



MILWAUKEE

COMMUNITY JOURNAL

WISCONSIN'S LARGEST AFRICAN AMERICAN NEWSPAPER



COPING WITH COVID-19



A nurse mans the check-in station at the Isaac Coggs Heritage Health Center, 8200 W. Silver Spring Drive, one of two sites opened by Milwaukee Health Services to test community residents for COVID-19.

MILWAUKEE HEALTH SERVICES, INC.
now doing Coronavirus testing for the uninsured!

Milwaukee Health Services, Inc. has begun offering COVID-19 testing at their two locations in Milwaukee for members of the community who are uninsured or do not have a primary care physician.

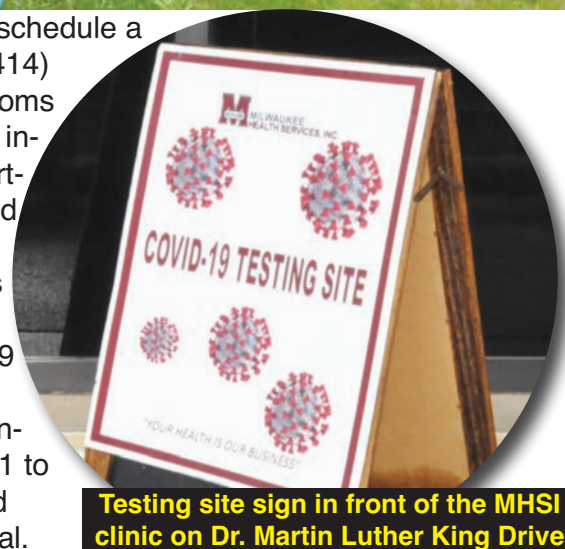
"I applaud Milwaukee Health Services, Inc. for offering testing and other support services to those who don't have insurance or a regular doctor," said sixth District Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs in a statement expressing how pleased she is to see one of the community's major health-care entities step up to the plate and offer the service to residents of her district and other underserved areas of the city. "There are many factors that can lead to someone choosing to not get tested or seek medical support, and having resources like this are crucial to making sure everyone gets the care they need."

Testing is being offered at the MLK Heritage Health Center, 2555 N. Dr. Martin L. King Jr. Dr., and at the Isaac Coggs Heritage Health Center, 8200 W. Silver Spring Drive. Testing is by appointment only, and residents wanting to

ask questions or schedule a visit should call (414) 372-8080. Symptoms of COVID-19 can include cough, shortness of breath and fever of 100.4 or greater. For news and updates related to COVID-19 please visit: Milwaukee.gov/coronavirus or call 2-1-1 to speak to a trained health professional.

(See story on page six about people with no health insurance being able to get tested for the virus at various local health centers.)

—Photos by Yvonne Kemp



Testing site sign in front of the MHSI clinic on Dr. Martin Luther King Drive

Report confirms connection between racial disparities and the coronavirus

Compiled by MCJ Editorial Staff

A new UW-Milwaukee report verifies what political leaders, community activists, and social experts have said since COVID-19 hit Milwaukee: there is a disturbing correlation between the disease and racism/segregation in the city.

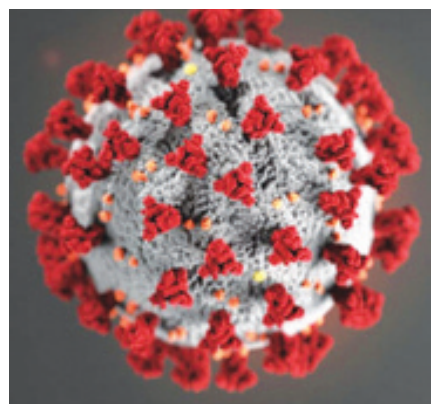
The UWM report, which examines data through April 8, found African Americans account for 69% of the coronavirus-related deaths in Milwaukee County while making up 27% of the county's population.

At the same time, nearly twice the number of African Americans in the county as Whites had tested positive for COVID-19.

In the MCJ March 25 edition, the newspaper reported that as of March 23, of the 158 total Milwaukee COVID-19 cases, the majority were on the predominately Black north side; and of that number, a large percentage were (and still are) African American men.

Milwaukee County was one of the first places in the country to release racial data for confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths. Local officials

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MUL READY TO HELP MPS STUDENTS "MUNCH & LEARN"!



A staffer at the Milwaukee Urban League helps ready items that were later put into 200 "power pack bags" (shown above) for Oliver Wendell Holmes and Auer Avenue Elementary schools, two schools that were adopted by the social service agency. The power pack bags are part of MUL's "Munch and Learn" initiative, which will help advance learning for the two schools and its students during the COVID-19 pandemic. The bags contained dried munchies, toiletries, school supplies, and 10 learning activities called "10@10," which has 10 days worth of fun activities for 10 days, to be done at 10 a.m. The initiative was the Urban League's way of helping move education forward in Milwaukee's toughest zip codes. Parents/guardians were able to pick up the power pack bags as they picked-up Chrome books and other information distributed by the schools on their designated day to help advance their child/ren's learning. The bags also had an extra surprise compliments of the MUL.

—Photos by Yvonne Kemp



Auer Avenue School



Oliver Wendell Holmes School



MARCELIA NICHOLSON

Elected Chairwoman of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

By a 11 to 7 vote, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors recently elected Sup. Marcelia Nicholson to lead the body as chairwoman for the 2020-2022 term.

Sup. Willie Johnson Jr., who has served on the County Board since 2000, also ran for the position. Nicholson is the first Afro-Latina elected chairperson of the Board of Supervisors. Her father is African-American and her mother is Puerto Rican.

Nicholson thanked her colleagues for their support and expressed optimism about the future.

"I thank my colleagues for their support, and I pledge to make the 2020-22 term one that is marked by a renewed spirit of collaboration. We have many challenges ahead, but I know that each supervisor is ready to get to work, and to work together. I pledge to do my best to empower this body to develop solutions to our most challenging problems and to serve the people of Milwaukee County with honor and integrity," said Nicholson.

