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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We were on a good streak there with Beth answering all the questions."

- Gov. Rick **SNYDER** with reporters when reporters turned from questioning Supreme Court nominee Elizabeth **CLEMENT** to asking him about pending legislation and other issues.

Inside Today's MIRS

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MIRS Capitol Capsule Headlines

Despite Slow, Steady Economic Growth, Challenges Remain For The State Budget

Modest but positive growth in this state for the next two years was forecast when University of Michigan economists unveiled their outlook for 2018 and 2019, but there are risks like uncertainty about federal policy and the potential for withdrawal from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

"Economic expansions do not die of old age. Rather, that is typically caused by a policy error or external shock," said Gabriel **EHRlich**, director of U-M's Research Seminar in Quantitative Economics (RSQE), as he presented the Michigan Economic Outlook at the annual RSQE conference in Ann Arbor today.

Ehrlich noted that as the U-M forecasters were unveiling their predictions, the fifth round of NAFTA talks was also getting underway in Mexico. He said he believes it unlikely that the U.S. will withdraw

from NAFTA, and if the trade agreement is renegotiated, it is most likely the changes will be "largely symbolic."

Nonetheless, the Ehrlich's forecast offered different scenarios for possible withdrawal, a "soft withdrawal" and a "hard withdrawal." Michigan could still gain 6,400 jobs by 2020 in a soft withdrawal because of additional light truck manufacturing here, but a hard withdrawal would likely cost the state 7,000 jobs by 2020. In a hard withdrawal scenario, retaliatory tariffs might be imposed by both the U.S. and Mexico. That could cost the U.S. economy 300,000 jobs by 2020, Ehrlich predicted.

"The imposition of a 25 percent tariff would spark a shift of nearly one million automobile assemblies away from Mexico primarily to China and elsewhere in Asia, but not to the U.S.," Ehrlich said.

Without such external shocks, the U-M forecasters -- including Director Emeritus George **FULTON**, economist Donald R. **GRIMES**, and forecasting specialists Daniil **MANAENKOV** and Michael **McWILLIAMS** -- predict the state will add 41,900 jobs this year. They predict another 40,900 jobs will be added in 2018 and 52,200 in 2019. That is a growth rate right around the one percent mark.

Overall, the state will have gained back, by the end of 2019, some 670,500 jobs of those lost during Michigan's one state recession beginning in 2000 which ended in the Great Recession of 2007-2009. In that time, Michigan lost more than 858,000 jobs.

"It bears noting that the state had over 300,000 more employed in 2000 than it does today," McWilliams said. "The labor participation rate has drifted down further since the end of last year, meaning that a substantial part of the drop in the state's unemployment rate came from Michiganders exiting the labor force rather than find jobs."

The forecasters say unemployment will drop from 4.4 percent this year to 4.1 percent in 2019.

Eric **LUPHER**, of the Citizen's Research Council of Michigan, then outlined his analysis of what that all means for the state budget. While slow but steady growth in the economy will translate to slow but steady growth in the state budget, Lupher said the majority of that money is already earmarked for special purposes. Of the state's \$56.5 billion overall budget for 2018, only about \$10 billion of that, 18.4 percent, is available for discretionary spending as General Fund/General Purpose money.

"General fund revenues relative to inflation, you can see that the revenues coming into that slice of the pie are barely treading water. We are keeping up with inflation but the ability of the state to do more things with the resources coming in is very limited," Lupher said.

Additionally, there are spending pressures coming up, he said.

"The state of Michigan is facing a new turbulent period despite several years of economic rebound," he stated. "Tax credits and promises by previous legislatures and the governor to fund roads and personal property tax reimbursement are starting to come due to the tune of \$2 billion a year and possible federal cuts are on the horizon."

Additional spending, like an estimate \$50 million per year to improve indigent defense are also coming up. All said, the additional expenses come to about one fifth of the total.

"There's costs coming," Lupher said. "There's pressures coming and we don't know when the next recession is coming. Notwithstanding what we are hearing today, all it takes is some action in Washington D.C. or some action on the other side of the world and that will effect us and things turn sour quickly . . . The structural budget problems are going to create real issues, big issues in the next couple years and it is better to plan for it now and deal with it now than to deal with it in a crisis situation."

