



Trump takes suit against Clinton to Supreme Court

NEWS, 3A

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BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MICHIGAN SUED

AG taking aim at biggest health insurer in the state



Megan Gougeon carries a child as she participates in an Aug. 21 protest outside Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan headquarters in Detroit. DAVID RODRIGUEZ-MUNOZ/DETROIT FREE PRESS

Nessel alleges various illegal anti-competitive practices

Kristen Jordan Shamus
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

For years, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan operated an illegal monopoly, violating state and federal antitrust and consumer protection laws to drive up health insurance premiums while limiting reimbursements to medical providers and making it more difficult for Michiganders to access quality health care, state Attorney General Dana Nessel alleges in a new lawsuit.

Calling it “arguably the most consequential antitrust case ever filed by a state against a health insurance company,” Nessel sued Michigan’s largest insurer Thursday, Oct. 8, in U.S. District Court in Detroit.

“Blue Cross of Michigan did everything they could to hide some of the alleged misconduct from the public,” Nessel told the Detroit Free Press, “so, it took a lot of work to uncover some of the actions that were happening in our health insurance markets and their impact. ... I believe we are the first state to bring these particular claims.”

Court documents lay out a complex scheme that Nessel alleges Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Mutual Insurance Co. used to amass 65% of Michigan’s overall commercial health insur-



Attorney General Dana Nessel alleges Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Mutual Insurance Co. used to amass 65% of Michigan’s overall commercial health insurance market.
ERIC SEALS/DETROIT FREE PRESS

ance market – and 79% of the preferred provider organization (PPO) health insurance plans – placing Michigan fourth nationally among states with the least competitive markets.

“They didn’t accomplish that commanding market power through superior products, marketing genius or skillful business acumen,” Nessel said.

Instead, she alleges Blue Cross engaged in “a series of illegal and anti-competitive agreements in conspiracy with the entire Blue Cross Blue Shield network to allocate customers and territories, to restrict product offerings and eliminate competition for health insurance services.”

The company, she alleges, also abused its market dominance “to drive the rates it pays health care providers to near the lowest in the nation – sometimes even below the medical providers’ own costs to provide care” while at the same time charging consumers more.

For state of Michigan employees with Blue Cross health plans, she said, the cost to cover a family went up \$86 per paycheck in 2025 and another \$179 per paycheck in 2026.

“That’s nearly \$7,000 more out of their paychecks in just 24 months,”

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Boating incident leaves three dead

Survivor able to swim to shore, trigger 911 call

Christina Hall
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Three people were found dead in a submerged vessel in Lake St. Clair near MacRay Harbor in Harrison Township, the Macomb County Sheriff’s Office said.

Deputies responded to a report of a capsized vessel near the marina about

10:50 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7. A passenger aboard reported being involved in an accident about 8 p.m. and was able to swim to shore, where a resident called 911, the sheriff’s office said in a news release Thursday, Oct. 8.

Marine division deputies and members of the underwater search and rescue team responded to the area and began searching for the remaining people believed to have been onboard.

About 5 a.m. Oct. 8, members of the underwater search and rescue team recovered three people from the submerged vessel. They were pronounced

dead at the scene, according to the release.

No additional details were released, including the identities of the individuals, the type of vessel involved or more specifics about the accident and how the vessel became submerged. The investigation is ongoing.

A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers buoy is located about a mile offshore from Lake St. Clair Metropark in Harrison Township and measures water temperature. The buoy indicated the overnight

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There is no print edition of the paper today, but you can find today’s puzzles, comics, national news and sports here in the eNewspaper.

Hegseth: Execution to be live streamed

Vance says he’s unsure plans will proceed

Fernando Cervantes Jr., Amanda Lee Myers and James Powell
USA TODAY

Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth said the firing squad execution of former Army Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan will be available for the public to see in what would be an unprecedented development in the history of the death penalty. However, Vice President JD Vance told reporters on Oct. 9 he is unsure whether the Pentagon will proceed with the live stream.

Hasan, who carried out a mass shooting at Fort Hood in Texas in 2009, will be getting a “firing squad of soldiers,” Hegseth said in comments to Real America’s Voice on Oct. 8.

“We’ll make sure that people are able to watch it, that it’s public,” he said. “Because people need to understand that there are serious consequences for these types of things.”

Hegseth confirmed that the execution would be live streamed by replying to a CBS News report on X and saying, “correct.”

Acting Secretary of the Army Adam Telle previously announced that Hasan’s execution would take place at Fort Hood on Dec. 3. Reuters reported that the Pentagon would announce further details.

But Vance is uncertain the plans will proceed as intended.

“I don’t know that that’s actually going to happen,” Vance told reporters in Cincinnati. Vance added that if a livestream does occur, he is “not going to be watching it.”

Vance’s statement reflects a growing concern in Washington: the White House has been hearing comments from lawmakers, allies and religious leaders urging the administration to not live stream the execution, a senior White House official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

USA TODAY could find no record of an execution ever being live streamed by any government. The nonprofit Death Penalty Information Center also could not find one, the center’s executive director, Robin Maher, said.

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Secretary of War Pete Hegseth said of the planned execution that “people need to understand that there are serious consequences” for such crimes.

JIM WATSON/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

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