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COMMUNITY2GETHER! YES! They're OPEN for BUSINESS

Here are four popular businesses in YOUR community that are still “up and running” for the benefit of Black consumers and their need to get some air! —Photos by Yvonne Kemp



Columbia Savings & Loan
2020 W. Fond Du Lac Ave.
(414) 374-0486



Hayat/Carter Herbal Pharmacy
2400 W. Burleigh St.
(414) 442-8760



Sherman Phoenix
3536 W. Fond Du Lac Ave.
(262)228-6021



The Tandem
1848 W. Fond Du Lac Ave. (414) 885-1919



The MCJ Interview with... **STEVEN A. JANSSEN** President/CEO of the **BREWERY CREDIT UNION**

MCJ: Banks and Credit Unions are essential businesses. Have you been open throughout the “sheltering in” period?

Steven Janssen: It began March 13, 2020. Are you open today? Our lobby closed as of Wednesday, March 18th and began solely serving the members with our drive-up service and continue operating that way today.

MCJ: Customer traffic no doubt has been affected as everyone adhered to the federal and state guidelines. Do you have any projection on to what extent?

Janssen: Any member can use the drive-up service; walk, bike or vehicle. With the loss of four teller stations in the lobby we are now serving our membership solely in the drive-up. This has been admittedly a learning experience for us and our members.

Lines have been extremely long for the drive-up service at times. We all are adjusting to the new normal; please be patient with our staff and fellow members. We want to serve you in the most secure and safe environment.

MCJ: Brewery Credit is a King Drive institution. You are essential to community stability from the standpoint of access, convenience, availability of services, and employment opportunity and stability. Did you have to furlough staff during this period? Or were many able to work remotely?

Janssen: We have not furloughed any employees. Our operations and serving our members have continued with little interruption.

We are committed to serving our members and

the community. We do not have employees working remotely. Business continuity measures are in place to ensure our employees stay safe and healthy.

MCJ: The Payroll Protection Program brought dollars to many which will help to parlay funds as people prepare to go back to work. Brewery Credit no doubt has some of those who benefitted. Anything you'd like to say to them regarding services, suggestions?

Janssen: Unfortunately, Brewery Credit Union could not participate in the PPP as we are not a SBA approved lender.

MCJ: Brewery Credit Union post Covid-19? Any changes you'd like to discuss? What do we say to your regular clients, your MCJ readers. Your open mic.

Janssen: In July 2019, we started on a facility remodeling project. A commitment the board and staff of Brewery Credit Union made to continue serving our members and community. We are nearing completion in the next couple months, the lobby and entrance was updated with an emphasis on member service and accommodating current and future members with disabilities.

Brewery Credit Union is looking forward to presenting our beautiful updated building to the members and our community.

MCJ: We thank you individually and collectively for your presence in the community. We need you right there!! We pledge to be stronger post Covid-19! MCJ celebrates 44 years this year, gratefully! We are King Drive as well.

If I could do one thing, I'd make sure we stay healthy.

If you could do one thing for your community, what would it be? More walk-in clinics? More funding for health services closer to home? Completing the 2020 Census is a safe and easy way to inform billions in funding for hundreds of services and programs in your community. **Respond online, by phone, or by mail.**

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Census
2020



MKE Fellows, Milwaukee Links launch FIVE PILLARS TUTORING

Virtual learning project advances online tutoring to MPS students

The MKE Fellows and the Milwaukee Chapter of the Links, Incorporated are launching a collaborative-driven virtual learning project entitled Five Pillars Tutoring in response to the disruption caused by the worldwide coronavirus pandemic.

This effort will immediately address the break in classroom and educational instruction triggered by the COVID-19 crisis and specifically targets elementary students at Ralph H. Metcalfe School, a Milwaukee Public School that serves approximately 350 students from grades K4 through grade 8.

The MKE Fellows, a youth empowerment and development initiative started in 2012, finds, nurtures and supports talented African American male students from the community and works with individual educational institutions to ensure completion of their college degrees with express intent to return these graduates to live and work in Milwaukee.

“We want to make sure we don’t have a COVID-19 backslide in addition to a summer vacation backslide,” said John W. Daniels III, Executive Director of MKE Fellows.

“When students return to school in the fall, on average it takes them about eight weeks to get back to their previous level of proficiency.

“With kids being out of school since March, there’s a real challenge to keeping them academ-



John Daniels, III

ically engaged.

“The MKE Fellows and the Milwaukee Links are responding immediately to fill that urgent need.”

The Links, Incorporated is an international, not-for-profit service organization established in 1946. It is one of the nation’s oldest and largest volunteer service organizations.

The Links have a long tradition of engaging in educational, civic and inter-cultural activities in Milwaukee.

The Milwaukee Links have worked hand-in-hand with Metcalfe students and educators for over a decade providing educational services and have readily agreed to collaborate in structuring a unique virtual tutoring program for a targeted student population.

“While we anticipated the need for a community-wide response to the disruption of educational services, the task of bringing together a virtual curricula, uniform instruction, onboarding and delivery has been a monumental undertaking,” said Jackie Herd-Barber, spokesperson for the Milwaukee Links.

“The resources and enthusiasm which the MKE Fellows and all partners are bringing to this project answers the battle cry for those in the community who care about the next generation.

“The rapid response in galvanizing a team of committed partners to address both technological and educational needs has been phenomenal.”

