unas 125.000 muertes y ha infectado a casi 2,5 millones de personas en Estados Unidos, según un conteo de la Universidad Johns Hopkins. Pero las autoridades de salud creen que el número de casos es 10 veces mayor. A nivel global, el virus ha cobrado cerca de medio millón de vidas.

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Por segunda vez en una semana, Tennessee reportó su mayor incremento diario en infecciones confirmadas, con más de 1.400, pero el gobernador republicano Bill Lee ha sido reacio a reimponer restricciones o a exigir el uso de mascarillas.

Suman 10 millones de casos de coronavirus en todo el mundo

Por NICOLE WINFIELD y KEN MORITSUGU, Associated Press

ROMA, 28 VI 20 (AP): La pandemia del coronavirus alcanzó otras dos cruces el domingo, con 500.000 decesos y 10 millones de casos confirmados, así como un nuevo máximo de contagios diarios a medida que los gobiernos que intentaron iniciar reaperturas dan marcha atrás y advierten sobre peores noticias por venir.

“El COVID-19 ha dado un giro rápido y peligroso en Texas en apenas unas cuantas semanas”, señaló el gobernador Greg Abbott, quien permitió la reapertura de algunos negocios a inicios de mayo pero el viernes ordenó el cierre de bares y la operación de restaurantes con capacidad reducida ante un repunte de contagios.

En California, el gobernador Gavin Newsom dio marcha atrás a la reapertura de bares en siete condados, incluyendo el de Los Ángeles. Ordenó su cierre inmediato e instó a otros ocho condados a emitir órdenes sanitarias locales para cerrar ese tipo de establecimientos.

El ministro de Salud de Sudáfrica, Zwelini Mkhize, advirtió que se anticipa que el repunte actual de casos aumente rápidamente en las próximas semanas y lleve a los hospitales al límite. Mkhize dijo que el incremento actual de infecciones proviene de personas que “volvieron a su lugar de trabajo. Por lo mismo, era inevitable que se presentaran focos de contagio a medida que éstos se esparcen en las comunidades a lugares de congregación como minas, fábricas, taxis y autobuses”.

Nuevos casos en un club nocturno en Suiza y en la ciudad de Leicester, en el centro de Inglaterra, dejaron en evidencia que el virus todavía circula ampliamente en Europa, aunque no al ritmo que se observa en regiones de Estados Unidos, América Latina y la India.

En tanto, las autoridades de Salud de Australia utilizan lo que describen como las primeras pruebas de diagnóstico de coronavirus con saliva en la segunda ciudad más grande del país, donde el virus se propaga a una velocidad alarmante.

Las autoridades australianas informaron de 49 nuevos contagios en Melbourne el domingo, y apenas otros cuatro casos en otras partes del país.

El subdirector de Salud de Australia, Nick Coatsworth dijo a la televisora Australian Broadcasting Corp. que se realizarán pruebas de saliva en el estado de Victoria, cuya capital es Melbourne, y que los expertos aún analizan la efectividad del nuevo método.

Coatsworth anunció que el método nasal, sumamente incómodo, sigue siendo la opción preferida y podría ser más precisa, pero los análisis por saliva “serán grandiosos, especialmente para los niños”.

Por su parte, Polonia y Francia intentaron dar nuevos pasos hacia la normalidad al celebrar elecciones que habían sido postergadas por la pandemia.

Con mascarillas obligatorias, directrices de distanciamiento social en las filas y con sus propios bolígrafos para firmar los registros, los votantes franceses participaron en la segunda ronda de comicios municipales. En Polonia, los residentes también utilizaron cubrebocas y desinfectante, mientras que en zonas más afectadas del país se implementaron votaciones por correo para evitar mayores contagios.

Un conteo de investigadores de la Universidad Johns Hopkins difundido el domingo señaló que hay 500.108 muertes relacionadas con la pandemia.

Una de cada cuatro de esas muertes—más de 125.000—han sido en Estados Unidos. Le sigue Brasil con más de 57.000 decesos.

Se cree que el verdadero saldo del virus, que surgió en China a finales del año pasado, es mucho mayor. Los especialistas señalan que, particularmente al inicio de la pandemia, muchas de las víctimas fallecieron por COVID-19 sin que se les practicaran pruebas de diagnóstico.

A la fecha se han reportado

más de 10 millones de casos confirmados a nivel mundial y casi una cuarta parte ha sido en Estados Unidos.

La Organización Mundial de la Salud anunció otro récord diario de infecciones confirmadas a nivel mundial, con 189.000 en un período de 24 horas. La cifra opaca la marca previa de hace una semana con 183.000 contagios, lo que demuestra que el virus continúa avanzando en todo el mundo.

En total, Estados Unidos encabeza, por mucho, el número de contagios con 2,450 millones—casi el doble que Brasil.

Mientras tanto, el gobierno de Gran Bretaña sopesa poner en cuarentena a la ciudad de Leicester tras un brote entre su comunidad asiática. Sería el primer cierre local del país.

“Hemos registrado repuntes en todo el país en las últimas semanas”, dijo la secretaria del Interior Priti Patel a la BBC.

En Italia se rindió homenaje a las víctimas con un concierto de Réquiem en la provincia de Bérghamo. La ceremonia en la que fue el epicentro del brote europeo se realizó un día después de que el país reportó su menor cantidad de muertos diarios por COVID-19 en cuatro meses: ocho.

Líderes europeos no titubean en sus intentos por contener los nuevos focos de infección. En Alemania, las autoridades reanovaron la cuarentena en una región occidental

de aproximadamente 500.000 personas después de que unos 1.300 trabajadores de una planta de carne dieron positivo al virus. Las autoridades suizas ordenaron cuarentena para 300 personas que acudieron a un club nocturno en Zúrich.

En África, los casos confirmados de COVID-19 siguen subiendo y ahora llegaron a un máximo de 371.000, incluidas 9.484 muertes.

Periodistas de The Associated Press de todo el mundo contribuyeron a este informe.

Democrats renew health care attacks on GOP as virus builds

By ALEXANDRA JAFFE and ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON, DC, June 26, 2020 (AP): Democrats are intensifying their attacks on President Donald Trump and his Republican allies over health care, hoping that an issue that helped lift the party during the 2018 midterms will prove even more resonant as the White House seeks to repeal the Affordable Care Act during a public health crisis.

Joe Biden, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, told an audience in the swing state of Pennsylvania this week that efforts to undermine the Obama-era health care law were “cruel” and “callous.” House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called Trump “beyond stupid” for trying to roll back the law and introduced legislation that would expand the scope of the overhaul, essentially daring Republicans to vote against it.

The health care law has been a flashpoint in U.S. politics since its enactment a decade ago. Once a cudgel Republicans used against Democrats, the tables have turned as the law’s protection for pre-existing conditions—has become more popular. Democrats believe that their advantage on the issue will only grow as the Trump administration renews its push to nullify the law even as coronavirus infections surge.

“Trying to take away health care in the middle of a pandemic is like throwing out the sandbags during a hurricane,” said Jesse Ferguson, a long-

time Democratic strategist. “The pandemic has made clear for people how important it is to them that their neighbors have health care. It’s no longer a nicety that others have health care; it’s now a necessity.”

Still, the Trump administration filed a brief Thursday urging the Supreme Court to strike down the health care law in its entirety, in support of a lawsuit brought by Texas and other conservative states against it. The brief came on a day that the U.S. saw a record number of new coronavirus cases, with 37,077 reported Thursday.

If the lawsuit is successful, some 20 million US-Americans could lose their health coverage, and protections for people with preexisting health conditions also would be put at risk.

Trump has long expressed a desire to protect those with preexisting conditions but has not said what he would do instead. Even some Republicans say the party should avoid relitigating the issue.

Doug Heye, a longtime Republican strategist, said the Democratic attack adds essentially write themselves.

“For me, it’s really easy to see how Democrats will be able to out-message Republicans on this,” he said. “You lay out the COVID statistics, and you blame President Trump and whoever the Republican is that you’re running against.”

David Flaherty, a Colorado political consultant not associated with GOP Sen. Cory Gardner’s reelection campaign, said the pandemic and the White House legal filings “without question” made the issue even more helpful for Democrats.

“It’s only good for Republicans from conservative districts” who want to avert a primary from a GOP rival, Flaherty said of the White House repeal effort. “It’s only good for the base; it’s not good for middle voters. It’s nothing but upside for Democrats.”

