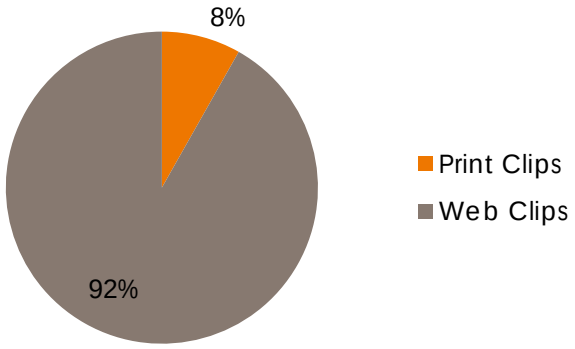
FOUNDATION FOR APPALACHIAN OHIO

FAO Communications Coverage Report, March 2020

This Communications Coverage Report includes newsclips received from March 1 – March 31, 2020

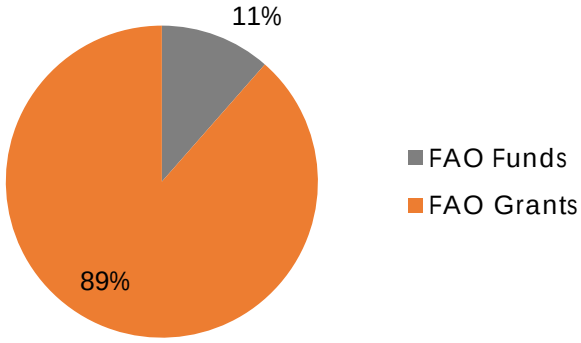
Web and Print Media



If these 56 online articles and five print articles were ads, we would have paid (ad equivalency): **$319,898.14**

These five print articles reached an estimated circulation of**: 46,070**

Coverage



FAO Funds: **7 Articles**

FAO Grants**: 54 Articles**

This Month's Highlights:

- Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund to Support COVID-19 Response
- Landrum Endowment Fund Presents Grants to Local Agencies and Schools

Interesting Reads:

- Location Data Says It All: Staying at Home During Coronavirus Is a Luxury
- In Appalachia, Crafting a Road to Recovery with Dulcimer Strings
- Seeds of Despair
- Small-Town Hospitals are Closing Just As Coronavirus Arrives in Rural America

News to Share:

- FAO Launches Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund to Support COVID-19 Crisis (Web, Facebook)
- Meigs County Community Fund Awards Grants to Provide Support During COVID-19 Crisis (Web)
- Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund Continues to Support Basic Needs (Web)

Click here to read press clips packets from recent months.

Give. Grow. Create.

Table of Contents

HARRISON NEWS HERALD (CADIZ OH) - 2020-03-14 Circulation: 5906

Ohio Governor's Imagination Library launched in Harrison County

CADIZ, Ohio – Any child in Harrison County from birth up to age five can enroll to receive books from the Ohio Governor's Imagination Library. Working in conjunction with Harrison Hills City School District, the new program was launched at Harrison Elementary School's Literacy Night held on March 5 with staff from the Puskarich Library, Harrison County Retired Teachers, Friends of the Library, and even Harrison County Commissioners helping with sign-ups. After enrollment, children will begin receiving a new book each month sent to their home at no cost to their family, until they reach the age of five. Online registration is easy, just visit ohioimaginationlibrary.com/enroll.

Sandi Thompson, Director of the Puskarich Public Library, shares that, "Research has shown that book ownership can be a predictor of future academic success. This is why we are so glad to be a part of bringing the program to Harrison County. We are excited that we have over 180 children from Harrison County now enrolled, but we would like to see even more!" The Puskarich Public Library System is serving as the program's local coordinator. The efforts are being shared on social media and through cooperation with Headstart, Harrison County Jobs and Family Services, Harrison Community Hospital, Help Me Grow, Harrison County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Harrison Hills Retired Teachers and Bowerston Public Library.

Inspired by Ohio First Lady Fran DeWine's passion for early childhood literacy, the Ohio Governor's Imagination Library is a partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to ensure children enter the classroom ready to succeed. The dollar-for-dollar match being provided by the Ohio General Assembly and local donations are making this project possible. A fund has been established to help offset future expenses for this program. Donations to the "Harrison County Imagination Library Fund" can be made through the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio.

Early literacy matters. In fact, studies show that children with just 25 books in their home were more likely to complete an additional two years of education. The Ohio Governor's Imagination Library is an exciting opportunity for young children in Harrison County. If you have any questions about the program or giving support, please feel free to contact Sandi Thompson sthompson@seolibraries.org or Pam Singhaus at the Puskarich Public Library 740-942-2623.

HARRISON NEWS HERALD (CADIZ OH) - 2020-03-14 Circulation: 5906

Cadiz Women's Civic Club held March meeting

The Cadiz Women's Civic Club held their monthly meeting on March 5, at Harrison Community Hospital with 13 members present. Jennifer Dunlap provided inspiration to the club by reading, "Note to Self."

Allison Anderson, Harrison County Auditor, spoke to the club about the changes that have occurred in her office over the last year and provided information about taxes in the county.

During the business meeting, the December minutes and the treasurer's report were accepted as presented. The club made plans to have their annual Harrison County Home April Shower, where each member brings in items to donate to the Harrison County Home.

Jennifer Dunlap provided the club information about the Ohio Imagination Library. The program is Fran Dewine's project, which provides free books monthly to children ages' birth to age five for free. The funds to pay for the program that works with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, are provided by state money and locally donated funds. A fund was started through the Foundation of Appalachian to grow money for the program. Jennifer and Sue Adams explained that any donation or pledge donated before May 31, will be matched by the State of Ohio. It was decided that the club would pledge to donate funds annually for the next five years.

Kathy Depew reminded everyone to vote on March 17. The next Cadiz Women's Civic Club meeting will be held April 2, at 7 p.m. at Harrison Community Hospital. The club will be brainstorming new ways to help the community in addition to the monetary donations already provide to the community and other organizations. Find them on Facebook at fb.me/cadizwomenscivicclub.

Times Leader (Martins Ferry OH) - 2020-03-16 Circulation: 23132

Imagination Library is a go

CARRI GRAHAM

CADIZ — Children throughout Harrison County are receiving free books, thanks to a newly launched program in the county. The Ohio Governor's Imagination Library has made its way to the Ohio Valley with programs now located in Monroe, Belmont and Harrison counties. The OGIL is a partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to ensure children entering the classroom are ready to succeed.

The Ohio General Assembly matches local donations made to the program. According to the program, studies show that children with just 25 books in their home are more likely to complete an additional two years of education than those without books.

Sandi Thompson, director of Puskarich Public Library, said the organization held a launch night March 5 at the Harrison Elementary School's Literacy Night for children of the county. The Puskarich Public Library is serving as the program's local coordinator. *"It's all working perfectly, and we're really excited about the project,"* she said.

Staff from the library, Harrison County Retired Teachers Association and Harrison County commissioners aided with enrollees at the event.

Children ages birth to 5 years old can enroll in the program in order to receive free books from the OGIL. After enrollment children will begin receiving a new book each month that is sent straight to their home at no cost to the family, Thompson said.

"Research has shown that book ownership can be a predictor of future academic success. This is why we are so glad to be a part of bringing the program to Harrison County," she said.

In Harrison County, more than 180 children are now enrolled in the program, but officials say they would like to see more.

The first sets of books were recently delivered to enrolled children over this past weekend, Thompson said.

"We were so excited to see the books come in to everyone. Developing literacy begins at birth and by the age of 3 a child's brain is already 80 percent developed, and by kindergarten they must have a knowledge base of a thousands of words in order to succeed in the classroom," she said.

The best way to ensure a child is armed with the knowledge needed to succeed is for them to have access to books, Thompson said.

"Reading aloud to a child is very important as well as giving them access to books," she said.

The program is now available in the county thanks to the state of Ohio and an anonymous donor, Thompson said. Thanks in part to the donor, the program is funded and available in the county until December 2022.

Thompson attended Wednesday's Harrison County Board of Commissioners meeting to thank the commissioners for their continued support with the program.

"I appreciate the fact (that) the commissioners are working with other agencies and individuals to help make this project sustainable and we are very thankful for your support," she said to commissioners.

Commissioner Don Bethel thanked Thompson for her work and for spearheading the project locally.

"You've been so great not only for the county and for everything, but this in particular," he said. *"I really appreciate what you've been doing."*

Local program officials are working to secure additional donations to continue the program for years to come. Donations may be made to the Harrison County Imagination Library Fund through the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio. Approximately $25 provides one child with books for a year through the program.

Monroe County Commissioner Mick Schumacher said Monroe County's Imagination Library program has been underway for some time. More than 40 children are enrolled in the program with around 800 eligible children in the county. Schumacher said they have received additional applications for enrollment. Monroe's program is not yet fully funded, he said, however it received a few *"sizable"* donations recently. Those wishing to donate may do so through the United Way.

Belmont County officials were planning a launch for the Imagination Library program for the county at 11 a.m. Thursday at the Martins Ferry Public Library. However due to recent events involving the coronavirus, the launch date has been canceled. Those wishing to participate may still do so via the online registration.

T-L Photo/CARRI GRAHAM Sandi Thompson speaks with commissioners about Harrison County's newest program that provides children with free books each month. The Ohio Governor's Imagination Library recently launched in Harrison County and provides free monthly books for children ages birth to 5 years old.

The Times Leader

Imagination Library is a go

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Belmont County officials were planning a launch for the Imagination Library program for the county at 11 a.m. Thursday at the Martins Ferry Public Library. However due to recent events involving the coronavirus, the launch date has been canceled. Those wishing to participate may still do so via the online registration.

Online registration for all three counties may be reached by visiting OhioImaginationLibrary.com/enroll.

Daily Sentinel (Pomeroy,OH) - 2020-03-31 Circulation: 5563

Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund to support COVID-19 response

NELSONVILLE — The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio has launched the Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund because there are urgent needs facing our communities, and our region's nonprofit and public organizations are stepping up to meet this expanding need head-on.

Across the country, we see needs that have emerged in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Appalachian Ohio's communities, however, face the increased needs of their citizens with an added challenge — a significant philanthropy gap. With nine times fewer philanthropic dollars per capita than the rest of Ohio, our region does not have the same capacity for the grants and partnerships that are so crucial in responding to moments like this one.

The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO) has been working to change that every day, but this philanthropy gap makes it all the more important for our region to band together to support the nonprofits and public organizations responding to the current crisis. Through many gifts coming together, there will be a far greater impact. As everyone looks to find a way to help, a gift to the Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund, which can be made at www.AppalachianOhio.org/Coronavirus, is a powerful way to make a difference.

