

CAPITOL NEWS UPDATE

WEEK OF AUGUST 20, 2018

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DUGGAN SUES OVER NO-FAULT LAW

Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan filed a lawsuit this week in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan challenging the constitutionality of Michigan's auto insurance rates, saying they have become excessive, unfair, and inequitable.

Duggan also argued in the lawsuit that "countless Michigan residents" are deprived of due process because auto insurance rates are not available at fair and equitable prices. The lawsuit asks the federal court to give the Legislature six months to change the law, or declare it null and void.

The lawsuit points out that the cost of auto insurance in Detroit metropolitan area is among the highest in the nation at over \$6,000 annually. The lawsuit also maintains that other cities in Metro Detroit are also paying exorbitant rates including drivers in Dearborn who pay an average of \$5,135 annually and Roseville drivers who pay an average of \$3,378.

Duggan pushed legislation last year to create different levels of personal injury protection amounts for drivers to choose. The bill failed in the House but could be considered again in the upcoming Lamé Duck session.

SCHUETTE AND WHITMER PICK RUNNING MATES

Republican gubernatorial candidate and Attorney General Bill Schuette selected Kent County Clerk and former state legislator Lisa Posthumus Lyons to be his nominee for Lieutenant Governor. Lyons served in the Legislature from 2011 through 2016, followed by being elected Kent County Clerk in 2016.

Lyons is known for her conservative background and her efforts to make Michigan a Right to Work state.

Democratic candidate for governor, Gretchen Whitmer also selected her running mate – Garlin Gilchrist, who narrowly lost the race for Detroit City Clerk in 2017 and has most recently been the director of the Center for Social Media Responsibility at the University of Michigan School of Information. Gilchrist also worked for MoveOn.org and was a social media manager for Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign.

PARTIES TO FINALIZE TICKETS AT STATE CONVENTIONS THIS WEEKEND

Both Republicans and Democrats are hosting their state conventions in the Lansing area this weekend where they will officially nominate their candidates for statewide office. The GOP convention is

Saturday at the Lansing Center in downtown Lansing, while the Democrats are meeting Saturday and Sunday at the Breslin Center in East Lansing.

Republicans still have several undecided nominations to be determined at the convention including the race for attorney general between Speaker of the House Tom Leonard (R-DeWitt) and State Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker (R-Lawton). Along with a heated battle for attorney general, convention delegates will be nominating a candidate for secretary of state. The race revved up last week when early favorite Stan Grot dropped out. Candidates now include Grosse Pointe Farms CPA Mary Treder Lang and Michigan State University professor Joseph Guzman, who is an Okemos resident and co-chairman of Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign in Michigan.

While most of the Democratic ticket was determined earlier, there is significant interest in the candidates for the Michigan State University Board of Trustees, where nine people are running for the nomination including Teri Bernero, Matt Clayson, Dennis Denno, Justin Johnson, Betsy Riley, Brianna Scott, Corinne Shoop, Andy Spencer, and Kelly Tebay.

MM&A BRIEFS

Judge rules Lyons prosecution can go to trial

Michigan Judge David Goggins ruled earlier this week that there is enough evidence to take Health and Human Services Department Director Nick Lyons to trial for manslaughter for his role in the Flint water crisis.

Lyons is accused of "failing to issue a timely alert about the outbreak" of Legionnaires' disease, according to the Associated Press. Goggins said deaths from the outbreak could have been prevented if the outbreak had been publicly known. Lyons has admitted to knowledge of several cases of the disease months before it was disclosed to doctors or the public.

Snyder announces statewide broadband plan

Gov. Rick Snyder announced a plan this week to expand access to high-speed internet to every resident in Michigan. Snyder, who has previously worked to expand broadband to rural areas in Michigan, said there are two million households in the state with access to only a single non-satellite internet provider. With broadband access, these households could see a potential \$2.5 billion in economic growth.

Snyder also created the Michigan Consortium of Advanced Network by executive order in January to gather input from residents and create a plan to increase broadband access across the state.

Calendar of Important Events

Aug. 25 Michigan Democratic Party State Convention
Location: Breslin Center, East Lansing

Michigan Republican Party State Convention
Location: Lansing Center, 333 East Michigan Ave., Lansing

- Aug. 25 Libertarian Party of Michigan State Convention
Location: Wyndham Garden Hotel, 9191 Wickham Road, Romulus
- Aug. 26 Michigan Democratic Party State Convention
Location: Breslin Center, East Lansing Add to Calendar
- Aug. 27 Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof (R-West Olive) Fundraiser
Location: 9 a.m., Grand Haven Golf Club, Grand Haven
- Aug. 28 Rep. Jason Sheppard (R-Temperance) Fundraiser
Location: 11:30 a.m., Angelo's Northwood Villa, Erie
- Aug. 29 U.S. Rep. John Moolenaar (R-Midland) Fundraiser
Location: 5:30 p.m., Dutchman Tree Farms, Manton
- Sept. 5 7th Senate District Candidate Rep. Laura Cox (R-Livonia) Fundraiser
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association, Lansing
- Rep. Beau LaFave (R-Iron Mountain) Fundraiser
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Credit Union League, Lansing
- Sen. Marty Knollenberg (R-Troy) Fundraiser
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Restaurant Association, Lansing
- Sen. Peter McGregor (R-Rockford) Fundraiser
Location: 7:30 a.m., Grand Traverse Pie Company, Lansing
- Rep. Pam Hornberger (R-Chesterfield Twp.) Fundraiser
Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Senate Republican Campaign Committee Fundraiser
Location: 11:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing
- 34th Senate District Candidate Jon Bumstead (R-Newaygo) Fundraiser
Location: 4:30 p.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Sept. 6 Rep. Mary Whiteford (R-Casco Twp.) Fundraiser
Location: 7:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing
- 28th Senate District Candidate Aric Nesbitt (R-Lawton) Fundraiser
Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Association of Realtors, Lansing
- 65th House District Candidate Sarah Lightner (R) Fundraiser
Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Association of Counties, Lansing

Sept. 6

79th House District Candidate Pauline Wendzel (R) Fundraiser

Location 8 a.m., Michigan Association of Counties, Lansing

Rep. Tim Sneller (D-Burton) Fundraiser

Location: 10:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

71st House District Candidate Christine Barnes (R-Grand Ledge) Fundraiser

Location: 11 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing