

August 14, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

### **The Detroit News: Motorists can avoid judge with 36th District Court program**

"Motorists headed to the 36th District Court who wish to reduce traffic tickets will get to plead their cases with police officials without having to see a judge under a new program aimed at reducing the public's and officers' time in the court room.... If a plea is accepted, the motorist can go straight to the cashier and pay. If the individual does not accept the plea, the court will schedule a hearing but no deals will be made."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **Detroit Free Press: 36th District Court offers new program for some motorists to get a break on tickets**

[Full story](#)

### **MLive.com: Police to be given power to offer plea deals in hope of expediting traffic court in Detroit**

[Full story](#)

### **WBJK-TV(2)/Detroit: New docket to cut court time for traffic tickets in 36th District Court**

[Full story](#)

### **WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: Pre-hearing docket to cut traffic ticket time for motorists, police in Detroit district court**

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Free Press: Appeals court: Michigan law requiring state employees to pay 4% to pension plan violates constitution**

"The Michigan Court of Appeals has upheld a lower court ruling that the key element of a law requiring state employees to pay 4% of their income in order to remain in the state's defined benefit pension plan is unconstitutional. But in an opinion released today, a three-judge panel rejected a judge's finding that the entire state law which included the provision, Public Act 264 of 2011, violates the constitution."

[Full story](#)

**Note: The article also ran in the Lansing State Journal.**

**Also see:**

### **The Detroit News: Court strikes down required Michigan worker pay contribution to pensions**

[Full story](#)

### **Associated Press: Court rejects changes to state workers' pensions**

[Full story](#)

### **MLive.com: Michigan state employee pension contribution law is unconstitutional in part, appeals court says**

[Full story](#)

### **The MiLW Blog: COA: State employee pension changes are unconstitutional**

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Free Press: Michigan city ordinance restricts medical marijuana use in homes**

"A new ordinance in Jackson will require medical marijuana users and caregivers to use only 20 percent of their homes for drug use and cultivation. The measure that passed Tuesday night by a 4-3 vote of the Jackson City Council is scheduled to go into effect Sept. 12.... Michigan voters approved marijuana for some chronic medical conditions in 2008, but the state Supreme Court ruled in January that medical marijuana dispensaries aren't allowed."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

**The Detroit News: Jackson ordinance restricts medical marijuana use in homes**

[Full story](#)

**Jackson Citizen Patriot: Medical marijuana patients required to use in only 20 percent of their homes after Jackson City Council decision**

[Full story](#)

**Detroit Free Press: Editorial: Finally, an end to juvenile life without parole in Michigan**

"Michigan's practice of automatically sentencing some juvenile criminals to life sentences without the possibility of parole was shameful, and it didn't deserve any reprieve when the Supreme Court ruled it constitutionally cruel and unusual last year.... [On Monday, U.S. District] Judge Corbett O'Meara struck an important blow for justice, saying every Michigan inmate sentenced to life without parole as a juvenile must have a chance for parole."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

**The Times Herald/Port Huron: Juvenile lifers to get hearings; Judge rules, clarifies young murderers eligible for parole**

[Full story](#)

**\*\* The article is available by subscription only.**

**Associated Press: Ex-Michigan justice begins US prison stay in W.Va.**

"Former Michigan Supreme Court Justice Diane Hathaway has followed Martha Stewart's footsteps and begun serving her federal sentence at a minimum security lockup in West Virginia. The Detroit News and WXYZ-TV say Hathaway reported Tuesday to the Federal Prison Camp at Alderson.... Hathaway is serving a sentence of a year and a day for bank fraud."

[Full story](#)

**Note: The article also ran the Battle Creek Enquirer, the Lansing State Journal, the Times Herald/Port Huron and the Traverse City Record-Eagle.**

**Also see:**

**Legal Newsline: Report: Former Mich. SC justice reports to prison**

[Full story](#)

**Ann Arbor Chronicle: County Board Postpones Spending Proposals; Commissioner Conan Smith advocates to tap general fund reserves for social services; board also wrangles over trial court software, leases**

"Washtenaw County board of commissioners meeting (Aug. 7, 2013): A packed agenda and lengthy debate on several items led to a meeting lasting over five hours, with some issues postponed until September.... In other business, commissioners held a lengthy debate over a resolution for a new case management software system for the Washtenaw County Trial Court that's estimated to cost \$2.3 million."

[Full story](#)

## **Daily Press & Argus: Appeals court overturns conviction resulting from 2011 standoff**

"The Michigan Court of Appeals overturned a Hartland Township man's 2012 conviction for resisting police, but affirmed his conviction for interfering with electronic communications stemming from a domestic dispute."

[Full story](#)

## **Jackson Citizen Patriot: Jackson officials accept court's decision nullifying stormwater fee; services such as leaf pickup eliminated**

"Opponents of Jackson's stormwater utility will be happy to hear city officials will stop billing and collecting the fee, but they may be unhappy with the shape of their lawns come this fall. Jackson officials said at a city council meeting Tuesday, Aug. 13, the city will not seek an appeal in a Michigan Court of Appeal's decision that rendered Jackson's stormwater utility illegal, but the decision brings with it a price."

[Full story](#)

### **Also see:**

## **Jackson Citizen Patriot: Jackson city officials announce 15 layoffs in wake of court decision nullifying stormwater fee**

[Full story](#)

## **Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Jackson laying off city employees to close budget gap created by court ruling**

[Full story](#)

## **Jackson Citizen Patriot: Jackson County officials to vote on gun-at-work policy for county employees**

"By this time next month, Jackson County employees holding a concealed weapons permit could be allowed to carry a gun during work hours. The Jackson County Board of Commissioners is expected to vote on a new firearms policy for county employees at its Tuesday, Aug. 20, meeting.... Some commissioners had concerns about restricted areas in the county where guns are not allowed, including the county courthouse, parts of the county sheriff's office, schools, bars or any building that houses a child daycare center."

[Full story](#)

## **Jackson Citizen Patriot: Jackson County DHS seeing 'dramatic' increase in number of children removed from homes due to abuse, neglect**

"Since 2011, the number of children found to be abused and neglected by their parents in Jackson County has risen 'dramatically.' As a result, the number of children removed from their parents' care has increased 38 percent in two years. There are 338 county children in the foster care system."

[Full story](#)