



THE 411

SEPTEMBER 15-17, 2022
"Michigan Blues Fest"
 On Turner St. at Cesar Chavez in Old Town Lansing, MI. For more info call 517-371-4600 or go to: micharts.org

OCTOBER 3, 2022
"Jazz-Tim Cunningham's Concert and CD Release Party"
 7:00PM at The Venue Inside the Lansing Mall next to the Regal 12 Theater, 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy for tickets and more information go to: www.timcunningham.com

OCTOBER 15, 2022
"DRU HILL and Dave Hollister"
 At the Capitol Theatre located at 140 E. 2nd St. Flint, MI for tickets and additional information are available at the box office and THEBEAT989.COM

OCTOBER 23, 2022
 "The Price is Right Live" 6:00
 Cobb Great Hall For ticket information call 1-800-WHARTON

WHAT'S INSIDE

- FRONT PAGE**
Student Loan Forgiveness
- 2** Renaissance Festival
- 3** Project Relo
- 4** Bluesfest Line-Up
- 5** Sales Tax-School supply
- 6** Lottery



Run Elissa Run!
ELISSA SLOTKIN FUNRAISER SUCCESS!
 On Monday August 22, 2022, over 100 Supporters gathered at Red Cedar Spirits located at 2000 Merritt Road in East Lansing, MI. Pictured above Lt to Rt: Jack G. Devine, Legislative Director VVA State Council, Dianne Holman, Owner of Red Cedar Spirits Distillery, Michigan's 8th Congressional District Elissa Slotkin and Marcus Jefferson, Publisher of the Michigan Bulletin Newspaper



Juicy J above performed at the Smokers Ball on August 13th, 2022, at Adado park in Lansing, MI. Photo by Bill McClain

BACK TO SCHOOL SPECIAL EDITION

Elite Colleges Constantly Tell Low-Income Students That They Do Not Belong

The Justice Department has charged more than 50 people with involvement in an elaborate scheme to purchase spots in some of the country's top schools. The tactics described in the indictment were complex and multipronged, requiring multiple steps of deception and bribery by parents and their co-conspirators to secure their children's admission to the schools of their choice. The plot purportedly included faking learning disabilities, using Photoshopped images to make it seem as if students played sports that they did not actually play, and pretending that students were of different ethnicities to exploit affirmative-action programs. The alleged scheme was led by a man named William Singer, who called his business venture a "side door" into college. On Tuesday, Singer pleaded guilty to all charges.

The case, rightfully, has set off a wave of conversations about how the wealthy are able to lie and manipulate their way into the country's elite colleges and universities. But the scandal also provides an opportunity to interrogate how these

universities are set up in ways that systematically amplify and exacerbate the class differences between their students. Students from low-income backgrounds receive daily reminders—interpersonal and institutional, symbolic, and structural—that they are the ones who do not belong.

To understand the prevalence of wealth at top-tier schools, and how those schools often fail to adequately serve low-income students, it helps to turn to a book called *The Privileged Poor*, by the Harvard University professor Anthony Abraham Jack, published earlier this month. In the book, Jack combines his own journey as a low-income student from Miami who attended selective schools (Amherst College as an undergrad and Harvard for graduate school) and his two-year ethnographic research project, in which he interviewed and followed the lives of low-income students as they navigated life at an unidentified elite school he refers to as "Renowned University."

In the early pages of the book,



Jack outlines how top colleges and universities are and have long been havens of the wealthy. In 2017, a team led by the Harvard economist Raj Chetty found that students coming from families in the top 1 percent—those who make more than \$630,000 a year—are 77 times more likely to be admitted to and attend an Ivy League school than students coming from families who make less than \$30,000 a year. Furthermore, the study found that 38 elite colleges have more students who come from families

in the top 1 percent than students who come from the bottom 60 percent (families making less than \$65,000 a year). In other research, Anthony Carnevale and Jeff Strohl, of Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce, have documented how just 14 percent of undergraduates at the most competitive schools—places like Stanford, Princeton, and Columbia—come from families who make up the bottom half of U.S. income distribution. Article courtesy of the Atlantic.

Gov. Whitmer Highlights How Student Debt Forgiveness Can Help You

Approximately 1.4 million Michiganders eligible for relief, all borrowers have deferred payments until December 31, monthly payments could be cut in half

LANSING, Mich. — Today, Governor Gretchen Whitmer highlighted how Michiganders could benefit from the recent announcement on student loan forgiveness. In addition to the \$10,000 in forgiveness for those earning less than \$125,000 and \$20,000 for Pell Grant recipients, there are other benefits Michiganders should be aware of, including an extension of the pause on payments for all borrowers through the end of the year, a new rule that could cut monthly payments in half, and enhanced eligibility for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program.
 "The recent announcement on student debt will save around 1.4 million Michiganders money, keeping money in their pockets that they can use to buy a home, get married, or start a family," said Governor Whitmer. "There are several components to the recent announcement, and I encourage Michiganders to explore all the resources available to them. On top of the \$10,000 in forgiveness for eligible Michiganders, there is an extension of the pause on repayment for all borrowers, a new income-based repayment plan cutting monthly bills in half, and more funds for Pell Grant recipients. I will work with anyone to keep lowering the cost of higher education and offering more paths for Michiganders to earn a higher education tuition-free, without going into debt in the first place."
 Frequently Asked Questions
 For answers to frequently asked questions, visit: <https://studentaid.gov/debt-relief-announcement/>

Here are some highlights:
 Q: Do I need to do anything to extend my student loan pause through the end of the year?
 No. The pause will occur automatically.

