
From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2015 10:09 AM
Subject: 10/21 Newsroom
Attachments: 151021 Newsroom.docx

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

In the News

Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2015

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

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Detroit schools reform

[Skillman Foundation responds to Governor Snyder's plan for DPS debt](#) (WDET)

Stephen Henderson speaks with Coalition for the Future of Detroit Schoolchildren co-chair and Skillman Foundation CEO Tonya Allen for a response to Governor Snyder's plan to reduce the DPS debt. Allen issued a statement that says "we appreciate Gov. Snyder's good-faith effort to comprehensively address longstanding serious issues that impact the quality of education for Detroit schoolchildren... Detroit is a city on the rise, and its recovery will be less than complete until schoolchildren here have the same quality school choice as kids in other thriving areas of the state"

[Snyder's plan to fix Detroit's schools will fall on deaf legislative ears](#) (Michigan Radio)

Governor Rick Snyder yesterday unveiled his new plan to fix Detroit Public Schools. Actually, it is a variation on one he put forth in April. Like that plan, it seems heavily based on the model General Motors adopted to emerge from bankruptcy.

[Snyder renews push for Detroit schools restructuring](#) (Bond Buyer)

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder says his \$715 million restructuring plan for Detroit's school system is less expensive for the state than doing nothing.

[Governor announces plan to replace Detroit Public Schools](#) (WSJM)

Governor Rick Snyder has a plan to get Detroit Public Schools out of debt, but it will cost the state \$715 million over the next 10 years. Snyder's proposal includes creating a new school district and education commission to replace DPS and could be drafted into a series of bills in the next two weeks.

[Governor Snyder: DPS needs an overhaul](#) (WDET)

Governor Rick Snyder is asking the Legislature to take bills on Detroit schools overhaul, including creating a new district run by a board that's appointed by him and by Mayor Mike Duggan. State lawmakers will have to approve the plan and funding for the new school system.

Bill Signings

Gov. Snyder signs bills protecting use of service animals (Up North Live)

Michigan residents who use service animals will now have better access to public spaces such as retail stores, restaurants and health care facilities.

Gov. Snyder signs package of bills allowing better access for people using service animals (AP)

Gov. Rick Snyder has approved a bill package that allows people who use service animals better access to places like restaurants, retail stores and health care facilities.

Gov. Rick Snyder signs bipartisan bills protecting use of service animals for Michigan residents (UP Matters)

Michigan residents who use service animals will have better access to public spaces, such as restaurants, retail stores and health care facilities after Gov. Rick Snyder today signed a bill package to modernize state law and advance the use of these animals. The bills were spurred in part by recent incidents of people being turned away from businesses because they were accompanied by service animals.

Gov. Snyder signs civil asset forfeiture reform bills (FOX 17)

Gov. Rick Snyder on Tuesday signed a package of bills aimed at reforming the state's civil asset forfeiture procedures.

Snyder signs changes in police forfeiture of assets (AP)

Law enforcement will have to adhere to new reporting requirements and meet a higher evidentiary standard for seizing and taking ownership of people's property under laws signed by Gov. Rick Snyder.

Governor signs bills reforming civil asset forfeiture (Macomb Daily)

Gov. Rick Snyder on Tuesday signed into law new reforms that will make it harder for law enforcement authorities to retain cars, boats and cash seized as part of criminal investigations that do not result in criminal charges.

Michigan teacher evaluation bill heads to Snyder after final approval in Senate (MLive)

The Michigan Senate on Tuesday gave final approval to legislation that would create a new framework for teacher evaluations, replacing statewide rules that were set to take effect this school year.

Gordie Howe Bridge

Gov. envisions progress on bridge with Canada's new PM (Detroit News)

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder said he plans to work with newly elected Canadian Liberal Party leader Justin Trudeau in plans for a new bridge between Windsor and Detroit.

Michigan, Ohio need to work together on economic growth (Monroe News)

Michigan and Ohio need to rely on each other to grow the region. That was the message at a session on economic development and partnerships Oct. 16 at Monroe Bank & Trust headquarters.

Flag Honors

Governor orders flags lowered for Farmington Hills man (Hometown Life)

Gov. Rick Snyder Tuesday ordered U.S. flags within the State Capitol Complex and on all state buildings to be lowered to half-staff on Thursday, Oct. 22, in honor of Department of Natural Resources conservation officer First Lt. Arthur Green III.

