

December 18, 2012

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.

Detroit Free Press: Oakland County homeowners, DTE Energy subsidiary fight over smart meters

"... The dispute comes as the Michigan Public Service Commission weighs whether to approve a DTE Energy-proposed plan that would allow customers to opt out of having a smart meter installed by paying an \$87 one-time fee and \$15 each month. The digital devices, which are a replacement for analog meters, allow utilities to read electric-usage meters remotely.... [The] case is on hold pending the MPSC ruling on the opt-out plan."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Lawsuit over DTE Smart Meters

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: DTE sues customers who removed new meter

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Bridge owners owe \$4.5 million

"A Wayne County judge ordered the owners of the Ambassador Bridge to pay \$4.5 million to the Michigan Department of Transportation to reimburse the state for work done to complete the Gateway project, which has been beset by legal problems for years."

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Homeowners who allege fraud by mortgage firm allowed more time to avoid foreclosure

"Supporters of homeowners who claim they were duped by a now-defunct mortgage company cheered a victory in court Monday that gave them more time to avoid pending foreclosures. The case involves about 160 people who bought homes on land contracts with the promise that back taxes and water bills were to be paid by Paramount Limited LLC."

[Full story](#)

Argus-Press/Owosso: Court workers distribute trees

"Christmas came a little early this year for 15 families from across Shiawassee County. On Friday, employees from the family court in Shiawassee County's Probate and Family Court loaded Christmas trees from Crooked Tree Nursery into a truck trailer and delivered them to some of the most underprivileged families in the county."

[Full story](#)

Argus-Press/Owosso: Owosso attorney pleads in weapons case

"An Owosso-based attorney Monday pleaded guilty to six federal counts of knowingly possessing unregistered firearms. Michael Hoy, 32, entered his guilty plea, which was accepted by U.S. District Court Eastern Division of Michigan Judge Michael Hluchaniuk. A sentencing date has not been set."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: ABJM to hold annual worship service Feb. 10 at Pontiac church

"The Association of Black Judges of Michigan's Annual Worship Service will be held on Sunday, February 10, 2013 at Messiah Missionary Baptist Church, 15 Park Avenue in Pontiac. The judges will report to the

church at 9:30 a.m. The morning processional will begin at 10:30 a.m. and the service will begin promptly at 10:45 a.m.”

[Full story](#)

Flint Journal: Man sentenced to prison for 1985 Genesee County cold case killing

“... William Hoss Jr., 47, was sentenced to 30-60 years in prison Tuesday, Dec. 18, by Genesee Circuit Judge Geoffrey Neithercut for the shooting death of party store owner Darlene Paul. Hoss pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in November.”

[Full story](#)

Flint Journal: Flint man sentenced to life in prison for 'vicious' 2011 Flint Township double murder; claims he is innocent

“A Flint man proclaimed his innocence before a Genesee Circuit judge handed down six life sentences for a vicious 2011 Flint Township double murder. Marcus D. Lanes, 46, received the sentences from Genesee Circuit Judge Geoffrey Neithercut on Tuesday, Dec. 18, for the murder of 78-year-old Charles Woodson and his 53-year-old daughter, Phyllis Woodson.”

[Full story](#)

Flint Journal: UM-Flint 'Life Skills Coach' to help students from foster care

“An \$800,000 Michigan Department of Human Services grant has helped to bring a 'Life Skills Coach' to the University of Michigan-Flint, a position that will be used to help students transition from the foster care system to college life. The grant is being used fund the service at six state universities and one private college, according to UM-Flint.”

[Full story](#)

Grand Rapids Press: Former Cedar Springs teacher 'abused position as educator,' judge says

“[Judge James Redford] told former Cedar Springs High School teacher Jon Jungkind, 45, there was overwhelming evidence to his guilt, and that his behavior on multiple fronts contributed to him receiving a sentence of between 40 months and 15 years in prison for having sex with a 17-year-old student.”

[Full story](#)

Hometown Life Newspapers: State court sides with Plymouth Township in tax-proposal dispute

“The Michigan Court of Appeals sided with Plymouth Township last week in a dispute over ballot language for a proposed tax that had been sought to avoid job cuts in the Plymouth Community Fire Department.”