Q: Am I eligible for debt forgiveness?
 If your annual income is below \$125,000 (for individuals) or \$250,000 (for married couples or heads of households), you are eligible for up to \$10,000 in debt forgiveness.

If you received a Pell Grant in college and meet the income threshold, you will be eligible for up to \$20,000 in debt forgiveness.

Q: What do I need to do in order to receive loan forgiveness?
 Nearly 8 million borrowers may be eligible for automatic relief because the U.S. Department of

Education already has relevant income data. If the U.S. Department of Education does not have your income data, or if you do not know if they do, there will be a new website for you to find out in the coming weeks, before the pause on payments ends on December 31st.
 If you want to be notified when the new website with the application is open, sign up at the Department of Education's subscription page: <https://www.ed.gov/subscriptions>
 Q: What about my monthly payment?
 The U.S. Department of Education will implement a new income-driven repayment plan to substantially reduce future monthly payments for lower- and middle-income borrowers.
 The rule would:
 Require borrowers to pay no more than 5% of their discretionary income monthly on undergraduate loans. This is down from the 10% available under the most recent income-driven repayment plan. Raise the amount of income that is considered non-discretionary income and therefore is protected from repayment, guaranteeing that no borrower earning under 225% of the federal poverty level—about the annual equivalent of a \$15 minimum wage for a single borrower—will have to make a monthly payment.
 Forgive loan balances after 10 years of payments, instead of 20 years, for borrowers with loan balances of \$12,000 or less.
 Cover the borrower's unpaid monthly interest, so that unlike other existing income-driven repayment plans, no borrower's loan balance will grow as long as they make their monthly payments—even when that monthly payment is \$0 because their income is low.

Reducing Debt for Michiganders
 30% of Michiganders with federal student loans, approximately 420,000 people, owe less than \$10,000 and the recent announcement would forgive all of their debt.
 Around 50% of Michiganders with federal student debt, approximately 700,000 people, owe less than \$20,000, and their debt would be cut in half or forgiven entirely. Nearly 700,000 more Michiganders will receive important loan relief.
 The pause on student loan repayment, interest, and collections for all Michigan borrowers has been extended through December 31, 2022.
 The new income-based repayment plan will en-

sure that borrowers pay no more than 5% of their discretionary monthly income on student loans, down from 10%. This will cut out of pocket costs by half, saving Michiganders hundreds of dollars a month.

Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program
 The Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) offers loan forgiveness to those who work in public service including the military, qualifying non-profits, or federal, state, local, or tribal governments. After 10 years of public service employment and on-time payments, you can have your entire balance forgiven.

As of June 2022, 6,120 Michiganders have had \$358 million in loans forgiven under the PSLF. Over 148,000 more Michiganders may be eligible due to the recent PSLF waiver.

The U.S. Department of Education has instituted temporary changes that provide more flexibility and make it easier than ever to have your debt forgiven under the PSLF. This includes allowing borrowers to receive credit for past periods of repayment that would otherwise not qualify for PSLF.

However, these temporary changes end on October 31, 2022. Michiganders who work in public service should apply at: studentaid.gov/pslf/.

Governor Whitmer's Bipartisan Investments in Tuition-Free Higher Education
 Since taking office, Governor Whitmer has worked across the aisle to make college more affordable by expanding tuition-free higher education and skills training for Michiganders over 25, future educators, and talented young students pursuing a degree at public Michigan universities.

She established and funded the bipartisan Michigan Reconnect program, which has put over 100,000 people on the path to tuition-free higher education or skills training. With the recent, bipartisan budget Governor Whitmer signed, Michigan funded \$10,000 scholarships for 2,500 future Michigan educators every year and offered school districts funds for Grow Your Own Programs, helping districts train staff for teaching positions, tuition-free. She also expanded scholarships for young Michiganders pursuing higher education at one of the state's public universities.



TASK FORCE TRIBUTE KICKS OFF AT THE CAPITAL



Veteran and State Senator, Tom Barrett and Veteran Mark Joyner. Pictures by Marcus Jefferson

Lt to Rt Major General, Paul Rogers presenting and Michelle and Christian Anschuetz Wo-founders of Project Relo with an American Flag to carry on their tribute

LANSING, Mich. People gathered at the Michigan State Capitol Sunday to remember the 7,054 service members who died since the September 11, 2001, terror attacks. The Capitol was "The Task Force Tribute" first stop as it drives one mile for each veteran who died in the line of duty over the last 20 years. Major General Paul Rogers joined the Army in 1987. He directs more than 10,000 soldiers in the Michigan National Guard. He said this is about giving a voice to the soldiers and their families.