Snyder orders flags lowered for fallen state worker (LSJ)

Gov. Rick Snyder has ordered U.S. flags at state facilities to be lowered to half-staff Thursday in honor of a Michigan Department of Natural Resources conservation officer who died in an Aug. 9 plane crash.

Gov. Snyder orders flags to be lowered in honor of conservation officer (Up North Live)

Gov. Rick Snyder has ordered U.S. flags within the State Capitol and all state buildings to lower their flags to half-staff on Thursday in honor of Department of Natural Resources conservation officer First Lt. Arthur Green III.

[Flags to be lowered in honor of DNR officer killed in crash \(AP\)](#)

Gov. Rick Snyder says U.S. flags will be lowered to half-staff within the State Capitol Complex and on all state buildings in honor of a Michigan Department of Natural Resources conservation officer who died in a small plane crash.

[Gov. Snyder orders flags lowered to honor DNR officer killed in plane crash \(9&10\)](#)

U.S. flags will fly at half-staff this Thursday in honor of a Department of Natural Resources conservation officer who died in a plane crash in Northern Michigan.

[Gov. Rick Snyder orders flags lowered to honor former conservation officer \(Holland Sentinel\)](#)

Gov. Rick Snyder released an order Oct. 20 for U.S. flags within the Michigan State Capitol Complex and on all state buildings to be lowered to half-staff Oct. 22 in honor of Department of Natural Resources conservation officer First Lt. Arthur Green III.

LT. GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

[Lt. Gov. Calley holding fund-raiser in Lansing Thursday \(Detroit Free Press\)](#)

Lt. Gov. Brian Calley has scheduled a fund-raiser in Lansing on Thursday, in the strongest sign to date he is eyeing the governor's office in 2018, when Gov. Rick Snyder must step down because of term limits.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

DEQ

[Michigan DEQ Director Dan Wyant acknowledges mistakes by the state in handling Flint water emergency \(Austrian Tribune\)](#)

On Monday, the leader of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality accepted that critical mistakes were made that resulted into the contamination of drinking water of Flint. DEQ Director Dan Wyant on Sunday admitted the mistakes that the state made in handling of the situation. He said that they are bringing the necessary changes.

[Michigan DEQ 'completely failed' Flint residents says Ananich, calling for water investigation \(MLive\)](#)

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality "completely failed" to protect Flint residents from contaminated drinking water, according to Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich, who is calling for a formal investigation by the Legislature.

[Auditor general looking into state agency responsible for monitoring Flint water \(Michigan Radio\)](#)

A formal review is underway into the state agency that made mistakes in its monitoring of Flint's drinking water.

DHHS

[Michigan receives grant to develop behavioral health clinics \(Up North Live\)](#)

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has been awarded more than \$980,000 to develop certified community behavioral health clinics.

[Michigan receives \\$980,000 grant to develop behavioral health clinics \(Crains\)](#)

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has been awarded more than \$980,000 to develop certified community behavioral health clinics.

[Northern Michigan Public health Alliance wins award \(Petoskey News\)](#)

The Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance has received the coveted Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Director's Award for Excellence in Local Public Health. The award was presented Oct. 7 during Michigan's Premier Public Health Conference at Crystal Mountain.

DNR

[That's a big fish! State record set for smallmouth bass \(Detroit Free Press\)](#)

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has confirmed a new state-record catch for smallmouth bass.

Giant smallmouth bass caught this past weekend breaks Michigan record that stood since 1906 (WXYZ)

A 9.33-pound fish caught this past Sunday is a pretty big deal. The smallmouth bass breaks a longstanding record for the state's largest catch.

Construction begins on \$65 million Orleans Lansing mixed-use development (Crains)

As construction whirled in the background this morning, civic and economic leaders celebrated the start of Orleans Landing on Detroit's east riverfront.

DNR to tear down Ostego Township dam (WOOD TV)

Fishermen and boaters may soon have a new place to play in West Michigan. The Otsego Township Dam on the Kalamazoo River in Allegan County is being removed.

MDARD

MI Dept. of Agriculture & Rural Development honors its outstanding employees for 2015 (EIN Newsdesk)

Commitment to teamwork, leadership, outstanding customer service and excellence are just a few characteristics describing the winners of the 2015 Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development annual employee awards. Winners are both nominated and selected by their fellow MDARD colleagues. "MDARD employees are constantly looking for ways to grow and expand Michigan's food and agriculture businesses while providing the best possible customer service," said Clover Adams. "These awards offer an opportunity to say 'thank you' to staff for their innovation, dedication, and excellence."

