

SPORTS

Kirk Gibson wants MSU to get it together. **1C**



Only 5% down?

Business: If you want a house, bankers will find a way to get you one. **Page 5B**



TODAY
Critics swamp the late-night hosts. **1D**



Lansing State Journal

TUESDAY
July 27, 1993
35 cents

Stabenow cites \$7.6 billion in new tax sources

MSU to convene conference on funding schools

By KATHY BARKS HOFFMAN
Lansing State Journal

The \$6.3 billion hole ripped in the state budget by lower property taxes could be repaired by increasing income taxes, business taxes, cigarette taxes and extending the sales tax to services, a state senator said Monday.

Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Lansing, didn't endorse any specific increase. But she said the scramble to find a new way to pay for public education is an opportunity to bring about true reform.

"Right now even school superintendents are part of his job description, full-time campaign manager for millage elections," she said. "What we had, everyone agreed, wasn't working."

Michigan State University is considering a statewide conference this fall to see if educators, lawmakers and business owners can agree on how much money is needed for good schools and how they should be paid for.

"Debbie is aware that we are moving very rapidly to the convening of a statewide conference on these issues," said David Faverman, the MSU political science professor planning the conference.

Monday's news conference by Stabenow, a Democratic candidate for governor, and Senate Minority Floor Leader John Cherry, D-Clio was just the beginning step down a twisting path that lawmakers hope will lead to a better way to pay for schools.

The Senate went along last week when Stabenow suggested no longer using property taxes to pay for schools. So did the House. Gov. John Engler has said he sign the measure to cut property taxes 25 percent on Aug. 19.

But no agreement has been reached on how — or how much — the money should be replaced. Engler already has said he won't back an income-tax increase. Stabenow and Cherry said Monday that raising it from 4.6 percent to 6.6 percent could raise \$2.4 billion.

Then there's the 4-cent sales tax. Apply it to most services — including insurance premiums but excluding medical and educational services — and it could raise \$1.36 billion, the Democratic pair said.

Also possible: doubling the state cigarette tax to 50 cents, increasing taxes on other tobacco products, closing \$50 million in tax loopholes and hiking business taxes by as much as \$1.4 billion. That's in a few other words, and there's \$7.6 billion to



Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Lansing, says raising several taxes can help replace lost property tax revenue.

Money options

A mix of different taxes could be used to make up the property tax money that's been eliminated for schools. Here is what Sens. Debbie Stabenow and John Cherry outlined.

■ **A 2 percentage point increase in the personal income tax**, which could raise \$2.4 billion.

■ **The reduction in Homestead Property Tax credits from reducing property taxes could bring in \$650 million.**

■ **Expanding the 4 percent sales tax to include most services could bring in \$1.36 billion.**

■ **A 25-cent increase in cigarette taxes could bring in \$190 million.**

■ **Taxes on other tobacco products could bring in \$30 million.**

■ **Either 1.5 percentage point increase in the Single Business Tax could raise \$1.27 billion, or a statewide industrial-commercial property tax of 25 mills could raise \$1.4 billion.**

choose from in new taxes, Stabenow said. Her main aim, to provide each school district \$5,000 per pupil, will require \$4.8 billion.

Engler, who also is thinking about next year's governor's race, plans to propose a net tax cut, said the governor's spokesman, John Truscott. He wasn't impressed by Stabenow and Cherry's list.

"They're only looking at increasing taxes," Truscott said. "We will create a system that's going to be good for the kids and then figure out how much it costs. It's going to take the whole fall."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH

Honor: Slow search

Wealthy alum suggests board take time to find right candidate

By GARY MILES
Lansing State Journal

EAST LANSING — Just as Lou Anna Simon seemed on the verge of claiming MSU's presidency Monday, the school's most influential donor suggested hitting the brakes.

Michigan State University trustees could select a president at a 5:30 p.m. meeting today in the Lincoln Room of the Kellogg Center.

But some trustees were questioning Simon's stature, and none were eager to move toward Henry Yang, the only other remaining candidate. Trustees spent Monday weighing their options.

Eli Broad, an alumnus who donated \$20 million to MSU in 1991, faxed a memo suggesting trustees delay a decision.