Michigan Treasurer Nick **KHOURI** was in attendance for the presentation, but disagreed on the conclusions.

"My friend Eric has the right facts and the wrong conclusions," Khouri said. "Nearly everything he talked about, all his theses . . . were already incorporated into the budgets we've been forecasting

the last few years and continue to forecast. We still show, with everything he talks about, modest but positive growth going forward. As we have said for a while now, the budgets for fiscal year '19 and '20 will be tight . . . but sufficient."

Lupher contended that unless lawmakers want to consider some form of new tax revenue, they may have to consider getting rid of some of those earmarks in order to allow more money to be used for discretionary spending.

"Unless new revenues are introduced, it is going to have to displace some costs that are already being paid," he said.

Asked if too much of Michigan's money is dedicated to specific purposes, Khouri said he is no fan of earmarking.

"There is no yes or no answer to that because it's a little like beauty, it's in the eyes of the beholder," he said. "I've been around a long time. I've never really liked this trend toward earmarking. I have always trusted the legislative process."

Overall, Khouri said he liked the forecast.

"As RSQE said, and we agree with it, we do see positive growth in the economy over the next two years. Modest but positive. In some ways, it's the best of all worlds because what we don't want to have is the spikes up and the spikes down. What they are talking about is continued but modest reduction in the unemployment rate, auto sales of 17 million, positive income growth for Michigan residents. You know, this slow but positive growth at this point in the economic cycle is really the best of all worlds," Khouri said.

Witness: Earlier Disclosure Of Flint Crises Could Have Spared 42% Children With Elevated Blood Levels

An estimated 42 percent of Flint children with elevated blood lead levels could have been spared had public officials heeded residents' complaints about health issues related to tainted water in May 2014.

That statistic came Friday during testimony from Shawn **McELMURRY**, an associate professor at Wayne State University and member of the Flint Area Community Health Partnership, who also confirmed prior witness testimony that Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Director Nick **LYON** said "everyone has to die of something" when he was told about the importance of monitoring the Legionnaires' disease outbreaks. (See "[Wayne State Professor Says Lyon Seemed Unconcerned About Saving Lives](#)," 11/2/17.)

"My reaction is I was caught off guard; I was very disturbed by it," McElmurry said about Lyon's comment. "It was disgusting."

Lyon's attorney, Charles "Chip" **CHAMBERLAIN** objected to McElmurry's statements, calling them misleading. He said the meeting of Lyon's alleged comment was to discuss funding the research, but McElmurry said it was about "enhanced surveillance" to avoid another outbreak.

McElmurry also testified that Lyon discouraged researchers' recommended testing because he "did not want to find more legionella" in Flint.

Lyon is charged with involuntary manslaughter for allegedly causing the death of Robert **SKIDMORE**, 85, on Dec. 13, 2015, by failing to alert the public about a foreseeable outbreak of Legionnaires' disease. He also is charged with misconduct in office for allegedly trying to cover up the source of the Legionnaires' outbreak.

He faces up to 15 years in prison if he is convicted as charged.

The hearing continues Dec. 1 in Genesee County's 67th District Court before Judge David

GOGGINS.

McElmurry, the only witness to testify Wednesday and Friday, said Harvey **HOLLINS**, the director of the state's urban initiatives, recruited him to study the legionella outbreak in Flint.

He described Friday clashing between his investigative team and state officials, including Lyon, the state's chief medical executive Dr. Eden **WELLS**, and Richard **BAIRD**, Gov. Rick **SNYDER's** transformation manager and point man in the Flint water crisis.

McElmurry said the state officials had a "general resistance" to the researchers sampling water in residents' homes. The negative feelings grew when researchers proposed testing for legionella in water filters supplied by the state during the Flint water crisis.

"In my opinion, it seemed they were concerned we'd find something bad with filters they were promoting as good," he said.