The Emergency Response Fund will make grant awards to help 501(c)(3) nonprofits and public organizations whose resources are, and will continue to be, strained by this unprecedented event, as they work to expand and modify how they deliver their services. The Fund will begin making grant awards over the coming weeks, focusing on immediate needs, including basic necessities and the health and safety of our most vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 outbreak. Nonprofits and public organizations that are interested in sharing their needs or learning more should visit www.AppalachianOhio.org/Coronavirus.

"Our nonprofits are feeding our neighbors, serving our seniors, providing vital childcare, and protecting all of our health," said Foundation for Appalachian Ohio President & CEO Cara Dingus Brook. "They play an essential role in our communities every day, but now we see them all stepping in to grow their services, reach more individuals and families, and help us all weather these unprecedented times. They cannot do it alone. I hope those who are able will join us with a gift to provide the help that is needed now more than ever."

FAO and the Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund serve Appalachian Ohio's 32 counties: Adams, Ashtabula, Athens, Belmont, Brown, Carroll, Clermont, Columbiana, Coshocton, Gallia, Guernsey, Harrison, Highland, Hocking, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Mahoning, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Vinton, and Washington counties.

The Fund was created with dollars from FAO and a number of individual donors, who are showing their support for their neighbors and the communities they love. This week, the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation's joined FAO as a partner in our work to grow the Emergency Response Fund and connect funding to nonprofit and public organizations that are meeting the ever-growing needs of the people who call Appalachian Ohio's communities home.

Every gift to the Emergency Response Fund, no matter its size, will allow the Fund to make a greater difference for the nonprofits and communities of Appalachian Ohio.

To support the Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund with a gift today, visit www.AppalachianOhio.org/Coronavirus or contact FAO at info@ffao.org or 740.753.1111.

The children of Appalachian Ohio, past and present, have a history of banding together. Together, we can do more. With a gift, we can show our support for the nonprofits and community organizations protecting our seniors, caring for patients, feeding our children, and carrying Appalachian Ohio forward.

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Information provided by the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio.

POSTED ON MARCH 31, 2020 BY SARAH HAWLEY

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NEWS

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POSTED ON MARCH 31, 2020 BY GALLIPOLIS DAILY TRIBUNE

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Information provided by the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio.

Akron Beacon Journal

Dale Hileman Legacy Fund grant applications available

Posted Mar 5, 2020 at 12:01 AM

NELSONVILLE — Grant applications are now available for projects promoting economic growth in 16 eastern Ohio counties including Guernsey County.

Applications are available through the Dale Hileman Legacy Fund at the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO) and may be found online at www.AppalachianOhio.org/Hileman.

The Dale Hileman Legacy Fund promotes economic development and growth, a cause that was close to Mr. Hileman's heart. The Dale Hileman Legacy Fund supports organizations working to promote economic growth within the 16 counties served by Eastern Ohio Development Alliance, comprising Athens, Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Tuscarawas, and Washington counties.

Hileman passed away in February 2015 after a lifetime of service to eastern Ohio. He was a native of Columbiana County and worked for Columbia Gas of Ohio for 40 years, serving Carrollton, Jackson, and Cambridge in Appalachian Ohio. After his retirement, he remained committed to improving quality of life and steadfastly promoting his community of Cambridge in Guernsey County, where he shared his final years with his wife, Evelyn.

The 2020 grant round represents the Dale Hileman Legacy Fund's first competitive grant awards. In its first three years, the fund awarded strategic grants to support economic growth. Last year, the Fund supported the United Way of Guernsey, Monroe, and Noble Counties and their Young Professionals Program. The program connected students in the Rolling Hills and Cambridge City school districts with professionals across a variety of fields and who are under the age of 40. The program exposed students to careers that would allow them to make a great living in their local community.

This year, the Dale Hileman Legacy Fund plans to award up to $2,000 in grants through its first competitive grant round. Individual grant requests should not exceed $1,000.

Applications are due by March 31, to the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, PO Box 456, Nelsonville, OH 45764. For more information about the Dale Hileman Legacy Fund and for the grant application, please visit www.AppalachianOhio.org/Hileman or call FAO at 740.753.1111.

ALIVE

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Barnesville Enterprise

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Posted Mar 5, 2020 at 12:01 AM

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CantonRep.com
CONNECTING STARK COUNTY

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Posted Mar 5, 2020 at 12:01 AM

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The Columbus Dispatch

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COLUMBUSCEO

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IndeOnline.com
Massillon, OH

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MyTownNEO

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NorthNeighborNews.com
... connecting the communities of North Canton and Plain Township

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Record-Courier

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THE Alliance Review

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THE Daily Jeff

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the Suburbanite.com

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ThisWeek COMMUNITY NEWS

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TimesReporter.com
Ohio

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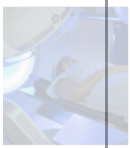

Times-Gazette

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Deadline Approaching for Meigs County Community Fund Grant Applications

By **Staff Report** - March 7, 2020

Deadline Approaching for Meigs County Community Fund Grant Applications

POMEROY, OH – The deadline is fast approaching for applications to the Meigs County Community Fund's annual grant round. Applications for projects serving Meigs County are due March 15, 2020.

"The Meigs County Community Fund is here to create opportunities for Meigs County citizens through our annual grant round," said Jennifer Sheets, president of the Meigs County Community Fund. "Last year we awarded nearly $23,000 for nine initiatives making a difference in our community, ranging from a school-based health care clinic for the Eastern Local School District to an aquatic play area for the Village of Racine. I am so excited to see what we can help the community accomplish this year."

Funding is available for projects across five areas – arts and culture, community and economic development, education, environmental stewardship, and health and human services. At this time, the Meigs County Community Fund does not accept applications for any event sponsorships or sports-related requests.

To receive full consideration for funding, grant requests must include a completed application. Applications are available online at www.AppalachianOhio.org/Meigs and **must be postmarked by March 15, 2020 and mailed to PO Box 109, Pomeroy, Ohio 45769**. Please note March 15 is a Sunday.

FOUNDATION FOR APPALACHIAN OHIO
Give. Grow. Create.

Grant recipients will be notified by April, 2020 and all grantees will be required to submit a final report within one year of their award, including a detail of expenditures and photos.

The Meigs County Community Fund Family of Funds is a local community fund of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO). The Meigs County Community Fund provides a way for anyone to give back to the community and invest in nonprofits, schools, and community organizations through grants.

If you have any questions regarding this grant opportunity or the Meigs County Community Fund, please contact the Foundation at 740.753.1111 or info@ffao.org. And if you would like to support the Meigs County Community Fund with a gift – which for a limited time will be matched dollar-for-dollar by FAO – then visitwww.AppalachianOhio.org/Meigs to learn more and give today.

About the Meigs County Community Fund

The Meigs County Community Fund was created in 2011 to increase and advance philanthropic activities in Meigs County. The Meigs County Community Fund works to attract philanthropic resources in the form of gifts, grants, or bequests to benefit the broader community.

About the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio

The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO) is a regional community foundation serving the 32 counties of Appalachian Ohio. A 501(c)(3) public charity, the Foundation creates opportunities for Appalachian Ohio's citizens and communities by inspiring and supporting philanthropy. For more information about FAO, visit www.AppalachianOhio.org.

Akron Beacon Journal

Gulfport Energy Fund opens first grant round of 2020

Posted Mar 8, 2020 at 12:01 AM

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"Gulfport is pleased to announce that we are accepting grant applications requesting support for projects that will enrich education in the region," said Courtney Dickens, External Relations Coordinator at Gulfport Energy. "At Gulfport, we know that an investment in our youth is an investment in our future, and we are excited to help create opportunities to provide a brighter tomorrow."

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ALIVE

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Barnesville Enterprise

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CantonRep.com
CONNECTING STARK COUNTY

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The Columbus Dispatch

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Columbus parent

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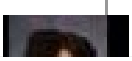

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IndeOnline.com
Massillon, OH

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MyTownNEO

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NorthNeighborNews.com
... connecting the communities of North Canton and Plain Township

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Record-Courier

KENT STATE SHOOTINGS: 50 YEARS LATER
4:20 AM
Making the call: Why Kent's mayor asked the governor to send the Guard to Kent State

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THE Alliance Review

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THE Daily Jeff

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the Suburbanite.com

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ThisWeek COMMUNITY NEWS

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TimesReporter.com
Ohio

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Times-Gazette

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Daily Sentinel (Pomeroy,OH) - 2020-03-09 Circulation: 5563

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If you have any questions regarding this grant opportunity or the Meigs County Community Fund, please contact the Foundation at 740.753.1111 or info@ffao.org. And if you would like to support the Meigs County Community Fund with a gift — which for a limited time will be matched dollar-for-dollar by FAO — then visit www.AppalachianOhio.org/Meigs to learn more and give today.

About the Meigs County Community Fund

The Meigs County Community Fund was created in 2011 to increase and advance philanthropic activities in Meigs County. The Meigs County Community Fund works to attract philanthropic resources in the form of gifts, grants, or bequests to benefit the broader community.

About the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio

The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO) is a regional community foundation serving the 32 counties of Appalachian Ohio. A 501(c)(3) public charity, the Foundation creates opportunities for Appalachian Ohio's citizens and communities by inspiring and supporting philanthropy. For more information about FAO, visit www.AppalachianOhio.org.

POSTED ON MARCH 9, 2020 BY POMEROY DAILY SENTINEL

Deadline approaching for Community Fund grants

NEWS

Grant applications due March 15

Staff Report

POMEROY — The deadline is fast approaching for applications to the Meigs County Community Fund's annual grant round. Applications for projects serving Meigs County are due March 15.

"The Meigs County Community Fund is here to create opportunities for Meigs County citizens through our annual grant round," said Jennifer Sheets, president of the Meigs County Community Fund. "Last year we awarded nearly $23,000 for nine initiatives making a difference in our community, ranging from a school-based health care clinic for the Eastern Local School District to an aquatic play area for the Village of Racine. I am so excited to see what we can help the community accomplish this year."

Funding is available for projects across five areas — arts and culture, community and economic development, education, environmental stewardship, and health and human services. At this time, the Meigs County Community Fund does not accept applications for any event sponsorships or sports-related requests.

To receive full consideration for funding, grant requests must include a completed application. Applications are available online at www.AppalachianOhio.org/Meigs and must be postmarked by March 15, 2020 and mailed to PO Box 109, Pomeroy, Ohio 45769. Please note March 15 is a Sunday.

Grant recipients will be notified by April 2020 and all grantees will be required to submit a final report within one year of their award, including a detail of expenditures and photos.

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Information submitted by the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio.

