

State travelers won't get vacation from construction

Vacationers traveling in the state this summer may wish to note the following Michigan Department of Transportation projects in progress:

■ **WESTERN UPPER PENINSULA** — Menominee County: The bridge carrying US-41 over the Little River is restricted to one lane controlled by signals. Marquette County: Traffic on the bridge carrying M-35 over the middle branch of the Escanaba River is restricted to one lane controlled by signals.

■ **NORTHWEST MICHIGAN** — Mason County: The M-116 bridge leading to Ludington State Park is reduced to one lane controlled by signals.

■ **WEST MICHIGAN** — Newaygo County: On M-20 at the White River east of White Cloud, traffic will be detoured around the construction area.

■ **Muskegon County**: In Muskegon and Norton Shores, US-31 will be reduced to one lane in each direction at the Sternberg Road interchange. In Muskegon, US-31 Business Route will be reduced to one lane in each direction from Laketon to downtown.

■ **SAGINAW BAY/THUMB AREA** — Saginaw County: North of Saginaw, northbound I-675 to north-

bound I-75 will be detoured. Also in Saginaw, northbound I-75 to southbound I-675 is closed to traffic. Traffic on M-46 over the Tittabawassee River is restricted to one lane in each direction.

■ **Huron County**: Traffic carrying M-53 over the Pinnebog River is restricted and controlled by signals.

■ **SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN** — Allegan County: Traffic on the bridge carrying M-89 over the Kalamazoo River is reduced to one lane in each direction.

■ **Berrien County**: I-94 is reduced to two lanes in each direction for 4.6 miles from the St. Joseph River to west of exit 23. US-12 Business Route in Niles is closed during daylight hours and restricted to one lane in each direction at night. Traffic follows a signed detour.

■ **Branch County**: Traffic on I-2 miles of US-12 in Bronson is restricted to one lane in each direction.

■ **Van Buren County**: I-94 at 28th Street is restricted to one lane in

each direction. Traffic on the bridge carrying I-196 over the Black River northeast of South Haven is restricted to one lane in each direction.

■ **SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN** — Monroe County: Traffic on US-24 (Telegraph Road) is detoured during reconstruction of two bridges over Swan Creek and Little Swan Creek.

■ **Lenawee County**: Traffic on the bridge carrying M-34 over the River Raisin is restricted to one lane controlled by signals.

Topless dancing legislation debated

By TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

Local governments could ban topless dancing under a package of controversial bills before the state House of Representatives. The bills Tuesday got through the House Local Government Committee on a 7-3 vote with Rep. Penny Crissman, R-Rochester, abstaining.

"Are we talking about beaching?" asked Crissman, a former Rochester mayor. "Is your own back yard a public place? I recall charges brought in Florida against a couple in a hot tub. If a couple has a hot tub and there's an apartment building behind them, is that public?"

Crissman and newcomer Lynne Martinez, D-Lansing, were unhappy with the answers they received from John Dolan, attorney for Clinton Township in Macomb County. Clinton is pushing for the power to ban topless dancing.

"I'm against this," said Martinez, who voted no. "I'm with Rep. Crissman until these questions are resolved."

"You're regulating public nudity, not obscenity," answered Dolan, indicating the bill could apply to public beaches and golf tournaments.

Added Rep. David Anthony, D-Escanaba: "I'm not a lawyer, and I'm uncomfortable with this." But his effort to send the bills to the House Judiciary Committee, which handles most crime legislation, failed.

Three bills are involved — one each for cities, villages and townships. The key paragraph redefines "public nudity" as "knowingly or intentionally displaying in a public place, or for payment or promise of payment, a female individual's breast with less than a fully opaque covering." It adds: "A mother's breastfeeding of her baby does not under any circumstance constitute nudity."

Existing Michigan law already defines public nudity as display of the genitals.

The bills were sponsored by Sen. Gil DiNello, D-Eastpointe, and have been passed by the Senate. They were endorsed by the Michigan Municipal League and Michigan Townships Association.

"We've had calls from several townships. They see a migration of these facilities from the cities to the townships," said Pat McAvoy of the townships association. Raquel Bowles, of Macomb's Right to Decency organization, denied the notion that topless dancing is "a career choice. It's commercial exploitation of women."

She quoted studies and an interview with the owner of a topless bar that 90 percent of the dancers were either abused or raped in early life.


Dolan quoted a police report in which a dancer told an undercover officer that the only way she could gain access to other clubs was to dance in the topless place.

Replied Rep. Martinez: "Exploitation of women has no bearing on how to sunbathe."

Meanwhile, Clinton Township is proceeding before the state Liquor Control Commission against owners of Shooters, a Class C liquor licensee on Groesbeck Highway.

Current legislation, Dolan said, avoids the question of obscenity and instead defines public nudity. Current Michigan law bans topless dancing, he said, leading topless bar operators to argue the law is "a green light" for topless dancing.

Refer to Senate Bills 107, 108 and 109 when writing to your state representative, State Capitol, Lansing 48909.



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