The Trump campaign, however, slammed Biden for what communications director Tim Murtaugh called the “Obamacare disaster” and hinted at the GOP’s lines of attack on health care to come this fall.

“Joe Biden has no credibility on healthcare ever since the Obama/Biden administration’s Obamacare disaster kicked Americans off of their preferred plans. His support for a government-run ‘public option’ for healthcare, which endangers 180 million Americans’ private insurance and threatens more than 1,000 rural hospitals, is an admission that Obamacare was fatally flawed,” he said.

After Republicans’ unsuccessful efforts to repeal and replace the law in 2017, Democrats turned GOP

opposition against them and their efforts bore fruit, both by helping the party pick up seats in the midterms and by seeming to improve public perception of the law.

In a May poll by the Kaiser Family Foundation, Americans were more likely to have a favorable than unfavorable opinion of the law, 51% to 41%. Opinions of the law have long been divided along party lines, but polls conducted by KFF over the past several years have consistently found that more Americans overall now favor than oppose the law.

And the 2018 midterms suggested repealing the law was not the rallying cry it once was for Republicans.

According to AP VoteCast, a survey of the electorate, only half of voters who supported Republican House candidates in the 2018 midterm elections said they thought the law should be repealed entirely, while about 4 in 10 preferred to repeal parts of the law. About 1 in 10 said it

should be left as is or expanded. Among those who voted for Democratic candidates, about 6 in 10 wanted the law expanded, about 2 in 10 preferred it be left as is and about 2 in 10 wanted at least parts of the law repealed.

Democrats have been airing ads focused on health care for months, but Priorities USA Action, the major Democratic super PAC supporting Biden, seized on the Trump administration’s latest move Thursday and launched a new ad in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Michigan on the three states key to Democrats’ hopes this fall arguing that Trump is “failing on health care.”

One group focused specifically on the issue of health care, Protect Our Care, is also looking to make it a problem for Republicans in down-ballot races as well. Last year, it launched ads targeting Gardner and fellow Republican Sens. Thom

Tillis of North Carolina, Martha McSally of Arizona and Joni Ernst of Iowa, focused on the GOP lawsuit.

And in March, it put \$250,000 behind an ad attacking Republican Sen. Steve Daines of Montana on health care.

And Rep. Cheri Bustos, D-Ill., who leads House Democrats’ campaign arm, said the party considers health care the top issue in dozens of swing districts that will determine which party controls the chamber next year.

“We are literally battling the worst pandemic in 100 years. And Washington Republicans are dead set on being the biggest threat to public health,” she said.

She said the Democratic health care message would be, “Democrats are the party of health care. Republicans are the party of drinking bleach.”

Associated Press writer Emily Swanson in Washington contributed to this report.

Program seeks innovative ideas for social challenge response

DETROIT, June 29, 2020 (AP): *Science Gallery Detroit* is piloting a program designed to inspire responses to current social challenges impacting city residents.

The five-week, virtual Rapid Residency program is open to writers, artists, musicians, photographers, videographers, dancers, designers and others.

Science Gallery Detroit says the goal is to inspire innovation and creativity as events and opportunities for local artists have been postponed or canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic, ensuing shut-downs and stay-home

orders. “Throughout history, artists have been instrumental in responding to social crises by developing responsive and thought-provoking works to address the challenges of their times,” said Devon Akmon, Science Gallery Detroit director. “It is our aim to serve as a platform to assist creatives, both financially and through project support, to cultivate the next wave of responsive work from within Detroit.”

Five people will be chosen and receive \$1,000 stipends. Participants will be paired with mentors connected to

Science Gallery Detroit and Michigan State University.

By the end of the program, awardees will be required to produce a publishable summary in written, audio or video format that responds to current social challenges. Finalized works are not mandatory, only comprehensive think pieces.

Applications will be accepted through July 22 with awardees announced on July 31.

Science Gallery Detroit was developed with *Michigan State University* and *Science Gallery International*. It opened in 2018.

Statement regarding school opening considerations from Michigan Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

June 29, 2020: *The Michigan Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MIAAP)* supports *in-person education* to the maximum extent possible to promote the overall health and wellness of the children of Michigan. We encourage the State of Michigan and school districts to construct COVID-related safety plans that prioritize this goal.

The available data appear to support that children, especially preschool and elementary-aged, are at lower risk of contracting COVID-19 and are less likely to be primary vectors for the spread of COVID-19. Additionally, young people without underlying health conditions rarely become seriously ill from COVID-19. Despite the disproportionately small effect of COVID-19 on children, the public health response has had a disproportionately large effect on children’s lives. School closures have put the mental and social health of children at risk, in addition to affecting their educational trajectories.

While many Michigan schools did an outstanding job adjusting to a virtual learning environment, virtual learning is not comparable to in-person learning for many students. A return to school is most essential for the youngest and most at-risk students. A virtual learning environ-

ment highlights existing inequities, leaving behind the most vulnerable. In our discussions with parents in our pediatric offices, we have seen large discrepancies in available at-home learning support, which will assuredly increase the achievement gap. In particular, younger and special needs students rely heavily on having a constantly-available, skilled adult at home to scaffold their child’s virtual learning, and an appropriate person for this role rarely exists.

Additionally, schools provide important support services, including meals, mental health support, therapy services for special education students, instruction for English language learners, and school-based health services. If students are at home, this support structure is greatly reduced.

In consideration of how to safely reopen schools, many trade-offs will be necessary. One of the most significant trade-offs in planning for in-person instruction is with regard to the challenge of providing strict 6-foot spacing between students. If such distancing were mandated, maximizing in-person learning would be severely limited in many schools. Thus, to allow movement towards the goal of eventual full in-person learning, we advocate for some flexibility in distancing require-

ments while incorporating other risk-mitigation interventions, including symptom-screening, use of face coverings, forward-facing seating, use of partitions, hand sanitizing and other hygiene measures, avoiding shared items, student cohorting, and collaboration with local health departments for contact tracing. Students benefit from being in class, and all efforts should be made to allow for maximal school attendance.

School plans can expect to require adjustment as COVID incidence changes and as data continues to emerge. We encourage a response to COVID cases of illness at the most targeted level possible, avoiding closing entire schools, districts, or regions unless absolutely necessary. As new research becomes available, processes should be reassessed to prioritize the health and safety of students and staff.

We thank our Governor and her administration for their tireless efforts to minimize the impact of COVID-19 in Michigan, and we thank the staff and administrations of our schools for their creativity, flexibility, and enduring commitment to our children. From our pediatric perspective at the intersection of child health and development, we look to you to help prioritize in-person education for Michigan’s children this fall.



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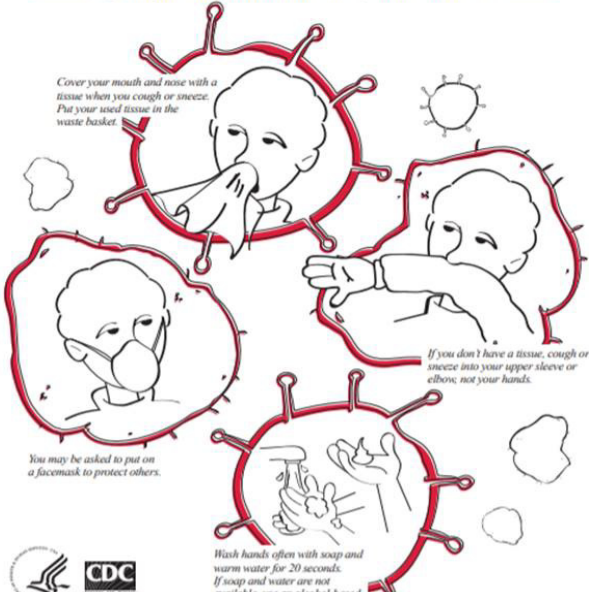
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<https://www.gob.mx/ime/acciones-y-programas/ventanillas-de-orientacion-educativa>

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The Fair Housing Center joins community water advocates to commend the City of Toledo for improving Tenant Access to Water

In Toledo, only the title owners of real property may open an account for water services. Since property owners are typically responsible for contracting for water services, tenants may face a water shut off when owners do not pay the water bill, or when the owner requests a termination of water services. *Toledo Ordinance 200-20*, introduced by Councilmembers *Gadus, Komives, and Melden*, passed on *June 16, 2020*.

