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CAPITOL

Fewer stimulus funds available for 2010-11 fiscal year

By Marissa Cumbers
THE STATE NEWS

Dwindling stimulus dollars mean Gov. Jennifer Granholm and Michigan lawmakers will have a tough time balancing the state's 2010-11 fiscal year budget.

More than \$3.3 billion of federal stimulus money has been used in the past two years to balance the state's budget, but this year Granholm and state lawmakers need to eliminate a projected \$2.7 billion deficit with the aid of only \$95 million of federal stimulus funding.

Granholm will announce her budget proposal Thursday for fiscal year 2010-11, and she is likely to use all of the state's remaining federal stimulus dollars, said Gary Olson, director of the nonpartisan Senate Fiscal Agency.

"I am expecting she is going to recommend the appropriation of (stimulus) money beyond what we have already received," he said. "President Barack Obama) in his budget last week had a recommendation for additional money for the states to help balance their budget."

Olson said Obama's budget proposal included about \$600 million in additional stimulus funding for Michigan, and although this funding has not been approved by federal lawmakers, Granholm is likely to include those funds in her budget proposal.

Granholm's spokeswoman Tiffany Brown said the details of how stimulus dollars will be used in the 2010-11 budget will be released in the governor's budget proposal Thursday.

State Sen. Bill Hardiman, R-Kentwood, who sits on the Senate Appropriations Committee, said he does not think the additional federal stimulus dollars proposed by Obama will be approved.

"We doubt Congress will allocate more stimulus dollars because there is a very strong reaction against more spending," he said. "I just don't think we will have more stimulus dollars."

It should not matter whether Congress approves additional stimulus spending, said Rep. Robert Dean, D-Grand Rapids, a member of the House Appropriations Committee.

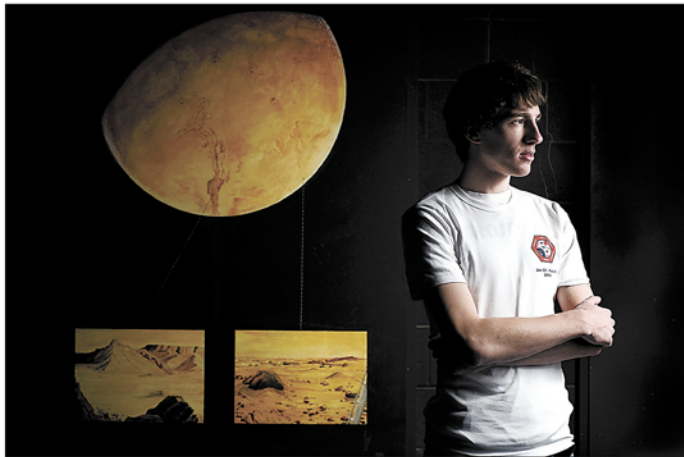
"If we had those to depend on it would make it much easier," he said. "But we definitely can't depend on those for this budget cycle or in the future."

The 2009-10 fiscal year budget used more than \$2.1 billion of federal stimulus money to help elim-

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RED PLANET RESIDENT

MSU physics student spends two weeks in Utah simulating life on Mars



Physics junior Mike Moran stands in front of a depiction of Mars at Abrams Planetarium. Moran recently spent two weeks in Utah, participating in a simulated mission to Mars.

GEORGIA RHODES/
THE STATE NEWS

Mike Moran, fully equipped in his prototype space suit, tests equipment in one of his 10 extra vehicular activities (EVAs) in the desert in Utah.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE MORAN

By Ian Johnson
THE STATE NEWS

After trekking an hour up the slippery face of a mountain in full space gear, Mike Moran had reached the summit. Moran and two other crew members traveled 30 minutes from their temporary home in the Mars Desert Research Station to Olympus Mons, a Martian mountain three times the size of Mount Everest.

"The view was amazing," said Moran, a physics junior at MSU. "It was great to stand up there and relax and walk around the summit looking out at the (station)."

After only eight days in a desert in Utah, Moran said he let himself forget his Mars adventure was only a simulation.