After additional questioning, McElmurry said Lyon did not question the validity of the researchers' science, but Wells "gave me a warning." He reiterated his Wednesday testimony about Wells allegedly saying pursuing testing of water filters was "a red line" that shouldn't be crossed, but that line of questioning stopped after Chamberlain objected to what he called "ill-defined statements." (See "[Conspiracy Implications End Lyon Hearing Early](#)," 11/15/17.)

"The inference he's trying to draw, obviously, is somehow they're (Lyon's) statements and they're not," Chamberlain said.

On cross examination, Lyon's co-counsel Britt **COBB** asked questions that laid the blame on Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's doorstep. She focused questions on a report McElmurry co-authored and an MDEQ report about the Flint water system.

Cobb noted that the "lack of treatment" to the water is "what caused the problem." She questioned who was in charge of water treatment - identifying Flint Water Treatment plant and MDEQ as the culprits. She also noted that MDEQ didn't tell the governor's office that corrosion control was not being used in Flint.

"As I read through this paper, I don't see any mention of Health and Human Services," Cobb said.

"No," McElmurry agreed.

"They have nothing to do with water treatment, right?" Cobb persisted.

"I do not know that they had any hand in how the water was treated," McElmurry said.

Cobb also questioned McElmurry's knowledge about legionella testing at McLaren hospital and water samples from showers and bio films at 31 Flint homes in January 2016 "all being negative for legionella."

"Yes," McElmurry said. "But, it's not a representative sample or a random sample."

January 2016 is when Snyder told the public about the Flint water and legionella crises.

Special Assistant Prosecutor Todd **FLOOD**, who is handling the case on behalf of the attorney general's office, also questioned McElmurry about a report on Flint's crises that he co-authored.

In that report, the researchers noted that residents' use of the water changed as a result of public notices, such as boil water advisories that were made in fall 2014. His team concluded that if officials had "acted promptly" following the first public complaints of discoloration, poor taste and odor problems - which occurred in May 2014 - and the boil water advisories that subsequently were issued, "the number of children harmed would have been smaller."

Flood asked if the switch in Flint's water source from Detroit to Flint River "was the cause for" the "significant portion of lead" levels in Flint children.

"Yes," McElmurry said without hesitation. "We are attributing the change in water to elevated blood levels in children."

Meanwhile, a preliminary exam for Wells resumes Nov. 21 before Judge William **CRAWFORD**.

Wells is charged with obstruction of justice and lying to a peace officer. The prosecutor is expected to seek an additional charge of involuntary manslaughter in connection to the death of John "Jock" **SNYDER**, who died from Legionnaires' disease in June 2015. (See "[Prelim For Chief Medical Executive Delayed](#)," 11/6/17.)

Snyder Taps Chief Legal Advisor For High Court/Weber Promoted

As expected Gov. Rick **SNYDER** this morning appointed his chief legal advisor, Elizabeth **CLEMENT**, to replace Justice Joan **LARSEN** who resigned the court last week following her confirmation to the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Clement becomes Snyder's fifth appointment to the Supreme Court during his seven years in office. She was a staffer with the governor since the beginning of his tenure, starting out as deputy legal counsel, rising to deputy chief of staff, then cabinet secretary before become the governor's Chief Legal Counsel.

Snyder's choice was the only person whose name had been in circulation for the post. (See "[Clement Only Name In Circulation For Larsen's Supreme Court Post](#)," 11/09/2017) When



asked about the lack of other names circulated for the high court vacancy, Snyder said he's always had a "merit based" process.

"If you talk to anyone, they knew she was the right person to take this job. I'm very proud to have her continue serving in this state," he added, noting that he'll miss her role in his office. "It's one of those things, you take it for the team, because this is better for the state of Michigan."

Clement was asked if, as a Supreme Court Justice, she would recuse herself should legal cases pertaining to the Flint water crisis come before her.

"I'm not going to answer on any specific case, there will be conflicts and I'll look at each and every case and make sure I am aware of those potential conflicts," she responded.

Before joining the governor's staff, Clement worked in the Senate Majority Policy office and as an attorney at

Clement Law PLLC. She also served the Senate as legal counsel. She holds a bachelor's degree in political science and her juris doctor degree from the Michigan State University College of Law.