"The team in place is working," said Broad from Los Angeles. "Based on all the dissension on the board in the past, I'd think they'd want to go forward and find someone they're all happy about even if it took another six months or a year."

Simon could have counted on four votes in a still wavering board Monday, one short of the number needed to become president.

There was no movement toward Yang, dean of Purdue University's engineering schools. But no trustees ruled him out.

Confusion dominated the search since the candidacy of Florida State University President Dale Lick exploded in controversy late last week. Lick withdrew from the race Saturday night.

Trustees still plan to meet tonight — even if it's just to sample public opinion.

"I have no idea what's going to happen," said Trustee Robert Weiss. "If I had to bet on votes, I think it'd be premature. We're there for public input."

See MSU, Page 2A



Lansing State Journal/GREG DEWITTER

MSU Trustee Joel Ferguson confers with MSU Interim Provost and presidential candidate Lou Anna Simon between interviews last week.

What's next

■ **The MSU Board of Trustees** is scheduled to meet at 5:30 p.m. today in the Lincoln Room of the Kellogg Center. They could vote to hire a new president — or extend the search.

■ **I'd think they'd want to go forward and find someone they're all happy about — even if it took another six months or a year.**

Eli Broad, MSU alumnus

■ **It might take a while to sort through this process.**

Bob Traxler, MSU trustee

Thunderstorms, tornadoes rip flooded town

Associated Press

DEWITT, Neb. — Volunteer firefighter Mark Crawford has just one thing to say Monday about the twin assaults of nature — tornadoes and floods — this small town has endured. "Ridiculous."

Hours earlier, Crawford had contemplated taking cover under fire truck No. 11 — the biggest one — as a storm that had produced a tornado less than 15 miles away bore down. The skies turned an ominous, sickly green, but no funnel clouds were spotted over DeWitt.

The flooding that has wracked the Midwest spread westward into

- Waters rise. **3A**
- Volunteers wade in. **1B**

Nebraska in the past week — and it met with tornadoes in DeWitt and a few other places over the weekend.

DeWitt, a town of 650 people 75 miles southwest of Omaha, was ready for the floods. The Big Blue River and Turkey and Swan creeks had risen after several nights of heavy rain upstream, and even a new system of dams wasn't expected to keep water out of town.

"The firemen had an emergency flood meeting" early Saturday

evening, recalled Crawford's wife, Jane. "We just didn't expect a tornado first."

The tornadoes caused widespread but mostly minor damage.

Only after the sun came out the next day did the floodwaters push into town, covering most of the streets with 2 feet or more of water and cutting all six roads coming into the low-lying town. A curfew was imposed overnight.

"There's just more destruction all over this country than a person can realize," said Crawford.

Townspeople thought they'd get a reprieve. Forecasters weren't expecting more rain before Mon-

day night, at least. Suddenly, on Monday morning, wind spread quickly: severe thunderstorms were about 100 miles to the west and coming straight at DeWitt.

Less than three hours later came a tornado warning.

The wind was followed by torrential rain, just hours after water from an overflowing river and two creeks had started to recede from most of the streets. An inch or more fell.

"Come on, rain, quit! Quit! Quit! Quit!" said a sweating B.J. Fictum, spokesman for Saline County civil defense, as he looked out a window in the volunteer fire department.

The DeBoers never were granted an adoption but have kept the girl through a long series of appeals, first in Iowa and then Michigan.

The Schmidts' attorney, Marian Faupel, said an appeal to another justice would not surprise her.

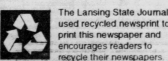
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OUTSIDE

Sunny skies expected today, high in the upper 80s. Details, Page 6B.

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- **COMMUNITY ROUNDUP**
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- **HEALTH**
Mood and memory may be linked. **Page 6D.**

Firefighter learns his house is burning while he snoozes

By JOHN B. ALBRIGHT
Lansing State Journal

LYONS — An assistant fire chief was pulled out of bed to go fight an Ionia County fire early Monday. Turns out, it was his house, the one he rents to his son, who's also a firefighter.

James Russell was at his father's house working on a car when the fire broke out about 1 a.m. The blaze destroyed the bathroom of the house, 231 N. Hawley, owned by Bernard Russell, assistant chief of the Lyons/Muir Lyons Township Fire Department.