Reflections of the 2016 Michigan poultry show ban in 4-H youth programs (MSU Extension)

This has been a challenging year for the over 4,000 Michigan 4-H youth who participate in a poultry 4-H project. On June 1, 2015, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development announced that a ban on poultry shows and swaps was to be immediately enacted in response to a growing concern about highly pathogenic avian influenza entering the state. Michigan is home to a very large poultry industry, with large scale poultry operations spread across the state. Highly pathogenic avian influenza would be absolutely devastating if it were to affect the Michigan poultry industry.

MEDC

M-134 designated first new Pure Michigan Byway (Sault Ste. Marie Evening News)

The Pure Michigan campaign hit the road Friday, as a 50-mile stretch of Upper Peninsula highway was officially designated the first new Pure Michigan Byway.

Scenic M-134 designated as state's first Pure Michigan byway (St. Ignace News)

"We're going to get a lot of mileage out of this," said Jeff Hagan about the new designation of M-134 as the North Huron Byway. Mr. Hagan, of the Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning and Development Commission, was part of a panel in Cedarville convened to promote the designation of the road Friday, October 16.

Michigan International Speedway announces new title sponsor for June race (WXYZ)

Michigan International Speedway announced a new three-year sponsorship for the June NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Race on Tuesday.

Firekeepers Casino replaces Quicken Loans in 2016 as NASCAR race title sponsor at MIS (Crains)

Battle Creek-based FireKeepers Casino Hotel has replaced Quicken Loans Inc. as title sponsor of the June NASCAR Sprint Cup race at Michigan International Speedway.

MSP

Troopers handle 7 car vs. deer crashes in 2 days (MLive)

The Michigan State Police Jackson Post provided the following report Tuesday morning, Oct. 20.

MSP crack down on distracted driving (C&G)

Drivers with their heads in the clouds may have met with the law recently.

Michigan State Police conduct sex offender sweep (ABC 10)

Michigan State Police troopers from the Negaunee Post have completed a sex offender sweep of 198 residences in Marquette County.

New forms help police track distracted driving mishaps (WOOD TV)

We all hear about the serious crashes involving distracted drivers.

Pilot program seeks to reduce illegal passing in Michigan (School Transportation News)

A pilot program intended to reduce the illegal passing of stopped school buses through the use of enhanced lights called the Driver Alert System (DAS) started Monday in Michigan at 10 school districts throughout the state.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Senate leader calls for vote on 'last, best' roads deal for Michigan (AP)

The leader of the Michigan Senate called Tuesday for votes on a "last, best" \$1.2 billion road-funding plan he said legislative leaders had agreed to before talks stalled last week, saying his Republican counterpart in the House should send the legislation to a conference committee.

Senate calls for fast action on deal to fix state roads (Lansing State Journal)

Instead of cooling off, talks on a fix for Michigan's crumbling roads and bridges heated up on Tuesday when Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof, R-West Olive, challenged the House of Representatives to put up the proposed deal for a vote.

Two state senators publicly debate road funding plans (WLNS)

Two senators gave the public a taste of where lawmakers stand when it comes to fixing Michigan's roads.

Hoadley: Work should resume on Michigan roads package by this week (WTVB)

Rep. Jon Hoadley of Kalamazoo expects discussions to restart this week on a funding package to fix Michigan's crumbling roads.

Michigan teacher evaluation bill heads to Snyder after final approval in Senate (MLive)

The Michigan Senate on Tuesday gave final approval to legislation that would create a new framework for teacher evaluations, replacing statewide rules that were set to take effect this school year.

Bill to set new standards for teacher evaluations (Detroit Free Press)

A bill setting new standards for teacher evaluations is on its way to Gov. Rick Snyder for his signature after the Senate gave final passage to the bill Tuesday morning.

DETROIT

Feds look at bank records in EAA, DPS corruption probe (The Detroit News)

The FBI and Justice Department subpoenaed personnel files and bank records or email account information for more than a dozen current and former officials at Gov. Rick Snyder's K-12 Detroit reform district as part of a wide-ranging corruption investigation, The Detroit News has learned.