"Beth is an exceptional attorney and leader who brings experience from various branches of government and areas of private practice to the state's highest court," said Snyder. "She is highly regarded by judges and her peers, and brings incredible skill to this role."

The governor said he knows Clement to "be fair, a great thinker and someone who will faithfully adhere to the proper role of the judiciary. Her talent will be a great asset as the Supreme Court continues its work to improve efficiencies in courts statewide."

Chief Justice Stephen **MARKMAN** said he looks forward to welcoming his new colleague "restoring our full complement of seven justices in time for our December oral arguments. As a lawyer and counselor to our state's Governor, as well as to legislative branch leaders, Beth brings remarkable legal experience, respect for the rule of law, and a reputation of judiciousness to the Court."

Clement will have to seek election in 2018 for a full eight-year term. She is married to Tom Clement and has four children.

Weber Tapped As Chief Legal Counsel, Headen To Join Office

Travis **WEBER**, current deputy legal counsel was also appointed by Snyder to replace Clement as his Chief Legal Counsel with Frederick **HEADEN** moving over from the Department of Treasury to serve as Senior Legal Counsel.

Weber, of Lansing, was deputy legal counsel and senior policy advisor to former House Speaker Jase **BOLGER**, and worked as an attorney at Clark Hill PLC in Grand Rapids. He holds a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University and his juris doctor degree from Valparaiso Law.

Headen, had served in Treasury since 1997, including as the director of the Bureau of Local Government Services and legal advisor to the state treasurer. He previously worked at the Citizens Research Council of Michigan. He holds a bachelor's degree from James Madison College at Michigan State and a master's degree from the School of Labor and Industrial Relations at Michigan State. His juris doctor degree is from Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

Gun Training Firm Touts Letting Districts Decide On Armed School Staff

In states where school staff is allowed to arm themselves with the permission of their district, the policy has proven effective and popular, according to officials from a company specializing in training private citizens to defend themselves by carrying concealed.

"Once the trickle began, it grew rapidly to a flood," said Bill **TALLEN**, executive vice president of tactical operations for Distributed Security, Inc. (DSI).

Tallen and his company has been following the gun bills on the move in the Legislature here. The Senate passed out a package earlier this month allowing people with the proper license to carry concealed through gun-free zones like schools and churches (See "[Gun Bills Exit Senate Chamber With Verbal Bangs](#)," 11/8/17).

And, if the bills become law, DSI could be one of those companies people turn to for their concealed carry training. The company doesn't have a full-scale presence in Michigan yet, said Chuck **GBUR**, vice president of tactical medicine for DSI. Tallen said DSI supports the bills and hope they're signed into law by Gov. Rick **SNYDER**.

A tagline on the company website reads, "Teaching private citizens, the firearms skills and tactics to defend against violent threats in their homes, businesses, churches, schools, and communities."

The bills in Michigan aren't the exact same as the ones that Tallen said his company is credited with helping write in Wyoming, which give school districts the authority to approve certain staff to carry concealed on school grounds.

He also pointed out that the local control provisions in the Wyoming bill was a key to its success - the Senate bills have been noted to not have the same local control aspects that were the cause of a Snyder veto of a similar bill a few years back (See "[Snyder: No Public Opt-Out For Gun Bill A 'Problem'](#)," 12/17/12).

Tallen said he has not been involved in the crafting of the legislation being pushed by Senate Majority Leader Arlan **MEEKHOF** (R-West Olive).

Nevertheless, DSI has been keeping tabs on the states that pass laws allowing school staff concealed carry, and the policy usually takes off in popularity, Tallen said. He gave examples in Ohio, Colorado and South Dakota, in which he said many districts in those states took the opportunity to opt into letting their school staff get trained, sometimes after a slow ramp-up period.

According to a Nov. 2016 [article](#) published in the Ohio-based *Fremont News-Messenger*, an official list of districts that allow the practice is hard to come by, although the article put the estimate at that time at more than 175, or more than one in four districts in the state.

In a January 2017 [article](#) in the *Denver Post*, at least a dozen remote school districts in Colorado had adopted the policy.