"I think a living legacy, or a living history that adds the personal touch to it, quite often we recognize a conflict or the service in general, but these are people," said Major General Rogers. "These are people who are living normal lives, everyday lives." Project Relo is organizing the Task Force Tribute's journey. Christian Anschuetz is the co-founder and said the collection of the stories would be turned into a virtual memorial, but it is still in the planning phase. "The combination of building the relationships between them so that

we can get a full 360-degree view of a perspective around an incident or a battle or "whatever," then how it's visualized," said Anschuetz. Project RELO is a non-profit veteran advocacy group that has helped transform the perspective on the value of veterans within the civilian workforce. Project RELO alums will travel from Lansing to Seattle and back across the country on another route, ending in Washington, D.C. on September 11. Article courtesy of WILX-TV

SUPPORT OUR VETERANS!

SOUL II SOUL CONSCIOUSNESS: Can you BE both Christian and Christlike? 08222022



Pastor/Chaplain Pamelajune (Pi) Anderson, DMin.
Soul II Soul Spiritual Fitness Couch
Lt. Commander (RET) US Navy Chaplain Corps
Certified Peer Support Specialist



BE STILL AND YOUR SOUL WILL SPEAK

¹"I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth."

²My soul shall make its boast in the Lord; Psalm 34:1-2 New King James



Eternal One and Faithful Friend, here of late, I am tempted to boast about the completion of my Pastoral Project – HEALING MY SOUL ON PURPOSE: A Veterans Guide to Suicide Intervention – and, simultaneously humming the chorus, "I will boast in the Lord my God." When you're woke (conscious, aware, knowing, critically thinking) and woke (alert to injustice in society and racism), it is rather easy to boast (possess or take what belongs to God).

At the NSA NAPLES DET 106 REUNION in Bolingbrook, IL last weekend, I asked one of my shipmates who was carrying on much drama, why she didn't want to deal with another shipmate's shit (her words). And Senior Chief said to me "O no, Chap, not you." "Wait, I was quoting somebody else," was my reply. "Doesn't matter," was the Senior Chief's comeback. That language does not become you." As much as I've "cursed like a sailor" through the years," this is the first time I was called on the carpet about cursing. O, people snicker, whisper behind my back, rolled their eyes, give me that "Christian" indignation look, and shake their heads. Only this one person in 75 years, reminded me that it is better to be more like Christ and less like Peter. I am grateful for any WORD that encourages me to BE a better representative of the Lord.

Does this mean I will ever curse again? I'm likely to be more mindful than before.

So, the question occurs to me "can I BE both Christian and Christlike?" Put another way, "Can I boast about my religion and my Savior?" "Is it compatible for me to brag about the building often referred to as the church and the Chief Cornerstone? Maybe I can do both, maybe I can't. I believe it depends on who's on first.

The songwriter puts it this way: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom or the strong man boast in his strength. Let not the rich man boast in his riches but let the humble come and give thanks to the One who made us, the One who saved us. Serving someone who loves and looks out for us no matter what." King David puts it this way: "My soul shall make its boast in the Lord."



Celebration Announcements

Mr. Party, The Ambassador of Celebration

Birthdays in SEPTEMBER

Mr. Tyrone J. Feuss celebrates his 28th birthday on September 1st with family and friends, We love you! Master Jaiden Seiler celebrates his 16th birthday on September 1st, with family. Mr. Henry A. Couthen celebrates his birthday on September 1st, with family and friends. Ms. Sa'Ra Skipper celebrates her birthday on September 1st, with family and friends. Mr. Darrell Walker celebrates his birthday on September 1st, with Wife, Meloney, family and friends. Mr. Luther William "Mr. Party" Brown, Sr. celebrates his 70th birthday on September 1st. "My Beauty is a reflection of those I am blessed enough to spend time with!" Thank You for Your love!!! We are happy because we laugh; celebrate your life with a smile !!!

Miss. Isabella Megan Marie Brown celebrates her 14th birthday on September 2nd, showered with love from family: Mom Amy, Dad Luther, brother Jordan, sisters Taylor and Idyanna, Grandma Joanna, Nana, Grandpa Ernie and PawPaw : Luther William "Mr. Party" Brown Sr.

Ms. Jennifer Brown celebrates her birthday on September 2nd, with family and friends. Uncle Billy is so proud and loves you always!

Mr. Michael Thomas Sr. celebrates his birthday on September 2nd. Mrs. Meloney Walker celebrated her birth on September 3, 2020, with husband, Darrell, family and friends.

Ms. Janet L. Rodgers celebrates her 54th birthday on September 3rd. Mrs. Earline Brown celebrates her 95th birthday on September 3rd, with family and friends; Michelle Taylor, her Granddaughter.

Ms. Deana Coiter celebrates her 54th birthday on September 4th.

Ms. De Zandria King celebrates her 25th birthday on September 4th.

Ms. Shantel A. Ragland celebrates her birthday on September 4th.

Mr. Hugh M. Scott Jr. celebrates his birthday on September 4th; Trinity A.M.E Church.

Mr. Fred Kirkland celebrates his birthday on September 4th, with family and friends. Ms. Cora Johnston celebrates her birthday on September 5th.

Ms. Jinger Bair will celebrate her 47th birthday on September 5th.

