



MDCR/MCRC E-newsletter for June 1, 2011

U-M revises campus ban policy in wake of Andrew Shirvell case

From the Detroit Free Press, 6/1/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110601/NEWS06/110601026/U-M-revises-campus-ban-policy-wake-Andrew-Shirvell-case?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

Hundreds of people banned from the University of Michigan will likely be able to set foot on campus again by the end of the summer.

Detroit police lieutenant files suit, claims agility test discriminates against women

From the Detroit Free Press, 5/31/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110531/NEWS01/110531051/Detroit-police-lieutenant-files-suit-claims-agility-test-discriminates-against-women>

A Detroit police lieutenant has filed a federal lawsuit against the city, claiming that a physical agility test to qualify for the Police Department's Special Response Team is discriminatory toward women.

Arbitrator rules in favor of Christine Boone, former director of Michigan Commission for the Blind Training Center, ordering she be reinstated with back pay and benefits

From the Kalamazoo Gazette/MLive, 5/25/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2011/05/arbitrator_sides_with_training.html

The former director of the Michigan Commission for the Blind Training Center here, fired in February, 2010 in a dispute about a marksmanship class offered to students, should get her job back, with back pay and benefits, a hearing officer has ruled.

Let's Move in Indian country launched at Menominee Reservation

From the White House/Office of the First Lady, 5/25/11

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/05/25/lets-move-indian-country-launched-menominee-reservation>

WASHINGTON –The Office of the First Lady's *Let's Move!* Initiative and four federal agencies today launched *Let's Move! in Indian Country* (LMIC). LMIC is an initiative to support and advance the work that tribal leaders and community members are already doing to improve the health of American Indian and Alaska Native children. As a part of First Lady Michelle Obama's *Let's Move!* initiative, LMIC brings together federal agencies, communities, nonprofits, corporate partners and tribes to end the epidemic of childhood obesity in Indian Country within a generation.

Vandals mark up Southfield baseball field for children with disabilities

From the AP/MLive, 5/23/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2011/05/vandals_mark_up_southfield_bas.html

Authorities say vandals spray-painted graffiti at a \$500,000 Southfield baseball field built for children with disabilities.

Defend the Poor: Strengthen Legal Aid System

From the Detroit News, 5/23/11

<http://detnews.com/article/20110523/OPINION01/105230316/1008/opinion01/Editorial--Defend-the-poor--strengthen-legal-aid-system>

Poor people often get poor legal representation when they're accused of crimes in Michigan. A stronger effort to solve this problem is overdue. It must include steps by local leaders to make sure court-appointed defenders' legal skills match the seriousness of the cases they're assigned, stronger state oversight and a determination to set aside more money for representing indigent defendants.

Michigan Supreme Court takes up case on lack of blacks in jury pool

From the AP, 5/20/11

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20110520/NEWS01/105200321/Michigan-Supreme-Court-takes-up-case-lack-blacks-jury-pool?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

GRAND RAPIDS - The Michigan Supreme Court will look at the case of a black Grand Rapids man whose sexual-assault conviction was overturned because there was only one black in the jury pool.

New Kent County re-districting plan starts lawsuit talk among Democrats and Hispanic leaders

From the Grand Rapids Press/Mlive, 5/20/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2011/05/new_kent_county_plans_draws_la.html

GRAND RAPIDS – Talk of lawsuits swirled through the chambers Thursday minutes after a GOP-dominated Kent County Reapportionment Committee approved a county re-districting plan that ignored the pleas of Democrats and the Hispanic community.

Michigan Governor: Arizona-type immigration law not needed

From the Detroit News, 5/19/11

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/MI_SNYDER_IMMIGRATION_MIOL-?SITE=MIDTN&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

DETROIT (AP) -- Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder told an audience of Hispanic business leaders that the state doesn't need an immigration enforcement law like the one causing controversy in Arizona.

Activists try to prevent Sterling Heights teen's deportation to Albania

From the Detroit Free Press, 5/19/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110519/NEWS06/105190673/Activists-try-prevent-Sterling-Heights-teen-s-deportation-Albania>

An immigration group has launched a petition drive to persuade federal authorities to halt the deportation of Ola Kaso, an 18-year-old Sterling Heights girl who hasn't lived in Albania since she was 4.

Seaholm student arraigned in racial slur case

From the Detroit Free Press, 5/19/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110519/NEWS05/105190671/Seaholm-student-arraigned-racial-slur-case>

After police said he left a threatening racial message at Seaholm High School, an 18-year-old student participated in the school's Diversity Club and handed out "Unite Against Racism" buttons to students who signed pledges not to use racist language and to speak up when they hear it.

Kalamazoo Public Safety lieutenant files federal lawsuit alleging race, sex discrimination

From the Kalamazoo Gazette/MLive, 5/17/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2011/05/kalamazoo_public_safety_lieute.html

KALAMAZOO — A Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety lieutenant has filed a federal lawsuit alleging she was discriminated against because she is an African-American woman and was passed over for two promotions that went to white male co-workers who were less qualified.

New playground gives children of migrant workers in Belding a place to play

From the Grand Rapids Press/MLive, 5/16/11

http://www.mlive.com/living/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2011/05/new_playground_gives_children.html

BELDING -- About 30 AmeriCorps members showed up at a migrant workers' camp Tuesday with fun and games on their minds: They built a playground for the children whose parents work the fields.

Homeland Security ends immigration registration targeted to men from Muslim countries

From the Detroit Free Press, 5/16/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110516/NEWS05/105160341/Homeland-Security-ends-immigrant-registration-targeted-men-from-Muslim-countries?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

The U.S. government has ended a controversial counterterrorism program created in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks that required men living in the U.S. who came from mostly Muslim countries to register with federal authorities.

