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Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICH
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Monday, November 2, 2015

[NEWS](#) (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Bill signings

[No roads fix, but more than 70 bills are now Mich. Law](#) (Freep)

The Michigan Legislature may not have been able to get a package of bills passed yet to fix the roads, but in the last four months, they've passed more than 70 bills that were signed into law by Gov. Rick Snyder.

Event preview

[Gov. Snyder to address higher education affordability](#) (WLNS)

Governor Rick Snyder will also be addressing higher education and school affordability at the Center for Michigan's Policy Conference. The event will be Monday at 9:00 a.m. at the Radisson Hotel in Lansing.

LT. GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

[Michigan political odd couple join forces at NYC marathon](#) (Freep)

They are two of the most unlikely political allies in Lansing. One is a state Supreme Court justice nominated by Democrats and one of two remaining progressive voices on the bench. The other is the very conservative lieutenant governor in the state who is widely expected to run for governor in 2018.

[TC Employee Receives Special Visit From Lt. Gov. Brian Calley](#) (9&10 News)

One local man got to work alongside a special guest today. Today Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley stopped by Tom's Food Market in Traverse City to work with employee Kyle Barker for bring your legislator to work day. "Events like this help to spotlight employers who are creating an inclusive work environment for people with disabilities."

[Lt. Governor bags groceries at local store](#) (TV 7&4)

A lieutenant governor spent Friday afternoon working at a northern Michigan grocery store. If you shopped at Tom's Food Market on Fourteenth Street in Traverse City on Friday, there's a chance Lt. Governor Brian Calley may have bagged your groceries.

State law to save Ypsilanti, Willow Run taxpayers \$3.3 million (Mlive)

State Rep. David Rutledge, D-Superior Township, sponsored the legislation, which had near unanimous support in the state Senate and House of Representatives. Lt. Gov. Brian Calley signed the bill into law this week.

No more money: Michigan autism fund runs dry as its architect calls for reconsideration (Mlive)

Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, who has a daughter with autism, signed the legislation during a period where Gov. Rick Snyder was out of the state. He pointed out that the mandate for traditional insurers to cover autism treatment remains intact, even without the fund. "While it is very concerning that the Michigan autism coverage fund could soon run out of reimbursement funds, the requirement for insurance companies to cover autism services will not be impacted," Lt. Gov. Brian Calley said.

Forlini's bill to help families care for the disabled signed into law (Macomb Daily)

The Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act was signed into law on Friday by Lt. Gov. Brian Calley in a ceremony in Lansing that included the bill's author, state Rep. Tony Forlini, R-Harrison Township.

Michigan Political Points: Money flows to judges, gov prospects and Courser/Gamrat opponents (Mlive)

GOV WATCH: Michigan's 2018 gubernatorial election is still years away, but campaign finance documents filed with the state this week again hinted at potential runs for three top Republicans: Attorney General Bill Schuette, Lieutenant Gov. Brian Calley and Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

DNR

Increasing growth of Michigan forest products (UP Matters)

The Governor's 2015 Forest Products Summit, held Wednesday in East Lansing, Michigan, brought together 150 representatives from industry, government, the financial sector and academia to continue actions started at the Governor's 2013 Forest Products Summit to encourage growth of wood-using industries in the state. Bill O'Neill, chief of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Forest Resources Division, says collaboration since the 2013 summit already has helped grow the industry.

DNR seeks outdoor recreation partners and sponsors for 2016 season (UP Matters)

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources currently is seeking support from partners and sponsors for 2016 outdoor recreation events and initiatives. Opportunities include sponsoring statewide event campaigns, creating co-promotional products for distribution, and donating to projects such as the Iron Belle Trail, the Outdoor Adventure Center in Detroit and the upcoming 2019 Centennial Celebration of Michigan State Parks.

LARA

State program to connect work-authorized immigrants to careers (Crain's Detroit Business)

The program is an extension of a program launched in 2013 with San Francisco nonprofit Upwardly Global to retrain immigrants. That program resulted in the placement of 27 immigrants, resulting in an average annual salary increase of \$48,650, said Mike Zimmer, director for the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, which oversees the New Americans office.

MDARD

8 skimming suspects face federal charges (WOOD TV)

The eight suspects who authorities say are responsible for incidents of "skimming" at West Michigan gas stations this summer are now being charged in federal court.