Mr. Jonas Chenault Jr. celebrates his birthday on September 5th. Mr. Robert D. Husband celebrates his birthday on September 5th with his loving wife Jackie and family; Trinity A.M.E. Church.

Mr. Steven Cory Wilder III (Trey), celebrates 9th birthday on September 5th. MeMaw loves you, always. Mr. Timothy TJ Jackson celebrates his birthday on September 6th. Al McConnell celebrates his birthday on September 6th.

Mr. Mike Boles celebrates his 70th birthday on September 7th, with his wife of 45 years, Flora, children, family and friends. Love you my Brother!!! Ms. Ruby A. Frazier celebrates her birthday on September 7th. Love from her family! Trinity A.M.E. Church. Ms. Betty J. Wilson celebrates her birthday on September 7th. Ms. Kristen T. Colbert celebrates her birthday on September 7th. Mr. Alonzo Mans III enjoys his birthday on September 7th. Mr. Derrick F. Jones celebrates his birthday on September 7th. Ms. Bernadine Lovett joyously celebrates her 66th birthday on September 8th. Mr. Lulu Lara celebrates his 31st birthday on September 8th, with family and friends.

Mr. Jagr Dneil Williams celebrates his 20th birthday on September 8th.

Ms. Angie Hill celebrates her birthday on September 8th. Ms. Mattie Brooks celebrates her birthday on September 8th. Mr. Jagr Williams celebrates his 18th birthday on September 8th. Mrs. Destiny Cook-Williams celebrates her birthday on September 9th with family and friends.

Mrs. Monica Brown celebrates her 53rd birthday on September 9th with family and friends. Ms. Sebastiana Harrel celebrates her 38th birthday on September 10th. Mr. Robert Manning celebrates his 35th birthday on September 11th, with his sister Patricia. Ms. Valorie Mosley celebrates her birthday on September 11th. Ms. Renee Laster Jones celebrates her birthday.

Ms. Bernice Kent, gone to Heaven 2018, we celebrate what would be her 102nd birthday on September 12th. Ms. Mildred H. Chenault celebrates her birthday on September 13th. Mr. Elton L. Mitchell celebrates his birthday on September 13th. Ms. Tina Pettigrew, celebrating her birthday on September 13th, says, "PRAISE YAHSHUA"

Ms. Yvette Morris celebrates her birthday on September 14th. She says, "I'm hoping myself a very blessed birthday!"

Mr. Matthew Branson celebrates his birthday on September 14th, with family and friends. Ms. Michelle Love enjoys her birthday on September 14th, with family and friends. Mr. John T. Buckner: remembering this Godly Man, we celebrate his Life, born on September 15th, we joyously share memories with his loving wife Myrtle and The Trinity A.M.E. Church Family.

Ms. Michelle Brown enjoys her 29th birthday on September 16th, with her one year old baby daughter, family and friends. Uncle Billy is so proud of You and loves You much!

Mr. Boom of the Hood Riders celebrates his birth on September 16th. Ms. Dorothy Washington celebrates her birth on September 17th. Mr. Robert Collins, my good friend, gone to Heaven, was born on September 17th. Mr. Marky Mark, born September 19th, celebrates his birthday with family and friends. Mr. Myron Phifer celebrates his birthday on September 19th. Mrs. Tracy Metcalf will celebrate her birthday on September 20th, working her new job. "Stay as beautiful as you are, for you know you're a star... Shine on!!!" Mr. Andrew Taylor celebrates his 94th birthday on September 20th, with family and friends. Ms. Brandy Branson enjoys her birthday on September 20th. Mr. Michon Reynolds celebrates his birthday on September 20th. Ms. Elaine Couthen celebrates her birthday on September 21st, with family and friends. Ms. Lola V. Eaton celebrates her birthday on September 22nd, with family and friends. Mr. Jason Hough, "Happy 42nd Birthday" on September 21st. Love your family!! Attorney Charles Ford enjoys his birthday on September 22nd. Mrs. Myrtle M. Buckner celebrates her birthday on September 23rd, remembering her loving husband John. Trinity A.M.E. Church. Ms. Anita R. Johnson enjoys her birthday on September 23rd, with family and friends. Ms. Theresa B. Oehmke celebrates her birthday on September 23rd. Jo Morley (Mort) is celebrating 64 years on September 23rd. Mr. Jarell Williams enjoys his 28th birthday on September 24th. Mrs. Annie Geneva Jones celebrates her birthday on September 24th. Ms. Johnnie R. Johnson enjoys her birthday on September 25th.

Ms. Destinee Hall celebrates her birthday on September 25th, with family and friends. Mr. Clarence "C.D." Duncan enjoys his birthday on September 25th, with family and friends. Ms. Elinor Mitchell celebrates her birthday on September 27th. Mr. Julian Skipper enjoys his birthday on September 27th.

Ms. Sophie Clara Clark celebrates her 19th birthday on September 28th with family and friends. "Papa loves you!" Mr. Steven Barron celebrates his birthday on September 28th, with family and friends. Ms. Shelby Skipper enjoys her birthday on September 28th. Ms. Antonitte Adkins celebrates her birthday on September 29th. Mrs. Linda Walker Cole: Oh how we remember and miss her, was born September 29th; Love to her family. Ms. Kanya Parks celebrates her 22nd birthday on September 29th. Ms. Donecia Denise Brown will enjoy her 46th birthday on September 29th, vacationing with her Daughter and Dad, celebrating their birthdays with family in New York. You are The Lady in my Life! Daddy Loves You; GOD Bless!!! Ms. Rita Wray celebrates her 44th birthday on September 30th with family and friends.

