



Michigan ROUNDUP

....A House-Senate conference committee on a bill to raise the speed limit reached a compromise Wednesday. The committee raised the speed limit to 65 mph and banned radar detectors, but placed limits on enforcement of the ban. Only if drivers are stopped and convicted of speeding, drag racing, or reckless driving would they be charged with a radar detector violation and fined. The Senate approved the measure Thursday; House action is expected next Tuesday. The issue received added attention Tuesday after a member of the conference committee, Rep. Edward Giese, accused Judy Augenstein, a Lansing lobbyist representing an organization opposed to a radar detector ban, of offering him a bribe to vote against a ban. Arrested Tuesday, she faces up to four years in prison and a \$4,000 fine if convicted.

....Legislation (SB 116) passed by the Senate Wednesday would allow private schools to choose between being supervised by the State or being unsupervised. If a school chooses to be unsupervised, it would either have to employ certified teachers or administer standardized tests to its students in the fourth, seventh, and tenth grades. The bill now goes to the House.

....Senate Majority Leader John Engler will help lead an effort to reform Michigan's product liability law. He introduced legislation (SB 338) this week that would limit noneconomic awards resulting from a defective product and require that compensation be based on degree of negligence.

....Surrogate parenting contracts for compensation would be prohibited under legislation that passed the Senate Thursday. The bill also would grant legal custody of a child born under such a contract to the surrogate mother and her husband.

....Armand Velardo, a lawyer for a major Detroit law firm, is the first Republican to declare candidacy for the U.S. Senate seat held by Democrat Don Riegle. This will be the first campaign for Velardo, 29, a resident of East Detroit.

....The Michigan Citizens Lobby and the Detroit Department of Consumer Affairs conducted a survey of banks and savings and loan associations in Detroit and Lansing that finds that Detroit is one of the most expensive cities in the United States for banking services. The Michigan survey, part of a national survey, focused on checking accounts having an average annual balance of less than \$500. Of 19 U.S. areas surveyed, Detroit has the highest average annual costs for interest-bearing accounts (\$126.78) and the second-highest (after Texas) fees for regular checking accounts (\$124.54). Fees for checking services charged by different financial institutions in Detroit and Lansing vary significantly.

....Carp Lake Township in the western Upper Peninsula appears to be the site most likely to be chosen in the June 30 selection of a midwest low-level radioactive waste disposal site. The township is the only site candidate to volunteer to accept the radioactive waste. Locations in Ohio, Wisconsin, and Minnesota are also under consideration.

....A survey conducted for the Detroit Free Press and WDIV-TV in Detroit, which examined the social attitudes of six racial and ethnic groups, finds that all but one group feels that blacks are the group most often discriminated against in the metro-Detroit area. In addition, most respondents feel that crime is the biggest problem facing metropolitan Detroit and that curfews for teenagers are a good idea.