Three firefighters were treated for heat exhaustion, but no one was in the house when the fire started, the elder Russell said.



"I'm in bed sleeping, and he's out the garage putting a motor in his car, and his house is on fire," Bernard Russell said. Alerted by a friend and electronic pagers, father and son rushed to the fire station in this Ionia County village of 718, 30 miles northeast of Lansing.

The fire was caused by a malfunction of a wire connected to an electric water heater, Fire Chief Max Darling said. The bathroom was burned, and other parts of the house were damaged. Darling said. Damage was estimated at \$10,000. Bernard Russell said he will rebuild the house.

Capt. Lyndon Randall, Lt. Dave Cusack and firefighter Lance Walkington were treated for heat exhaustion. Fire units of Pawamo and Portland assisted.

Justice turns down DeBoers' request

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Michigan couple fighting to get a 2-year-old they have raised since birth lost their fight Monday to have a Supreme Court justice block an order that they give the girl to her biological parents.

Justice John Paul Stevens denied Jan and Roberta DeBoers emergency request to delay an order that requires them to give the girl they call Jessica to her biological parents in Iowa by Aug. 2.

The DeBoers' argument that allowing them to keep the child would serve the girl's best interest "rests, in part, on the relationship that they have been able to develop with the child after it became clear that they were not entitled to

adopt her," Stevens wrote.

"Neither Iowa law, Michigan law, nor federal law authorizes unrelated persons to retain custody of a child whose natural parents have not been found to be unfit simply because they may be better able to provide for her future and her education," said the justice.

The DeBoers, of Ann Arbor, want to adopt the girl. But Daniel and Cara Schmidt of Blairtown, Iowa, have been trying to get the child back since shortly after she was born Feb. 8, 1991.

The Schmidts' attorney, Marian Faupel, said an appeal to another justice would not surprise her.

Vietnam circle nears completion

By ANNE SAKER
Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON — In a sylvan space it will dwell, near the granite manifest of those who were brothers once and young: a bronze Pietà for those with the touch to bring deliverance from the abyss of a jungle war.

It ends a 9-year campaign launched and led by a woman from Minnesota who could not accept that women in the military had been ignored — or that the women themselves did not even ask for notice.

"They're still silent," says Diane Carlson Evans with sadness. "That's why this memorial project is so important."

Ground will be broken Thursday for the Vietnam Women's Memorial, a 6-foot-8 statue about 300 feet from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Four months and another \$1 million will be needed for

Memorial to honor female veterans

landscaping and other final details, but Evans says, "All the really hard, hard work is behind us."

But in a way, the hard, hard work really began when Evans left farm life at 20 to enlist in the Army Nurse Corps. She volunteered for Vietnam. At Vung Tau, she assisted in battlefield surgery and cared for the burned, at Pleiku, she was head nurse in a surgical unit.

About 285,000 women were in U.S. uniform somewhere in the world during the Vietnam war; about 11,000, 90 percent of them nurses, went into the country.

Evans came home; she married, settled in Northfield, Minn., had four children, took part-time jobs, thought about going to college, tried to forget.

But on Veterans Day 1982, those with Vietnam service ribbons real-

ized they didn't have to brainwash themselves anymore. They now had the wall, the black V cut into the Earth near Lincoln's Greek temple bearing the names of the combat dead, more than 58,000 — including eight women.

At that time, some people hated the wall as a disrespectful rejection of the conventions of war art. Some veterans, headed by H. Ross Perot, bought something they found more apt — a Frederick Hart statue, put near the wall in 1983.

Evans came to Washington for that dedication, looked hard at Hart's three soldiers and thought: "Someone was missing."

A mission was born. Over the year, Evans found that the most sympathetic were the men who had served in Vietnam.

"In some ways, they want it more than the women; they're more vocal about it," she said. "Women go off to war, then they come home and become mothers. They don't ask for recognition. They don't ask for medals. Women have been very quiet about what they did in Vietnam. None of us consider ourselves heroes."

The winner of the national competition to create the statue was Gienna Goodacre, a Santa Fe, N.M., painter and sculptor.

Her rendering is what she calls a "sculpture in the round." Four figures are visible — one woman kneeling, one woman standing and scanning the skies, and one woman cradling a male soldier.