Experts urge caution on Great Lakes fish farming (The Detroit News)

The recommendation was among many in five reports submitted by a panel of scientists, economists and other experts appointed to advise regulators considering whether a process known as "net-pen aquaculture" would be suitable for

Great Lakes waters within Michigan's boundaries. The state departments of Environmental Quality, Natural Resources and Agriculture and Rural Development requested the study and recently posted the reports online.

MDE

[Look up college-going rates for 2014 grads for your Michigan high school](#) (Mlive)

About 62 percent of Michigan public school students in the Class of 2014 went to college within six months of graduating high school, based on data collected by the Michigan Department of Education. You can use this database to look up the college-going rate for 2014 graduates of any Michigan public high school, including charters.

MDHHS

[Flint families to receive guidelines on lead exposure](#) (AP)

Health officials have established guidelines for families on how they should respond to ongoing problems with the municipal water supply in Flint. The Genesee County Health Department and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services plan to send letters to parents this week with information regarding lead testing and how to reduce lead exposure after elevated blood lead levels were found in some Flint children.

[Local hospital receives grant for upcoming project](#) (Huron Daily Tribune)

The Harbor Beach Community Hospital is one of 41 entities selected to receive a one-time fund to improve its efficiency and effectiveness in health services. The Health Innovation Grants — administered by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services — funded 41 projects in Michigan for a total of \$1,163,000 in grants this year. This marked the third year Michigan has awarded the Health Innovation Grants.

[Letters to be sent to Flint parents with information on lead testing](#) (Mlive)

In a joint effort to inform the community about lead exposure, the Genesee County Health Department and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services will be sending letters to parents.

[Laws protect senior citizens from the cold](#) (The Voice News)

This winter, the State Emergency Relief Program is helping thousands of local citizens get out of the cold. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services runs an annual program for temporary heat and utility assistance that comes on the heels of cooler temperatures and concludes when warm winds begin to blow at the end of May.

MDOT

[MDOT finishes M-20 boulevard work near Mount Pleasant](#) (Midland Daily News)

On Friday, crews completed installing signs and pavement markings along M-20 from Summerton Road to Leaton Road, marking then end of a \$3.8 million safety project, two weeks ahead of schedule. The Michigan Department of Transportation collaborated with the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe to develop plans for this boulevard area. The project is expected to increase safety, address congestion and improve overall roadway operation, MDOT stated.

[Raymond Road gets resurfaced](#) (Battle Creek Enquirer)

The Calhoun County Road Department said the resurfacing of a portion of Raymond Road in Emmett Township is nearing completion. The project was paid for with \$500,000 from the Michigan Department of Transportation given to the road department earlier this year. It's part of the state's Priority Road Investment Program.

[M-231 is now open for traffic](#) (WXMI)

The new seven miles of roadway runs from Crockery Township in the north, over the Grand River, to Robinson Township. It runs from the I-96/M-104 interchange in Crockery to M-45, Lake Michigan Drive on the south end. The Michigan Department of Transportation says the highway will alleviate congestion in other areas of the county and make it faster for first responders to get to emergencies.

MSHDA

[\\$3.7M extra paid in Detroit's blight fight](#) (Detroit Free Press)

A controversial deal between Detroit's land bank and several large contractors designed to speed up demolitions at a set price instead ended up costing the city at least \$3.7 million more than expected, according to records reviewed by the Free Press. MSHDA, which oversees the land bank's demolition work, recently sent a review team to Detroit to analyze certain contract awards.

MSP

State Police give tips for winter emergency preparedness (Upper Michigan's Source)

With winter weather rapidly approaching, the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division is encouraging Michiganders to make winter emergency preparedness a priority.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

No roads fix, but more than 70 bills are now Mich. law (Detroit Free Press)

The Michigan Legislature may not have been able to get a package of bills passed yet to fix the roads, but in the last four months, they've passed more than 70 bills that were signed into law by Gov. Rick Snyder.

'Fiscal time bomb' or welcome relief? Income tax rollback linked to Michigan roads plan (MLive)

The House Republican road funding plan approved last week includes a trigger designed to limit the growth of government spending, but critics say it could blow up the state budget while benefiting the most wealthy.

How Michigan road-funding fix unraveled in GOP Senate (MLive)

Last Monday night, the two top GOP leaders in the Legislature were at an event, and for the first time in a long time, it looked like a road fix was finally at hand.

House Speaker says road funding getting in way of other issues (WMUK)

Republican leaders in the state Senate hope to hold a vote this week on a road funding plan. Many lawmakers are becoming more eager to get roads out of the way so they can move onto other major issues.