In addition to providing Chromebooks, home Wi-Fi access and other technical support, the collaborative partners will design and execute the

(continued on page 5)



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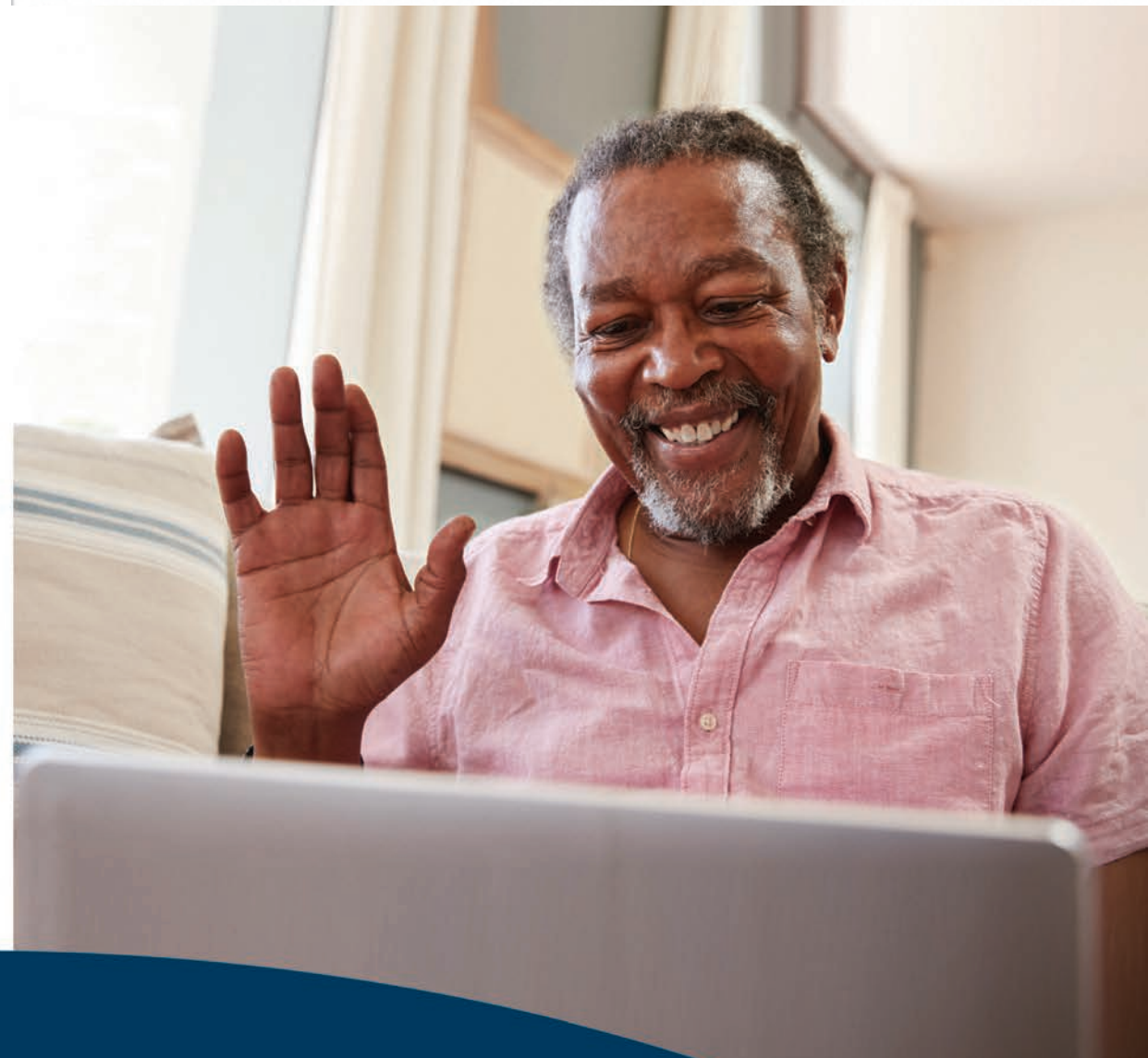
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APR

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WORKING TOGETHER TO STAY APART

COVID-19 is serious and can be deadly. And within our African American communities, the impact seems to be greater. Let’s take care of each other by staying home except for work and grocery shopping. If you have to go out, stay 6 feet away from others, wear a cloth mask and wash your hands often.

If you have questions or think you have symptoms, visit aah.org/covid-19.

 **AdvocateAuroraHealth®**

#InThisTogether

ALS Awareness Month

#ALSAwareness (Week 1)



THE COUNSELING CORNER

By Rev. Judith T. Lester, B.Min., M.Th.

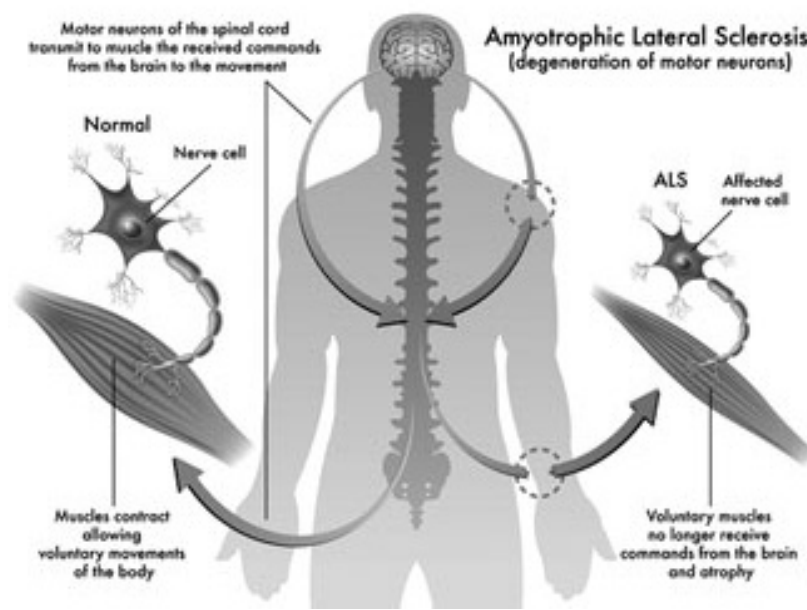
There are awareness days, weeks and months throughout the year. Many people believe that only recently have awareness days come into being; but actually, awareness days goes back decades.

For instance, the National Fire Prevention Week is observed during the month of October. National Fire Prevention Week commemorates the Great Chicago Fire that occurred in 1871 in which 300 people died, more than 100,000 people were left homeless, and more than 17,000 structures were destroyed.

