

Dibert from page A1

businessmen as customers.

"There are a lot of Japanese businessmen who need home improvement or maintenance work," he said.

And Dibert wants to parlay that business savvy into a more aggressive approach to state issues, particularly in the way they affect the 37th House District.

"I'd like to see the single business tax reformed, giving breaks for companies that hire new employees or expand," he said. "I know how to talk to business people. I think that would help connect them more directly to government."

Dibert sees the auto industry as a big plus for the state, but fears that Michigan is still hooked on the big three.

"The auto business is cyclical," he said. "We need to do more for other businesses to avoid a recession, especially small businesses."

Dibert said Republican reforms have only benefited the top 25 percent of the state's businesses, not the vast majority of small businesses.

And speaking of autos, Dibert says the state has missed opportunities by letting BMW, Mercedes and Toyota build plants elsewhere.

"Those were missed opportunities for this state, something

People would pay, but they've got to know that they are paying for their roads.

00Steve Dibert
House candidate

Gov. (John) Engler should have been more aggressive about," he said.

The pro-choice Democrat thinks the government would be going to far to turn the clock back on abortion.

"It is a choice for a woman and her partner to make," he said.

Dibert doesn't care for recent tax reforms that he believes shortchanges services and education. Proposal A will leave the tri-county area in a financial shortfall for educational spending.

Unfunded mandates, programs instituted at the state level and carried out locally, are also a serious problem.

"We are picking up the tab for a lot of things the state should," he said. "Rep. Barbara Dobb, (Rep. Jan) Dolan and (Sen. Willis) Bullard have not represented their constituents in that regard. You should answer to your district, not the governor."

The state's roads and infra-

structure in a bad need of work, he said. Dibert would want to see what efficiencies can be made without raising any taxes. But if a gas tax were proposed, he would ensure that the amount of gas tax paid is returned to the district that paid it.

Dibert said he wants a better return as well on education dollars to the district. He also worries that a recent appeals court ruling that would open school employee files to the general public will alienate good teachers and result in a "witch hunt" atmosphere.

"Many school employees — good employees — would not want information they provided in good faith and in confidence exposed to all the world," he said.

Dibert said Rep. Dolan took the GOP party line on adult education, a position not shared by her constituents.

"At precisely the same time Rep. Dolan was casting her anti-education party line vote, Farmington School officials, community leaders and residents were showing exceptionally strong support for restoring adult education funding at a Senate hearing in Farmington Hills," he said. "Fortunately, enough of her colleagues realized the valuable role of adult education in breaking the cycle of poverty and moving people from welfare to work, to pass the bill."

Debate from page A1

debate last week.

"No, we haven't been invited," Chadwick said.

Farmington School Board Trustee Cathy Webb said that she was a little concerned that candidates would not know how to prepare without some notice. She found out about the forum Thursday.

"We don't even know what the format is," she said.

To add to the confusion, the announcement incorrectly had the locally televised forum at the Farmington City Hall.

Hills Assistant City Manager Steve Brock said the Jaycees had contacted his office asking to use the Hills facility.

"I got a call from Al Canavan (Jaycees community development vice president) asking to use the council chambers," he said. "We said sure. It's the kind of thing we like to provide for, especially for a civic group."

But Brock was concerned that the city was lending its facilities for a Republican only function.

Canavan said the glitches had been fixed. Formal invitations

were sent to the candidates and a tentative date for a Democratic debate between Carl Christakis and Steve Dibert has been set (July 17).

"We didn't want to include six candidates," Canavan said. "That would have been a little unwieldy. We want to have a separate one for the Democrats."

Canavan said Jaycees President Mark Blainson will moderate the forum and questions will come from the Oakland County

Hobbs from page A1

Director Dana Whinnery all in on a conference call with the recruiter, Dick Bennett, from his Boston office.

Once Bennett laid out the alternatives, including starting the entire search process over, council members agreed to try and reach a consensus over the remaining candidates: Hobbs and Prosser.

Council Members Nancy Bates, Terry Sever, Massie Kurzejn and Grant seem committed to Hobbs.

"Hobbs is the most aggressive of three and also most capable," Bates said, adding that he was technically more skilled than the others. "He's head and shoulders above either of the other two."

Kurzejn agreed that Hobbs was the star.

"Hobbs has been my choice from day one," she said. "Everyone tells me how capable our staff is. If anything, he might bring out more in people. People like Hobbs are inclined to do that. He's going to hit the floor running."

But what was confidence to Hobbs supporters sounded like arrogance to those favoring Prosser.

"I'm a little concerned about Hobbs' aggressiveness," said Councilwoman Cheryl Oliverio, who along with Mayor Vagnozzi, Councilwoman Vicki Barnett favored Prosser.

"I've always liked Prosser," Barnett said. "He has vision. He's a team player who builds consensus. He's bright and witty. He would be a real part of the community."

person would fit in with the present staff," he said. "Prosser is a better fit. Let's face it, we already have some in the community who thought we should have looked internally. If someone comes in here whose style doesn't work, it means more problems."

Whinnery said the city staff would work well with either man.

"They are all qualified people," he said. "Our staff is strong enough to deal with the personalities that come in. They won't be unduly intimidated."

The council asked Bennett to offer the position to Hobbs on the basis of an initial 4-3 vote. Hobbs accepted and had planned to visit the city Saturday (June 16) along with his wife to look for housing.

One advantage Hobbs offers over King is that he would give 30 days notice in Maryland. King was obligated by contract to give 90 days notice. Hobbs could be at work by Aug. 1.

'Patrol' pushes bike safety

Parents, be forewarned. The cops want to catch your kids.

Farmington Hills police are on the lookout for children who wear a safety helmet when biking, roller blading or skateboarding. When they spot them, the police will issue tickets to the children.

Not to worry though. The "ticket" is actually a citation of a pleasant sort — one that children

will enjoy receiving. It entitles them to a free Kite Meal from any Mr. Pita restaurant.

The tickets are part of a program called the Pita Patrol which was launched last summer by Mr. Pita restaurants, a 12-store chain based in Sterling Heights. Mr. Pita has joined forces with local police departments to promote the use of safety helmets for children.

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UPDATE ON PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS

Many people have psoriasis, a skin condition characterized by a thick, fish that can cover the scalp, arms, back, chest and knees. Few have psoriatic arthritis, a swelling of the joints that can involve the hands, knees, toes, back and neck.

Why certain individuals with psoriasis will have accompanying joint disease, and others won't, is not clear. Some individuals with psoriasis will never have joint disease, and others will.

Physicians can identify psoriatic arthritis by its pattern. Instead of going across all the fingers, psoriatic arthritis involves a single finger from its joint below the knuckle to the large knuckle at the wrist. Often a single toe is involved for arthritis. The toe becomes swollen and physicians identify it as a sausage digit.

Treatment is limited. The best therapy is control of the rash, the next best is aspirin and the sun, which is why the arthritis inevitably improves in the spring and summer. None of the claims of the newer arthritis medications apply to psoriatic arthritis care. The best drugs are salicylates and vitamin A. At times the addition of methotrexate or sulfasalazine help, though the long-term benefits are not yet established.

Joint injections are useful when pain pin points, but the long-term control of psoriatic arthritis depends on therapy existing development.

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