Now being completed at a Colorado foundry, the statue will be placed 300 feet southeast of the Hart sculpture, so that the head of the nurse holding the soldier will face the wall.



A replica of the Vietnam Women's Memorial.

MSU

From 1A

Broad's option — to keep interim President Gordon Guyer at the helm while making Simon his chief deputy and continuing the search — has some support.

Weiss said Guyer won't buy it. "He said it's not an option," Weiss said, though the conversation took place about 10 days ago.

Guyer, who succeeded John DiBlaggio last Sept. 1, has said he wants to step down by Sept. 1.

A Simon presidency has potential for a five-vote support.

"I rank-order them," Lou Anna First, said Trustee Barbara Sawyer-Koch. She'd also support keeping Guyer on, she said.

Trustees Weiss, Joel Ferguson and Dorothy Gonzales are all willing, though they haven't committed, to choose Simon today.

Trustees Dee Cook and Robert Traxler are less sure. Jack Shingleton and Russell Mawby couldn't be reached but are also said to be considering options.

Among them:

- Broad's plan, if Guyer will come to stay past his agreed Sept. 1 departure.
- Bring in an additional candidate or two for interviews, an option trustees have reserved since the search began.
- Scrap the search and start over.

"It's even possible the meeting may be postponed until we can come to consensus on whether we want some names inserted," Traxler said Monday from his Mack-

inac Island vacation home.

Michigan State has a national and international reputation," he said. "People in East Lansing and the surrounding area don't seem to understand that they don't act like it. But it's incumbent on the board to know that and... identify a candidate that matches that national and international stature."

Simon has had high support from inside MSU. She's a 19-year MSU administrator who spent most of the past six years as associate provost.

It's not a high profile post, and it leads some to question her charisma in dealing with the public, alumni and Legislature.

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No gays need apply, Senate panel says

By DONNA CASSATA
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Clinton's policy on homosexuals in the military centers on the premise that orientation is not a bar to service. But a Senate panel's version says loud and clear who shouldn't sign up — gays.

Designed by a leading supporter of the current ban, Sen. Sam Nunn, the Armed Services Committee policy sends a message to both commanders and the courts that military service is unique and homosexuality is anathema.

"The presence in the armed forces of persons who demonstrate a propensity or intent to engage in homosexual acts would create an unacceptable risk to the high standards of morale, good order and discipline," the panel says in the last of its 15 congressional findings.

Meanwhile, the American Civil Liberties Union said it will challenge Clinton's new policy in a lawsuit to be filed in federal court in Washington.

The lawsuit will contend the policy violates gay service members' First Amendment right to free speech and their 14th Amendment right to equal protection, said

“The presence in the armed forces of persons who demonstrate a propensity or intent to engage in homosexual acts would create an unacceptable risk to the high standards of morale, good order and discipline.”

— Senate panel

ACLU spokesman Phil Gutis.

The committee's proposed alternative stresses to federal courts weighing military regulations that the armed forces operate with their own rules, some of which would not be found in civilian life.

And to the commanders, the policy says individuals whose presence would create an unacceptable risk must be excluded.

"It is clear on the part of the military," Nunn said Friday in announcing it.

Absent from the committee policy is the cornerstone of Clinton's plan — the idea that homosexual orientation is not a bar to service unless manifested by conduct. The committee makes no mention of

Uniform Code of Military Justice for homosexuals and heterosexuals. The code views sodomy as a criminal act.

Nunn portrayed the committee policy as consistent with Clinton's. But the Senate legislation is clearly hostile to homosexuality in the military.

Nunn, D-Ga., won the support of all 10 committee Republicans for the policy and the backing of Sen. Richard Shelby, the Alabama Democrat who has opposed Clinton on nearly every policy this year.

The full Senate is expected to consider the fiscal 1994 defense budget, which incorporates Nunn's policy, before Congress leaves Aug. 9 for summer recess.

Nunn would not rule out any amendments to the bill, but said "this coalition has a reasonable chance of holding together."

The Republican Senate support apparently is convincing enough for some GOP members on the House Armed Services Committee. The House's personnel subcommittee was expected to approve the Nunn language as part of its version of the defense budget, congressional sources said Monday.

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