Ms. Morgane A. Black celebrates her birthday on September 30th.

*Anniversaries

Mr. Riccy and Mrs. Aisa Williams enjoy their 18th wedding anniversary on September 13th. I Love you so much; Love always!

Mr. Party Celebration Enterprises, Inc., Promoting the healthy, safe Celebration of Life, thru Fun, Valued Friendships and Pleasant Memories Everlasting; celebrating their 37th anniversary thru the months of September, October and November. Thanks to all whom have supported our business and purchased Mr. Party brand name products and services over the years. To the Best in All of Us-LOVE!!!

We don't laugh because We're happy; We're Happy because We Laugh!!!

*Announcements

The Annual Birthday Bash for JAMES JR RAY / TIMOTHY TJ JACKSON will be held at the Green Door Bar and Grill on September 24, 2022 at 9:00pm

- Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/mrparty1985
- Celebration Gram - A Class Act: Have your special message delivered by Mr. Party for that special someone or special occasion!
- Call: 517-391-4849 or Email: mrparty1985@gmail.com Please send the information about you, your family or friends celebrating the Events of Life: Celebration Announcements
- Please let us know if you have anyone to celebrate!

2022 Michigan Chicken Wing Festival
Sept. 3rd - 4th
2 - 9 pm

Adado Riverfront Park
300 N. Grand - Downtown Lansing, MI

2022 MICHIGAN Renaissance Festival



**Weekends (Sat. & Sun.) + Labor Day, Sept. 5
Aug. 20th – Oct. 2nd • 10am – 7pm
Festival Friday, Sept. 30th
Rain or Shine • FREE Parking!**

**PURCHASE DISCOUNT TICKETS TODAY
MICHRENFEST.COM**

**\$3.00 OFF ONE ADULT
OR CHILD GATE ADMISSION**

248-634-5552 • MichRenFest.com. Redeemable at Festival Box Office only. No photocopies accepted. Not valid with any other offers. Limit one per person. **Coupon valid Aug. 20th – Oct. 2nd, 2022**



The Turning Point of Lansing

**CONNECTING THE DOTS
FOR SUCCESS!**

KICKOFF MEETING

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
4-5:30 PM**

Harry Hill Vocational Ctr, Auditorium
5825 Wise Rd., Lansing, 48911

Overview of the mentoring program
& an opportunity to meet the Elders

MASKS ARE OPTIONAL

NEW APPLICANTS



RENEWAL APPLICANTS



TTPOL IS A 501 (C)(3) TAX-EXEMPT, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION FOR MORE INFORMATION: 517-336-8067

SAVE THE DATE

YOUNG MALES, GRADES 6-12 • PARENTS • STUDENTS • MENTORS • SPONSORS

Nominations Encouraged for Michigan Lottery's Excellence in Education Awards to Honor Outstanding Educators

Parents, students, school staff members, and others are encouraged to nominate outstanding public-school educators for the Michigan Lottery's 2022-23 Excellence in Education awards.

All public-school employees may be nominated for the awards, which recognize educators who go "above and beyond" to make a difference in the lives of children. To nominate a public-school educator, go to <https://www.michiganlottery.com/excellence-in-education>.

The Michigan Lottery established the Excellence in Education awards in 2014 to recognize outstanding public-school educators across the state during the school year.

One outstanding educator will be selected each week and will receive a \$1,500 cash prize plus a \$500 grant to their classroom, school or school district. One of the weekly award winners will be selected to receive the Lottery's Educator of the Year award and will receive a \$10,000 cash prize.

Each winner also will receive a plaque and be featured in a news segment on the Lottery's media partner stations: WXYZ-TV in Detroit, FOX 17 in Grand Rapids, FOX 47 in Lansing, and WNEM-TV, Saginaw.

The winner of the 2022 Educator of the Year award was Spencer Vanderheide. He is a high school teacher with Kenowa Hills High School, which is part of Kenowa Hills Public Schools.

Hundreds of educators were nominated during the eighth year of the educational awards program and 34, including Vanderheide, were selected to win a weekly award.

Previous winners of the Educator of the Year award:

- 2021 – Janice Smith, a school social worker at Fisher Magnet Lower Academy in Detroit
- 2020 – Megan Sidge, an Autism Spectrum Disorder teacher at Hickory Woods Elementary, which is part of the Walled Lake Consolidated Schools.
- 2019 – Stewart Kieliszewski, an Earth science, biology, mechatronics, and media teacher for eighth through 12 graders at the Uby Community Schools.
- 2018 – Kerri Moccio, a literacy intervention specialist at Bedford Elementary School in Dearborn Heights
- 2017 – Linda Holzwarth, a social studies teacher at Portage West Middle School in Portage
- 2016 – Daniel Carr, a Spanish and sports marketing teacher at Waverly High School in Lansing
- 2015 – Michael Craig, a special education teacher at the Charles Drew Transition Center in Detroit

Excellence in Education award nominees are evaluated on:

- Excellence – Their work consistently helps students and/or their schools or school districts advance to higher levels of academic achievement.