[Full story](#)

Huron Daily Tribune/Bad Axe: Teen sentenced to prison gives parting shot to court

“Just minutes after apologizing for wasting the court’s time and asking for leniency, Joshua Douglas-McDonald made an obscene gesture with his middle finger toward Huron County Circuit Court Judge M. Richard Knoblock after he sentenced McDonald to a minimum of four years in prison for violating his probation.”

[Full story](#)

Ionia Sentinel-Standard: Judge David Hoort’s Notebook: Court ordered funds for a DNA expert witness

"In People v Webb, ___ Mich ___ (#145969, 12/12/2012) the Michigan Supreme Court held that the trial court's failure to appoint a DNA expert witness deprived the defendant of an opportunity to present a defense to the charged crimes. On remand, the trial court shall provide funds sufficient to permit the defendant to obtain independent DNA testing."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Cheboygan Daily Tribune, the Daily Reporter/Coldwater, the Daily Telegram/Adrian, the Hillsdale Daily News, the Sturgis Journal and the Evening News/Sault Ste. Marie, MI.

Lansing State Journal: Judge Jordon ends career taking pride in giving veterans a second chance

"54-B District Court Judge David L. Jordon will officially retire Dec. 31 after 23 years on the bench. Looking back on his career, Jordon said he takes pride in overseeing Veteran's Treatment Court designed to help veterans deeply affected by war's trauma get a second chance after they commit a crime."

[Full story](#)

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

Macomb County Legal News: Parting Ways: Retiring justice reflects on Supreme Court years

"When her beloved mother died earlier this year, at the age of 104, Michigan Supreme Court Justice Marilyn Kelly took time to reflect on a life well lived.... The same, in many respects, could be said of Kelly, now in her final days on the state Supreme Court, where she has left her judicial mark over the past 16 years."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Oakland County Legal News.

The Macomb Daily: Macomb County judge frustrated with feuding parents of boy

"A Macomb County judge expressed frustration with the father and mother of an 11-year-old boy who began battling in court even before the child was born. Judge Kathryn Viviano made comments Monday at a hearing involving Mark Grabowski and Kelly Cracchiolo-Evans, the never-married parents whose custody battle involving Connor Grabowski-Cracchiolo has been ongoing all his life."

[Full story](#)

The MiLW Blog: No compensation for tapping water line in eminent domain case

"Last month, the Michigan Supreme Court heard arguments in Lyon Township v. McDonald's USA, a dispute over whether a landowner should receive additional compensation when a municipality taps into its water supply for other developments, destroying the competitive advantage of being able to offer city water to a prospective tenant. The Court of Appeals said the landowner wasn't entitled to compensation for the loss of its business advantage. In an order issued today, the Michigan Supreme Court affirmed that decision, except for one part of the opinion that it deemed unnecessary."

[Full story](#)

The Mining Journal/Marquette: County board to honor retiring Judge Anderegg

"The Marquette County Board is scheduled today to mark the retirement of Marquette County Probate Court Judge Michael Anderegg by honoring his nearly 40 years of service with a commemorative resolution. The resolution will be presented as part of the county board's regular meeting at 6 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry Skewis Annex of the Marquette County Courthouse."

[Full story](#)

Saginaw News: Fred L. Borchard appointed chief Saginaw County circuit judge

"The 10th Circuit Court has a new chief judge. The Michigan Supreme Court [December 5] appointed Saginaw County Circuit Judge Fred L. Borchard as Saginaw County's chief judge, Borchard said. Borchard, a circuit judge since 1999, will replace Circuit Judge Robert L. Kaczmarek, who served as chief for six years."

[Full story](#)

Three Rivers Commercial-News: Welty judges his 22 years; Retiring from the bench

"When William 'Bill' Welty began his tenure as a St. Joseph County District/Circuit Court judge it was a time for pioneering, as no county in the state had such a position and his home district lacked a designated space to preside in.... Welty's 1990 election was the result of a local initiative intended to relieve the county's three overburdened judges by dispersing the casework to provide a smoother administration of justice."

[Full story](#)