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Coming Sunday

In the Lansing State



Williamston and other towns embody a 'new urbanism,' retaining charm, identity amid suburban sprawl. Sunday, Page 1A



Granholm OKs bill for dove hunts

Season would be limited to 6 counties for trial run

BY AMY F. BAILEY

Associated Press

Hunters could begin shooting mourning doves in six Michigan counties that border Indiana and Ohio as early as this fall. Gov. Jennifer Granholm signed a bill

Friday that changes the dove's classification from a songbird to a game bird.

Liz Boyd, spokeswoman for the Democratic governor, said Granholm signed

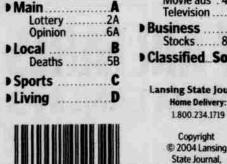
it based on a promise made by Natural Resources Commission Chairman Keith Charters to recommend the seven-member commission approve a three-year trial hunt in just six counties — Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, Branch,

Hillsdale and Lenawee. The Natural Resources INSIDE Commission could set limits for a dove hunting season in September. It is expected to consider the issue in July and hear pub-

services. lic comments in August. Page 1B At the end of the threeyear trial period, Charters

said, the commission will study the effects of the season on mourning dove populations and use it to evaluate future

The Humane Society of the United States sharply criticized Granholm for signing the bill. The group pointed to a questionnaire Granholm signed in 2002 when she was a candidate for governor. On it, she indicated she would veto a bill to allow a mourning dove hunt.



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Granholm

▶ Granholm

OKs measure

to regulate

immigrant

Lansing State Journal

MOVE TAKES CAMPUS BY SURPRISE

PROVOST SIMON TO LEAD MSU

Trustees fill spot without search

By SHARON TERLEP

Lansing State Journal

EAST LANSING Michigan State University picked longtime Provost Lou Anna Simon to succeed President Peter McPherson — a surprise move that comes at a time of historic change for the nation's seventh-largest university.

The board, which had been gearing up for a national

search, INSIDE stunned MSU trustees many and angered OK budget, some by seincrease lecting Simon with-Page 5A out con-

sidering other candidates.

Simon, a soft-spoken and scholarly leader who has spent more than three decades at MSU, will become the 20th president and the first woman to serve in the post when she takes over Jan. 1. The Board of Trustees voted 8-0 to hire her. Terms of her three-year contract have not been finalized.

A previous finalist for the top job, Simon, 57, has held several posts since coming to MSU as a graduate student in 1970. She's served as provost - the top academic spot - since 1993 and was interim president for five months last year while McPherson

SEE MSU Page 4A



Chosen: Lou Anna Simon (right) reacts to applause following the announcement she will be MSU's next president. Sue Carter (left), secretary to the president and the Board of Trustees, applauds the board's 8-0 decision.

On the issues

Lou Anna Simon, who will become Michigan State University's next president on Jan. 1, weighed in Friday on major issues facing MSU and higher education.

BUDGET CUTS

In what's become the norm in recent years, officials are struggling to balance fast-rising health care and energy costs with cuts in state funding.

"Higher education is being thought of more and more of as a commodity." Simon said. "For the public to want to support us, we must make a real case as to why we're here for the public good."

MSU's job is to make noticeable improvements in the economy, education and quality of life of Michigan residents and to be able to articulate its success, Simon

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

MSU has struggled to increase its numbers of minority faculty and students. In Michigan, a Court of Appeals ruling last month reinstated a petition drive to put an anti-affirmative action

measure on the fall ballot. "We've got to really work to be more inclusive in all of our aspects. What's always being challenged are the ways in which we do that. Working with the broader community, we'll get

some answers to the

hows."

MEDICAL SCHOOL MOVE

MSU trustees last month approved a 10-year plan to move major parts of the College of Human Medicine to Grand Rapids. Simon said MSU must

balance expanding the school with maintaining health care in mid-Michigan. She said she plans to rely heavily on faculty input in implementing a plan.

"It's a delicate balancing act," she said. 'We have a sense of why this might be good; now we have to find a way to make it work."

FACULTY SALARIES

Faculty salaries have been a point of contention at MSU between the administration and staffers, with the university ranking at the bottom of the Big Ten's 11 schools in terms of pay.

Simon said that while salaries rank low, overall compensation is closer to midrange in the Big Ten.