The legislation creates two very important changes to local law. First, the *Department of Public Utilities* must provide tenants with adequate notice prior to a disconnection and allow tenants to make payments to prevent water termination or restore water services. The law also gives tenants the right to deduct these costs from future rent payments.

Second, in order to address situations where property owners themselves order utility shut offs as a form of “self-help eviction” to force tenants to leave, the ordinance prohibits owners from terminating water service to occupied rental properties.

“This is a critical step to protect tenants from the devastating impact of water shut offs that often occur due to no fault of their own,” stated *George Thomas*, Vice President and General Counsel for *The Fair Housing Center*, who assisted in drafting the ordinance. “We commend Toledo City Council for recognizing that tenants—who account for nearly half of Toledo’s occupied housing units—should not be prevented from accessing water services as the result of improper actions by property owners.

It’s important for the community to know about this change in the law. Tenants should know

that these protections are now written into our local law. Water is essential for a home to be safe, healthy, and habitable, and this legislation will ensure no one is denied the basic right to this vital resource.”

The *Fair Housing Center* serves on the City of Toledo’s *Water Affordability and Consumer Protection Committee* along with representatives from *Junction Coalition, Ohio Environmental Council, United Pastors for Social Empowerment, Freshwater Future, and One Village Council*.

Formed in 2019 as the City of Toledo entered into a regional water plan, the committee is focused on reviewing policies to improve water services for Toledo tenants and homeowners. This committee’s advocacy is instrumental to ensure clean, safe, and affordable drinking water is accessible to everyone in our community.

Implementation of Toledo’s Lead-Safe Law To Be Delayed

June 26, 2020: Implementation of Toledo’s lead-safe law, which Toledo City Council passed in November, 2019, and requires that all residential rental properties and family child-care homes built prior to 1978 obtain lead-safe certificates, will be delayed through a proposal to enact a new ordinance that creates a new set of deadlines for compliance, according to Toledo Mayor *Wade Kapszukiewicz*.

The existing law sets compliance deadlines that would start phasing in by census tract. It requires the first group to be certified by Tuesday, June 30, 2020, the second by June 30, 2021, and the third by June 30, 2022.

“We plan to continue to work with the Lead Coalition, City Council, and the community to set new, reasonable compliance dates,” *Kapszukiewicz* said. “Our goal is to make sure every home in Toledo is lead-safe and that every child can grow up without the terrible effects of lead poisoning.”

Complying with the existing law as the *COVID-19 pandemic* began this year was unrealistic and too difficult for property owners and tenants.

The *Kapszukiewicz* administration plans to present proposed amendments to the Lead Coalition and City Council no later than *Aug. 31, 2020*. The City

of Toledo Department of Neighborhoods will provide oversight and monitor the amended ordinance. There will be contracts with the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department for inspections. The health department will issue lead-safe certificates as follows:

- A Lead-Safe Certificate required for 1-4 unit residential rental properties and family child care homes constructed prior to Jan. 1, 1978.

- A Lead-Safe Certificate is issued after passing a visual and dust wipe inspection.

- A Lead-Safe Certificate is valid for five years, except where the property had undergone a full lead assessment, lead control performed by a lead licensed contractor, and a full clearance by a licensed lead assessor, in which case a 20-year certification is issued.

There will be a five-year phase in by census tract. Hardship exemptions will be available and can be granted by the director of neighborhoods, subject to appeal to the Nuisance Abatement Housing Appeals Board.

Free Landfill Disposal Day on July 11 canceled

The next free disposal day at the Hoffman Road Landfill, scheduled for 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 11 is canceled. The remaining



Wade Kapszukiewicz

free disposal days this year are Sept. 12 and Nov. 28. The free Engage Toledo Drop Off Refuse and Recycling Event scheduled for 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., July 11 at Keyser Elementary School, 3900 Hill Ave., will proceed as scheduled.

Future Engage Toledo Drop Off Refuse and Recycling Events are on the following dates:

- July 25 at Manhattan Plaza, 525-701 East Manhattan Blvd.
- Aug. 8 at Deveaux School, 2620 West Sylvania Ave.
- Aug. 22 at Longfellow Elementary School, 1955 West Laskey Rd.
- Sept. 12 at Good Shepherd Church, 3934 West Laskey Rd.
- Sept. 19 at the Toledo Zoo, Anthony Wayne Trail parking lot, 2 Hippo Way (this event is 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.); and
- Sept. 26 at Friendship Park, 2930 131st St.

For more information please call Engage Toledo at 419-936-2020 or visit our website, www.toledo.oh.gov

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Details on creation of the Community-Police Relations and Reform Committee

June 29, 2020: Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz has announced the creation and details of the *Community-Police Relations and Reform Committee* during a news conference today.

“Ever since the murder of *George Floyd* by a Minneapolis police officer late last month, there has been a renewed discussion about the need to reform policing policies and improve relations between police and the citizens they serve. This conversation has been taking place all over the country, including here in Toledo,” Kapszukiewicz said. “This moment in our history provides us the opportunity to fix what we may be doing wrong, and to build upon what we are doing right. In just the last month alone, a number of important steps have been taken to improve accountability and transparency in our local police operations. This new group is excited to work to bring about positive change during this crucial time in our city’s history.”

The co-chairs of the committee will be *Anita Madison*, a former Toledo Police officer and current executive committee member of the *NAACP Toledo*; *David Fleetwood*, business manager for *Laborers Local 500 union* and *Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority* board

member; and *Peter Silverman*, former Toledo Board of Education member, former Toledo City Council member, and a partner at Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP.

The members of the committee are: the Rev. Donald Perryman, the Rev. Willie Perryman, Ray Wood, Judd Silverman, Jayla Few, Ruth Leonard, Dr. Patrice McClellan, *RaShya Ghee*, Charles Allen, Tonya Rider, Reggie Williams, *Imam Ahmad Deeb*, *Joaquin Cintrón Vega*, the Rev. Otis Gordon, Avis Files, José Rosales, Dr. Hope Bland, Carnel Smith, Tawann Gaston, the Rev. Randall Parker III, Lisa McDuffie, Marvin Whitfield, Albert Earl, David Ross, Erin Baker, Sarah Skow, Diana Patton, Jim O’Brien, Brittany Ford, Pastor Cedric Brock, Rita Mansour, Toledo Police Chief George Kral, Toledo Police Deputy Chief Michael Troendle, Toledo Police Officer Dan Raab, and Toledo Police Officer Gregory Zattau.

The support staff for the committee will be Chief of Staff Catherine Crosby, Deputy Chief of Staff Karen Poore, Legislative Director Gretchen DeBacker, Diversity and Inclusion Director Matt Boaz, and Toledo City Council Manager of Legislative Operations Kim Baker. The managers/mod-

erators are Jason Daniels and Kelli Daniels.

Kapszukiewicz has previously ordered that the police internal affairs division be re-located from the Safety Building to a neutral site, a move that will be completed by Aug. 3. He also banned safety forces from wearing military-style camouflage and made available to the public the trainings offered to our officers in areas such as de-escalation techniques, use of force, and implicit bias. Police policies and procedures, as well as national grade cards on how TPD scores on various metrics of community engagement, have all been made available over the last month.

Toledo City Council has taken strong action to meet the challenges we face. In the last month, ordinances have been passed that codified the city’s long-held policy of banning chokeholds; compelled officers to intervene if they believe a fellow officer is engaged in an unlawful use of force; and required all officers to distribute business cards with pertinent information about how to report potential police wrongdoing.

“While a number of reforms have already been implemented, there is more work to be done,” the mayor said.



OBITUARIES

FRANCISCO DE LA PEÑA



Francisco DeLaPeña of Oregon, Ohio passed away June 22, 2020 at his home in El Paso, Texas. The son of Alfonso and Guadalupe Hinojosa-DeLaPeña he was born in Torreon- Coahuila, Mexico on March 26, 1926. He retired from General Dynamics Defense Contractor on May 31, 1991. He was skilled in various trades and built his own home.



Francisco is preceded in death by his parents; late wife, Ofilia; partner, Maria; and grandson, Alex DeAnda. He is survived by his sister, Antonia Limon; son, Alfonso; daughters, Sofia, Adela (John) Flores and Linda; grandsons, Steven (Amy), Michael, John, and Pilar; great-grandchildren, Victoria, Taylor, Estrella, Kelsey, and Andrew; great great-grandson, Landyn; and special niece/nephew, Mauda and Liborio.

Francisco left behind a legacy of determination—nothing was impossible.

