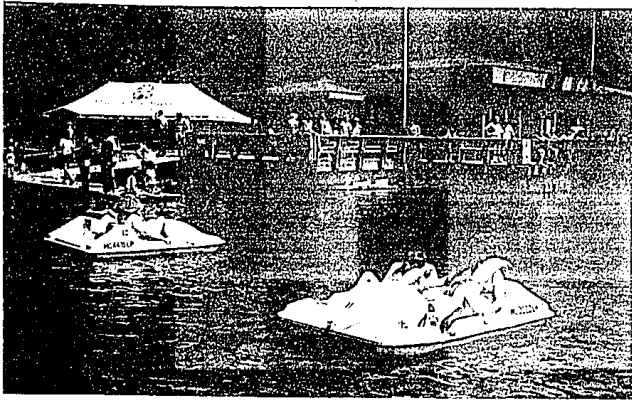




Water time

Pedal boating is a cooling pastime at Independence Oaks County Park, on Sashabaw Road north of Clarkston. The 1,000-acre park also has 12 miles of nature trails, a nature center with hands-on exhibits and picnic areas.

Developer buys Boy Scout camp

River Place Properties Inc. has completed the purchase of 640 acres in Livingston County that formerly belonged to the Detroit Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

River Place has no development plans, said company President Ted Moss.

The land, which includes a large portion of Brighton Lake, has been a Boy Scout camping area for nearly 50 years.

Several Oakland County firms with expertise in engineering, architecture, land use and water resource management and real estate market research will conduct a study to determine the best use of the property.

"FOR THOSE who know us primarily for our \$250 million development at Stroh River Place, this acquisition in Livingston County might seem a departure," Moss said. "But really, it is not only a prudent diversification but also an extension of our desire to look at real estate with an eye toward careful and deliberate re-use."

Primary planning and consulting engineers for the proposed development will be Giffels-Webster Engineers of Auburn Hills. They will be working with Harley Ellington Pierce Yee & Associates of Southfield. Lavenoth & Horwath, also of Southfield, will be conducting the market feasibility studies and financial analysis. The companies will be conducting what is called a "highest and best-use" study.

"WE HAVE A strong local team looking into all aspects of the property," said Ken Cheyne, vice president of River Place Properties. "We will be looking at environmental and community concerns, while being mindful of the marketability of the development. The property has a rich history and will be developed in a sensitive and responsible way."

Jobs total at record

Larger-than-normal hiring for the upcoming summer season caused seasonally adjusted unemployment in Michigan to drop by half a percentage point to 8.1 percent in May.

Richard Simmons Jr., director of the Michigan Employment Security Commission, said the state's labor force and employment levels last month reached all-time highs for May.

In addition, the state's jobless rate fell to its lowest point for any May since 1978, when the May unemployment rate was 7.4 percent.

"In May, employment grew by 43,000 due largely to seasonal hiring in Michigan's agricultural, construction, services and retail trade industries," Simmons said. The service and retail trade employment growth was tourism-related.

Michigan's labor force grew by 20,000 in May to 4,488,000. Employment increased to 4,124,000.

Michigan's unemployment fell by 23,000 in May to 362,000. In April, the statewide jobless total had been 385,000, or 8.6 percent.

65 mph limit passes

Blanchard 'highly likely' to veto it

Local lawmakers were deeply divided as the Michigan Legislature last week adopted a 65 mph speed limit bill for 720 miles of rural freeways.

At week's end, Gov. James J. Blanchard was leaning toward vetoing the measure. He opposed raising the speed limit unless safety measures were adopted — specifically, a ban on radar detectors.

"It's certainly not the end of the world," Blanchard said of his "highly likely" veto.

The final measure, which passed Thursday, however, eliminated even a watered-down "Fuzz-Buster" ban. It was proposed by a conference committee after the House steadfastly refused to pass even mild restrictions on radar detectors.

SENATORS voted 21-17. Here is how area senators voted:

Yes — Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills; Richard Fester, R-West Bloomfield, author of the measure; and Rudy Nichols, R-Waterford.

No — Doug Cruce, R-Troy; William Faust, D-Westland; Robert Geake, R-Northville; and George Hart, D-Dearborn.

The House vote was 66-34 with 10 members absent. Local representatives voted:

Yes — Democrats Justine Barnes of Westland, James Kosteva of Canton Township and Wilfred Webb of Hazel Park; Republicans Lyn Banks of Livonia, W.V. Brotherton of Farmington, Mat Dunaskis of Lake Orion, David Hoshman of West Bloomfield, Gerald Law of

Plymouth, Gordon Sparks of Troy.

No — Democrats John Bennett of Bedford, Maxine Berman of Southfield and William Keith of Garden City.

Excused absence — Judith Miller, R-Birmingham.

NO LIST ever was made available of which miles of freeway would be subject to the 65 mph limit. Michigan has 1,100 miles of freeway.

Backers said drivers are exceeding the speed limit anyway on divided highways that were built for speeds higher than 55.

Opponents said the 55 limit had been shown to save lives and would save 167,000 barrels of fuel a day. They also argued against having inconsistent speed limits on state freeways.

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