The first Presidential proclamation commemorating Fire Prevention Week was made in 1925 by President Calvin Coolidge but as early as 1911 the Fire Marshals Association of North America, sponsored the first Fire Prevention Day as a way to educate the public about fire safety.

Some awareness days commemorate time-honored treats such as National Popcorn Day on January 19, National Chocolate Day on October 28 (my favorite!) and National French Fry Day in July. National French Fry Day can be celebrated by enjoying some French Fries, crinkled, straight or waffle-style, seasoned or dipped on July 13! Some other awareness days are silly and just for fun such as the International Talk Like a Pirate Day created in 1995 and celebrated on September 19.

If someone wants to observe this



day, they are invited to ‘talk like a pirate’ for a day. For instance, instead of saying “Good morning” or “Hello Everyone”, the person observing this day would greet others with “Aho, mates!”

Today, there are over 1,500 days, weeks, months dedicated to observing or ‘raising awareness’ on particular topics which does not count the unofficial ones. Awareness days can vary from health awareness to environmental awareness.

Having these awareness days have been helpful in heightening awareness around a specific cause or issue, start conversations and have been known to spur charity events and information campaigns.

This column will continue to spotlight awareness days because I am a firm believer that people are empowered by knowledge!

This month I would like you to join me as we partner with the ALS Association to raise awareness on ALS. According to the Centers for Disease Control, ALS Awareness Month is observed to raise awareness of and foster research for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease. ALS is a progressive, fatal, neurodegenerative disorder of upper and lower motor neurons. The cause of ALS is not known, and no cure exists. The ALS Association was established in 1985 and has been leading the way in global research by providing assistance to those living with ALS through a nationwide network of chapters and fostering government partnerships. The ALS Association builds hopes and enhances quality of life while aggressively searching for new treatments and a cure.

You are encouraged to contact the

Wisconsin Chapter of the ALS Association who to find out more information regarding volunteer opportunities as we continue to respect social distancing guidelines. Donation opportunities are also available:

The local Wisconsin ALS Chapter can be reached at:

3333 North Mayfair Road, Suite #104

Wauwatosa, Wisconsin 53222

P: 262-784-5257

Online visit the ALS Wisconsin Chapter at:

www.alsawi.org

Source:

1 Centers for Disease Control: Announcement: ALS Awareness Month — May 2017. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2017;66:428. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6616a6>

Next Week: 5 Myths About ALS

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Pastor Jamal Bryant, senior pastor of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor Jamal Bryant pens open letter on Black churches roles during a pandemic

Mega church leader Pastor Jamal Bryant of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church pens open letter discussing the Black churches role during the COVID-19 pandemic

ATLANTA—Pastor Jamal Bryant, senior pastor of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church, recently penned an open letter discussing the role of the Black church during the COVID-19 pandemic and the steps that he and his congregation have taken during these troubling times to provide aid.

“I am blessed to pastor at New

Birth, where we have the capacity and more importantly, an engaged, committed church family who take seriously our mandate to love, lead and live like Christ. Our goal is to be a church that does 93 percent or more of our ministry beyond the walls of our beautiful sanctuary.”

Bryant stated in the letter, as he discussed how a lot of 21st cen-

“I am blessed to pastor at New Birth, where we have the capacity and an engaged, committed church family who take seriously our mandate to love, lead and live like Christ. Our goal is to be a church that does 93 percent or more of our ministry beyond the walls of our beautiful sanctuary.”—Rev. Bryant

tury churches are more concerned with what goes on inside the church and not how to improve conditions for the people who reside outside of the churches walls.

Bryant also pointed out that New Birth was able to provide meals to furloughed federal workers, provide 5,000 pairs of free shoes for children in metro Atlanta and bailed out first time, non-offenders, all in a little over a year.

And during the pandemic, the church has been able to continue its mission to provide aid where it is needed by providing free groceries to 1,000 families weekly and developed a partnership with local hotels to provide free lodging and meals to local doctors, nurses and allied health professionals.

In the letter, Bryant shares his inspiration for putting his thoughts to pen involving a recent article on Newsone.com which “Black pastors were accused of not donating to Coronavirus relief,” in addition to the backlash he and his church received after partnering with a telemedicine firm and a community health clinic to provide coronavirus testing to the metro Atlanta community.



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GET YOUR WEEKEND EDITION ONLINE!

With area churches closed

due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the city’s “stay-at-home” order, the Milwaukee Community Journal’s WEEKEND EDITION can now be found and read ONLINE!

Just go to milwaukeecommunityjournal.com and click on the cover of the WEEKEND EDITION! You will then be able to read it online the same way you can read the MCJ online!

Marcelia Nicholson elected chair of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

(continued from front page)

The 18-member Board of Supervisors, five of whom are serving their first term of office, also elected Sup. Sequanna Taylor as First Vice Chairperson, Sup. Steve Shea as Second Vice Chairperson.

"I supported Supervisor Nicholson for Chairwoman because I have seen and know her ability to lead. The legislation she has passed to date demonstrates her track record of getting things done in ways that positively impact the county. I'm excited to move forward with her at the helm the Board of Supervisors," said Sup. SeTaylor.

"I was honored to cast my vote for Marcelia Nicholson as our new Milwaukee County Board Chairwoman. Chairwoman Nicholson brings positive energy and a proactive vision that will serve us well as we face the future together," said Sup. Jason Haas.

"Supervisor Nicholson will be an outstanding Board Chairwoman during this pandemic.

Her sharp intellect and level-headed approach will serve us well, and her ability to bring people together and focus on our responsibilities as legislators will ensure that the work of Milwaukee County government is done safely and efficiently," said Sup. Sheldon Wasserman.

Chairwoman Nicholson was first elected to the Board of Supervisors in April 2016 as the Sup. to the 5th District. She served as First Vice Chair of the Board and Chair of the Economic and Community Development Committee during the 2018-2020 term.