Historian compares civil rights protests, then and now

By DAN SEWELL, Associate d Press

Douglas Brinkley, a Rice University history professor and author, whose works include books about the late civil rights icons Rosa Parks and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., discusses differences between the 1960s civil rights protests and those of today:

Then: Protests fueled by Christian credos with a soundtrack of gospel music and spirituals.

Now: “More raw anger” in the streets, but with hip hop and other current music as the soundtrack.

Then: Nonviolence.

King once was punched in the face on stage, took the blows, and urged that the white man not be charged.

Now: Protesters more militant, “no one’s going to tolerate a punch in the face” without responding.

Then: Black demonstrators supported by white people opposed to the Vietnam War.

Now: Black demonstrators supported by others frustrated by the pandemic and economy.

Then: Civil rights leaders felt the sympathy of Presidents Lyndon

B. Johnson and John F. Kennedy.

Now: President Donald Trump “mimics the language” of ’60s white supremacists about protesters.

Then: Activists such as three young men, two of them white, murdered 56 years ago this week in Mississippi’s Freedom Summer, could suddenly disappear.

Now: Social media and cellphones provide quick calls for help; cell phone cameras can make police abuses “go viral.”

Ohio Supreme Court upholds administrative foreclosures

CLEVELAND, June 25, 2020 (AP): The Ohio Supreme Court has ruled that a foreclosure process that sells homes without compensating owners for their equity is legal.

The process sends

abandoned properties to the county board of revisions who can send the properties to the local land bank, which can clear debts.

Eye on Ohio previously reported that in Montgomery and Cuyahoga Counties in 2019, local land banks wiped out \$11.2 million in tax liens that cost homeowners and banks \$77 million in equity.

“The fallacy of all of

this is that somehow people’s property has been taken. They’ve abandoned it, they have to pay taxes. You know, you and I have to pay taxes on our properties. And so that somebody doesn’t, and now they want to turn around and change the narrative to, ‘oh no my property, my valuable property was taken,’” said defense attorney *Gus Frangos*.

STRESSED OUT DUE TO BILLS PILING UP?

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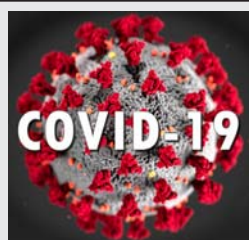
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México: caída empleos se frena en junio, se pierden 70.000

CIUDAD DE MÉXICO, 28 VI 20 (AP): La pérdida de empleos provocada por la pandemia del nuevo coronavirus al parecer comienza a reducirse en México. Solo 70.000 puestos de trabajo se perdieron en junio, lo que contrasta con las más de medio millón de plazas que quedaron cesantes en abril, según los datos preliminares divulgados el domingo por el presidente Andrés Manuel López Obrador.

En un mensaje en video divulgado en sus redes sociales, el mandatario auguró que en julio ya se habrá detenido la caída y que la recuperación podría comenzar en agosto.

Desde el inicio de las medidas de aislamiento social a finales de marzo, el país ha perdido alrededor un millón de empleos formales y un número indeterminado de trabajos informales que representan casi la

mitad de la fuerza laboral del país.

En abril se perdieron 555.000 empleos, en mayo fueron 345.000, en junio 70.000 y, según López Obrador, en julio ya no habrá caída y los trabajadores inscritos en el seguro social se mantendrán en 19,5 millones.

El presidente espera que a partir de la entrada en vigor el 1 de julio del nuevo tratado de libre comercio para Norteamérica, el T-MEC, haya más inversiones y más empleos, al tiempo en que confió en que las medidas puestas en marcha en Estados Unidos beneficien también a los 35 millones de emigrantes mexicanos que viven allí y que mandan dinero a sus familias en México.

De hecho, dijo que las remesas "no se han caído a pesar de la crisis económica y la pandemia" e incluso se prevé que registren un aumento del 10% en el primer semestre del año.

Pero pese al optimismo del mandatario, los datos no le acompañan.

Las últimas previsiones del Fondo Monetario Internacional estiman que la economía caerá este año un 10,5% mientras que la actividad industrial se desplomó casi un 30% en abril en comparación con el año anterior en medio de las medidas de confinamiento social y cierre de negocios.

A petición de Estados Unidos, México reabrió sus industrias automotriz, minera y de construcción a partir de junio, pero el proceso de reinicio de actividades va a diferentes velocidades según los estados; ante ello, los expertos temen rebrotes peligrosos.

Mientras tanto, las cifras oficiales de contagios siguen al alza, con más de 216.800 infectados y al menos 26.648 muertos en el país, según las cifras dadas a conocer el domingo.

Consulado de México en Detroit anuncia nuevos costos en sus servicios

Por: Isabel Flores, corresponsal La Prensa

MICHIGAN/OHIO: Desde el pasado 1 de enero, el Consulado de México cuenta con nuevos precios para los servicios de pasaporte, matrícula consular, poderes notariales, testamentos, copias certificadas de actas de nacimiento y menaje de casa.



Los nuevos costos son los siguientes:

PASAPORTE

Vigencia 1 año (solo para menores de 3 años de edad o casos especiales de protección): \$34;

Vigencia 3 años: \$78;

Vigencia 6 años: \$107;

Vigencia 10 años: \$150;

Las personas mayores de 60 años reciben un descuento del 50%.

MATRÍCULA CONSULAR Vigencia 5 años: \$30.

PODERES NOTARIALES

Los pagos se realizan directamente en las oficinas del Consulado el mismo día que se realiza el trámite. El teléfono para hacer citas es el 01 800 900 0778

Los requisitos siguen siendo los mismos. Pasaporte por primera vez:

1. Acta de nacimiento certificada por el Registro Civil, no se aceptan actas enmendadas, alteradas y/o mutiladas. El acta original se devuelve.

de 6 años; Constancia médica expedida por el pediatra con nombre completo del menor con sello del consultorio o firma del pediatra sobre la foto del menor.

3. Permiso OP7. Tanto para el trámite por primera vez como para la renovación ya sea del pasaporte o de la Matrícula Consular es indispensable que se presenten ambos padres, con identificación oficial con nombre completo.

El Consulado de México informa que debido a la pandemia por el covid-19, sus oficinas siguen cerradas pero se siguen atendiendo los casos de emergencia para la expedición de obtención de pasaportes y menajes de casa.

Para ser atendido, hay que enviar el nombre completo y trámite que solicita al correo: curibe@sre.gob.mx

CONCACAF revisará formato de eliminatorias al Mundial

MIAMI, 25 VI 20 (AP): La CONCACAF reconsiderará el formato de las eliminatorias a la Copa del Mundo tras la decisión tomada el jueves por la FIFA, que retiró del calendario las fechas de partidos internacionales de septiembre debido a la pandemia de coronavirus.

El hexagonal que determina los tres pasajes directos de la Confederación de Norte, Centroamérica y el Caribe tenía programadas en su calendario dos fechas para septiembre, dos en octubre y dos en noviembre, así como un par en marzo y septiembre del 2021.

Estados Unidos, México, Costa Rica, Honduras y Jamaica tenían asegurada su participación en el hexagonal, que incluiría también a El Sal-

vador o Canadá. El último puesto sería determinado con el escalafón de la FIFA de junio, pero se eliminaron los encuentros de ese mes, así como los de marzo, debido al COVID-19.

"El reto que presenta el aplazamiento del calendario de fútbol y la clasificación incompleta del ciclo de la FIFA en nuestra confederación significa que quedó comprometido el proceso actual de eliminatorias a la Copa del Mundo y tendrá que modificarse", recalzó la CONCACAF en un comunicado. "Trabajaremos ahora con el nuevo contexto y nos enlazaremos con la FIFA para finalizar un nuevo formato de clasificación de la CONCACAF a la Copa del Mundo".

Entre los posibles formatos que se discuten, uno conformaría tres grupos de cuatro equipos, como era la vieja ronda de semifinales. Los ganadores del grupo avanzarían a Qatar 2022 y habría oportunidad de repechaje para algunos equipos que no terminen en el primer puesto.

Sin embargo, Estados Unidos, México y Costa Rica posiblemente serían colocados en grupos distintos, eliminando los encuentros más atractivos de la eliminatoria. Asimismo, el grupo en el que quedara Honduras luciría como el más difícil.

La FIFA extendió de marzo a junio de 2022, la fecha en que se realizarían los repechajes intercontinentales para definir los últimos boletos mundialistas.