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PREVIOUS NEXT

Chillicothe Gazette
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Community News and Notes

Published 12:00 p.m. ET March 17, 2020

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The Dale Hileman Legacy Fund supports organizations working to promote economic development and growth within the 16 counties of the Eastern Ohio Development Alliance. Up to $2,000 in grants will be awarded with an individual request not to exceed $1,000.

For more information, call 740-753-1111 or go to appalachianohio.org.

Campus Corner

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Senior Card Showers

Get Well

MORE STORIES


Hope Clinic of Ross County adapts to COVID-19
May 6, 2020, 10:59 a.m.


Former Pickaway County Sheriff dies at 87
May 6, 2020, 10:54 a.m.


Chillicothe and Ross County public records: crime reports
May 6, 2020, 8:02 a.m.

COVID update: Ross County reporting 42 cases
May 5, 2020, 3:18 p.m.


COVID update: Ross County reporting 41 cases
May 4, 2020, 3:19 p.m.


OU professors protest layoffs of 140 university employees
May 5, 2020, 12:29 p.m.

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Crime Reports: Public Records
May 4, 2020, 8:18 a.m.


Michael White went from politics to pressing grapes
May 4, 2020, 7:25 a.m.


Coshocton cautiously optimistic about businesses reopening
May 3, 2020, 10:06 a.m.


Coronavirus: Compare the curve in your area to others
May 2, 2020, 1:08 p.m.


Group available to help novice gardeners
May 2, 2020, 8:18 a.m.

Local News Briefs: Respiratory center integrating into Family Physicians
May 1, 2020, 1:31 p.m.

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MORE STORIES


Talk About Clyde: School meals now grab-and-go
May 6, 2020, 12:09 p.m.


Woman charged with OVI, endangering child
May 6, 2020, 10:52 a.m.

Fremont Council eyes vacating High St. section
May 6, 2020, 10:26 a.m.


Elyria man charged in burglary of County Road 7 home
May 6, 2020, 9:43 a.m.


Economic Impact Payments continue to be sent
May 5, 2020, 6:34 p.m.


Missing man believed to have dementia found safe
May 6, 2020, 8:44 a.m.

Lancaster Eagle Gazette.
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

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MORE STORIES


County Connections: Faith community shares stories of coming together
May 6, 2020, 7:50 a.m.

Canal Winchester/Carroll area news: South Central Power donates to the community
May 6, 2020, 7:25 a.m.

Millersport news: Community Car Parade to be held for Memorial Day
May 6, 2020, 7:18 a.m.


Council considers cuts while pushing income tax
May 5, 2020, 3:03 p.m.

Briefs: FMC recognized by Columbus CEO Magazine
May 5, 2020, 2:02 p.m.


Hocking College adapts to pandemic limitations
May 4, 2020, 3:29 p.m.

Mansfield News Journal
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

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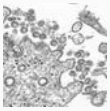
Man meets woman online, she shows up with 3 men
May 6, 2020, 11:05 a.m.


Coronavirus: 91 cases in Richland County
May 5, 2020, 5:22 p.m.


Boggs suffers setback near anniversary of crash
May 5, 2020, 5:18 p.m.


Madison Twp. trustees discuss revenue concerns
May 5, 2020, 2:44 p.m.


Madison to videotape graduation ceremony
May 5, 2020, 2:43 p.m.


Lovina answers questions, shares horseradish recipe
May 5, 2020, 2:06 p.m.

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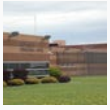
MORE STORIES


MarionMade!: The world of the Woodland Elves
May 11, 2020, 7:14 a.m.

Harding '72 awards scholarships
May 10, 2020, 3:28 p.m.


Group rallies in Marion to reopen Ohio
May 10, 2020, 10:46 a.m.


Marion County unsure what to expect of jail costs
May 10, 2020, 10:31 a.m.


Our view: Be kind, wear a mask
May 10, 2020, 10:24 a.m.


Coping with pandemic: Moms share their stories
May 10, 2020, 10:18 a.m.

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Larry Stall, Altercare, Room 216, 4200 Harrington Drive.

Winnie Parker, Room 411, Willow Haven Care Center, 1020 Taylor St., also birthday on March 18.

Birthday

Lillie Belle Lapp, 7400 Adamsville Road, Adamsville, will be 96 on March 20.

Read or Share this story: https://www.zanesvilletimesrecorder.com/story/news/local/2020/03/17/community-news-notes/111430580/

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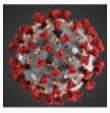
MORE STORIES


Port Clinton City Schools state funding cut 17%
May 6, 2020, 2:56 p.m.


City seeks funding to fix high water issues
May 6, 2020, 1:56 p.m.


Customs officers step up to aid local seniors
May 6, 2020, 7:43 a.m.

Property Transfers: Ottawa County
May 6, 2020, 7:43 a.m.


Confirmed cases in Ottawa County at 44
May 5, 2020, 3:06 p.m.


Man sues ex-Elmore mayor, village after assault
May 5, 2020, 2 p.m.

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MORE STORIES


Lights & Sirens | Motorcyclist injured in crash
May 4, 2020, 12:32 p.m.


Coronavirus: Compare the curve in your area to others
May 2, 2020, 1:12 p.m.


New stage coming to the Schines Art Park
May 1, 2020, 3:55 p.m.


Avita honored by Crawford County Public Health
May 1, 2020, 3:42 p.m.

Crawford County property transfers March 11-19
May 1, 2020, 3:21 p.m.


It Happened: Miller says she was 'born to be in education'
May 1, 2020, 12:42 p.m.

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Chillicothe Local News

Landrum Endowment Fund Presents Grants to Local Agencies & Schools

By **Newsroom**
Mar 27, 2020

The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio and the Ross County Board of Developmental Disabilities, known locally as the Pioneer Center, says four Ross County projects have received funding through the Landrum Endowment Fund. These grants will support projects related to improving lives of individuals with developmental disabilities in Ross County.

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Chillicothe Local News

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By **Newsroom**
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SEEDS OF DESPAIR

Katie Wedell USA TODAY NETWORK
Lucille Sherman USA TODAY NETWORK
Sky Chadde Midwest Center for Investigative Reporting

One by one, three men from the same close-knit community took their own lives.

Their deaths spanned a two-year stretch starting in mid-2015 and shook the village of Georgetown, Ohio, about 40 miles southeast of Cincinnati.

All were in their 50s and 60s.

All were farmers.

Heather Utter, whose husband's cousin was the third to take his life, now worries that her father could be next. The longtime dairy

farmer, who for years struggled to keep his operation afloat, sold the last of his cows in January amid his declining health and dwindling finances. The decision crushed him.

“He’s done nothing but milk cows all his life,” said Utter, whose father declined to be interviewed. “It was a big decision, a sad decision. But at what point do you say enough is enough?”

A barn on the Utter farm near Georgetown, Ohio. The land was once worked by Charlie Utter’s cousin, who took his own life in 2017.
Joshua A. Bickel | The Columbus Dispatch

American farmers produce nearly all of the country’s food and contribute some $133 billion annually to the gross domestic product.

Yet they now are saddled with near-record debt, declaring bankruptcy at rising rates and selling off their farms amid an uncertain future clouded by climate change and whipsawed by tariffs and bailouts.

For some, the burden is too much to bear.

Farmers are among the most likely to die by suicide, compared to other occupations, according to a January study by the Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention. The study also found that suicide rates overall had increased by 40% in less than two decades.

The problem has plagued agricultural communities across the nation, but perhaps nowhere more so than the Midwest, where extreme weather and falling prices have bludgeoned dairy and crop producers in recent years.

Buildings on the town square are reflected in a window in Georgetown, Ohio.
Joshua A. Bickel | The Columbus Dispatch

Three farmers took their own lives in a two-year span in Georgetown, Ohio, about 40 miles from Cincinnati.
Joshua A. Bickel | The Columbus Dispatch

More than 450 farmers killed themselves across nine Midwestern states from 2014 to 2018, according to data collected by the USA TODAY Network and the Midwest Center for Investigative Reporting. The real total is likely to be higher because not every state provided suicide data for every year and some redacted portions of the data.

The deaths coincide with the near-doubling of calls to a crisis hotline operated by Farm Aid, a nonprofit agency whose mission is to help farmers keep their land. More than a thousand people dialed the number in 2018 alone, said spokeswoman Jennifer Fahy.

No one economic crisis takes full blame. Instead, a cascade of events has plagued farmers in recent years:

- Key commodity prices plummeted by about 50% since 2012.
- Farm debt jumped by about a third since 2007, to levels last seen in the 1980s.
- Bad weather prevented farmers from planting nearly 20 million acres in 2019 alone.
- U.S. soybean exports to China dropped 75 percent from 2017 to 2018 amid festering trade tensions.

Even the $28 billion in federal aid provided by the Trump administration over two years wasn't enough to erase the fallout from the trade war with China, many farmers said.

It's not the first time Washington's efforts to help farmers have fallen short.

Nathan Brown drives to a cow pasture on his property while working at his farm.
Joshua A. Bickel | The Columbus Dispatch

Nathan Brown overcame his own depression and now advocates for better access to mental-health care for other farmers near his home in Hillsboro, Ohio.
Joshua A. Bickel | The Columbus Dispatch

In 2008, Congress approved the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network Act to provide behavioral health programs to agricultural workers via grants to states.

But it appropriated no money for the FRSA until last year — more than one decade and hundreds of suicides later.

Some of the first four pilot programs awarded funding still have not seen any money.

“Farmers, ranchers and agriculture workers are experiencing severe stress and high rates of suicide,” said U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wisconsin, who sponsored the bipartisan bill to fund the initiative. “Unfortunately, Washington has been slow to recognize the challenges that farmers are facing.”

Reporters spoke to more than two dozen farmers, mental health professionals and other experts across the Midwest who said the problem needs attention now.

How to get help

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a hotline for individuals in crisis or for those looking to help someone else.

To speak with a certified listener, call 1-800-273-8255.

The Crisis Text Line is a texting service for emotional crisis support. Text HELLO to 741741. It is free, available 24/7, and confidential.

Click to expand and read more

Devastating economic events on their own do not cause suicides, experts said, but can be the last straw for a person already suffering from depression or under long-term stress.

“We like to identify something as the cause,” said Ted Matthews, a psychologist who works exclusively with farm families in Minnesota. “Right now they talk about commodity prices being the cause, and it’s definitely a cause, but it is not the only one by any stretch.”

Case in point: After her family shuttered the dairy, Utter said, it relieved the immediate pressures — including those on her sister and brother-in-law, who helped milk her father’s cows daily despite their own full-time jobs.

But it created a different kind of stress for her father, said Utter, who serves as the Ohio Farm Bureau’s director for a four-county region including Georgetown.

Sources of stress

Increasing debt, plunging commodity prices and worsening weather make it tough for farmers.

It’s one felt by many farmers.