The Turning Point of Lansing

**CONNECTING THE
DOTS FOR SUCCESS!**

COMMUNITY COOKOUT

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
4-6:30 PM**

Alfreda Schmidt Southside
Community Center, Gymnasium
5825 Wise Rd., Lansing, 48911

MASKS ARE OPTIONAL

NEW APPLICANTS



RENEWAL APPLICANTS



TTPOL IS A 501 (C)(3) TAX-EXEMPT, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION FOR MORE INFORMATION: 517-336-8067

SAVE THE DATE

YOUNG MALES, GRADES 6-12 • PARENTS • STUDENTS • MENTORS • SPONSORS

Gov. Whitmer Proposes Suspending Sales Tax on School Supplies

Proposal is part of the MI Back to School Plan to lower costs for families, building on historic education budget with the highest state per-student funding in Michigan history to invest in every classroom

LANSING, Mich. – Today, Governor Gretchen Whitmer proposed suspending the Michigan sales tax on school supplies, part of her MI Back to School Plan to help families get ready for the upcoming school year by lowering costs and building on the historic, bipartisan education budget she signed in July. The plan will save Michigan families money right now, help educators save on classroom expenses, and equip kids with the tools they need to succeed, including everything from paper and pencils to crayons and computers.

"As families gear up for the school year, they should be able to get what they need without spending too much money out of pocket," said Governor Whitmer. "That's why I'm putting forward the MI Back to School Plan, which includes a proposal to temporarily suspend the sales tax on school supplies. Getting this done would lower costs for parents, teachers, and students right now, and ensure that they have the resources to succeed. I will work with anyone to lower costs, cut taxes, and help our kids thrive. Last month, I signed a bipartisan education budget—my fourth—which made the highest state per-student funding in Michigan history. We should build on this progress as we get ready for the next school year by enacting the MI Back to School Plan."

"I spend about \$500 out-of-pocket a year on supplies for my classroom, and I spend about \$500 out-of-pocket a year on supplies for my classroom, and that's a big challenge for me as an early-career teacher with low wages," said Alex Bohr, a fourth-grade teacher at Gull Lake Community Schools. "On top of school supplies, many of us also buy snacks for students whose families aren't able to send snacks from home, so the kids can have something to eat during the day outside of lunch. All of these costs accumulate and can become a substantial financial burden, both for educators and parents. Gov. Whitmer's proposal for a school sales tax holiday will help educators and families keep a little extra money in our wallets, so we can afford other basic necessities."

"With the continued rising cost of just about everything needed to supply a classroom; teachers like myself are having to resort to creating wishlists on Amazon and sharing them on social media like Tik Tok, Instagram, Facebook and Twitter, in the hopes that some companies will help "#CLEARTHELIST", said

Stephanie Klein, Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) Director and lead co-teacher in the Menominee County Intermediate School District. "A "teacher tax holiday" would help take a little pressure off the pocketbooks of so many educators. School districts can only provide so much money for budgeted supplies and the extras are usually put on the back burner to wait and see if there is extra money left over. Usually, teachers end up funding the extras themselves, but I would rather than have my students not flourish! #TEACHER-SAREPOWERFUL."

"I am extremely grateful to Governor Whitmer for her leadership to help our kids succeed in the classroom," said Kristen Bruley, parent in Allen Park. "I'm a mom of two kid and elementary school students, and back to school costs add up when you're raising them on one income. A tax suspension would help keep costs down and help parents get their kids more of what they need."

"With this sales tax holiday, tax savings for an average family would probably be around \$54.00 per child," said Louis Zemlick, President & Owner of Zemlick's—a 45-year-old office and school supplies store headquartered in Kalamazoo serving all of southwest Michigan. "This is a big help to Michigan families and small business."

"Educators and parents spend hundreds upon hundreds of dollars every year on school supplies like books, pencils and tech devices, and these expenses can really add up and cause significant financial strain for Michigan families," said MEA President Paula Herbart, a veteran educator from Macomb County. "We strongly support Gov. Whitmer's proposal to enact a school sales tax holiday, and we urge lawmakers to work swiftly with the governor and provide this critical relief for Michigan parents and educators."

"As one of Michigan's largest retailers, we applaud Governor Whitmer's efforts to lower costs for Michigan's families," said Rachel Hurst, head of Midwest Region of Corporate Affairs for Kroger. "We stand ready to implement the sales tax holiday as soon as it is passed by the state's legislature."

Background on Back to School Sales Tax Holiday

With prices rising on everyday items, a Deloitte report found that parents and families

expect to spend up to \$661 per child on school supplies this year, as opposed to \$612 per child last year. To provide relief, 19 other states are suspending state sales taxes on everything from clothing and shoes to backpacks and computers to lower costs for families and help educators outfit their classrooms for the year. Under the governor's plan, Michigan would join those states to deliver savings for parents as they prepare to send their children back to school.