And a June 2017 [article](#) from the *Associated Press* reported a second school in South Dakota had opted to allow staff to arm themselves.

When the concealed carry laws were being considered in other states, Gbur said, "there was a huge concern that . . . it was going to turn into the wild west. And in reality, we haven't seen that. In fact, in most of the states, there's a decrease in crime."

Objections to the Meekhof-backed guns legislation here in Michigan have questioned if the additional training called for in the bills is enough. Others have suggested only trained law enforcement should be the ones that carry concealed in places like schools and stadiums.

Tallen, however, said school resource officers are expensive for districts, and waiting for a response from law enforcement might take too long during school shootings, which he said could last anywhere from 5 to 10 minutes.

"There's a gap, and the gap is defined as, a situation where seconds count, but the police are minutes away," he said.

As for the training that Tallen said his company provides, there's three major aspects: The first part is the basic shooting skills. The second part involves an understanding of the law, and when an individual is justified in using lethal force.

The third piece is the testing of all of that under fire, which Tallen described as "stress inoculation" or "reality-based training" that puts the participants armed with nonlethal firearms in situations that mimic the mental and emotional conditions of an extremely stressful condition.

And, even though Tallen wants anyone with a firearm to go through proper training, Tallen said he's rather have someone with a gun with no training than for people to be unarmed.

"We would strongly support having the individual . . . who is armed with the concealed carry permit . . . some chance of defense and resistance is better than none at all," Tallen said.

Upton Staying Out Of U.S. Senate Race

U.S. Rep. Fred **UPTON** (R-St. Joseph) announced this morning that he will not be a candidate for the 2018 GOP U.S. Senate nomination.

"Instead, my focus will remain on helping all of my constituents with problems big and small and improving the quality of life for all in Michigan," he said. "I'm also excited about seeing our bipartisan 21st Century Cures Act through, getting historic tax-reform into law to help Michigan's middle-class families, advancing common-sense 'all-of-the-above' energy solutions and working with the Problem Solvers Caucus to do it all in a bipartisan way."

The removal of a possible Upton bid leaves Detroit businessman John **JAMES** as the clear front-runner over retired Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court Robert **YOUNG** and businessman Sandy **PENSLER** according to a poll commissioned by *MIRS* and released earlier this week. (See

"James Leading In GOP U.S. Senate Race Poll Shows," 11/13/2017.)

James released a statement shortly after Upton made his intentions clear.

"Despite my being new to politics, Congressman Upton graciously spent time with me and gave me extraordinary insight into federal policy," James said. "I respect Congressman Upton immensely and look forward to working with him in the future to help all Michiganders."

Bill **BALLENGER**, publisher of The Ballenger Report, contends Upton's announcement he's not running doesn't mean much.

"I've seen this many times before. He's toyed with the idea, he tip toes right up to the water's edge, then withdrawals," Ballenger said. Ballenger contends the GOP race for the U.S. Senate is devolving into another lost opportunity for the Republicans.

"These are not top tier candidates. It's looking more and more like the races of yore where the Republicans end up with someone that is cannon fodder for the Democrats. John James is an attractive figure, maybe he'll catch fire. . . but I think the odds are still against that. He's going to need some money to become what I just described . . . and I don't think he's going to get the money."

Upton, Ballenger said, would have been appealing to the GOP base 10 or 20 years ago, but there would be too much of a disconnect to the GOP base of today.

"He would have had trouble winning a Republican primary," he added.

Fed Policy Could Bar Funds To Previously Convicted Social Workers

A policy coming down from the feds could bar Medicaid funds going to social workers and peer supporters working in Michigan to combat substance abuse and the opioid crisis because they've been convicted of various crimes.

The guidance was passed down by the feds to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), which is taking public comment on the draft policy through Monday, said DHHS spokesperson GERALYN **LASHER**.

The Michigan chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) said it could cause a "severe, detrimental impact" on those working in health professions.

"We know the best people to provide support to those with mental illnesses and those battling substance issues are people who have similar lived experiences," said Allan **WACHENDORFER**, director of public policy for NASW-Michigan, in a statement.

