

OPINION

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THE MONROE NEWS

Dedicated today, as was the Michigan Sentinel in 1825, to fairness and independence in presentation of the news.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Clearing up repeated falsehoods

One of the most often repeated falsehoods in Trump's 20,000 is that he has given the U.S. the greatest economy ever. Let's look at the facts.

To begin with he inherited an economy that had already been growing for 90 straight months. Under Obama, the unemployment rate dropped from 10.2 to 4.2%. Trump merely kept the trend going as it dropped to 3.5% over the next three years. More jobs were created in Obama's last three years in office than in Trump's first three years.

Median income increased by \$4,800 in Obama's last two years while only going up \$1,400 in Trump's first two years. In the last seven years under Obama the annual deficit was reduced every year. In Trump's first three years, the annual deficit has increased by 68%.

Trump claimed his tax cut would lead to a growth in GDP of 4 to 6%, which would reduce the annual deficit. Through his first three years it has averaged 2.5%. He also claims it was the largest tax cut ever, but in relation to the GDP it ranks as number nine.

If his tax cut remains unaltered they will result in over 80% of the money going to wealthy individuals and corporations. Trump's best year of GDP increase was 3.18%, only the 29th best since 1961.

Despite his much bal-lyhooded trade war the trade deficit has actually grown worse. Trump often points to the stock market as proof of success. It has done well, but 84% of stocks are owned by the upper 10% of the population and nearly half the country own no stock at all. And all these numbers are from before the pandemic struck.

Finally, columnist Margaret Klump suggested that those of us unhappy with Trump should leave the

country. Besides that totally unAmerican viewpoint, I would point out that in seven of the last eight elections (soon likely to be eight out of nine) a plurality of voters have chosen a Democrat to lead the country. The one exception was in 2004 when Bush was re-elected with the smallest margin of victory of any sitting President during wartime.

It is only because of the Electoral system, created to protect slavery, that we would have had any Republican President at all since 1992. Perhaps she should leave the country, perhaps for Egypt, since she is clearly already living in the land of denial.

**Jim Abb
Monroe**

Students' needs are not being met

This is from a concerned college student who is upset that the college is not changing policies to adapt to COVID. They force us to learn virtually and refuse to bend rules in regrades to social media.

Facebook groups could be amazing tools for students to utilize and my idea was shot down by everyone I brought it up to. I want to bring attention to this because it is simply unfair to the students who are just as affected by this as the teachers. Our needs are not being met as students and that is a problem, especially when you look at all the money the school is saving by switching hours, and having only 5% of classes as hybrid classes.

I am an ECE major and frankly the school and teachers are not doing their jobs to the best of their abilities. It is incredibly frustrating knowing I am getting a worse education and no one who has the ability to change policies that might better student outcomes during this tough time.

**Ashley Bogosian
Monroe**

OTHER VIEWS



DR. QUARTEY

Good stewards of your maintenance and replacement millage dollars



Kojo A. Quartey

Let me begin by thanking all of you, our county residents, for the trust you placed in Monroe County Community College by supporting our millage four years ago.

MCCC would not and could not be what it is without your support. Thank you! Monroe County Community College is our college. By that I mean it belongs to the community. We were founded by the community, in the community, for the community. That is why I insist on opening our campus up to residents and non-profits.

This year has been a difficult year for everyone, our college not excluded. We were compelled to switch from in-person to remote learning as the pandemic hit, began producing and distributing personal protective equipment

and are now adjusting to a mostly remote fall semester.

In the winter, we will begin offering "Futures for Frontliners." Through this program, those who worked in essential industries during the COVID-19 pandemic (from April 1 - June 30) can apply for funding to attend MCCC tuition free. Current and future students can elect to pursue an associate degree or skills certificate in dozens of specialty areas on a full- or part-time basis beginning with the Winter 2021 semester. It is important to note that these funds will be state funds.

As MCCC has placed a proposal on the November ballot to renew our five-year maintenance and improvement millage - a "zero-increase renewal" for Phase 2 projects - I wanted to update you on how we have thus far spent the funds that you entrusted to us four years ago. Every dollar in Phase 1 has gone to facilities - not one has gone for operations. We are using your money the way we promised.

We have done and continue to do a lot with those funds. Also, none of the funds from the millage went to the campus geothermal HVAC system during Phase 1. The five-year millage was expected to raise \$25 million, and, believe it or not, when it comes to building and maintenance, that goes fast. The renewal is expected to raise approximately the same amount, as we update our campus and the Whitman Center to ensure that MCCC is competitive with others across the state and nation.

So, we have done and continue to do a lot with the maintenance and improvement millage dollars provided by the county taxpayers. We will continue to remain accountable to our community and embrace all parts of our community to ensure student safety and success as we take this entire community to the next level together. Thank you for your support.

Kojo A. Quartey, Ph.D., is President of Monroe County Community College

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters on matters of public interest are welcome. Full name, address and telephone number are required. Anonymous letters will not be published. Letters are limited to 400 words and may be edited. Letters must be typed, not handwritten. The email address is letters@monroenews.com.

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Who needs fried ice cream when we have 2020?



Charita M. Goshay

Here in the Midwest, it's that time of year when many communities celebrate the county fair.

County fairs are as American as it gets. It's a rite of passage, a good way to say goodbye to summer.

The fair is the one place where you're expected to indulge in junk food, people-watching, and games of chance to win trinkets you normally wouldn't want if they were free.

The Stark County Fair grandstand has played host to the good: Garth Brooks and the former Dixie Chicks; the bad: in the form of oldies-circuit rock acts; and the ugly, like the night more people were fighting than were watching the Spin Doctors concert.

Needless to say, this year's fair, like pretty much everything else, has been waylaid by the coronavirus.

It's one more donkey kick in a year that's been a cross

between "The Hunger Games" and "Mystery Science Theater 3000."

However, 2020 has gone out of its way to ensure we won't miss terror-inducing moments like those produced by rickety midway rides, or that feeling of doom which occurs when you step into a pile of horse droppings in sandals.

Like a sideshow, some events taking place in 2020 have been downright curiosities, from the fight over made-in-China Confederate flags, to phony claims of quack cures for COVID-19 that would make a carnival barker weep with envy, to an endless procession of conspiracy theories and falsity, not unlike the girl-to-gorilla sideshow that we knew was fake, yet still sent us screaming onto the midway.

The year 2020 has been like suddenly realizing that the people in charge are a lot like those who operate the carnival rides: Though many seem sketchy and not even remotely qualified, they somehow ended up with your life in their hands.

In 2020, who needs to wrestle a greased pig when there's Facebook?

The demolition derby has been replaced by looting, rioting, and brawling in grocery stores over masks and social distancing.

The current state of the union has been like buying food from trailers, made by people who are only passing through town: You can only hope they're motivated enough to do the right thing, and that it all will work out for the best.

The fair has never fallen out of fashion because it was created to showcase the best of a community and its hardworking, honest people. They simply ask for a few days to celebrate.

If there's any consolation, the Stark County Junior Fair will go on, but it won't be open to the public.

It's too bad for the rest of us, but the kids work hard all year and deserve their moment.

Who needs the fair? Well, we do. It's one more thing that grounds and connects us to normalcy and to one another.

Reach Charita wrote this for More Content Now. She can be reached at 330-580-8313 or charita.goshay@cantonrep.com. On Twitter: @cgoshayREP