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U.S. Supreme Court move ends relaxed Ohio signature rule

By JULIE CARR SMYTH, Associated Press

COLUMBUS, June 25, 2020 (AP) — The U.S. Supreme Court has denied an effort by Ohio ballot campaigns to win access to more flexible signature-gathering rules during the coronavirus pandemic.

The high court denied the campaigns' application without comment Thursday. That leaves in place a decision by the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals blocking relaxed restrictions on the signatures ordered by a lower court.

U.S. District Court

Judge Edmund Sargus Jr. on May 19 allowed campaigns promoting minimum wage, voting rights and marijuana issues to collect signatures electronically and a little more time to do it.

Backers of the voting package suspended their campaign last week. Thursday's decision gives little leeway to the remaining campaigns ahead of the state's now-unchanged signature deadline of June 30.

While some officials or courts in other states have allowed issue campaigns and candidates

leeway in collecting required signatures, Ohio has pushed back aggressively on the issue. Attorney General Dave Yost's attorneys argued that a lower court judge who had temporarily relaxed the rules effectively "rewrote Ohio's Constitution and Revised Code."

The state also argued that changing signature-gathering rules now would lead to "last-minute confusion" and the possible passage of issues that Ohio otherwise wouldn't have supported.

El Centro de Servicios Sociales Upcoming Events July 2020



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, El Centro's offices are offering services via telephone to the community with a limited amount of staff. If services are needed and you need to come to the office, we encourage you to call the office first (440-277-8235) to receive the new procedure for office visits. To follow are services that are still in operation:

- Money Management/Representative Payee services for 236 individuals with severe mental health illness and physical disabilities
- Spanish informational and referral phone line 211
- Mental Health Navigator Line (440-240-7025)
- Medical and Mental Health Interpretations (via telephone) with contract agencies
- Disseminating information to community on COVID-19
- Census 2020

Upcoming Events

June 8 to August 7 El Centro Youth Services/231 Go! Middle School Collaborative is planning their 3rd Annual "Discover You: Survivor Series!" Youth Summer Camp for youth ages 8-14. Adhering to social distancing guidelines, this will be an on the road adventure! We will be traveling to housing complexes in our area to do activities with youth in their own front (or back) yard. Activities will take place from 9 – 1 pm Monday, Wednesdays & Thursdays. (Tuesday and Friday will be make-up days in the event of unpleasant weather.) We plan to begin the activities on Monday, June 8th. Stay tuned for more details! To register or for more information, call Monica Snipes at 440-277-8235.

Join the 2020 Census team. The U.S. Census Bureau is now taking applications for temporary positions. You can earn \$17/hour in Lorain County to help collect information that determines how funds are spent on things like roads, schools and hospitals. Apply online today at [*2020census.gov/jobs](https://2020census.gov/jobs) (flyer attached).

Don't forget to complete the 2020 Census online, by phone or by mail. The Census helps shape many different aspects of your community. 2020census.gov.

FIESTA OF HOPE 2020

Do to the current circumstances, we committed to supporting our 66 renewal scholarship recipients.

Renewal Scholarships: 66

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Scholarship Raised: 81

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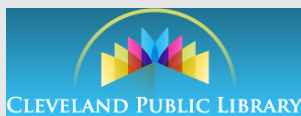
Goal: 100 Scholarships

Join the virtual Fiesta of Hope celebration on and help us meet our goal!

JULY 1

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There are more ways to experience all Cleveland Public Library has to offer this summer. All branches are open for walk-up service.



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Partners announce latest round of Greater Cleveland COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund grant recipients

CLEVELAND, June 26, 2020: The *Greater Cleveland COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund coalition* announced today the most recent round of grants to support the nonprofit community. In total, \$1.1 million was awarded to 26 organizations and groups serving Cuyahoga, Lake and Geauga counties. Since the Fund's creation in mid-March, partners have granted more than \$7.7 million to nearly 150 nonprofit groups and organizations. The latest round of grant recipients includes:

Food & Shelter:

- **Collaboration Station** (\$36,000): To expand the capacity of its CCHAP Meals on Wheels program, which delivers food to older adults and the physically disabled in Cuyahoga and Lake counties.

- **Society of St. Vincent de Paul Diocese of Cleveland** (\$85,000): To provide funding for rent and utility assistance for low-income individuals across eight counties in Northeast Ohio, as well as to re-design the organization's Community Corner and Brookside hunger centers so they can operate safely and expand hours of operation while observing social distancing guidelines.

- **Cleveland Clergy Alliance** (\$50,000): To support *LatinX families* across Greater Cleveland by providing food, basic needs items and emergency financial assistance through a partnership with the Community of Faith Collaborative.

- **Trinity Cathedral** (\$30,000): To allow the cathedral to transition its A Place at the Table

hunger program to a pickup meal service so that it can continue to serve Cleveland's homeless and low-income populations safely during the pandemic, while also continuing the cathedral's ongoing partnership with Walls of Love® in filling the walls with essential items for those in need.

- **True Holiness Temple** (\$25,000): To support the church's food bank and distribution of cleaning supplies, toiletries and other basic needs items to families in the Fairfax neighborhood and surrounding areas.

Connectivity:

- **East Cleveland City School District** (\$100,000): For technological resources to equip the district's 1,800 students for successful remote learning.

- **Scranton Road Ministries Community Development Corporation** (\$18,000): To expand the organization's workforce and educational training programs through an online training platform, and to create a Digital Learning Center to host socially distant student learning groups.

Clinical & Behavioral Health

- **Applewood Centers** (\$35,000): To acquire computer equipment for telehealth services and online coursework, as well as PPE and cleaning supplies, for vulnerable youth in residential treatment facilities.

- **Cleveland Christian Home** (\$36,000): To purchase food, supplies and computer equipment to care for youth in residential treatment for mental, emotional and behavioral

disorders.

- **Community Assessment & Treatment Services** (\$25,000): To continue providing services via telemedicine, as well as cleaning supplies and PPE, for residential and outpatient clients with chemical dependency and behavioral health needs.

- **Medworks** (\$40,000): To implement a telehealth platform in order to connect uninsured and underinsured residents in Cuyahoga County with free health care, health insurance, and other navigation services.

- **Mommy and Me Too Inc.** (\$20,000): To provide transportation, food, laptops and cleaning supplies for low-income pregnant women as well as single mothers and their children in recovery housing.

- **TreatmentWorks, Inc.** (\$20,000): To provide food, utilities and supplies for men in residential treatment for drug and alcohol dependency.

- **US Together** (\$86,000): To provide case management staffing and tele-interpretation technology for immigrants and refugees with limited English proficiency.

- **A Vision of Change, Inc.** (\$40,000): To allow for continued health and wellness home visits, food distribution and the dissemination of community health information in Cleveland's east side neighborhoods.

Children & Youth

- **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Cleveland** (\$35,000): To provide direct relief to Cuyahoga County families through the organization's Family Re-

siliency Fund, as well as adding a digital component to its mentoring program.

- **Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio** (\$26,000): To purchase cleaning supplies and PPE to re-open club locations, as well as food and cleaning supplies to provide to youth and their families.

- **Cleveland Metropolitan School District** (\$100,000): To purchase grocery store gift cards for the district's homeless families.

- **Henry Johnson Center** (\$15,000): To expand tutoring services for high school seniors and to purchase and deliver care packages with cleaning supplies and food items for low-income single parents in Cuyahoga County.

Other Vulnerable Populations

- **LGBTQ+ Allies Lake County** (\$15,000): To provide food assistance and expand virtual options for community group social-emotional support meetings and wellness programming in Lake County.

- **Milestones Autism Resources** (\$75,000): To expand the organization's autism Helpdesk so that families in Cuyahoga, Lake and Geauga counties can continue learn how to access needed services, advocate on behalf of their family member, and use effective de-escalation supports.

- **North Coast Community Homes, Inc.** (\$34,000): To increase safety, cleaning and disinfecting procedures within the organization's 205 properties across Northeast Ohio and to provide safe-at-home kits for the more than 650 residents with intellectual, developmental, physical and mental health disabilities.

Adaptation & Recovery

- **Greater Cleveland Congregations** (\$100,000): For COVID-19 testing support kits for predominately Black congregations in Greater Cleveland as well as a collective buying program to negotiate better prices on electricity, gas and other essential services for the group's faith institution members facing financial hardship due to the pandemic.