“When your farm doesn’t succeed or you have to sell off some property, not only are you letting you and your family down, you’re letting your family legacy down,” said Ty Higgins, spokesman for the Ohio Farm Bureau. “‘My great-grandpa started this farm, and now I’m the one that’s causing it to cease?’ Boy that’s a tough thought. But a lot of farmers are going through that right now.”

‘There’s nothing to be afraid of’

Farming was all Nathan Brown ever wanted to do growing up in Hillsboro, Ohio. He started working for a neighbor at age 12. He and his wife Jennifer have owned their own 115 acres for the past five years.

Tap to expand and read Nathan’s story

‘It’s a problem now’

Farmers have been among the most at-risk populations for years.

More than 900 farmers died by suicide in five upper Midwest states during the 1980s farm crisis, the National Farm Medicine Center found. During that crisis, mental-health counseling and suicide hotlines sprang up across the country. But after the crisis passed, the programs dried up.

Charlie Utter's cousin raised Angus cattle on this land near Georgetown, Ohio. Utter now farms the land after his cousin took his own life.
Joshua A. Bickel | The Columbus Dispatch

The deaths subsided somewhat in the years that followed, but University of Iowa researchers found that farmers and other agricultural workers still had the highest suicide rate among all occupations from 1992 to 2010, the years they examined in a 2017 study.

Farmers and ranchers had a suicide rate that was, on average, 3.5 times that of the general population, the study found.

There are similarities between the 1980s farm crisis and the situation plaguing farmers today, said Brandi Janssen, a University of Iowa professor and director of Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health. But the thinking around mental health has changed.

"I think it's become more obvious to people," she said. "Whether the rates or the numbers are higher or lower (compared with the 1980s), sometimes I don't know if that matters. We know it's a problem now."

‘A big toll’

All four of Julie and Phil Henneman’s children grew up working on their farm in Grant County, Wisconsin, but their son Keith showed the most interest. When Julie and Phil found other jobs in the late 1990s, Keith took it over at age 21.

Tap to expand and read Keith’s story

Federal, state and local governments must provide funding to help struggling farmers, said Janssen, but she cautioned that it will take more than just mental-health counseling and hotlines.

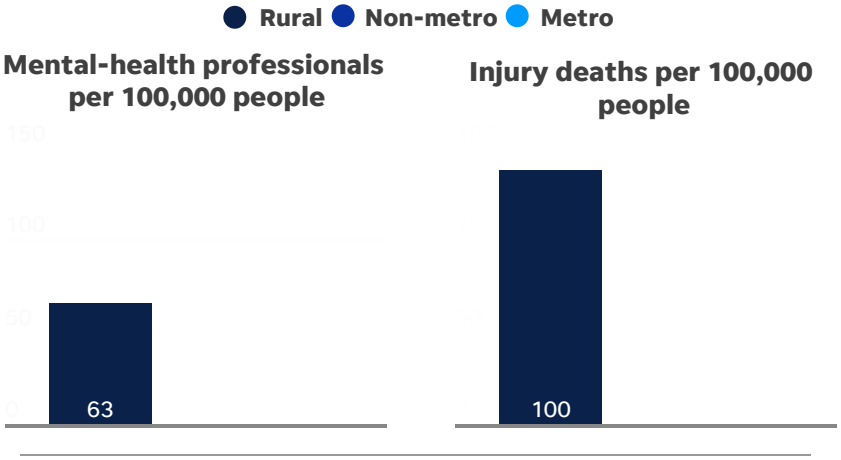
“It’s a lot more complicated than that,” she said. “It’s related to larger structures in the ag economy and climate and isolating work and rural areas that are being depopulated.”

Part of the problem, experts said, is that farmers are a tough bunch to reach – both geographically and emotionally.

Most live in rural areas far from mental health professionals. While urban counties average 10 psychiatrists per 100,000 people, rural counties have three, a 2018 University of Michigan study found.

Rural mental-health access

Across the Midwest, rural counties have fewer mental-health professionals per person and more injury deaths per person, than suburban and metro counties. Injury deaths include suicides, homicides and accidental injuries.



Rural population per mental-health provider

Rural residents in some Midwestern states have better access to counselors, psychologists and other mental-health providers. In Wisconsin, each provider serves about 1,600 people. In Iowa, it's nearly 5,700 people.

State	Ratio
Illinois	2,779:1
Indiana	3,445:1
Iowa	5,668:1
Kansas	2,930:1
Michigan	1,780:1
Minnesota	3,374:1
Missouri	3,056:1
Nebraska	3,007:1
North Dakota	3,208:1
Ohio	3,143:1
South Dakota	2,507:1
Wisconsin	1,600:1

Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

CARLIE PROCELL/USA TODAY NETWORK

Even when help is available, stigma prevents many in the largely male-dominated profession from reaching out.

“In general, when men feel stressed, they pull back,” Matthews said.

Counselors have advised farmers to alleviate stress by finding a different job — something they find impossible to contemplate, said Fahy, the spokesperson for Farm Aid, which runs the crisis hotline whose calls have jumped 92% between 2013 and 2018.

“It’s essential,” Fahy said, “that farmers are talking to people that understand the unique aspects of agriculture.”

‘My heart hurts so bad’

Keith Gillie rarely slept or ate in the spring of 2017.

He was stressed about the family farm in Minnesota, which he and his wife, Theresia, bought from his grandfather in the 1980s. After pouring their lives into the operation, they found they couldn’t turn a profit anymore.

The couple talked about selling the farm and their equipment.

On the last Friday in April, Theresia reached out to her marketing manager and a loan officer to come up with a plan. But before she could finalize the details, Keith had taken his own life. He died by suicide the next day. He was 53.

Theresia and Keith Gillie posed for this photo at the Mall of America in Minnesota in 2016. The following year, as financial trouble loomed for their farm, Keith died by suicide. **Gillie family photo.**

“The day Keith died, part of me died, too,” she said. “Sometimes my heart hurts so bad that my whole body aches.”

Theresia ultimately sold the farm equipment but kept the property. She now operates the farm alone. And she speaks publicly about suicide. The Kittson County commissioner and former president of the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association has one goal in sharing her own experiences:

“I want growers to understand you’re not alone in this boat,” she said. “There’s others that are really struggling, too. And we’re going to find an avenue through this.”

At least 75 farmers died by suicide across six Midwestern states that same year, 2017, the USA TODAY Network's data analysis shows.

An additional 76 farmers took their lives in 2018: Eighteen in Missouri. Eighteen in Kansas. Fifteen in Wisconsin. Thirteen in Illinois. Twelve in North Dakota.

But the trend started years earlier.

Keith Henneman of Grant County Wisconsin took his own life at age 29 after losing heifers to Johne's Disease in the mid-2000s.

Larry Ruhland killed himself on the Minnesota farm he operated with his wife, Barbara, in 2006 as they were working to renegotiate their contract to raise heifers for a local dairy.

"I didn't put it together, because I didn't even think of the fact that Larry was under as much stress as he was under," Barbara Ruhland said.

A memorial to Larry Ruhland is placed near the driveway to his wife Barbara's farmhouse in Watkins, Minnesota. Larry Ruhland killed himself on the farm in 2006.
Dave Schwarz | USA TODAY NETWORK

Barbara Ruhland walks between buildings on the farm in Minnesota where she and her husband Larry lived together until his death in 2006.
Dave Schwarz | USA TODAY NETWORK

Matthews, the Minnesota farm psychologist, helped Ruhland through the turmoil after her husband's suicide, and again when she lost a son to an aneurysm in 2014.

Too often, he said, he gets calls after the fact.

"It truly saddens me," he said. "The person has committed suicide, and now I'm working with that family."

It's why training more people to spot the red flags of suicidal thinking is a crucial part of his mission. That includes anyone who interacts with farmers regularly: the ag management workers who set production goals, the auction folks who arrange the equipment sale, the bankers who deny the loan.

"That banker is at the kitchen table," Ruhland said. "Those people are on the frontlines every day."

‘It sneaks up on farmers’

Barbara Ruhland remembers little from the days and weeks after her husband, Larry, took his life on their Minnesota farm in 2006.

There were 450 cattle to feed, a crop to get in the ground, and a funeral to plan.

Tap expand and read Barbara’s story

Minnesota has added a second psychologist to split the work with Matthews. The program costs $228,000 annually.

“We don’t have anything like that,” said Jim Birge with the Sangamon Farm Bureau in Illinois. He’s heard about Matthews’ work and would love to see a similar program in his state.

“I don’t want to see this discussion fade,” he said. “I want to keep it alive.”

Nathan Brown feeds some of his cattle at his farm in Hillsboro, Ohio.
Joshua A. Bickel | The Columbus Dispatch

Nathan Brown loves farming, but there were times, he said, when depression left him unable to get out of bed. He now focuses on the good things, such as teaching his son to drive a tractor.
Joshua A. Bickel | The Columbus Dispatch

‘A tough bunch’

University extensions, Farm Bureau chapters and others have started to take notice, creating crisis hotlines specific to farmers and training people in farm communities to spot signs of depression or suicidal thinking.

Iowa recently funded a program to pay for psychiatrists to provide mental health services in “rural, underserved” areas.

Wisconsin approved $200,000 for vouchers so that farmers could attend counseling, and the Wisconsin Farm Center offers advice on finances. It also has training on how to identify suicidal thoughts and how to help.

“Farmers feel that they’re most helped by someone who understands them,” said Wisconsin state Rep. Joan Ballweg, R-Markesan, chair of the suicide prevention task force. “I’d like to see something that is

dedicated (to farmers), like the national hotline number has a function for veterans."

In Ohio, the state Department of Agriculture launched a campaign last year called "Got Your Back" to reduce stigma and encourage farmers to ask for help.They hand out cards with the Ohio State University Extension crisis line as well as the National Suicide Hotline and online resources.

"We want farmers to know that they are so much more valuable than their next crop," said Higgins with the Ohio Farm Bureau.

Stumbling blocks to treatment

Ashton Gebhard has driven hours to avoid the stigma of living with depression in a small farm town, and he's waited weeks for an appointment in a region where therapists are scarce.

The 35-year-old grew up on a farm in Kansas near the Nebraska state line.

Tap to expand and read Ashton's story

Some programs host outreach efforts at events such as Nebraska's Husker Harvest Days.

"Farmers are a tough bunch and they have thick skin and they don't want to be seen pulling up to the counselor's office," said Susan Harris-Broomfield, the rural health, wellness and safety director at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension. "That's not their jam.

However, we have one of the largest farm and ranch shows in the nation."

She handed out wallet-sized cards with a help-line number and other resources — similar to those distributed in Ohio.

"We were actually surprised at how many of these, especially men, farmer men, were absolutely open to taking it and they thanked us for what we were doing," Harris-Broomfield said.