Guest Commentary: Don't pull funding from universities that offer benefits to gay partners

From the Grand Rapids Press/MLive, 5/16/11

http://www.mlive.com/opinion/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2011/05/guest_commentary_why_pulling_f.html

I was 19 years old when I came out. It was 2004. I had driven from my campus apartment at Grand Valley State to my parents' house in Marne in the same Chevy Camaro I had once contemplated running into a tree. The altar-boy at St. Mary's Catholic Church (third grade through sophomore year) knew that homosexuality was a sin, but suicide was, too.

Our Voice: Make Michigan cities home for educated immigrant entrepreneurs

From the Flint Journal/MLive, 5/15/11

http://www.mlive.com/opinion/flint/index.ssf/2011/05/our_voice_make_michigan_cities.html

The New York City mayor's suggestion that immigration would benefit the shrinking city of Detroit has ignited interest in an idea that Gov. Rick Snyder has advocated for years.

Instructor did not see noose on black student's desk, Jackson Community College says in response to lawsuit

From the Jackson Citizen Patriot/MLive, 5/13/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/jackson/index.ssf/2011/05/instructor_did_not_see_noose_o.html

A Jackson Community College instructor did not see a noose that a black student said he found on his desk, according to documents the college filed in court in response to a lawsuit.

Teens charged in bullying of 8-year-old; boy could lose sight in 1 eye

From the Detroit Free Press, 5/12/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110512/NEWS03/105120539/Teens-charged-bullying-8-year-old-boy-could-lose-sight-1-eye?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

Bandages cover Adonte Davis' right eye, which is so swollen that doctors have not been able to remove a pellet lodged in it since Monday.

Andrew Shirvell seeks dismissal of U-M student leader's stalking suit

From the Detroit Free Press, 5/11/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110511/NEWS06/105110349/Andrew-Shirvell-seeks-dismissal-U-M-student-leader-s-stalking-suit?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s>

Former assistant state attorney general and University of Michigan alumnus Andrew Shirvell, who was named in a stalking and harassment lawsuit last month, said in a filing he is the real victim and that the case has ruined his reputation and livelihood.

Middle Eastern exchange student in Muskegon tries to change misconceptions about Middle East

From the Muskegon Chronicle/MLive, 5/11/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/index.ssf/2011/05/middle_eastern_exchange_studen.html

When Jad Mahmoud arrived in Muskegon, he was surprised to have to explain the Middle East is made up of more than one country.

Federal discrimination case of Ogemaw Heights lesbian student reaches agreement

From the Bay City Times/MLive, 5/10/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/bay-city/index.ssf/2011/05/federal_discrimination_case_of.html

WEST BRANCH — A federal discrimination case involving an 18-year-old Alger girl who dropped out of Ogemaw Heights High School last year, claiming she was bullied for being a lesbian, has reached a conclusion.

Young Muslims in United States find hope in post-Osama bin Laden world

From the Associated Press/MLive, 5/10/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2011/05/young_us_muslims_find_hope_in.html

Shortly after Osama bin Laden's death was broadcast to the world, Linda Sarsour posted on Twitter, "Osama Bin Laden is dead. Good, now can I get my identity back? 10 yrs is a long time. Can being Palestinian and Muslim be cool again?"

Semester over, but critics inside Hope College say debate over homosexuality is unresolved

From the Grand Rapids Press/MLive, 5/8/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2011/05/semester_over_but_critics_insi.html

HOLLAND — The summer term has arrived at Hope College, and with it, a four-month pause in the ongoing internal debate over human sexuality.

Department of Homeland Security to investigate Muslim group's complaints about border agents

From MLive/the Associated Press, 5/5/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/us-world/index.ssf/2011/05/us_to_investigate_muslim_group.html

SOUTHFIELD — The U.S. Department of Homeland Security will investigate a Muslim rights advocacy group's complaints that border agents have harassed dozens of U.S. Muslims who were returning from Canada.

Freedom Riders from Michigan shifted history

From the Detroit News, 5/5/11

<http://detnews.com/article/20110505/METRO/105050413/1408/LOCAL>

When hundreds of ordinary Americans rode into the Deep South to challenge segregated bus stations in 1961, they knowingly provoked violent racists.

Feds tell local Muslims today: We're not going to profile you

From the Detroit Free Press, 5/4/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110504/NEWS02/110504017/Feds-tell-local-Muslims-today-We-re-not-going-profile-you>

A senior officer with the Department of Homeland Security reassured local Muslims and Arab-Americans today that they would not be profiled in the aftermath of Osama bin Laden's death.

Fired Kalamazoo Public Safety detective awarded job back by arbitrator

From the Kalamazoo Gazette/MLive, 5/4/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2011/05/fired_kalamazoo_public_safety_1.html

KALAMAZOO — A detective who was terminated last year from the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety has been ordered reinstated by a labor arbitrator, officials said.

Goodwill President appointed to State Disability Commission

From the Muskegon Chronicle/MLive, 5/4/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/index.ssf/2011/05/goodwill_president_appointed_t.html

Richard J. Carlson, president and CEO of Goodwill Industries of West Michigan has been appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder to the state Commission on Disability Concerns.

Justice Department Reaches Agreement with Arizona Medical Center to Ensure Effective Communication with Individuals Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

From the US Dept. of Justice, 5/2/11

<http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2011/May/11-crt-554.html>

WASHINGTON – The Justice Department reached a settlement agreement with the Yavapai Regional Medical Center in Prescott and Prescott Valley, Ariz., to resolve an investigation into the policies and procedures for effective communication with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing at the medical center.