- **Greater Cleveland Volunteers** (\$7,000): For staffing and technology to help local nonprofit organizations safely re-engage vol-

unteer workers to support their operations during the pandemic.

- **Hispanic Business Center** (\$17,000): To provide rental assistance for its small business tenants, including those in its CentroVilla25 campus, and for technology to conduct its business coaching and consulting remotely.

- **Old Brooklyn Community Development** (\$30,000): For a temporary work program to employ Old Brooklyn residents who have been laid off or are facing economic hardship in the midst of the pandemic, paying them to complete greening and beautification projects in the neighborhood.

With the community still facing unprecedented challenges during the ongoing pandemic, Fund partners have decided to extend this initial phase of grantmaking through July 17 to help meet the continued need and to be able to react to a constantly evolving situation as Greater Cleveland slowly reopens.

Frontline nonprofits that have pressing needs related to the COVID-19 crisis response should email covid19response@clevelandn.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. The last date for



organizations to apply to this phase of the Fund will be Thursday, July 9.

Overall contributions to the Rapid Response Fund now total more than \$8.8 million from 82 different corporate, civic and philanthropic partners, as well as nearly 2,300 individuals and families across the region. New funding partners (since June 12) include The Covia 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.

Based upon the charitable structure of the Rapid Response Fund, grants are limited to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, groups fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, or other charitable organizations able to receive a tax-deductible contribution, such as schools, faith-based organizations and other public entities. The partners are not able to fund individuals or businesses directly, labor unions, or other 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), and 501(c)(6) organizations.

For more information or to donate, visit ClevelandFoundation.org/Response.

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
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Actos de Biden y Trump ofrecen visiones distintas del virus

Por WILL WEISSERT y MARC LEVY

LANCASTER, Pennsylvania, 26 VI 20 (AP): La campaña presidencial de Estados Unidos, congelada durante meses debido al coronavirus, empieza a parecerse un poco a la de años anteriores. El presidente Donald Trump y su oponente demócrata Joe Biden visitan estados cruciales donde presentan visiones contrapuestas para un país que se debate en medio de la pandemia.

En un astillero en Marinette, Wisconsin, Trump dijo el jueves por la noche que la economía "recupera unos niveles que nadie consideraba posibles", mientras que en Lancaster, Pensilvania, Biden advirtió que "no vendrán milagros" y criticó duramente el manejo de la epidemia por parte de Trump.

"Es asombroso que no haya comprendido el hecho más elemental de esta crisis: para reparar la economía

tenemos que controlar el virus", dijo Biden. "Es como un niño que no puede creer que le haya sucedido a él. Se pone a llorar y muestra autocompasión".

Faltando poco más de cuatro meses para la elección, los estilos contrastantes de Trump y Biden son cada vez más visibles. El presidente está impaciente por dejar atrás una epidemia que ha destrozado la economía y provocado unas 125.000 muertes confirmadas en el país, de acuerdo con las cifras recopiladas por la Universidad Johns Hopkins. Por su parte, Biden trata de presentarse como un líder competente y tranquilizador, dispuesto a decirle la verdad al país acerca de las posibles penurias que lo aguardan para salir del torbellino.

Aparte de las críticas a Trump, Biden dedicó buena parte del jueves a defender la ley de salud del gobierno de Barack Obama y deplorar lo que

llamó el intento de la Casa Blanca de desmantelarla por medio de los tribunales. Los demócratas quieren enfocar la elección en la salud, un tema que les ayudó a recuperar el control de la cámara baja en 2018 y que esperan tendrá aún más repercusión en medio de la pandemia.

Trump atacó reiteradamente a Biden durante su jornada en Wisconsin. Durante una asamblea popular grabada en Green Bay y transmitida por Fox News, puso en duda la agudeza mental de Biden y dijo que un gobierno de éste sería dominado por el ala izquierda del Partido Demócrata.

"Es un candidato que destruirá este país", dijo Trump. "Y tal vez no lo haga él mismo. Lo controlará un grupo extremista marginal de lunáticos que destruirá nuestro país".

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority, Neighborhood Health Association, Mercy Health, and LabCorp join forces to provide On-Site COVID-19 testing at No Charge for Lucas Metropolitan Housing Residents

TOLEDO: On June 24, 2020, on-site COVID-19 testing became available to hundreds of Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) residents. The testing is made possible through a partnership between Neighborhood Health Association (NHA), Mercy Health, and LabCorp, which has performed millions of COVID-19 tests across the U.S. since early March. LMHA and our partners have prioritized testing beginning with LMHA's most vulnerable populations—the elderly and disabled. The testing will be provided at no charge to the residents.

Through this partnership, NHA and Mercy Health are able to be on site at multifamily LMHA developments and are targeting over 3,000 residents for this testing. Joaquin Cintrón Vega, LMHA's President and CEO stated, "We are very grateful to NHA,

Mercy Health and LabCorp for providing our residents with this unique opportunity to be tested for COVID-19 and not have to leave their homes. Our job in the COVID-19 testing process is to provide site support where we help setup the test site and empower the residents to be tested," said Cintron Vega.

The partnership with Mercy Health, LabCorp, and the NHA in testing LMHA residents is the best example of the great things one can accomplish when organizations partner in service to this community. It is LMHA's intention to ensure that every one of LMHA's 6,000 residents has the opportunity to be tested. Black, Brown and poor people are being hit with this virus at greater numbers than any other group. The very least that we can do is to help them fight it with the few tools we have at our disposal," said Doni Miller, CEO of Neighbor-



hood Health Association.

"Since first contested for COVID-19 and more than 160 years ago, Mercy Health has dedicated itself to serving all those in need, especially those who are poor and underserved," said Bob Baxter, president, Mercy Health - Toledo. "We are proud to stand with our partners to furthering this common mission of testing one of the community's most vulnerable populations to ensure all members of our community have access to this testing."

During the month of May, NHA provided COVID-19 testing at no charge to over 50 LMHA employees at NHA's NEXUS Health Center.

For more information about testing, contact LMHA at (419)-259-9400 or Neighborhood Health Association at (419) 720-7883.



Join Cuyahoga Job and Family Services for a virtual conversation with agency updates related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and policy reviews on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Childcare benefits.

Click the date to register for one of the virtual Webex sessions. You will receive instructions for joining the session after registering.

Friday, July 10, 2020
1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Thursday, July 16, 2020
1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Wednesday, July 29, 2020
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

If you have questions regarding registration, please contact:
Cuyahoga Job and Family Services
Email: Community_Outreach@jfs.ohio.gov

Texas: Fiesta deja 18 infectados de coronavirusGal ministro

CARROLLTON, Texas, 25 junio 2020 (AP): Una fiesta sorpresa de cumpleaños resultó en 18 personas infectadas de coronavirus en el norte de Texas, y tiene consternado a un hombre cuyo padre se debate entre la vida y la muerte en una unidad de terapia intensiva de un hospital.

Ron Barbosa, casado con una doctora y quien no asistió por razones sanitarias al festejo del 30 de mayo organizado para su nuera en medio de la pandemia de COVID-19, dijo que entre los hospitalizados se encuentran sus padres, ambos mayores de 80 años, y su hermana, que padece cáncer de mama.

Barbosa señaló que su sobrino, que no sabía estaba infectado, fue anfitrión el mes pasado de la reunión de 25 personas que sólo duro unas horas y se ajustó a las normativas sanitarias más recientes del estado. Afirmó que, durante la fiesta, su sobrino interactuó con siete parientes, quienes se contrajeron la

enfermedad y contagiaron a su vez a otros 10 miembros de la familia, entre ellos dos niños pequeños.

"Cuando la gente empezó a enfermarse, los reprimimos enérgicamente", dijo Barbosa al canal WFAA-TV. "Sabíamos que esto sucedería, digo, hemos estado asustados todo este tiempo en que ha estado sucediendo".

El gobernador Greg Abbott dijo el jueves que Texas suspendería la reanudación de actividades debido a un aumento en los casos de coronavirus y de hospitalizaciones. En Texas, el número de pacientes con COVID-19 se duplicó en dos semanas. Texas ha informado de más de 11.000 casos nuevos tan sólo en los últimos dos días.

La madre de Barbosa, Carole, que fue al lugar de la fiesta para dejar algo, dio positivo a coronavirus el 6 de junio y fue hospitalizada una semana después.

