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SPORTS, 1B



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BUSINESS, 10A

The Detroit News

Tuesday, June 7, 2011 Metro Final

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SPORTS, 1B

GM's chief pushing for higher gas taxes

Akerson also expects U.S. to sell stake in automaker within a year

BY DAVID SHEPARDSON AND CHRISTINA ROGERS
The Detroit News

Detroit — General Motors Co. CEO Dan Akerson wants the federal gas tax boosted as much as \$1 a gallon to nudge consumers toward more fuel-efficient cars, and

he's confident the government will soon shed its remaining 26 percent stake in the once-bankrupt automaker.

"I actually think the government will be out this year — within the next 12 months, hopefully within the next six months," Akerson

said in a two-hour interview with The Detroit News last week.

He is grateful for the government's rescue of GM — "I have nothing but good things to say about them" — but Akerson said the time for that relationship to end is coming because it's wear-



Akerson

ing on GM.

"It's kind of like your in-laws: It was a nice long weekend. We didn't say a week," Akerson said with a laugh.

And while he is eager to say goodbye to the government as a part owner of GM, Akerson would like to see it step up to the challenge of setting a higher gas tax, as part of a comprehensive energy policy.

A government-imposed tax

hike, Akerson believes, will prompt more people to buy small cars and do more good for the environment than forcing automakers to comply with higher gas-mileage standards.

"There ought to be a discussion on the cost versus the benefits," he said. "What we are going to do is tax production here, and that will cost us jobs."

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TODAY'S FOCUS

New hire: AT&T exec to lead human resources at GM.

Settling in: Akerson embraces Detroit area's automotive culture.

Stories, 6A

Weiner admits he sent lewd photos

BY BETH FOUHY
Associated Press

New York — After days of denials, a choked-up New York Democratic Rep. Anthony Weiner confessed Monday that he had sent explicit photographs of himself to women online and admitted to "inappropriate" exchanges with six women before and after getting married.

The six-term congressman insisted that he had broken no laws and vowed to remain in office, calling the matter an "aberration from which I've learned."

"This was me doing a dumb thing and doing it repeatedly and lying about it," the 46-year-old said after a week of double-entendre headlines and late-night wisecracks full of Weiner jokes.

But Weiner's political standing appeared in grave danger after his news conference. There was an absence of any public expressions of support from his colleagues, and the House Democratic leader, Rep. Nancy Pelosi, called for an ethics investigation

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Richard Drew / Associated Press

Rep. Anthony Weiner, D-N.Y., who may face a House ethics probe over the scandal, apologized but said he will not resign.

SEEKING STEM CELL THERAPY ABROAD



Elizabeth Conley / The Detroit News

Kaden Strek is 8 years old, has cerebral palsy and is legally blind. He and his mom, Eddie, will leave for China later this month for treatment he can't get in the United States.

Family looks to China for child's treatment

BY MAUREEN FEIGHAN
The Detroit News

St. Clair Shores — Leaning against the coffee table in his family's living room, 8-year-old Kaden Strek has a joke up his sleeve.

Kaden, who has cerebral palsy and is legally blind, knocks on the table with a curled hand.

"Knock, knock," says his mom, Eddie. "Who's there?"

"Boo," says Kaden, eyes downcast, head bowed to his chest, his voice garbled.

"Boo hoo," responds Eddie,

sending Kaden into a fit of giggles.

He was born three months early to an addict mom, and Kaden's short life has been anything but lighthearted. Doctors gave him just days to live and predicted he would be a "vegetable" if he survived.

Kaden had other plans. Today, he walks with a walker, uses a variety of words and some sign language to communicate, and is obsessed with the children's music group the Wiggles.

"It's his M.O. He proves people wrong," said dad Tom, who, with

Eddie, has fostered Kaden since birth, adopting him at 2.

Now, Tom and Eddie, short for Elisabeth, are hoping Kaden will defy the odds again — this time with the help of controversial stem cell transplants for which they'll travel more than 6,000 miles to China later this month. The goal: to improve Kaden's vision, balance and speech.

Kaden will receive four transplants using umbilical cord stem

Please see Stem cells, Page 7A

"We started to think this might be a chance to really change him — his level of independence, change his life."

Eddie Strek, on considering stem cell therapy for her son, Kaden

High-skilled immigrants pursued to boost state

Snyder pushes program to attract foreign workers and investments

BY KIM KOZLOWSKI
The Detroit News

Gov. Rick Snyder has launched an initiative to attract more foreign investors and entrepreneurs to bring their talent, ideas and business plans to help boost the state's economy.

Known as Global Michigan, the effort is modeled on a program the governor created while he was in Ann Arbor that he now wants to expand on a state level. Experts say it is a pioneering effort in the United States, one that follows similar attempts in other nations.

"He has long been interested in this topic and sees the value foreign nationals can play in the new economy," said Amy Cell, senior vice president of talent enhancement, at the Michigan Economic Development Corp.

The agency is helping to lead the effort. "This is looking at what is really the best thing for Michigan when you look at the types of opportunities that can come about from immigrants, and the contributions they make in a community."

Elected on the heels of the state's decade-long recession, Snyder has included Global Michigan in his strategic — and sometimes controversial — plan to get the state back on the path to prosperity.

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg even weighed in on immigrants as a way for Detroit to rebuild and to address the nation's immigration issues when he suggested that all people wanting to come to America first move to the Motor City for a few years.

Snyder's plan is not aimed at bringing every immigrant to the state. Instead, he hopes to attract highly skilled immigrants and investors to synergize the economy.

So far, leaders of the initiative have enlisted dozens of public and private organizations, such as businesses, associations, local economic development agencies, advocacy groups and universities, to help build and execute Global Michigan, officials say.

Committees have been formed to address many issues such as attraction of talent, retention of international students and working to get more foreign nationals into programs that offer visas for those who invest in state businesses with jobs for Americans.

Diversification has been touted as one way to grow the state economy beyond the automotive industry.

But attracting foreign nationals would add another strategy to the state's arsenal, said Ron Perry, who was a volunteer in a similar program spon-

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METRO, 3A

Bing threatens layoffs in city budget impasse

METRO, 3A



Mazda to stop building midsize car in Flat Rock

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Couric moves to ABC for daytime talk show

ARTS & STYLE, 1C