"Chairwoman Nicholson is a creative and effective leader who will ensure that Milwaukee County continue to provide essential services during the Covid-19 emergency. I admire Chairwoman Nicholson's advocacy for working people and appreciate that she will continue that advocacy in her new role. I look forward to getting to working with our new colleagues and our new leadership on the Board of Supervisors," said Sup. Eddie Cullen.

Nicholson's tenure prior to becoming Chairwoman included successfully passing a \$15 County living wage ordinance, adopting a racial equity ordinance, and bringing together Milwaukee County, the City of Milwaukee, and Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) to collaborate on service delivery and improving efficiencies across the three-largest local public institutions.

"Milwaukee County faces unique challenges and that may require drastic changes.

Now more than ever we need a Board chair who can be that change agent. I value Chairwoman Nicholson's open-minded approach and willingness to listen to the advice and guidance of our predecessors," said Sup. Sylvia Ortiz-Velez.

"I'm excited about the new energy Chairwoman Nicholson will bring to the role, and I look forward to her leadership," said Sup. Russel Antonio Goodwin.

"I was honored to cast the first vote for Chairwoman Nicholson today. Her background as an educator and her track record as a proven progressive make her well-equipped to lead the Board of Supervisors. I look forward to her leading the way in bold, forwardthinking efforts to make our community stronger," said Supervisor Ryan Clancy.

"It's been an honor to work alongside many colleagues at the Milwaukee County Board.

Although the County remains challenged by the need for a better solution to fund local government, the administration and the Board are in a good place. I extend congratulations to Supervisor Nicholson and her colleagues for their trust in her leadership to lead the Board to a stronger, more unified place that reflects the diversity of the residents in Milwaukee County," said County Executive Chris Abele.

On April 7, Nicholson was elected to a third term as the County Board Supervisor representing the 5th District, which includes neighborhoods to the north, east and south of Washington Park, the Merrill Park area, portions of the Marquette University campus, and the east side of downtown Milwaukee, from Juneau Avenue to the Third Ward.

Nicholson is a former MPS educator and works for the Milwaukee Area Service and Hospitality Workers union. She is 31-years-old and earned her bachelor's degree from UW-Milwaukee.

She was born and raised in the 53206 zip code and is a proud graduate of MPS schools, including BenFranklin, Morse Middle School, and the Milwaukee School of Languages.

“Now more than ever we need a Board chair who can be that change agent. I value Chairwoman Nicholson's open-minded approach and willingness to listen to the advice and guidance of our predecessors...”

—Sup. Sylvia Ortiz-Velez.

“Ah, I miss the good ol’ days!”

I've been waiting all of my adult life for this day. And now that it's arrived, I'm somewhat disillusioned.

The spring election changed the political paradigm for Metro Milwaukee. The election of the first African American as county executive will serve as the cornerstone of what very well may be Black control of local politics.

Newly elected Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley's relationship with the county board should end the unnecessarily contentious relationship that existed with Chris Abele over the past eight years if for no other reason than the new chair of that legislative body is Marcelia Nicholson, a dynamic African American millennial whom many believe is a superstar in the making.

Those who can't see beyond her good looks, or otherwise underestimate her political acumen, may be surprised at her grasp of issues, and growing support among younger voters.

A similar scenario ---sans the aesthetics---can be said of Alderman Cavalier Johnson, who was elected president of the Milwaukee Common Council last week.

Johnson's election capped an unprecedented election, one that positioned African Americans in leadership positions at both levels of local government.

In partisan political Ebonics, that means we should now be positioned to sway, if not control the local political agenda, including a redistribution of limited resources.

But don't bet your stimulus check on that historic election resulting in a resolution of the myriad social, economic, or educational ills that plague our community.

Which is why I'm so conflicted...and disheartened.

Indeed, I feel today the same way I felt after escorting Vanessa Williams back to her suite at the Pfister Hotel back in the mid-80s.

Yeah, that Vanessa Williams!

The first Black Miss America. The Grammy Award-winning singer and actress.

The same beautiful sister who graced (maybe that's the wrong word) the pages of Penthouse Magazine.

As someone old enough to remember when Vel Phillips was the sole Black alderwoman, and local laws forbid us from living north of Keefe Avenue or filing complaints against racist police, this is a moment I assumed I wouldn't live long enough to see.

But then again, I never believed I would see the election of an African American president or Black cheerleader for the Green Bay Packers. (Oops, well, two of three is still a winning percentage.)

But within the last year, we've witnessed only the second African American to win a statewide campaign in history--Mandela Barnes as lieutenant governor---and the election of an African American city attorney.

The chief judge is African American, as is the superintendent of public schools. In fact, a sister is the state superintendent---albeit appointed by the governor to fill that vacancy.

But what does it all mean beyond its obvious symbolism and historical significance?

The sad reality is all of these new Black faces will probably have little impact on Milwaukee's status as the worst city for Black Americans in the United States.

Much to my---our---dismay, I doubt if our new leadership positions result in the resolution of any of the eight negative social indicators that earmark our community in the foreseeable future---maybe the remainder of my lifetime.

Indeed, by the next election, I can almost guarantee Milwaukee will still be home to the highest Black male unemployment rate in the country. Given the impact of the Covid19 pandemic on the Black community, chances are our 40% poverty rate will probably grow a few percentage points.

Moreover, I would venture to guess Wisconsin will still have the highest Black incarceration rate north of Brazil, and Milwaukee will continue to be the second most segregated city in America.

Why? It's simple, even to those who failed freshman political science: it's the entrenched system of American apartheid.

But, as the not-so-old adage goes: don't blame the player, blame the game. Or, in laymen's slang, it's their deck, and the house always wins.

Confused? Shouldn't be.

We've been playing this game since the civil war, and unless you're an original stockholder, the dividends are few and far between.

Let's take an honest assessment of what changed after eight years of the best president in history---Barack Obama. And that included two years of Democratic Party control.

If you recall, members of his own party fought him tooth and nail to maintain the status quo.



Sure, we got the Affordable Care Act (which our congressman immediately sought an exemption from), 62 bench appointments, and the bailout of the banks and car industry, which staved off a major recession (and provided the corporate millionaires a get out of jail free card).