Moran returned home Feb. 7 from two isolated weeks adjusting radio telescopes, venturing into the desert on team missions and collecting biological and geological samples to simulate a manned mission to Mars.

More than 40 years after man first landed on the moon, humanity still is looking for ways to expand its reach into the universe, Moran said. "Eventually we are going to have to leave our planet, either because we messed it up with all our wars, there's no resources left or we just want to get away," he said. "It's cool to know that we are starting that eventual process now."

The Mars Society

The Mars Desert Research Station, or MDRS, is a 125,000 two-floor circular station, that is eight meters in diameter and 10 meters tall. The station aims to replicate what a possible habitat on Mars would look like and eventually could serve as the blueprint for a colony on the red planet, said Artemis Westenberg, the mission director of The Mars Society, which oversees the station. The Mars Society is an international organization aimed at advancing space technol-



ogy and demonstrating a feasible and inexpensive way to inhabit Mars, Westenberg said.

The 9-year-old station has been home to numerous crews during operation, and The Mars Society has demonstrated what could be learned in a trip to Mars by showing how it could be done.

"If we go to Mars, we're not going to go there just to demonstrate. They can get there and now we can fly back, take some pictures (and) plant a flag," Westenberg said. "You need to learn what it means to be a human

being and astronaut living on Mars for 18 months."

During Moran's two weeks in Utah, the MDRS crew embarked on 20 extravehicular activities, or EVAs, to conduct research such as seismic surveys, test for microorganisms, filtering water for reuse and test space suit safety, Moran said.

Moran also used the station's radio telescope to observe microwaves sent from Jupiter and Saturn, which also could play a role in future exploration, he said.

"We were doing work,

but we didn't even realize it because we were simulating the Mars mission," he said. "It was too much fun to get bogged down with work."

Lift-off

Moran has spent his life staring at the stars.

Many kids give up their dreams of being a firefighter or president when they grow up, but Moran never did. He has always wanted to be an astronaut.

When he found out on the

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➔ To hear Moran discuss his time on the Mars Desert Research Station and see photos of his experience, visit stateneews.com/multimedia.

ADMINISTRATION

Board to vote on student 'Bill of Rights'

By Zane McMillin
THE STATE NEWS

The MSU Board of Trustees is expected to vote on the progress of several campus construction projects and also might approve a student rights and responsibilities document at its meeting Friday.

The meeting is scheduled to take place at 9:30 a.m. in Room 401 of the Administration Building.

Student rights

The Academic Freedom Report, or AFR, is on the board's agenda for approval. The AFR acts as a "bill of rights" for students at MSU and contains guidelines for issues such as student judicial processes in cases of academic dishonesty.

The AFR was created in the 1960s and has been revised twice in its history, once in 1977 and again in 1984.

Kristy Carrier, chairperson of ASMSU's Academic Assembly,

said the organization is excited to see the report reach the board for its approval.

ASMSU is MSU's undergraduate student government.

Carrier sat on a university subcommittee that revised the AFR to make the document more readable.

ASMSU was one of several campus governing bodies to approve the revised copy.

"We sincerely hope that the board agrees with all the pro-

posed changes and decides to ratify the document," Carrier said in an e-mail.

MSU Provost Kim Wilcox presented the revised AFR to the university's Academic Council on Jan. 26, where it was approved unanimously.

Case Hall renovations

The board also will vote whether to authorize plan-

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CONCERT

DRAKE SCHEDULED TO PERFORM ON CAMPUS

By Kate Jacobson
THE STATE NEWS

Up-and-coming Canadian rapper Drake is scheduled to perform at MSU in April, although details about the rapper's performance remain uncertain.

Tour dates for Drake's The Away from Home Tour indicate the rapper is scheduled to perform at MSU on April 14. His Web site does not specify a venue.

Bob Hoffman, communications director of MSU's Performing Arts Facilities and Programs, said he had no record of Drake being booked at the Auditorium, Wharton Center or Fairchild Theatre.

Breslin Center staff said they could not confirm whether Drake is scheduled to perform; however, according to Breslin Center's event calendar, country singer

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