

State OK's 34-mile bike trail

By LEM MERZ
Outdoor Writer

A 34-mile bike and hiking trail in Livingston and Jackson counties is in the works.

The State Highway Commission authorized acquisition, at a price to be negotiated, of an abandoned Grand Trunk Western Railroad right of way.

The starting point would be Leland, south of Brighton. To find it on the map, let your finger run eastward along Ten Mile, nine miles past South Lyon into Livingston County. If you can't spot Leland, look for Bailey Lake.

End point would be just north of 1-94 near Jackson. The trail will pass Waterloo, Piquette and Brighton state recreation areas.

Tracks and ties have been removed, but all bridges are still in place. Limestone or bituminous material will be used to pave the path. Separate paths will be provided for horseback riders and bikers.

Funds will come from the U.S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation by way of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the highway department's own fund for non-motorized transportation.

This is the second link in a cross-state bike path to be announced. Development of a 36-mile link from Kalamazoo to South Haven was announced earlier and is expected to begin this year.

No timetable has been announced for the Leland-Jackson link.

WINTERKILL. is a possibility on inland lakes, especially shallow ones, this year.

Thick ice and deep snow on lake ice result in low levels of dissolved oxygen. Aquatic plants don't flourish, and that results in their giving off less oxygen. Plants die and decompose, further reducing the oxygen supply.

The shortage of oxygen kills fish. Most susceptible species are sunfish requiring the highest supplies of oxygen—trout, bass, pike and perch.

We won't know how bad the winterkill is until the ice melts in spring. If you see unusually large numbers of dead fish, that's what has happened.

"CC-99" is the name of the canoe trip being sponsored May 13-21 by the Grand River Watershed Council.

Some 800 persons are expected to take part in the trip along 223 miles of the Grand River from Jackson to Grand Haven and on 236 miles of its seven major tributaries. At the most, it will be a 10-day trip.

Water rate hearing set

A public hearing on water rate increases has been called by the Detroit Board of Water Commissioners at 10 a.m. Feb. 24 in the 18th floor City-County Building auditorium.

According to Charles R. Scales Jr., director of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, factors leading to the increase in water rates and how the increase will affect individual billings will be discussed. Public comments and questions also will be discussed.

The new rates are scheduled to be effective May 1.

PERSONS OR groups giving oral presentations are urged to be brief to allow all parties to participate. They are also asked to submit a copy of their presentation in writing for the record of the water board.

Those who are unable to attend may register their comments in writing to Scales at the Water Board Building, 725 Randolph, Detroit 48226.

Scales said the amount of the rate increase was 20 per cent and applied to both retail and wholesale customers.

FOR AREA communities the new quoted average wholesale rate per 1,000 cubic feet of water, without individual community add-ons, are:

Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority (SEOCWA): \$1.63, Bloomfield Hills, \$2.16; Farmington, \$1.29; Farmington Hills, \$2.53; Garden City, \$2.21; Lathrup Village, SEOCWA; Livonia, \$2.21; Plymouth, \$2.16; Southfield, SEOCWA; Troy, \$2.04; Westland, \$2.21; Beverly Hills, SEOCWA; Aven Township, \$2.11; Bloomfield Township, \$2.16; Canton Township, \$2.30; Plymouth Township, \$2.16; Redford Township, \$1.98; and West Bloomfield Township, \$2.32.

Ski race set Sunday

An open competitive cross-country ski race is scheduled for noon, Feb. 22 at Independence-Oak County Park, two miles north of Pine Knob on Sashabaw Road, Clarkston.

Registration fee is \$2. Entry forms can be obtained by writing or calling Oakland County Parks and Recreation, 2800 Washtenaw Lake Road, Pontiac, 48066, at 880-8888. Registration will close at 11:30 a.m. the day of the race.

The race is jointly sponsored by Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission, Michigan Recreation and Park Association, and Raleigh Bike and Sport Shop of Pontiac.



Registration packets are \$6 and include maps, first aid and safety tips, list of camps, a jacket patch, canoe rental and permit. Write to: Grand River Watershed Council, 2022 W. Michigan, Lansing, Mich. 48917.

Purpose of this biennial project is to

"create awareness of the Grand River Basin, to identify recreational transportation as a valuable asset for the use of our water resources, and to encourage public support for new and expanded water management systems." said council director John Kananaga.

We might add that the "big four" canoe rivers—An Sauble, Pine, Pere Marquette and Manistee—have had overcrowding problems. Canoeists acquainted with other rivers would be a wise option for canoeists.

CARS KILL as many deer as hunters do—or so it seems sometimes. Car-deer collisions also injure people and damage cars.

Austria has reduced such accidents 80 per cent by using reflectors to frighten deer away from roadways. Reflectors throw headlights beams into the woods, stimulating the eyes of a potential predator.

Prof. Raimo Wilhelms, of the University of Michigan Graduate School of Business Ad-

ministration, says the reflector system would be far superior to signs marking deer crossings. He adds that the marking system "is often not too useful for the motorists because many accidents occur at night, and signs are so close to the crossing that the car is at the crossing at the same time the motorists become aware of the sign."

NATURE'S BIKES are scheduled at three Huron-Clinton metroparks this Sunday (Feb. 22) at 9 a.m.

Berry Creek near Uxeh, Kalamazoo near Bedford and Oakwoods near Flat Rock have automobiles to lead bikers.

Other bikes are March 14 and 26 at 9 a.m., April 11 and 25 at 8 a.m. and May 9 and 23 at 8 a.m.

Park entry is free until the first of May. From May to September, you will need a park permit to enter. Prices are \$5 for an annual permit, \$3 for senior citizens and \$1 for a one-day permit.



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