The NASW-Michigan said the "broad set of offenses" include things like theft, drug possession, and prostitution. They said the changes could disqualify hundreds, or potentially thousands of social workers and service providers.

Lasher said the DHHS would be incorporating changes based on the public comments, which have revolved around the issue the NASW brought up.

"We've seen success and we've seen importance to the peer support counselors and the peer-to-peer types of counseling that goes on," she said. "So the concern is that with the draft rules . . . as it's written, that could prohibit some of those peer support specialists or peer counselors from continuing in that work, and that's something obviously we do not want - we don't want to cause something like that to happen."

Lasher said many of the comments have been consistently along those lines. She said the DHHS does have some latitude to make changes and revisions for Michigan policy, and plans to do so.

State: Pot Growers Cannot Also Be Caregivers

Not just anyone can apply for medical marijuana grower or processor license - that person or an employee has to have at least two years experience as a caregiver.

That's required by state law. But a licensed grower or processor, or the employee, cannot also be registered as a caregiver at the same time.

The intended policy was announced today by the Bureau of Medical Marijuana Regulation (BMMR) as it continues to tease out what its emergency rules for medical marijuana facilities will look like.

Any caregivers affiliated with or employed by a grower or processor must move to cancel their caregiving status within 5 business days after licensure.

However, licensees for dispensaries and safety compliance facilities are not prohibited from also being registered as or employing patients or caregivers under the state's existing medical marijuana program.

Meanwhile, the BMMR also settled on \$6,000 as the one-time, non-refundable application fee. It falls right in the middle of the \$4,000 to \$8,000 range that the BMMR had been contemplating (See "[LARA: Pot Shops Open Past Dec. 15 May Not Be Licensed](#)," 9/12/17).

Other fees that licensees are on the hook for are the municipality fee - not collected by the BMMR but by locals, and can go up to \$5,000 - as well as the regulatory assessment, which is collected after a licensee is approved and the new amount won't be announced until the start of the new fiscal year.

The BMMR also said today that applicants for secure transporter licenses, or its investors, cannot be registered patients or caregivers.

Therefore, applicants for a secure transporter license - and those affiliated with the applicant - must withdraw from the medical marijuana program.

Hammoud: No-Fault Was Intense Lobbying

For a new comer to the legislative process, Rep. Abdullah **HAMMOUD** (D-Dearborn) found himself in the eye of the no-fault car insurance storm calling it the most intense lobbying he has felt since he set foot in the capitol.

But while others around him received alleged "threats," he tells *MIRS* he navigated the treacherous waters by stating from the outset that "it was policy first. Politics second...I could care less about the politics."

He reports that all of the players from the GOP and Democratic leadership to Mayor Mike **DUGGAN** understood where he was coming from.

As a result, he indicates he was not subject to any "arm-twisting" although he got plenty of attention from both sides in the contentious debate.

Going into the debate he wanted to provide some relief for his district and his mom at home who was shelling out \$4,000 a month for her no fault insurance.

While others reportedly got calls from business buddies of Duggan, Hammoud got word from "stakeholders at home including providers. "Everyone had a different opinion," he recalls.

He reports his district was flooded with about 100 robo calls on both sides of the question along with broadcast commercials but none of them implied he would be targeted in the next election if he voted no.

According to *Crain's Business*, Duggan did tell a church audience after the vote, "I intend to campaign against every one of them in August" referring to the Detroit lawmakers who voted no.

Dearnborn lawmaker Hammoud does not expect His Honor to spend any money against him in the primary next year.

At the end of the day, when the bill did not address the red lining issue including zip codes and credit scores used to set policy rates, he could not get to yes.

He still supports the alternative bi-partisan package still in House Insurance Committee where the chair wants no part of it. And ditto from the House Speaker.

It was former GOP Gov. Bill **MILLIKEN** who made the observation years ago that "if you do good public policy, the politics will take care of itself."

Although he never heard that from the moderate governor, Hammoud says that's exactly what he was attempting to do.