Asian Carp inch closer to Lake Michigan, lawmakers urge 'immediate action' (Inquisitr)

Asian carp are inching closer to Lake Michigan at an alarming rate. A recent study, conducted by the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee, revealed the invasive species were found in the Illinois River near the city of Seneca. Wildlife officials said the discovery is concerning — as the fish are 12 miles closer to Lake Michigan than previously thought.

DETROIT

Ex-Detroit Mayor Dave Bing challenges Mike Duggan explanation of rise in demolition costs (MLive)

Bothered by Mayor Mike Duggan's characterization of the pace of the previous administrations anti-blight efforts, former Mayor Dave Bing this week approached reporters to defend his record.

Anti-arson campaign credited with keeping fires in Detroit to 52 over 3-day Halloween period (AP)

The number of fires in Detroit over the recently completed three-day Halloween period was among the lowest in years, city officials said.

Housing deals boost Midtown's revival in Detroit (Freep)

Five years after the launch of an incentive program to encourage people to move into areas in and around Detroit's Midtown, organizers of the effort say it has been a success at bringing a diverse mix of people into the neighborhood — so much that the incentives will likely keep going even after the pilot project comes to an end.

\$3.7M extra paid in Detroit's blight fight (Freep)

A controversial deal between Detroit's land bank and several large contractors designed to speed up demolitions at a set price instead ended up costing the city at least \$3.7 million more than expected, according to records reviewed by the Free Press.

Hundreds get sneak peek at rehabbed home (Detroit News)

The line waiting to get inside the Ransom Gillis house in Detroit's Brush Park was blocks long.

"It's crazy," said Ruby McGill as she took her spot near the line's end. "We were expecting a long line, but not this crazy."

OPINION

Detroit schools plan shows lack of faith in democracy (Detroit Free Press)

When did we stop believing in democracy? Not so long ago most Americans would have professed a belief that democracy shielded citizens from the callous excesses of distant power.

Who will take the lead on climate change? (Detroit Free Press)

Nearly everyone gets it about climate change.

Education in Michigan can improve, if it's done right (Detroit Free Press)

Imagine a public education system where many educators lack a clear sense of what skills their students need to learn each academic year, where instruction doesn't build always on instruction of the previous year in a coherent way for students, and even when it does, the standards for teaching and learning often are set terribly low.

Blueprint for fixing Detroit schools (Detroit News)

Times are tough for students in Detroit. For the past six years running, students there have earned the worst test scores of any urban school district in the country. An alarmingly small 7 percent of the district's eighth-graders can read at or above grade level with the rest falling behind. Detroit schools need help.

Tests could lead to EMS savings (Detroit News)

A pilot project underway in Washtenaw and Livingston counties to cut the cost of emergency medical service represents the sort of innovative approach that could significantly trim health care costs for both individuals and communities. The test should be encouraged, and if it works, replicated.

Will: Fix the criminal justice system (Detroit News)

The Republican Party, like Sisyphus, is again putting its shoulder to a boulder, hoping to make modest but significant changes in the Electoral College arithmetic by winning perhaps 12 percent of the African-American vote. To this end, they need to hone a rhetoric of skepticism about, and an agenda for reform of, the criminal justice system. They can draw on the thinking of a federal appellate judge nominated by Ronald Reagan.

Finley: Gov. Snyder—break a leg, or several (Detroit News)

Things should get downright nasty in Lansing this week.

How Michigan road-funding fix unraveled in GOP senate (MLive)

Last Monday night, the two top GOP leaders in the Legislature were at an event, and for the first time in a long time, it looked like a road fix was finally at hand.

McCann: Energy policy should be fair to everyone (Midland Daily News)

Michiganders deserve an energy policy that is fair for everyone. Unfortunately, our current system of partial deregulation treats a small percentage of customers to a sweetheart deal worth \$300 million annually that the rest of us are forced to subsidize. We need a system that ensures every Michigander is responsible for their fair share of costs to support the energy grid we all rely on.

Pardee: Prevailing wage law supports families, service (Lansing State Journal)

Help college students get their money's worth (Bridge)

A college degree is the most important vehicle for economic success in our country. Two-thirds of all U.S. jobs will require a postsecondary education by 2020, up from 28 percent in 1973. And college graduates take home, on average, 60 percent higher annual earnings than their high school graduate counterparts, which adds up to about \$830,000 more income over a lifetime.

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