Barbosa dijo que su padre, Frank, que no asistió a la reunión pero después tuvo COVID-19, fue internado el 17 de junio. Señaló que la vida de su

padre "pende de un hilo" en la unidad de terapia intensiva, donde se encuentra conectado a un respirador.

"Es desgarrador", declaró Barbosa.

Frank recibió el miércoles una donación de plasma de un paciente recuperado de coronavirus, dijo Barbosa en su página de Facebook. Barbosa se dijo esperanzado de que el procedimiento salve la vida de su padre.

Según Barbosa, su familia continúa unida a pesar de las emociones muy fuertes por las que han atravesado en las últimas semanas.

"Estábamos horrorizados. Las personas no podían creer que se lo pasaron a un miembro de la familia", señaló.

Carole regreso a su casa para seguir su recuperación, de acuerdo con una página de Facebook creada por la familia, en la que se indicaba que la hermana de Barbosa, Kathy, estaba mejor y también volvió a su casa para continuar su convalecencia.



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EOE



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The YWCA Rape Crisis (HOPE) Center is seeking to fill a full time (40 hr.) position to provide support and advocacy to victims of sexual assault in Fulton and Lucas Counties. Responsibilities include outreach provided at area hospitals, legal advocacy with local law enforcement and court proceedings, and facilitating support groups for survivors of incest and sexual assault. Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, Psychology, Women and Gender Studies, or related field required; prior experience with sexual assault and/or victim issues preferred. **Candidate must be fluent in both English and Spanish.** Must have reliable transportation, valid driver's license and proof of insurance. Must be available for some weekend and evening on-call time. Salary \$19.00/hr. Full benefits

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**Assistant
 Manager of
 Human
 Resources**

Lucas County Children Services is seeking an Asst. Mgr. of Human Resources and to assist in creating a work environment that promotes personal growth and excellence of LCCS employees. Additional requirements can be viewed at www.lucaskids.net. No Phone Calls Please. EOE valuing diversity.

Vice President of Ministry Business Strategy

Cherry Street Mission Ministries seeks to fill a full time (40), salaried position as Vice President of Ministry Business Strategy. Responsibilities include new business ideas and strategies, follow through with current business operating methods, work collegially to meet business targets and goals. The Vice President of Business Strategy oversees the Accounting, Human Resources and Quality Assurance. Minimum of bachelor's degree in Business or Finance with previous managerial experience of at least 5 years or more. Must be able to agree to the ministries' Statement of Faith. Full Benefits. Go to <https://cherrystreetmission.org/about/employment-in-our-ministry/> to submit your application.

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The City of Perrysburg
 is taking applications for the position of
City Engineer

Application and full job descriptions available in our posting at GovernmentJobs.com

Summary of Duties: Under general direction, provides general supervision of the operation of the Division of Engineering; supervises personnel; plans reviews for public improvements; monitors progress of infrastructure construction; administers construction projects; advises the City on engineering issues; assists in preparing capital improvement programs; attends meetings as needed and represents the City at meetings when directed; coordinates work of various technical consultants.

LICENSURE OR CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: Must possess a valid Ohio driver's license and be eligible for coverage under the City's vehicle insurance provider; registration as a Professional Engineer in the State of Ohio; registration as a Professional Surveyor in the State of Ohio desirable.

QUALIFICATIONS: An example of acceptable qualifications: Completion of a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering or related field with a minimum of seven (7) years engineering experience; or equivalent combination of education, training, and/or experience. Familiarity with ADA requirements and experience with municipal engineering projects a plus.

Salary \$73,800 to \$92,600 annually.

Due to the nature of the public records law of Ohio, applications cannot be considered confidential.

The City of Perrysburg is an Equal Opportunity Employer

www.ci.perrysburg.oh.us



HVAC REPAIRPERSON

The Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities seeks full-time HVAC Repairperson/Custodian. All qualified applicants must have a HS diploma, a minimum 5 years' experience in over-all school or commercial building HVAC maintenance or mechanical contracting, specialization in trouble shooting building management systems with pneumatic and digital controls, and applicants must currently hold a Universal CFC Refrig License, and a valid Ohio driver's license with an excellent driving record.

Excellent Benefits Package includes, Generous salary, outstanding benefits packages, paid leave time, paid holidays, government retirement benefits through Ohio PERS, and an outstanding work environment as part of a multidisciplinary group of trades. The entire benefits package includes much more! Equal Opportunity Employer.

If you meet the above qualifications, please apply online at <https://careers-cuyahogabdd.icims.com/jobs/1410/custodian-repairperson-%28hvac%29/job>

Reapertura de la lista de espera de Vivienda Pública para 2, 3, 4, 5 y 6 dormitorios

La Autoridad Metropolitana de Vivienda de Lorain (LMHA) aceptará solicitudes previas para la lista de espera del Programa de Vivienda Pública para dormitorios de 2, 3, 4, 5 y 6. Las solicitudes previas se pueden descargar desde www.lmha.org. Los formularios en papel están disponibles en la entrada de la oficina principal de LMHA, 1600 Kansas Avenue, Lorain, Ohio 44052. Las pre-solicitudes deben enviarse por correo postal de EE. UU. a LMHA, P.O. Box 1010 Lorain, Ohio 44055. Las solicitudes recibidas por cualquier otro medio no serán elegibles. Sólo se acepta una solicitud previa por hogar. Sólo una solicitud previa por sobre.

Una vez recibidas, LMHA retendrá, en orden, según el tamaño del dormitorio y la fecha recibida. Cada lunes y miércoles a partir del 13 de julio de 2020, LMHA seleccionará un número predeterminado de solicitudes por tamaño de dormitorio necesario en el orden que fueron recibidas. El número seleccionado estará de acuerdo con las necesidades operativas de LMHA. LMHA se comunicará con los seleccionados **sólo por el número de teléfono o correo electrónico** proporcionado en la solicitud previa para comenzar a evaluar la elegibilidad. Los solicitantes que no califican para una unidad de 2, 3, 4, 5 o 6 dormitorios, según la composición familiar, no serán seleccionados para la evaluación previa.

Igualdad de Oportunidades de Vivienda.

2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 Bedroom Public Housing Waiting List Reopening

The Lorain Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) will be accepting pre-applications for the Public Housing Program waiting list for only the 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 bedrooms. Pre-applications can be downloaded from www.lmha.org. Paper forms are available at the entrance of LMHA's Main Office, 1600 Kansas Avenue, Lorain, Ohio 44052. Completed pre-applications **must be sent via US mail to LMHA, P.O. Box 1010 Lorain, Ohio 44055**. Applications submitted by any other means will not be eligible. Only one pre-application accepted per household. Only one pre-application per envelope.

Upon receipt, LMHA will retain in order based on bedroom size and the date received. On each Monday and Wednesday beginning July 13, 2020, LMHA will select a pre-determined number of applications per needed bedroom size in order of their receipt. The number selected will be in accordance with LMHA's operational needs. LMHA will contact those selected **only by the phone number or email** provided on the pre-application to begin screening for eligibility. Applicants who do not qualify for a 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 bedroom unit based on family composition will not be selected for pre-screening.

Equal Housing Opportunity.



INICIA EL VOTO POR CORREO PARA LA ELECCIÓN ESPECIAL DEL 4 DE AGOSTO DEL 2020

(Cleveland) – La ciudad de Maple Heights tendrá una Elección Especial el 4 de agosto del 2020 para decidir sobre la renovación de un impuesto municipal. El Voto-por-Correo y por Adelantado en Persona comienza el 7 de julio del 2020.

La Junta Electoral del Condado de Cuyahoga exhorta a los votantes aprovechar la opción del Voto-por-Correo. Para pedir una solicitud de papeleta de Voto-por-Correo visite: www.443vote.us, o llame al 216-443-VOTE (8683). Cuando Vota-por-Correo no hay contacto humano, eliminando riesgos de salud.

“Las elecciones de agosto son fácil perderselas porque las personas están de vacaciones y de otra manera ocupados en esta época del año,” dijo Anthony Perlatti, Director de la Junta Electoral. “Votar-por-Correo y por Adelantado en Persona son buenas opciones para gente ocupada que están disfrutando de sus actividades de verano y no quieren perderse la elección.”

La Junta Electoral está abierta para Voto por Adelantado en Persona en las siguientes fechas:

Días de la Semana:	Julio 7 - Julio 24	8:00 a.m. a 5:00 p.m.
Días de la Semana:	Julio 27 - Julio 31	8:00 a.m. a 7:00 p.m.
Sábado:	Agosto 1	8:00 a.m. a 4:00 p.m.
Domingo:	Agosto 2	1:00 p.m. a 5:00 p.m.
Lunes:	Agosto 3	8:00 a.m. a 2:00 p.m.