Her biggest tip: Make the conversation about stress instead of mental health. Neither their booth sign nor a survey they handed out mention mental health.

"Stress is something we can all relate to," she said.

Stress now mixes with grief in Georgetown, Ohio, where Heather Utter's father is adjusting to life after farming, while her father-in-law farms 1,500 acres — a combination of the land he grew up on and the adjacent property his cousin had tended until his death.

"If you don't farm, you just don't understand it," Charlie Utter said of the stress and despair to which so many local farmers have succumbed. "There's just so many ups and downs and variables you can't control. It wears on you."

Charlie Utter works with his son, Kyle, left, at their farm in Georgetown,

Ohio. Their cousin died by suicide in July 2017 and they now farm his land. **Joshua A. Bickel** | The Columbus Dispatch

Charlie Utter said he regrets not talking to his cousin sooner; he knew something was bothering him in the days before his death. Family members need to watch one another closely, he said.

“If you see somebody is down, go talk to them, and don’t put it off,” he said. “If people were more educated, it couldn’t hurt. One person might catch something.”

This story is a collaboration between the USA TODAY Network and the Midwest Center for Investigative Reporting. The Center is a nonprofit newsroom based in Illinois offering investigative and enterprise coverage of agriculture issues.

Hay still sits in a barn once owned by Charlie Utter's cousin, a farmer who died by suicide in July 2017. After his death, Charlie sold off some of his cousin's remaining cattle, but some remnants of the farm still remain almost three years after his death.
Joshua A. Bickel | The Columbus Dispatch

The New York Times | https://nyti.ms/39xDxDs

In Appalachia, Crafting a Road to Recovery With Dulcimer Strings

In Kentucky, where music is the lifeblood, an apprentice program run by luthiers provides meaningful jobs and helps remove the stigma of opioid addiction.

By **Patricia Leigh Brown**

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HINDMAN, KY. — The heritage of handcrafted stringed instruments runs deep in this tiny Appalachian village (pop. 770) stretched along the banks of Troublesome Creek. The community has been known as the homeplace of the mountain dulcimer ever since a revered maker, James Edward ("Uncle Ed") Thomas, pushed a cartload of angelic-sounding dulcimers up and down the creek roads, keeping a chair handy to play tunes for passers-by.

Music is the region's lifeblood: Locals like to say that "you can toss a rock and hit a musician." But these strong cultural roots have been tested by the scourges that devastated Eastern Kentucky, an early epicenter of the opioid crisis. Hindman is the seat of Knott County, one of the poorest regions in the United States and one that continues to grapple with overdose death rates that are twice the national average. It is also in the top 5 percent of counties most vulnerable to the rapid spread of H.I.V. and hepatitis C, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The decline of the coal industry has brought even more economic hardship to these isolated hills and hollows — providing fertile ground for Appalachia's signature epidemic.

But last year, an unlikely group of renegades — suspender-wearing luthiers from the Appalachian Artisan Center here — embarked on a novel approach to the hopelessness of addiction called Culture of Recovery, an apprentice program for young adults rebounding from the insidious treadmill of opioids and other substances. Participants, about 150 so far, learn traditional arts like luthiery — the making and repairing of stringed instruments — under the tutelage of skilled artisans. They come to the program through a partnership between the Artisan Center; a local residential rehab center for men, and the Knott County Drug Court, which is just down the block from the Appalachian School of Luthiery.

"We're dusty old woodworkers, not trained therapists," said Doug Naselroad, the master luthier who with a former colleague dreamed up the program. "But so many times now, giving somebody something to do has proved to be a powerful step in their recovery."

Doug Naselroad, a master artisan, plays a mountain dulcimer in his Hindman apartment that he made as an exact reproduction of one created in 1928 by James Edward "Uncle Ed" Thomas. Mr. Naselroad is a founder of Culture of Recovery, which teaches traditional instrument making to adults rebounding from addiction. Mike Belleme for The New York Times

The factors that have led to the crisis here have followed a circuitous route, like the hairpin turns on mountain roads. They include a sky-high poverty rate, a legacy of accident-prone industries, high incidences of childhood trauma, low educational attainment and a fatalism springing from a lack of opportunity and geographic isolation. These treacherous social determinants laid out a welcome mat for Big Pharma.

“That Oxy is vicious,” said Randy Campbell, the Artisan Center’s executive director, referring to Oxycodone. He drove up a steep road to the family cemetery where his 64-year old brother, James Turner Campbell, was laid to rest from addictions to that drug and alcohol. “It grabs the educated as well as the noneducated.”

The art of crafting an instrument by hand requires keen focus, attention to detail and commitment to a goal — qualities that can help during recovery, in concert with therapy, peer-support groups and other rehabilitation work, experts say. The process is not linear: most people relapse at least once, said Kim Cornett Childers, a Circuit Court judge in Knott County who presides over the drug court.

Some opt for other activities like yoga, adult education or prayer groups. The power of Culture of Recovery, Judge Childers said, is the reconnection with the region’s resilient artistic heritage. “Many clients have never had anyone tell them they’re proud of them, or done something they’re proud of,” she said. “Now they’re creating something tangible and beautiful.”

The program was started with a $475,000 grant from ArtPlace America, a consortium of foundations, federal agencies and others who fund arts projects dedicated to community development. The results, albeit from a small sample, have been promising: About 94 percent have successfully graduated from the drug court, up from 86 percent before Culture of Recovery started. Most initially came to the court with indictments for drug possession, trafficking or burglary. The recidivism rate, which was already low, has dropped by more than half, with fewer people incurring new criminal charges, she said.

Kyle Larison, left, and Brad Whitehill working on instruments at the Appalachian School of Luthiery in Hindman, Ky. Both came from Hickory Hill's recovery program. Mike Belleme for The New York Times

Historic dulcimers from the 19th and 20th centuries at the Appalachian School of Luthiery. Mike Belleme for The New York Times

John Hamlett, a master craftsman, creating a maple mandolin at the Troublesome Creek Stringed Instrument Company. He designs mandolins and is teaching the art through the apprentice program. Mike Belleme for The New York Times

Transforming Wood Becomes a Passion

One of the graduates is Nathan Smith, 39. Now a tenacious and promising luthier, Mr. Smith was swept up in a typical pattern in which the physical demands of his job shoveling coal and operating machinery led him beyond his doctor's initial prescription for pain pills. He began buying them off the street — "It helped me work and not hurt as much," he explained — and then started reselling the pills to support his habit. The result was a drug trafficking charge, a brief stint in jail and then entry into the Court's intensive, supervised outpatient treatment program, which lasts 18 months and often more.

Mr. Smith gravitated to luthiery, making his first dulcimer, played on the lap, and apprenticing at the school for nearly a year. "I fell in love with it real quick," he said. "It is something I had a passion for that I didn't even realize."

He has been off drugs for two years and four months and is employed full-time with the Troublesome Creek Stringed Instrument Company, a new nonprofit founded by Mr. Naselroad in partnership with the Artisan Center. Two of the company's six full-time employees are former Culture of Recovery apprentices. All are in feverish deadline mode, honing the high-end artisanal guitars and mandolins made from Appalachian hardwoods that they will be taking to the National Association of Music Merchants trade show in Anaheim, Calif., on Jan. 16.

Troublesome Creek hopes to garner enough orders to expand its operation and hire more committed Culture of Recovery apprentices. It offers a potential career path and the kind of meaningful work that pays a living wage without a college education. This effort is a rare economic beacon for the county and received an $865,000 boost from the congressionally funded Appalachian Regional Commission, which assists communities in 13 states affected by job losses from coal mining and related businesses.

With his scraggly beard and pencils tucked into his cap, Mr. Smith showed off his training guitar recently: a black walnut and spruce beauty with a cursive "Smith" inlaid in abalone on the neck. The act of transforming a piece of wood into music still fills him with awe. "It's an amazing feeling to hold a guitar and know I made it myself," he said.

Nathan Smith with a guitar he made. He apprenticed at the Appalachian School of Luthiery through a drug court program and now works at the Troublesome Creek Stringed Instrument Company. He has been off drugs for more than two years. Mike Belleme for The New York Times

Earl Moore was the first apprentice to Mr. Naselroad and founded the luthiery program while still struggling with addiction. He apprenticed for six years, building some 70 instruments and reconstructing his life. His progress served as the blueprint for Culture of Recovery. Mike Belleme for The New York Times

Kimberly Patton holding a ceramic angel that she made. She became involved with the Appalachian Artisan Center through the drug court program and, as a successful graduate, has been teaching at Culture of Recovery. Mike Belleme for The New York Times

Jeremy Haney with a guitar he made. Mr. Haney came through the Hickory Hill Recovery Center to learn instrument making at the Appalachian School of Luthiery. He is now an employee at the Troublesome Creek Stringed Instrument Company. Mike Belleme for The New York Times

The sprawling factory in a former high school is imbued with the aromas of Red spruce and other woods, and the shoptalk is about screws and laminated steel chisels. Designing a fine stringed instrument requires years of experience, which is why most musicians don't attempt it. The density of Appalachian hardwoods compares favorably with imported tropical rosewoods, Mr. Naselroad said. Though Osage orange and Black locust have traditionally been used for fence posts, they have what luthiers call a great "tap tone." "The wood talks to us a little bit," he explained. "It has to ring like silver."

Creating Something 'Tangible and Beautiful'

The name "troublesome" comes from the creek's propensity for flash-flooding. It is one of many memorable place names — Mousie, Rowdy, Dismal Hollow — found among the jagged cliffs around Hindman. The city, built mostly from native stone, is "strung out along the creek like pearls on a necklace," observed Ronald Pen, a professor emeritus at the University of Kentucky.

The main bridge is named for Jethro Amburgey (1895-1971), a dulcimer maker who taught generations of students at the historic Hindman Settlement School, which emphasizes Appalachian traditions, especially literature.

In true mountain style, Mr. Amburgey was related to "Uncle Ed" Thomas (1850-1933), credited with pioneering the Appalachian, or mountain, dulcimer with its heart-shaped sound holes and an hourglass form one maker described as "shaped like a lady with a quiet and lonely sound."

Thomas was also a distant cousin of Jean Ritchie (1922-2015) in nearby Viper. During the folk revival from 1940s to mid-60s, she did more than anyone to popularize the dulcimer in Greenwich Village and beyond. "Hey, what do you call that contraption?" Woody Guthrie asked her at the 1948 "Spring Fever Hootenanny" in New York, according to her book "The Dulcimer People." "Why, you can get more music out of them three strings than I can get out of twelve!" Ritchie set the stage for the dulcimer's broader embrace by musicians including the Rolling Stones (in "Lady Jane") and Joni Mitchell's irresistible album "Blue."