Top officials, bank records focus of school probe (Detroit Free Press)

A sweeping federal corruption probe of the Education Achievement Authority began more than 16 months ago and is focused on current and former top officials as well vendor payments, documents show.

US DOJ, FBI investigate education achievement authority, Detroit Public Schools for corruption (International Business

Times)

The U.S. Department of Justice and the FBI have sent subpoenas to get personnel files and bank records or email accounts of over a dozen current and former officials at Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder's K-12 reform district to investigate corruption allegations, according to a report Tuesday. The subpoenas come amid an investigation to probe whether officials from the Education Achievement Authority (EAA) and Detroit Public Schools (DPS) -- both created by Snyder -- received bribes from contractors.

Former American Motors Corp site sells for \$600 (The Detroit News)

The former headquarters of American Motors Corp. sold Tuesday afternoon for a lone \$600 bid in the county's tax foreclosure auction. The massive complex was a hub of Detroit innovation for more than eight decades, but became a dumping ground in just three years, according to a 2013 Detroit News article that highlighted its plight.

Land bank to sell properties to occupants for \$1,000 (The Detroit News)

The Detroit Land Bank has become an unintended landlord, with about 4,500 of its properties estimated to have people living in them. Sometimes it's a former owner who lost the home to foreclosure. Others were renters who were left hanging when their landlords walked away. And still more are squatters who have taken over the vacant homes for their own. On Tuesday, the land bank finalized a pilot program to start selling the homes to those occupying them for \$1,000 each.

Major development aims to reclaim state's eastern shore in Detroit (MLive)

Tuesday marked the official ground breaking at Orleans Landing, a \$65-million mixed-use development covering about four square blocks on Detroit's east riverfront. It will bring around 270 market-rate apartments and 10,000-square-feet of retail space to a plot of land just a stone's throw from the Detroit river, an area that not long ago was completely taken up by industry and cement silos, according to speakers at Tuesday's ground breaking ceremony.

OPINION

Snyder gets the Boehner treatment (Detroit Free Press)

He doesn't cry in public or smoke in private, and he has no intention of resigning before the end of his current term. But in other ways, Rick Snyder is looking more and more like Michigan's version of John Boehner — and Snyder's second term looks increasingly like the political nightmare the outgoing speaker of the House is leaving behind.

Flint water crisis exposes Michigan's infrastructure funding problem (MLive)

It was great to see the Michigan Legislature come together and put politics aside as they voted unanimously in finding a resolution to the recent Flint drinking water crisis.

Snyder's lead-in-the-water crisis harks back to Milliken's trial by PBBs (MLive)

It seems every governor is tested at some point on issues he or she can't control. It's the kind of stuff that comes out of left field, and they don't prepare you for it in governor school.

Right to Work lawmakers impose their own 'union dues' (MLive)

When Republican legislators pushed through a contentious Right To Work law two years ago, they said they were freeing unionized workers from a system that "confiscated" a portion of employee paychecks through union dues.

Snyder's plan to fix Detroit's schools will fall on deaf legislative ears (Michigan Radio)

Governor Rick Snyder yesterday unveiled his new plan to fix Detroit Public Schools. Actually, it is a variation on one he put forth in April. Like that plan, it seems heavily based on the model General Motors adopted to emerge from bankruptcy.

Editorial: Fight poverty by curbing teen pregnancy (Detroit News)

Programs to reduce teen pregnancy in Michigan appear to be paying off with a lower rate of expectant teenagers, and that should pay off in a future drop in poverty. Initiatives that work should be supported and expanded.

Heise: Presumptive parole is safe, smart justice (Detroit News)

By now, you've probably read or heard about the notion of presumptive parole, a proposed reform that would give parole boards the directive to — under their supervision and control — grant minimum-sentence parole to low-danger individuals who meet a series of comprehensive requirements for release.

Editor's note: Minimum sentence bill not dangerous (Detroit News)

The law and order crowd is mounting an all-out effort to sink a common sense prison reform bill, fanning fears that it would release dangerous criminals on the streets.

Letter: DPS should focus on attracting teachers (Detroit News)

Year after year we read about appointments of high level administrators who too often are corrupt or incompetent and about attempts to restructure and reorganize the administrative set-up of the DPS. How come we seldom, if ever, hear about efforts to attract the best and brightest teachers to Detroit schools.

#####