But the truth is, the Black poverty rate actually increased, Milwaukee's Black unemployment rate remained the same, and Black homeownership stagnated.

Or to use a more descriptive analogy, how have Black South Africans fared since the election of their Great Black Hope, Nelson Mandela?

The creators of South African apartheid still control most of the land, and the economy, eerily similar to what we witnessed in the good ole U.S. of A.

Several hundred yards from the skyscrapers and luxury apartments in Soweto exist some of the worst slums on the continent. Hmm, sounds like Washington, D.C., doesn't it?

Nope, it's not the will or desires of Black politicians. Or at least most of them.

It's the system; the structure, the folks behind the scenes, the corporate puppeteers who pull strings.

One would assume that even with that Twilight Zone script typed in bold letters, there would be room to ad lib...to maneuver and manipulate for the benefit of the masses. But, unfortunately, our expanded fraternity of Black elected officials are on different trains and without a travel guide. Some don't even have a ticket, they are just happy to be riding.

Few know our history---of the housing covenants, the evolution of the poverty industry, and how and why a majority of our children can't read a college application if they graduate.

We would greatly benefit if the fraternity of lawmakers knew there once was a Black hospital, brewery, and three financial institutions.

Over 70% of Black households had two parents, the exact opposite of today.

Maybe they would chart a new agenda if they knew that their predecessors sponsored legislation for an independent and autonomous African American school district, which paved the way for the school choice program.

Equally important, they should understand why we charted that course and, at one point, even created a Black city hall.

We closed our eyes for a moment, clasped our hands together. When we finally stood back up, special interests, including so-called White progressives, unions, and monied outsiders, took over leadership of our community and its agenda.

Let's be honest for another second, before returning our heads to the sand.

Would Crowley had won if Chris Abele had not invested over a half-million dollars in his campaign? Would Congresswoman Gwen Moore have won her first election without the significant dollar investment of a White women's group?

Before you get mad, consider Black folks rarely put our money where our mouths are.

But aren't we now positioned to impact the disingenuous status quo?

Consider, Barnes's historical position is more symbolic than one of substance; unless the governor has a cancer relapse. The lieutenant governor is paid about the same as an assemblyman and has little statutory power.

The county executive is a management position, overseeing social services and county institutions. Most of those programs are under state control, and their focus is on easing the pain, not about empowering the poor.

County supervisors were made part-time positions a decade ago for a reason.

Most of the state politicians view themselves as Democrats first, and Black representatives second.

The fact that they have not attempted to address our nation-leading Black incarceration rate or the abysmal state of education for our children, but oppose educational options they enjoyed, speaks volumes.

Nor have they taken the governor to task for not fulfilling his promise to take on those issues. Not surprisingly, a coalition of White groups are speaking up, but our politicians are mute.

I really expected at least one of them to take the governor to task when he responded to a question on a local radio show about allocating resources to the Black community in light of the pandemic. His response? Classic political hyperbole: "We need to study why Black folks are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19."

That's the same response he uttered as state superintendent when national reports revealed---five years in a row---that the public schools were failing the majority of our children.

But then again, maybe the silence should be expected. After all, there is a

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FIVE PILLARS TUTORING

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online curriculum in conjunction with MPS instructional oversight, additional student tutors from Marquette University's School of Education and operational assistance from Riverwater Partners.

While initial efforts will focus on students at Ralph H. Metcalfe School, additional schools could be added as the program grows.

"Continuation of educational services during this unprecedented challenge must be preserved and made easily accessible to our students and families at all costs," stated MPS superintendent Dr. Keith Posley.

"That community stakeholders like the



Jackie Herd-Barber

MKE Fellows, the Milwaukee Links, Marquette University, Chasing the Dream Foundation and Riverwater Partners have eagerly stepped forward as educational supporters is a clear indication of the commitment these community partners under-



Dr. Keith Posley

stand to be our obligation to Milwaukee students.

"It is essential that the learning process continues while schools are closed. We welcome the vision and efforts of this response to community need."

The project will supply Chromebooks and all related technical instruction and assistance to students and families in order to foster continuing education.

Many community stakeholders including Green Bay Packers Super Bowl Superstars James Jones and Dr. George Koonce, in addition to baseball legend Larry Hisle, have endorsed Five Pillars Tutoring.

COPING WITH COVID-19

INFORMATION AND UP-TO-DATE NEWS ON HOW THE COMMUNITY IS DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC

COVID-19 and Milwaukee's Black Community: "There's No Going Back to Normal"



U.S. Rep. Gwen Moore and Alderwoman Chantia Lewis were joined recently by Milwaukee community leaders and residents to discuss COVID-19's disproportionate impact on the Black community

On the heels of a new report from UW-Milwaukee highlighting how race and patterns of segregation can be linked with the spread of COVID-19, Opportunity Wisconsin and Black Leaders Organizing for Communities (BLOC) hosted a virtual conversation with U.S. Representative Gwen Moore to discuss how COVID-19's impact has been exacerbated by years of damaging economic policies championed by President Donald Trump and his allies. The conversation, moderated by Milwaukee Alderwoman and Opportunity Wisconsin steering committee member Chantia Lewis, featured Milwaukee residents who have been personally impacted by the pandemic.

"There's no going back to normal," said Angelina Wyatt, RN, a front-line nurse at a Milwaukee mental health facility. "We have to hold these corporations accountable...to make sure they are meeting the needs of the communities that they serve. As long as we have these racial disparities we're going to continue to see black and brown communities infected at a higher rate."

Opportunity Wisconsin and BLOC are calling on President Trump and his administration to invest in Wisconsin's communities of color during this economic crisis, instead of pushing policies that primarily bail out the wealthy and well-connected.