Homer Ledford (1927-2006) was a gifted instrument maker and bluegrass musician who fashioned his first fiddle out of a dynamite box covered with matchsticks, or so the story goes. He was Mr. Naselroad's mentor.

Mr. Naselroad built his first guitar at age 16 to bestow upon a love interest. "It wasn't a very good one," he recalled. "I don't know what became of the guitar or the girl." He honed his craft at Collings, the custom guitar company in Austin, Tx. "Because of Doug's design and expertise these instruments will speak differently," Prof. Pen said of Troublesome Creek, which hopes to lure Kentucky-raised stars like Chris Stapleton and Tyler Childers as supporters.

The company joins a movement across Kentucky to provide "recovery-friendly" employment.

“Our work force is dying,” said Beth Davisson, the executive director of the Kentucky Chamber Workforce Center, referring to government data showing drug companies saturated the state with 1.9 billion pain pills — roughly 63 pills per person per year — between 2006 and 2012, which were then prescribed with wanton abandon. By 2018, statewide prescription drug monitoring programs were starting to have an effect, with overdose deaths beginning to decline slightly. But the abuse of prescription drugs, along with heroin and fentanyl, remains a critical public health issue.

‘A Talent You Never Knew You Had’

The idea for Culture of Recovery was inspired by Earl Moore, now 43, whose addiction began with buying OxyContin on the street, ultimately leading to several relapses, two suicide attempts and jail time for the illegal use of a credit card. His father left the family when Mr. Moore was young. “I took that personally,” he said. “I found I could do substances and erase all that.”

But Mr. Moore had an affinity for woodworking inherited from his forebears. He found out the Appalachian School of Luthiery had opened in town and approached Mr. Naselroad. “Earl said, ‘I know you have a felony background check, and I’m not going to pass it,’” Mr. Naselroad recalled. “But he told me he thought it would save his life.” One goal of Culture of Recovery is to reduce the stigma around addiction.

Mr. Moore apprenticed with Mr. Naselroad for six years, building some 70 instruments and forming a lasting bond. He went on to earn a master’s degree in cybersecurity, his full time career. “Addicts are the best hustlers,” he said. “I’ve spun it to the good.”

Kim Patton, 36, now the pottery instructor, went through the drug court after being indicted three times for trafficking. She was molested by a family member at age 14. “I never felt good about myself,” she said. “Anything you asked the doctors for, they would give.”

Now she turns recovering addicts toward pottery-making and sells her own work on Facebook and Instagram. Culture of Recovery led her to discover “a talent you never knew you had till you got clean and sober,” she said. Her T-shirt reads: “From Drug Addiction to Pottery Addiction.” “Without art, God knows where I’d be at,” she said.

Though hardly a cure-all, artistic activities “can be powerful antidotes to distress, emotional violence and drug abuse,” said Dr. Harvey Milkman, a professor emeritus of psychology at Metropolitan State University in Denver. They can help promote the brain’s natural ability to induce pleasure, which is “better than dope,” he said.

Idle time is detrimental to people in recovery. Mike Nix, the program director at the Hickory Hill Recovery Center in Hindman, and a former addict, said that once the men “shake off the streets” with detox, they may be ready to learn a skill. About 85 residents have participated in Culture of Recovery one day a week since the program began, and it has been a positive complement to peer-led recovery, Mr. Nix said.

“Let’s be honest — these guys didn’t get here on a winning streak,” he said. “They come in pretty raw. It may seem small, but when they think, ‘I’m going to build a guitar,’ they take raw material from nothing and reach a goal — some for the first time in their lives.”

Culture of Recovery is at the forefront of nascent efforts by museums and other cultural institutions to address the addiction crisis. Doris Thurber, an artist in Frankfort, Ky., started a program for women now called “Yes Arts” four years ago after the overdose death of her 27 year-old daughter, Maya Rose. In Manchester, N.H., The Currier Museum of Art has teamed up with the Partnership for Drug-Free Kids on a program for parents and siblings dealing with a loved one’s substance use. With an art educator, the families discuss a painting or sculpture with a salient theme, and the contemplative nature of the space is a balm.

“We have a big social crisis in New Hampshire,” said Alan Chong, the museum’s director. “This is more important than a blockbuster show, to be blunt about it.”

In Hindman one evening, a harvest moon laying heavy in the clouds, Mr. Naselroad, the master artisan, donned a red cowboy shirt and a Stetson to host the “Knott Downtown Radio Hour,” a monthly show on WMMT FM — a “Hindman Home Companion” of sorts. One of the highlights is a “Songwriters Circle” of tunes written by those in recovery.

Last month, the show was recorded at Hickory Hill, which was built on an old strip mine site. Amid living room beams inscribed with words like “self-discipline and “perseverance,” “the Hickory Hill boys,” as Mr. Naselroad calls them on air, sang about regret, loss, longing and especially faith. One poignant anthem to the Lord was called “Calm a Storm in Me.”

Nevertheless, the storm of addiction is powerful. Dan Estep, who teaches blacksmithing for the program, lost a student to a fatal overdose recently. The man was in his mid-30s and the father of three. “This particular guy grew up with his whole family on drugs,” Mr. Estep said. “It must be like quicksand.”

Mr. Estep, 62, who has been a blacksmith for 40 years, said that teaching his craft to people in recovery is the most important work he has ever done. “We can give it all we’ve got, but in the end it’s up to the individual,” he observed. “Humanity is the biggest project of all.”

Location Data Says It All: Staying at Home During Coronavirus Is a Luxury

By Jennifer Valentino-DeVries, Denise Lu and Gabriel J.X. Dance April 3, 2020

"I just really want people to understand that it's hard right now to go to work and live for other people," said Adarra Benjamin, a health worker in Chicago who is proud to be essential but worried about getting ill from the virus. Joshua Lott for The New York Times

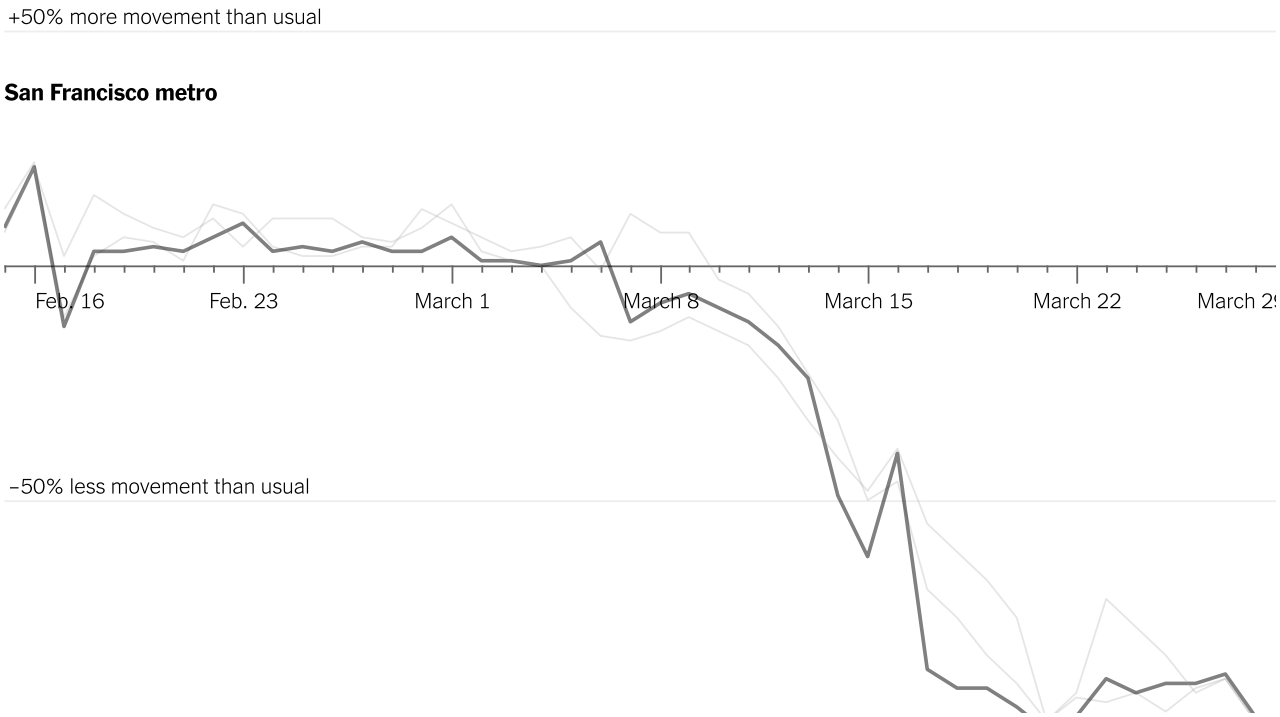
It has been about two weeks since the Illinois governor ordered residents to stay at home, but nothing has changed about Adarra Benjamin's responsibilities. She gets on a bus nearly every morning in Chicago,

traveling 20 miles round trip some days to cook, clean and shop for her clients, who are older or have health problems that make such tasks difficult.

Ms. Benjamin knows the dangers, but she needs her job, which pays about $13 an hour. She also cannot imagine leaving her clients to fend for themselves. “They’ve become my family,” she said.

In cities across America, many lower-income workers continue to move around, while those who make more money are staying home and limiting their exposure to the coronavirus, according to smartphone location data analyzed by The New York Times.

Although people in all income groups are moving less than they did before the crisis, wealthier people are staying home the most, especially during the workweek. Not only that, but in nearly every state, they began doing so days before the poor, giving them a head start on social distancing as the virus spread, according to aggregated data from the location analysis company Cuebiq, which tracks about 15 million cellphone users nationwide daily.



Beginning in early March, people across the country started limiting their

movements as the coronavirus spread.

Similar trends can be seen from coast to coast, including in the 25 most populous metropolitan areas.

The wealthiest people, those in the **top 10 percent** of income, however, have limited their movement more than those in the **bottom 10 percent** of the same metro areas, according to a Times analysis of cellphone location data.

By March 16, when President Trump asked people to stay at home to slow the spread of the virus, those in the **wealthiest** and **poorest** areas were both moving less than usual.

But by that date, those in the **highest-income locations** had already cut their movement by nearly half. **Poorer areas** did not see a similar drop until three days later.

The data offers real-time evidence of a divide laid bare by the coronavirus pandemic — one in which wealthier people not only have more job security and benefits but also may be better able to avoid becoming sick. The outbreak is so new that the relationship between socioeconomic status and infection rates cannot be determined, but other data, including recent statistics released by public health officials in New York City, suggests that the coronavirus is hitting low-income neighborhoods the hardest.