"We've made some progress over the last few years, even in these difficult budget times. We have such talented people ... they deserve more than the budget allows."

Lansing State Journal

Students react to appointment of MSU's first female president:



"It definitely says something about the way Isociety has progressed that a woman is at the top of such a major university."

Sarah Mercer



"I don't see how gender disqualifies someone from making important decisions and taking the mantle of responsibility for the university.'

Sean Higgins



"It's a breath of fresh air for a woman to be president. It will bring balance to the character of MSU."

Shawndia O'Neal



"Because she rearranged the colleges, a lot of TA's are going to get fired. That didn't go over well with me."

> Steve Krawczyk teaching assistant and graduate student

Al-Qaida militants execute hostage

Saudis later kill chief suspect in kidnapping

By SALAH NASRAWI

Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia - An al-Qaida group beheaded American engineer Paul Johnson Jr., posting grisly photographs Friday of the hostage's severed head. Hours later, Arab TV reported the death of the chief suspect.

President Bush vowed that "America will not be intimidated by these kinds

of extremist thugs." Shortly after Johnson's body was found outside Riyadh, Saudi security forces were engaged in a firefight with al-Qaida militants in



Johnson

INSIDE **Insurgents** kill American in Baghdad attack. Page 3A the cap-

ital, said Adel al-Jubeir, foreign affairs adviser to the Saudi crown prince. A number of the militants had been killed, he said in Washington.

The Arab satellite stations Al-Arabiya and Al-Jazeera reported that Abdulaziz al-Moqrin, the chief suspect and the al-leged leader of al-Qaida in Saudi Arabia, was killed Friday. The news was given in a scrolling news bar at the bottom of the screens, and it was unclear whether he was killed in the firefight.

The executioners' photographs and statement, in the name of Fallujah Brigade of al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, appeared on a Web site hours after Johnson's wife went on Arab television and tearfully pleaded for his release.

Johnson, who had worked in Saudi Arabia for more than a decade, was the latest victim of an escalating campaign of violence against Westerners that aims to drive foreign workers from the kingdom and undermine the ruling royal family, hated by al-Qaida. Osama bin Laden, al-Qaida's leader, is a Saudi exile.

Johnson, 49, who worked on Apache attack helicopter systems for Lockheed Martin, was kidnapped last weekend by militants who threatened to kill him by Friday if the kingdom did not release its al-Qaida prisoners. The Saudi government rejected the demands.

Poll puts Schwarz in lead

in the EPIC-MRA poll. State Rep.

Clark Bisbee of Jackson and attor-

ney Brad Smith, son of incumbent

U.S. Rep. Nick Smith, were tied

Front-runner vying with 5 GOP rivals for 7th District seat

> BY CHRIS ANDREWS Lansing State Journal

Former state Sen. Joe Schwarz has jumped to a nearly 2-to-1 lead over five fellow Republicans in the 7th Congressional District primary, a poll released Friday says. The Battle Creek surgeon was

favored by 23 percent of the voters

for second with 12 percent. Rep. State

Gene DeRossett Manchester. launched television early ELECTION ads in April,

dropped from second place to last, with just 6 percent of the vote. "Schwarz is now the established front-runner," said EPIC-MRA Vice President Ed Sarpolus.

The poll of 400 likely Republican voters was conducted between Monday and Thursday. It had a margin of error of plus or minus 5 percentage points. The six Republicans are vy-

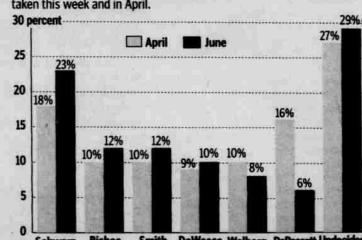
ing to succeed Nick Smith, R-Addison, who is retiring after 12 years in Congress. The winner of the Aug. 3 GOP primary will be heavily favored in the Nov. 2 general election.

Among the other Republican candidates, former state Rep. Paul DeWeese of Eaton Rapids had

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Schwarz opens up lead

Here's how the 7th Congressional District candidates stack up in polls taken this week and in April.



Note: April 14-18 EPIC-MRA poll of 300 likely Republican voters, ma or minus 5.7 percentage points. Monday through Thursday EPIC-MRA poll o likely Republican voters, margin of error plus or minus 5 percentage points.