"The PPP [Paycheck Protection Program] was designed to enable businesses, unfortunately like Ruth's Chris, to be able to pull down millions of dollars because in fact they do hire low wage workers. The program was not intended for publicly traded companies, but that's the way it was written in the Senate," said Representative Moore. "The second package did not do anything to improve the PPP. It added more money to take care of the volume of applications that were still in the pipeline. But one thing we were able to do - and a lot of it was focused on the work done by the Congressional Black Caucus and the Progressive Caucus and many members of the Democratic Caucus - we set aside \$60 billion of that last funding to be able to be put through community development financial institutions, credit unions, and small community banks."

While health conditions like diabetes and asthma exist at higher rates among Black people, making Black people more susceptible to the virus, Black Americans are also more likely to hold essential jobs during this crisis, such as health care, grocers, fast-food workers, transit, and postal services. What's more, many of these same people are facing economic barriers such as stagnant wages and absence of paid leave, as well as food, housing, and transportation insecurity.

"This work around health justice is not something that is new," said Rick Banks, BLOC political director and organizer. "The discrimination in healthcare and lack of access that Black people in this city and country face is not new."

According to UW-Milwaukee's report, "As of April 8, nearly twice the number of African-American county residents as whites had tested positive for COVID-19. African-Americans represent 27 percent of the county's population, but they account for 45 percent of confirmed cases. More disturbing still, of the 67 coronavirus-related deaths reported in Milwaukee County as of April 8, 46 of the victims were Black."

"I am COVID-19 survivor," said Adrienne Lathan. "I was released from the hospital on March 31st, after six days. Four days after being released, I lost my dad. He had many medical issues, but two days before he passed he tested positive for COVID-19. It's been a rough 30 days for me, but the rapport I had with my primary care doctor has been very important and very helpful, and has helped me get through this."

"I see in our black community that we don't have a lot of that, and I thank goodness that I have the medical insurance that I do and the primary care coverage that I do," said Lathan.

Earlier this month, Representative Moore joined several of her House and Senate colleagues in introducing the Equitable Data Collection and Disclosure on COVID-19 Act, which would require the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to collect and report racial, ethnic, and other demographic data on COVID-19 testing, treatment, and fatality rates.

"I was in the crowd who didn't think this was serious. But once this hits home and you see people who you know who are grieving for people who they lost through COVID-19, and listening to the experience of health professionals fighting every day," said Banks. "There are people who have experienced this and will tell you how real this is for them."

Report confirms connection between racial disparities and the coronavirus

(continued from front page)

quickly noted the disparity and a similar trend was seen in other cities, including New York City, Detroit, Chicago and New Orleans.

Public health experts have said the disparity is not surprising given existing racial inequalities.

"Segregation has helped create concentrated disadvantage in certain areas of the city," said Joel Rast, one of the report's authors and director of UWM's Urban Studies Programs, in an earlier news report.

Rast and the other report authors admitted though they don't know precisely how many cases of COVID-19 there are in the Milwaukee area, they do know the data they have has revealed disturbing patterns.

The report reveals patients over 60 years of age and those with chronic medical conditions have seen higher rates of coronavirus complications — making the virus particularly dangerous for African Americans as a population, who have higher rates of chronic illness, are less likely to have health insurance and are more likely to be working lower-wage jobs, some of which are now considered essential during the pandemic.

Rast said the report notes inequalities in terms of who is being exposed to this virus on a regular basis and who is allowed to stay safe at home and still earn an income.

Those inequalities, he said, have been influenced by segregation patterns.

The urban studies director added individuals with no access to jobs and who suffer housing discrimination will not have the same access to health care and a healthy environment as people who are more advantaged."

The UWM report also examined income levels and found race appeared to be an important factor in determining where cases are concentrated, based on the available data.

Census tracts in the county in which the median annual household income is \$75,000 or higher contain 31% of the county population, but have just 8% of confirmed cases.

Census tracts in which the median annual household income is below \$25,000 contain 27% of the county population, but have only 11% of confirmed cases.

The report noted while the findings may seem "counterintuitive," it could be partly the result of high jobless rates and people staying at home in those lower-income tracts or may

be reflective of existing disparities in access to treatment and testing.

Few coronavirus clusters have emerged in areas of the county that are mostly white, even those where household incomes are well below \$75,000, the report found.

The report called for continued release of comprehensive demographic data related to COVID-19, widespread availability of testing, expanded access to affordable health care, safer working conditions for essential workers particularly in the retail and service industry, and messaging to vulnerable populations from trusted sources.

"Taking these steps will help to save lives and reduce disparities that we are seeing now in the spread of the coronavirus in Milwaukee County," the report concludes.

"It will not, however, address the structural inequalities that gave rise to this crisis in the first place.

The early stages of this pandemic have laid bare these inequalities for all to see."

--Source for article: Journal Sentinel, the March 25, 2020 edition of the Milwaukee Community Journal

Always remember, never forget!...

Another reminder of what to do and not to do during pandemic

- 1)The White House Task Force on Coronavirus is asking Americans to Slow the Spread through April 30.
- 2) This is a nationwide effort to slow the spread of COVID-19 through the implementation of social distancing at all levels of society.
- 3) Seniors and individuals with severe chronic conditions should take special precautions because they are at higher risk of developing serious COVID-19 illness.
- 4) CDC and federal partners recommend that people postpone routine medical or dental care at this time. This will help to reduce the burden on the healthcare system. If you cannot postpone medical treatment, call your provider before visiting to see if they offer consultations by phone or telemedicine.
- 5) People who get a fever or cough should consider whether they might have COVID-19, depending on where they live, their travel history, or other exposures.
- 6) Testing for COVID-19 may be accessed through medical providers or public health departments.
- 7) For people who are ill with COVID-19, but are not sick enough to be hospitalized, please follow CDC guidance.

People without a regular doctor can now get tested for COVID-19 as health centers ramp up testing capacity

Ald. Chantia Lewis joined other key local leaders yesterday (Monday, April 27) in announcing that five of Milwaukee's Community Health Centers (CHCs, also known as Federally Qualified Health Centers) have increased testing capacity and now offer COVID-19 diagnostic testing and care for their patients as well as community members without a regular doctor who have COVID symptoms.