Concerns about getting infected have incited protests and strikes by workers in grocery stores, delivery services and other industries who say their employers are not providing them with enough protection or compensation to counter the increased health risks, even as their jobs have been deemed essential.

Rules vary among states, but essential workers generally include those in health care and public safety roles, as well as caregivers, delivery drivers, grocery clerks and plumbers. Hardware stores, pharmacies and takeout restaurants also remain open and staffed. All of these workers are able to stay on the job — a boon in an economy seized by shutdowns — but in most cases they cannot claim unemployment benefits if they quit.

“People want to talk about this virus as an equal opportunity pathogen, but it’s really not,” said Dr. Ashwin Vasan, a doctor and public health professor at Columbia University. “It’s going right to the fissures in our society.”

Gov. J.B. Pritzker of Illinois announced a stay-at-home order in his state on March 20 to combat the spread of the coronavirus. Charles Rex Arbogast/Associated Press

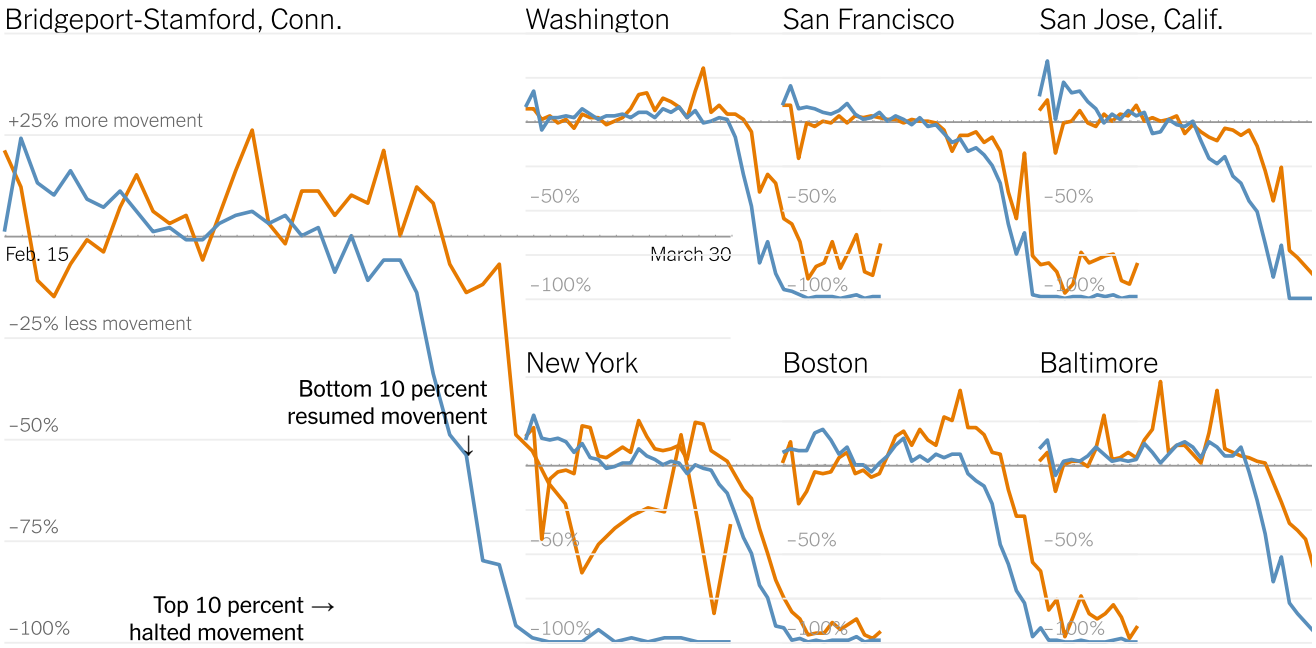
The mobility data provides a snapshot in time, and the behaviors it captures could change amid a fast-moving crisis. Although several public policy experts who reviewed the data said it strongly indicated that wealthier people are better able to stay home, they added that there could be other reasons for the differences — perhaps higher awareness of the risks or better access to information, for example — and others that are not yet obvious.

Economists and public health researchers said the data pointed to holes in the government's response to the pandemic's fallout for low-income workers, which has focused on those who have lost their jobs because of shutdowns and not on those with essential duties.

"Covid-19 is exposing a lot of the structural disadvantages that low-income people face," including a lack of job security and uneven access to health care, said Adie Tomer, a fellow at the Brookings Institution who has studied the essential work force. "The well-off are employed in industries where they are at a desk, and so there are some advantages built into these high-income neighborhoods during this pandemic," he added.

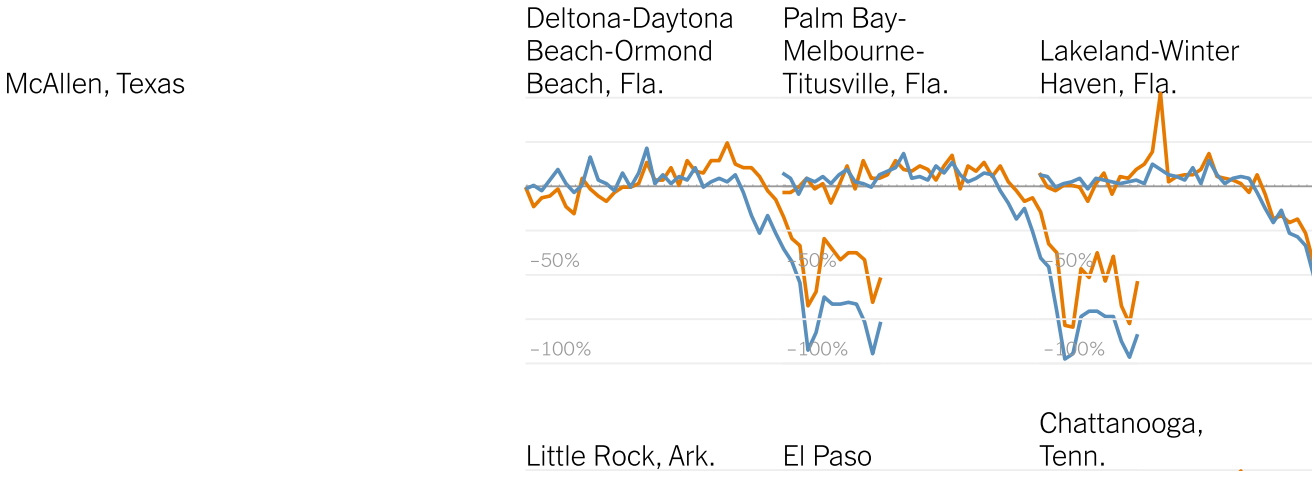
In metro areas with the greatest disparity between the richest and the poorest residents — and where there are orders to stay home — people in higher-income neighborhoods have essentially halted movement. People in lower-income neighborhoods have also drastically reduced their movement, but the data shows an uptick in their movements after the third weekend of March, coinciding with the start of another workweek.

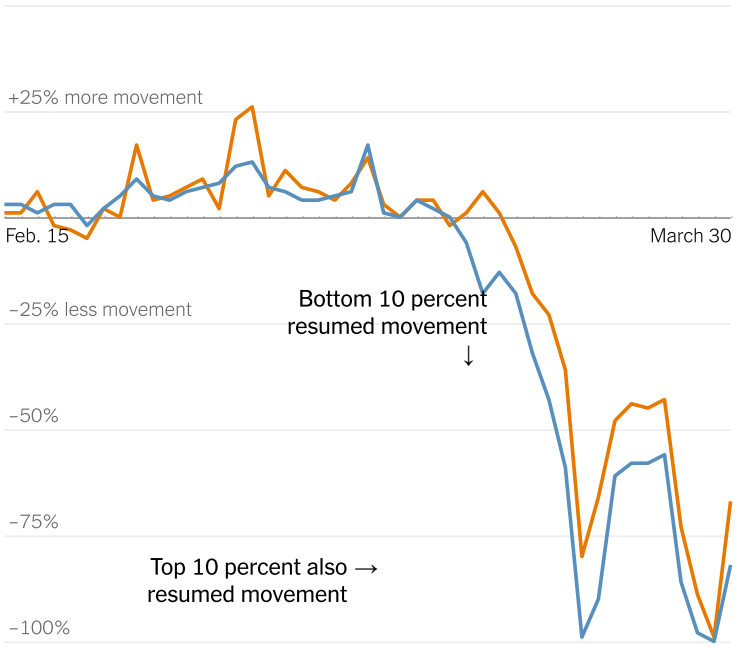
Change in movement in metro areas with high income disparity



In other areas where income disparity was not as high, it was much more likely that both the richest and poorest continued to move. These cities were also in places that were less likely to have mandated that residents stay home.

Change in movement in metro areas with low income disparity





Many essential workers are in lower-income jobs and have positions that require them to leave home and work face-to-face with others, economists said. “The people at this income, they’re either furloughed and not coming in to work, or they are essential construction, grocery cashiers, workers in long-term care institutions,” said Matthew Rae, who directs a program on health care markets at the Kaiser Family Foundation.

“And hundreds of thousands of them don’t have health insurance.”

Ms. Benjamin, the health worker in Chicago’s Woodlawn neighborhood, is 26 and among those without health insurance. She carries bottled soap and hand sanitizer with her and is vigilant about not touching her face. But she is worried.

“I do have gloves, but I just ran out of masks,” she said, “and I have no idea where I’m going to get any from.”

Just 15 miles north of Ms. Benjamin, in the Uptown neighborhood, John Williams has been working at home since March 16, five days before the governor’s order went into effect. A communications worker for nonprofits, Mr. Williams said people on his team were already used to telecommuting but that his husband, a high school music teacher, had faced more challenges.“Honestly, we are grateful for the privilege and security we have at the moment, knock on wood,” he said. “It’s uncomfortable, but it’s not life-threateningly scary.”

Ms. Benjamin waiting for a transit bus to get to work. She is an essential worker but does not have health insurance. Joshua Lott for The New York Times

As federal lawmakers contend with shuttered businesses and millions of people suddenly out of work, little of their legislation has been tailored to help essential workers affected by the pandemic. These workers will get the same stimulus checks that other people get from the $2 trillion economic stabilization package, and the second phase of the coronavirus legislation expanded the mandate for paid sick leave related to Covid-19. But while Democrats have renewed their push to include expanded occupational safety requirements for workers, which failed to gain traction in the most recent legislation, and are also calling for additional hazard pay for workers on the front lines, it is unclear if either of those will prevail in future negotiations.

Mr. Tomer, of Brookings, said life insurance and targeted coronavirus-related health insurance for essential workers could help. “It’s about peace of mind for them and their families, and a form of compensation,” he said.

In reports from many cities, workers have alternated between fear at being exposed to the virus and relief at having a job while so many others are unemployed. Ridership on New York's subway system has plummeted, but stations in poorer areas remain crowded.