La Junta Electoral está ubicada en el 2925 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115.

Fecha Límite para Registro de Votantes:

El lunes 6 de julio a las 9:00 p.m. es la fecha límite para registrarse para votar y realizar cambios a su dirección para la Elección Especial del 4 de agosto del 2020. Los electores que no se han registrado, que se han mudado, o han cambiado su nombre deben llenar y devolver una tarjeta de registración de elector en o antes de la fecha límite. Los electores también tienen la opción de registrarse en línea visitando: www.443vote.us.

Notice of Public Hearing

The Board of Commissioners of the Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) is preparing to submit its 2021 Annual Plan and the Capital Fund 5- Year Action Plan for 2021-2025 to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The plans are available for review at this link <https://bit.ly/LMHAPlan> on LMHA's website (www.lucasmha.org). LMHA invites you to submit comments during the next 45 days to agrytafev@lucasmha.org.

You are invited to a public hearing on **September 1, 2020** at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom. You must register in advance for this meeting by clicking this link: <https://bit.ly/LMHAZoom912020>. Citizens will be provided pertinent information regarding strategic goals and program activities of the LMHA. Citizens are encouraged to attend this public hearing and provide additional comments on the 2021 Annual Plan and Capital Fund 5-Year Action Plan for 2021-2025.

Should attendees require auxiliary aids due to a disability, please contact LMHA at 419-259-9457 or TRS 711, at least one week prior to hearing date.



William J. Brennan, Chair
Joaquin Cintron Vega, President & Chief Executive Officer

Countries with Universal Health Care

Listed by Country and Start Date of Universal Health Care

Australia	1975
Austria	1967
Bahrain	1957
Belgium	1945
Brunei	1958
Canada	1966
Cyprus	1980
Denmark	1973
Finland	1972
France	1974
Germany	1941
Greece	1983
Hong Kong	1993
Iceland	1990
Ireland	1977
Israel	1995
Italy	1978
Japan	1938
Kuwait	1950
Luxembourg	1973
Netherlands	1966
New Zealand	1938
Norway	1912
Portugal	1979
Singapore	1993
Slovenia	1972
South Korea	1988
Spain	1986
Sweden	1955
Switzerland	1994
United Arab Emirates	1971
United Kingdom	1948

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Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network moderate rates for 2021 ACA plans

Average rates for Blue Cross and Blue Care Network plans increase by 1.7 and 2.5 percent

DETROIT, June 12, 2020 – Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network will hold average price increases for individual market health plans below three percent for the upcoming 2021 open enrollment period, pending approval of rates filed with state regulators this week.

On average, BCBSM PPO and BCN HMO plans will see a low rate increase of 1.7 and 2.5 percent, respectively. Blue Cross will continue to offer plans in every Michigan county, as it has since the launch of the Marketplace in 2013.

“Blue Cross is pleased to once again offer a wide choice of affordable health plan options to Michigan residents at price points that are fairly close to those we’ve had for the past couple of years,” said Rick

Notter, vice president of Individual Business for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. “Lower premium increases for 2021 represent our ongoing success in addressing the root causes of rising health care costs by collaborating with doctors, and using data and technology to drive efficiency and make care more affordable.”

Blue Cross and BCN will continue to provide a variety of plan options – 29 total plans across Gold, Silver, Bronze and Catastrophic levels – while remaining the only carrier in the Upper Peninsula and offering a combined 10 plans between PPO and HMO in the region. Adding to a diversified portfolio of two Gold, 16 Silver, eight Bronze and two Catastrophic level offerings, one new product will be introduced for 2021 open enrollment, the Blue Cross Preferred HMO Bronze plan.

“Our Blue Cross Pre-

ferred HMO Bronze plan is designed to provide an affordable plan option that offers comprehensive coverage for primary health care services including no-cost telemedicine services through Blue Cross Online Visits,” said Notter. “One of our primary goals at Blue Cross is to make care more accessible and this new benefit is just one example of many that illustrate our continuous efforts to move the needle forward.”

The new Preferred HMO Bronze plan will be Blue Cross’ first Bronze HMO option for members in 67 counties that offers no-cost or before deductible services. In addition to free telemedicine services, the plan will offer no-cost annual and wellness visits for adults and children, vaccinations and diabetes management tools, among other ben-

efits.

Average price increases for Blue Cross’ 2021 Marketplace health plans are below national projections. Experts estimate rate increases of at least four to six percent with some plans already proposing average premium increases of more than seven percent.

Ongoing rate moderation in Michigan is a result of Blue Cross’ long-standing partnerships with physicians and hospitals across the state to deliver more high-quality, cost-efficient care to patients through its Value Partnerships programs. Recently through these programs, Blue Cross was able to quickly convene with 35 Michigan hospitals to create “MI-COVID19,” a comprehensive, multi-site regis-



**Blue Cross
Blue Shield
Blue Care Network
of Michigan**

A nonprofit corporation and independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

try likely to be one of the largest collections of COVID-19 patient data to date. The information garnered from this registry will be used to provide insight into best practices in treating patients with the virus.

During a time of significant disruption and uncertainty in health care, Blue Cross and BCN’s member support has extended beyond rate moderation, providing several no-cost services including COVID-19 testing and treatment and medical and behavioral telehealth visits, among other offerings.

One-time rebates will also be issued to 2019 individual plan subscribers resulting from lower

than expected health care claims that will amount to approximately \$45 million.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, a nonprofit mutual insurance company, is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. BCBSM provides and administers health benefits to more than 4.5 million members residing in Michigan in addition to employees of Michigan-headquartered companies who reside outside the state.

For more company information, visit bcbsm.com and MiBluesPerspectives.com.

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En Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan estamos comprometidos con el cuidado de Michigan y con todo aquel que lo considere un hogar. Para nuestros miembros, estamos comprometidos para poder brindarles la oportunidad de visitar a un doctor desde su casa y que tenga la opción de hablar con el personal de enfermería cuando lo necesite. Hoy más que nunca, buscamos el cuidado que necesita. Como lo hemos hecho por 81 años. Puede encontrar más información en bcbsm.com/coronavirus.



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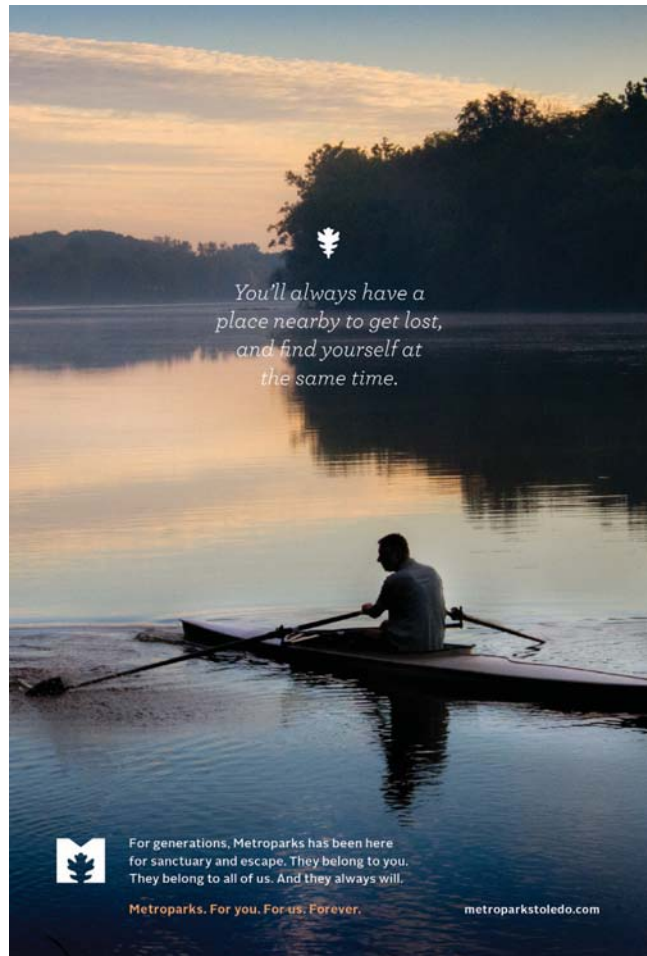
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