Cutting Taxes, Lowering Costs, Money in Pockets

Governor Whitmer proposed rolling back the retirement tax on our seniors, putting an average of \$1,000 back in the pockets of half a million Michiganders who worked hard and played by the rules. She also proposed tripling the Michigan Earned Income Tax Credit, which would put a combined \$3,000 tax refund in the pockets of 730,000 working families. In addition, Governor Whitmer signed bipartisan legislation repealing the tampon tax and cut personal property taxes for small business owners.

To save drivers money at the pump, Governor Whitmer has called for a temporary pause on the state and federal sales tax on fuel. A short-term pause is a fiscally-responsible action we can take that will provide drivers relief at the pump right now – not next year – while also protecting funding for road repairs and saving tens of thousands of good-paying construction jobs.

Governor Whitmer also called for sending \$500 inflation relief rebate checks to working families as they face rising prices on everyday expenses. Getting this done would put money in their pockets and help them pay the bills and put food on the table.

Governor Whitmer's Bipartisan Education Budget Investments

Governor Whitmer's recently signed bipartisan education budget focuses on six key sections: students, mental health, learning supports, student safety, school infrastructure, and teacher recruitment.

1) Students

For our students, the highest state per-pupil funding in Michigan history—\$9,150 for every kid, in every public school district. Additional support for the nearly 200,000 special education students and 710,000 at-risk students in

Michigan. Expanding funding for career and technical education programs by 27%.

2) Mental Health

Dedicated mental health dollars for every student in every school. Increasing funding for teen centers, district mental health grants, and TRAILS, which offers training to school mental health professionals so they can better serve students with evidence-based services.

3) Teacher Recruitment

Funding MI Future Educator Fellowships, which pay up to \$10,000 in tuition for 2,500 future Michigan educators a year, \$9,600 stipends a semester for student teachers, and Grow-Your-Own programs that help districts put support staff on no-cost paths to become educators.

4) School Infrastructure

\$250 million for school construction and renovations, helping them build or refurbish classrooms, labs, and libraries.

5) Learning Supports

An expansion of before and after-school programs to keep kids engaged. The budget offers every kid in Michigan tutoring to help catch up and get on track for long-term success, and resources for districts to develop learning pods for academically at-risk and economically disadvantaged students.

6) Student Safety

Dedicated school safety dollars for every student in every school. Funds to hire more on-campus school resources officers, create an intervention system for at-risk students that brings together law enforcement, schools, and mental health professionals, and establish a school safety commission.

Governor Whitmer's Education Investments For four years in a row, Governor Whitmer has worked across the aisle to make the largest education investments in Michigan history—without raising taxes. Since taking office, the governor has tripled the number of literacy coaches and last year, closed the funding gap between schools, boosted state per-student investment to an all-time high, and helped districts hire thousands of teachers on-campus mental health professionals.

The Whitmer-Gilchrist Administration's education accomplishments can be found at <https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/issues/accomplishments>.

ASALH Tribute to Bill Russel Requiem for a Champion

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History mourns the death of William Felton Russell. Russell is the winningest professional athlete of all time in team sports. He was the centerpiece of the Boston Celtics dynasty which claimed 11 NBA titles in 13 years, and one with him as player-coach, to become the first Black coach to win an NBA championship. He was a 12-time all-star and 5-time MVP, served as a General Manager of the NBA's Seattle SuperSonics, and led the University of San Francisco to the 1956 and 1957 NCAA titles.

He was captain of the 1956 gold-medal winning U.S. Olympics team. But all of that alone, does not address his full impact and significance on sports and society. To fully understand his importance, his life must be framed in the context of his times. In 2011, when he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama was the full measure of his contributions revealed to younger generations of Americans, who were not yet born when he retired as a basketball player in 1969.

Russell was born in 1934. That was the year, the Dean of the Howard University School of Law, Charles Hamilton Houston conceived and directed the NAACP's legal campaign against discrimination and segregation/apartheid.

Twenty years later, its legal campaign would culminate in the Brown v. Board of Education decision which ruled apartheid schooling unconstitutional. In the midst of the Great Depression, Bill Russell was born in the rigidly apartheid town of Monroe, Louisiana. There racism and restrictions on Black opportunity were so severe that during WWII his parents migrated to Oakland, California. They were attracted by jobs in the war industry and better schools for Bill and his older brother, the revered writer Charlie L. Russell, Jr. At age 12, after his mother, Katie died, his father dedicated himself to fulfilling his wife's plea that the boys receive a good education and attend college. Russell later recalled, "Education was a great shining stepladder for Black families in those days . . . though you could not point to many who climbed on it a long way. Still, it was the only hope we had if there was only one Joe Louis." Russell's father, affectionately known as Mister Charlie, instructed his sons about the dividends of discipline and hard work. Each day when returning home from his factory job, he instilled confidence in his sons that "we were going to make it." Other than the support and comfort of his father and brother, Bill



retreated into his private world with his prized possession, a library card from the Oakland Public Library where he went every day. One day at age 13, he came across a history book by the slavery apologist, historian U.B. Phillips. Russell was enraged and bewildered by its claim that enslaved Black folk enjoyed a higher standard of living and better life in America than in their "primitive African homeland." Russell said the Phillips book lit an anger that would remain with him through manhood. From that point forward, Russell explored books that gave a more balanced account of Black people in the West, Africa, and America. This is how he found his first hero, "after my mother," Henri Christophe, who joined in the slave revolt against the French and became emperor of Haiti. Russell also developed an appreciation for the genre of Black history written and promoted by Carter G. Woodson. He became a lifelong history pundit -- always searching, probing, and inquiring for truths about history and the human condition. In his own way, with his own style and inimitable blueprint, Russell strongly identified and aligned himself with the goals of the Civil Rights and