In Seattle, one of the earliest coronavirus hotspots in the country, Cassandra Fejarang, a Teamsters union member, was laid off from her restaurant supply position in March but was able to find work in a Safeway grocery distribution center. She travels a few miles by car to the warehouse in Auburn, Wash.

"I'm blessed to still be able to work," said Ms. Fejarang, 34. She said she has been pulling 10- and 16-hour shifts, loading packs of frozen food, toilet paper, bleach and other goods onto pallets to be taken to stores. Grocery warehouse workers in her union make a good wage — $20 to $29 an hour — and have negotiated extra benefits during the coronavirus crisis.

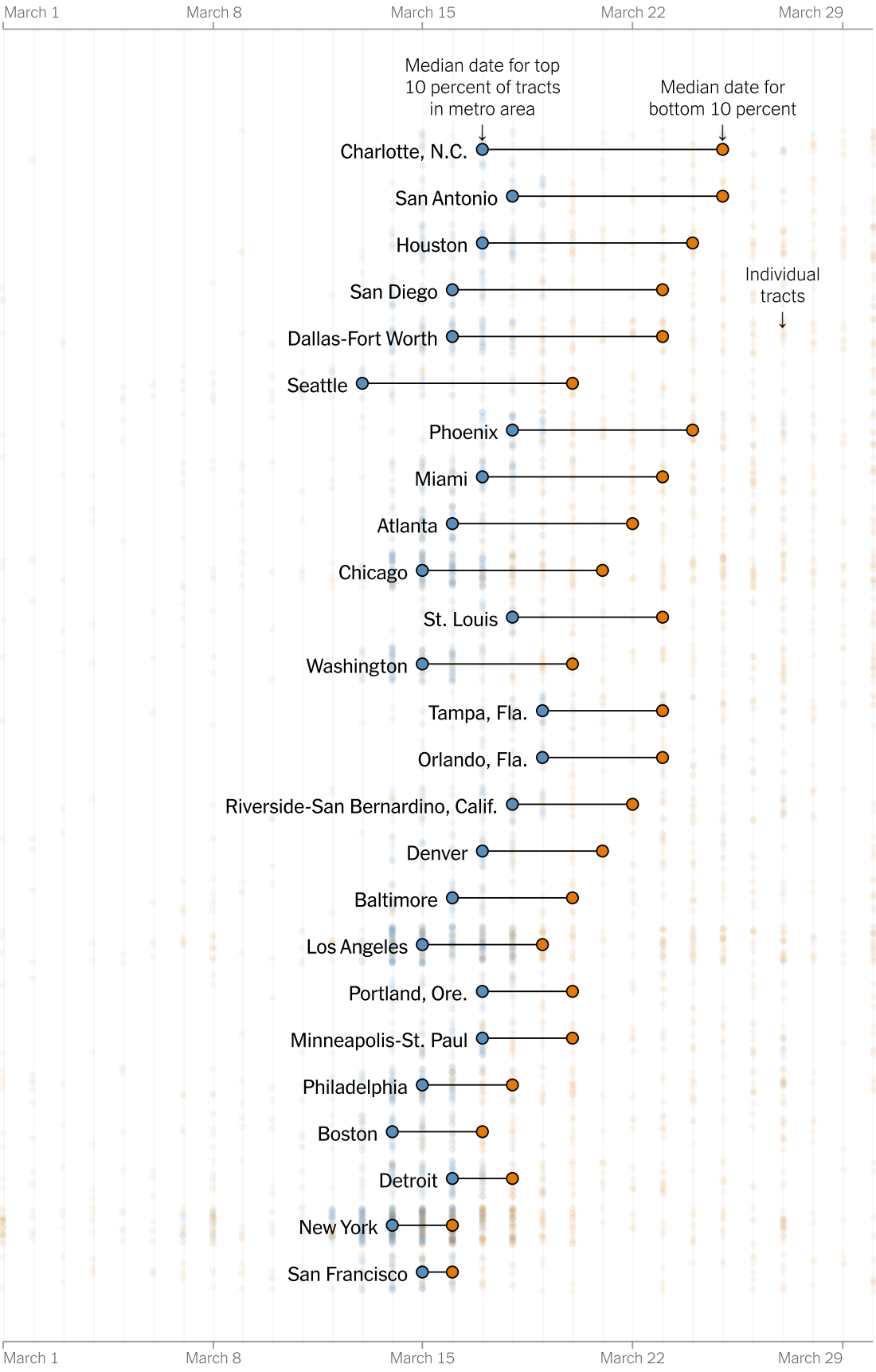
"I definitely wear gloves and try to keep my mask on because we're surrounded by people all day," she said. "We are all washing our hands, trying to keep our distance. It's hard, but I feel safe when I'm there."

Washington State, which had the earliest known major outbreak of coronavirus in the United States, stands out from the rest of the country because the wealthiest people there had nearly a week's head start over the poorest when it came to staying home.

With this highly transmissible virus, even days can make a difference in limiting or igniting an outbreak, said Dr. Vasan, the Columbia professor.

"It's just moving like wildfire through communities," Dr. Vasan said. "We talk about flattening the curve, and every day people are not staying home just makes that harder."

When groups started to decrease their movement by half



Dr. Vasan and other public health experts cautioned that the nature of this virus means that inequality in health outcomes puts the entire population at greater risk. Pockets of people who are untested or who don't get the appropriate medical treatment can quickly become new clusters.

Ms. Benjamin, the home care worker, said she was proud to be essential but would feel better with assurances that she could be taken care of if she fell ill.

"I just really want people to understand that it's hard right now to go to work and live for other people," she said. "I want to make sure that they know we're all in this together. Everyone is scared, but the world is in this together."

Methodology

Cuebiq calculated distance traveled by measuring a line between opposite corners of a box drawn around the locations observed for each person on each day. The travel for each census tract is the median of these per-person distances.

The Times calculated the percent change in movement by comparing the movement for the day of the week with the average for the same days of the week in January and February, with the exception of holidays. The top 10 percent and bottom 10 percent of household incomes for each metropolitan area are based on median household income data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates for census tracts.

Emily Cochrane contributed reporting.

Small-Town Hospitals Are Closing Just As Coronavirus Arrives In Rural America

April 9, 2020 · 5:00 AM ET

KIRK SIEGLER

The recently closed Pickens County Medical Center in Carrollton, Ala., is one of the latest health care facilities to fall victim to a wave of rural hospital shutdowns across the U.S. in recent years. With hundreds of hospitals endangered, residents are worried about getting health care amid the coronavirus outbreak.

Jay Reeves/AP

By this time next week, Decatur County, Tenn., will have lost its only hospital, Decatur County General, which has been serving the rural community of about 12,000 people along the Tennessee River since 1963.

The hospital's human resources director, Melinda Hays-Kirkwood, has already begun laying off people, and she says by next week only a skeleton staff will remain.

"It's hard on these employees that have been here a long time. I've got people who have been here for 30 years," Hays-Kirkwood says. "For some people, this has been their only job out of college."

THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

Traveling Nurses, Doctors Fill Gaps In Rural Coverage Ahead Of COVID-19

The closure will have a huge economic toll locally — with more than 100 on staff, the hospital was one of the county's largest employers. But the ironic timing isn't lost on its staff either. Because of the COVID-19 crisis, most nonessential businesses in the area were already closed.

"It's a difficult time to be shutting down a hospital in the middle of the coronavirus," Hays-Kirkwood says.

There are currently no known cases in Decatur County, but she says every county around it has reported infections.

Small-town hospitals were already closing at an alarming rate before the COVID-19 pandemic. But now the trend appears to be accelerating just as the disease arrives in

rural America. When Decatur County General Hospital shuts down indefinitely by April 15, it will be the ninth small-town hospital to close in 2020 alone. According to a report released this month by the Chartis Center for Rural Health, nearly half of rural hospitals were already operating in the red before the COVID-19 crisis.

"That idea of a perfect storm — that gets overused, but that's actually what's happened," says Allan Jenkins, an economics professor at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Jenkins says small-town hospitals have struggled to stay open because of perennial challenges facing rural America, such as depopulation and demographics.

"Because rural communities tend to be older and poorer and sicker and less likely to be insured, high-deductible insurance policies are very hard on rural hospitals," he says.

HEALTH CARE

Rural Hospital CEO Preps For Rise In Covid-19 Cases

LISTEN · 6:38 PLAYLIST Download Transcript

One recent analysis estimated that treating just one uninsured COVID-19 patient who has to be hospitalized could cost at least $40,000.

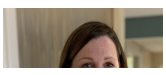
In a letter this week to congressional leaders, the National Rural Health Association lobbied for "immediate relief" for rural hospitals, warning that hundreds are on the verge of closure.

The Trump administration has indicated that hospitals across the U.S. will be eligible for federal aid to cover those costs, but it's yet unclear where exactly that will come from. The NRHA says the money should come in a likely future stimulus bill or out of a $100 billion public health emergency fund earmarked in a coronavirus relief bill signed by President Trump late last month.

"The loss of revenue over the last few weeks due to the inability to provide non-emergency care is destabilizing core health services in rural America," the NRHA said.

The group cited Blaine County, Idaho, as a glimpse into the future as the coronavirus spreads into rural America. The small 25-bed hospital there is overwhelmed with patients. The county, which includes the Sun Valley Resort, recently had the highest rate of infections in the U.S., and patients had to be transferred to larger regional hospitals that had begun seeing their own rise in cases.

Health policy experts say a rural hospital's ability to stay open through the coronavirus pandemic may depend in part on whether the state it's in has expanded Medicaid. Idaho has, but Tennessee, where Decatur County General is slated to close, has not. Federal reimbursements to rural hospitals in non-expansion states have dropped steeply since the 2010 Affordable Care Act. It's another big driver behind the recent wave of closures, according to Jenkins, the economist. Rural hospitals in states that have expanded Medicaid are seeing significantly more federal money.



THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

Rural Hospitals Brace For Coronavirus

State and federal regulations and mounting debt are the primary factors being cited for the pending closure of Decatur County General Hospital. Medicaid expansion was proposed in Tennessee by Republican lawmakers earlier this year, though the effort has reportedly stalled.

Hospital officials say there is some hope that Decatur County General's closure will be temporary. For now, after next week, locals needing emergency or other care will have to travel at least 20 miles or so to the next nearest facility.

Hays-Kirkwood, the HR director, says Decatur County and its water sports and off-road trails are a beacon for recreation enthusiasts. And her hospital's emergency services have saved a lot of lives in recent years.

"From a health care perspective, there will be many that won't be able to get to a hospital in time," Hays-Kirkwood says. "It's just going to be a tough situation."

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