The Other Side of Retiree Debate

A GOP inside source, who has been following the recent coverage, mostly from organized labor, regarding retiree health care benefits, says "it is not true" that current retirees will lose benefits under the emerging House Republican plan.

Asked if local governments would be given the right to end some or all of those retiree benefits, this source tells *MIRS*, "I wouldn't describe it that way."

Here's how this source would describe the five-step process. It begins with a review of the debt status of municipalities and ends up in a step four where all sides try to negotiate a way to lower the debt. If that fails step five allows a local five-member board to impose a settlement on the retirees.

The board is composed of three persons appointed by the Governor, the House Speaker and Senate Majority Leader. Unions would have two seats, which means they could not block a decision if the other three chose to go there.

This source says the pending legislation will not give lawmakers the power to mandate a loss of benefits for anyone but gives that authority to the five-member board.

The other focus of the legislation is aimed at changing the system for new incoming local civil servants to avoid further debts from arising. "We don't want the present retirement system for new employees."

Asked to react to organized labor comments on all this, the source observes, "they're doing their messaging."

Feds Confirm Second CWD Deer From Montcalm/Three More Await Results

Chronic wasting disease was confirmed today in a second deer harvested this season from Montcalm County. The disease was found in a 1.5 year old buck, harvested last month in Sidney Township. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames Iowa confirmed the case.

Since the buck was harvested, three additional suspect positive deer have been turned in from Montcalm's Pine, Reynolds and Sidney Townships. The state is awaiting confirmation.

"Thank you to these hunters for checking their deer, which is required for these areas. Hunter assistance is critical in the ongoing fight against the spread of CWD," said Chad **STEWART**, DNR deer specialist. "The response from hunters so far shows a strong willingness to help, and it's clear that more hunters are committed to getting their deer tested."

There are currently three Core CWD Areas that have mandatory check requirements in place. To determine if a hunting location is within a mandatory check area, or to find the nearest DNR deer check station, visit michigan.gov/cwd

"In a short amount of time, without many deer tested from these areas, we are finding more CWD-positive deer," added Stewart. "This is concerning. We cannot emphasize enough how important it is for hunters from the surrounding areas that are outside the mandatory check locations to have their deer tested, too."

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization recommends infected animals not be consumed as food by either humans or domestic animals, although to date there have been no reported cases of CWD infection in humans.

Bits and Tidbits

Nugent Gives Bob Young Nod For U.S. Senate Nomination

The U.S. Sen. Campaign of former Chief Justice Robert **YOUNG** got the nod of conservative Michigan performer Ted **NUGENT** today.

"I am proud to have the support of Ted Nugent in my campaign for the Republican Nomination for the United States Senate," said Young. "Mr. Nugent understands that we need a proven, reliable and life-long conservative capable of taking the fight directly to Debbie **STABENOW** and her liberal allies. My long-standing defense of the U.S. Constitution, as written by our founders, has always driven me in the courtroom, and we need that same level of defense on the floor of the United States Senate."

Nugent made the endorsement on Q 100.3 in Grayling Wednesday.

300,000 To Receive Home Heating Credit

Approximately 309,000 Michigan taxpayers who received Home Heating Credits in 2016 will get an additional one-time credit of \$44 or \$22 this month to help keep their homes warm.

The payments are the result of a \$12 million supplemental to spend remaining 2017 federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program block grant dollars received by Michigan. The additional credit will be generated automatically. Eligible households do not need to do anything to receive the credit.

Households that had direct heating obligations - such as heating bills that they paid - will receive \$44. Households with indirect heating obligations - heat cost included in their rent or a heat bill in someone else's name - will receive \$22.

Victory Announces For 30TH State Senate Seat

Rep. Roger **VICTORY** (R-Hudsonville) announced today his bid for the GOP nomination for the right to follow in the footsteps of Senate Majority Leader Arlan **MEEKHOF** (R-West Olive) and represent the state's 30th district.

"Ottawa County is a special place," said Victory. "We work hard, support our families, and are strong in our faith. We try our best to do things here the right way and people have taken notice. We have some of the largest population growth in Michigan."