Black Power movements. Russell played high school basketball at McClymonds High School in Oakland, California. He won a basketball scholarship to the University of San Francisco, though he was not among the top three players on his high school team. He recalled, "Only one school was interested in me, so I went there. It was that simple." But he was self-disciplined and worked hard -- 8 to 10 hours a day -- to improve his game. He first became nationally known, during his junior and senior years (1955 and 56), while leading the Dons to back-to-back NCAA championships. In those same years, Russell learned of the murder of Emmett Till, the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the rise of Martin Luther King, Jr., and the white South's "Massive Resistance" to the Brown v. Board decision. He was drafted by the Celtics in 1956, the same year his high school classmate Frank Robinson became baseball's Rookie of the Year. He was the only Black member of the team his rookie season. There were only eight NBA teams, and no team had more than two Black players. The racial quota system bothered him and as the

Civil Rights Movement gained momentum and his celebrity expanded, Russell surprised the sports establishment by becoming a vocal critic of the NBA's quota system.

A half-century before styles of natural Black hair in the workplace became a civil rights issue in U.S. Courts, Russell ignored advice to shave his beard. In 1959, an NBA proposal attempted to ban facial hair. At that time only two NBA players wore facial hair, the two best players in the league -- Russell and Wilt Chamberlain. He called out racism where he saw and experienced it, especially in Boston which he described as a "flea market of racism." It was a position from which he never retreated, drawing a line between the city of Boston -- whose citizens protested when he purchased a home in a white neighborhood -- and the Celtics. He praised the latter for drafting one of the NBA's first Black players, Chuck Cooper, and additionally, for breaking the quota system; fielding the first all-Black starting line-up; and for hiring him as the NBA's first Black coach. Years later when Boston retired his jersey, he demanded that it not take place before Boston fans. Thus, it was done in a small ceremony with former Celtics teammates, organization officials, and close friends at the Boston Garden, hours before a nationally televised game. Russell never forgot what he often endured on the court in Boston, being called "baboon," "coon," and "nigger." Despite the titles for which he was the chief architect, when Boston fans were polled about how the team could increase attendance, Russell recalled, more than half responded: "Have fewer Black guys on the team." He wanted to be remembered as more than a basketball player. Therefore, he intentionally did not appear for his induction into the Hall of Fame, nor did he participate in the Boston parade when his team won the NBA title with him as coach and player. He thought that too much attention on his basketball achievements allowed many Boston fans to embrace him as an athlete without having to respect his Blackness and the ill-treatment of his race. To Russell's credit, they could not be bifurcated. He detested all references to Black athletes as "natural" because it ignored the practice and intellectual preparation that went into being world-class athletes. Russell observed, "I am coming to the realization that we are accepted as entertainers, but that we are not

accepted as people in some places.

Negroes are in a fight for their rights -a fight for survival -in a changing world. I am with these Negroes."

In the early 60s, during the prime of his career Russell defended the teachings of Malcolm X. In 1963, he participated in the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, as well as protested de facto apartheid in Boston Public Schools. Though a nationally recognized athlete, he remained an activist, going to Mississippi for an extended stay at the request of Charles Evers, the brother of the martyred NAACP leader Medgar Evers and a leader in his own right, following the 1964 murders of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Mickey Schwerner. He spoke out against the Vietnam War and defended Muhammad Ali's refusal to be inducted into the U.S. military as a religious conscientious objector. He supported the Olympic Project for Human Rights that led to the iconic raised Black Power fist protest by Tommie Smith and John Carlos at the 1968 Olympics. Russell publicly disagreed with Daniel P. Moynihan's report on the Black family. He maintained it was conceptually flawed and would lead to bad public policy. He spoke out against police brutality, racial profiling, and the unfair sentencing of Black defendants in the criminal justice system. Finally, long before the modern cultural wars, Russell challenged the routine genuflection to the founding fathers who were slaveholders. He did all this during an era without the protections of a players union or collective bargaining agreements.

Russell is in a class of ONE, because of his on-court basketball greatness and his racial justice advocacy and action. He used the bully pulpit of his basketball fame and celebrity to increase awareness of the most important social issues of his lifetime and beyond. His style of protest served as a template for activist Black athletes who would follow in his footsteps. For all of his 88 years, he was a Race Man, a person committed to Black people, of extraordinary size -- literally and figuratively. Al-Tony Gilmore is Distinguished Historian Emeritus of the National Education Association. A Life Member of ASALH, he has served on its Executive Council, as Program Chair, and as a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of African American History. His book, Bad Nigger: The National Impact of Jack Johnson, was the first scholarly book to explore the intersection of race, sports, and society.

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