Lewis said the expansion of COVID diagnostic testing at the CHCs has been made possible with support from the state and county Emergency Operations Centers coupled with contributions from

other community partners; including local health systems.

Individuals enrolled at a health center and those without a regular doctor – including the uninsured and homeless) who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should call their nearest Community Health Center to determine if there is a need for a diagnostic testing appointment. It is very important that all people call before coming in.

This will allow the health centers to limit exposure to patients as well as staff and help the community prevent further spread of COVID-19.

Individuals who need more information on their closest health care center should call 211.

Health Center contact information is as follows:

- **Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center:** (414) 383-9526| www.gliihc.net
- **Milwaukee Health Services, Inc.:** (414) 372-8080| www.mhsi.org
- **Outreach Community Health Centers:** (414) 727-6320|www.ochc-milw.org
- **Progressive Community Health Centers:** (414) 882-2040| www.progressivechc.org
- **Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers:** (414) 672-1353| www.sschc.org

Local Community Partnership Feeds Families During Crisis

Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin is working together with Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee (BGCGM) to provide Milwaukee youth with nutritious food during the state's Safer at Home order.

In addition to the week's worth of meals BGCGM is providing each child at the Don & Sallie Davis Club each Monday, Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin is also providing each family with a meal kit containing 12 shelf-stable items like fruit cups, vegetables, protein, and other staples like rice and pancake mix.

The coronavirus pandemic has disrupted the local food system, and creative solutions like this program are necessary to continue to serve those in the community who are food insecure.

Kits are available while supplies last.

The weekly meal boxes are distributed each Monday at the Don and Dallis Davis Boys & Girls Club, 1975 S. 24th St., from 11:15 to 12 noon.

The program is funded by the Zilber Family Foundation.

Missing the good Ol' days!

(continued from page 5)

moratorium against speaking out against another Democrat during this political season. You can't work, dine or even walk on the same side of the street with a Republican, even if they are Colored, have nappy hair or big lips.

I even heard the so-called progressives ordered Black Democrats not be seen at COGIC churches because the pastors are too conservative.

They were even ordered not to park their cars on the right side of the street.

Of course, I'm being facetious. I guess.

My point is I see little evidence of activity by our state reps, other than what the party dictates.

I long for those days of political independence with Polly Williams challenging the status quo. Of Gary George outmaneuvering his colleagues. Of Spencer, Coggs working behind the scenes, and Jason Fields putting people before his party.

Ah, the good ole days when we didn't have the numbers, but they had the historical foundation, the courage, and the willingness to throw bricks at

the castle walls.

They also had us dictating and supporting them.

That paradigm is, of course, the key to the door of progress.

An important page of history we should take as gospel relates to Obama's presidency.

Some of us complain today that Obama didn't do much for us. Maybe we should look in the mirror and ask, what did we ask for, and how far were we willing to go to disrupt the status quo to achieve our goals. **Hotep.**

TOO MANY WASHINGTON POLITICIANS ARE PROTECTING **INSURANCE COMPANY PROFITS** OVER **BLACK HEALTH CARE**

Too often, insurance companies refuse to cover emergency services. Either patients are forced to pay bills they cannot afford, or hospitals are shuttering. Congress claims to be tackling this challenge, but until the Congressional Black Caucus got involved, Congress was focused on protecting insurer profits, not people. Let's join leaders like Rev. Al Sharpton, the Congressional Black Caucus, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Black Women's Health Imperative, National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. and Dr. Julianne Malveaux in working to ensure that insurance companies expand their networks and cover more emergency services. This will maintain access to care in hard-hit Black communities.

THE STATUS QUO MEANS HOSPITALS IN OUR COMMUNITIES CLOSE FIRST. WE CANNOT LET THIS HAPPEN.

Emergency services are already hard to come by in our communities. Together, we can ensure that the old way of doing business - putting insurance company profits over people - **STOPS**.

JOIN US AND SUPPORT THE CBC

Help us work to make sure Congress passes a bill that keeps us healthy and alive - by allowing insurance networks to grow and cover lifesaving services.



Dr. Benjamin F.
Chavis Jr.

Dr. Julianne Malveaux

For more information, visit: <https://nationalactionnetwork.net/newnews/black-americans-and-healthcare>

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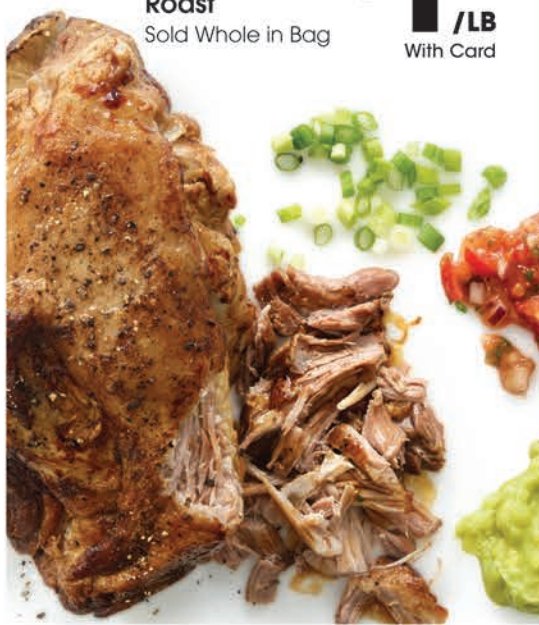
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16 oz

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20 fl oz or Sparkling Ice,
17 fl oz or Dannon
Greek Yogurt, 5.3 oz
or Larabar, 1.6-1.8 oz;
Select Varieties

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Healthy Choice Café Steamers
9.25-10.3 oz or
Marie Callender's
Dinner or Bowl,
10.5-14 oz; Select Varieties

5/\$10
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Keebler Town House or Club Crackers
Select Varieties,
9-13.8 oz

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or 8-Piece
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32 oz or 24 oz,
Fully Cooked,
In the Deli

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12-24 oz

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.11-14 oz



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