Victory will likely be facing off against former Rep. Joe **HAVEMAN** and current Rep. Daniela

GARCIA (R-Holland) for the seat.

Victory is a former president of the Ottawa County Farm Bureau and is the owner and chief-operator of Victory Farms - a year-round specialty crop producers with over 1,100 acres across Ottawa County.

On This Day In Michigan History

On Nov 17, 1948, the *Detroit Free Press* reported that high winds had whipped through Detroit at speeds of up to 73 miles per hour. Storms also hit the nation's Pacific and Gulf coasts. The paper reported considerable wind damage was reported in Detroit but no personal injuries.

- Source: *Detroit Free Press* archives.

House Committee Calendar Events

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2017

9:00 AM - **Health Policy**

Vaupel, Hank; Rm: 519 HOB

[Add to Calendar](#)

Senate Committee Calendar Events

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2017

2:30 PM - **Finance**

Brandenburg, Jack; Rm: 1100 BINSFELD

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2017

12:30 PM - **Natural Resources**

Casperson, Tom; Rm: 1300 BINSFELD

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Capitol Calendar Updates

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2017

6:00 PM

Sen. Patrick Colbeck Office Hours

Location: Northville District Library, 212 W. Cady St., Northville, MI

Contact: Sen. Colbeck 517-373-5713

senpcolbeck@senate.michigan.gov

[Add to Calendar](#)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2017

11:30 AM

Rep. Mike McCready Local Office Hours

Location: Baldwin Public Library Board Room , 300 W. Merrill St. , Birmingham, MI

Contact: Rep. McCready 517-373-8670

MikeMcCready@house.mi.gov

[Add to Calendar](#)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2017

9:30 AM

Rep. Roger Hauck Office Hours

Location: Leahs Korner Kafe, 300 E. Railway St., Coleman, MI

Contact: Rep. Hauck 517-373-1789

RogerHauck@house.mi.gov

[Add to Calendar](#)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2017

1:00 PM

Rep. Roger Hauck Office Hours

Location: Isabella Commission on Aging, 2200 S. Lincoln Road, Mt. Pleasant, MI

Contact: Rep. Hauck 517-373-1789

RogerHauck@house.mi.gov

[Add to Calendar](#)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2017

5:00 PM

Sen. Hoon-Yung Hopgood Coffee Hour

Location: Huron Township Hall, 22950 Huron River Dr., Huron Twp., MI

Contact: Sen. Hopgood 517-373-7800

SenHHopgood@senate.mi.gov

[Add to Calendar](#)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2017

11:15 AM

Rep. Roger Hauck Office Hours

Location: Lake Isabella Village Office, 1010 S. Clubhouse Drive, Lake Isabella, MI

Contact: Rep. Hauck 517-373-1789

RogerHauck@house.mi.gov

[Add to Calendar](#)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2017

5:00 PM

Rep. Phil Phelps Bowling and Ballots

Location: Jacks Place Flushing Lanes, 124 N. Cherry Street, Flushing,, MI

Contact: RSVP via email

amandaderight@gmail.com

[Add to Calendar](#)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2017

11:30 AM

Rep. Scott Dianda Lunch Reception

Location: Michigan Health and Hospital Association, 110 W. Michigan Avenue, Suite 1200, Lansing, MI

Contact: RSVP via email

yooperlegislator@gmail.com

[Add to Calendar](#)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017

9:00 AM

Rep. David LaGrand Breakfast Reception

Location: Michigan Health and Hospital Association, 110 W. Michigan Avenue, Suite 1200, Lansing, MI

Contact: RSVP via email

davidlagrand@gmail.com

[Add to Calendar](#)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017

4:30 PM

Rep. Frank Liberati Wine & Cheese Reception

Location: Michigan Association of Counties, 110 W. Michigan Avenue, Suite 200, Lansing, MI

Contact: RSVP via email

wdrake@gmail.com

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We were on a good streak there with Beth answering all the questions."

- Gov. Rick **SNYDER** with reporters when reporters turned from questioning Supreme Court nominee Elizabeth **CLEMENT** to asking him about pending legislation and other issues.