



JULIAN VAIL, LLC

NEWS & NOTES

APRIL 4, 2008

CONSTRUCTION SEASON UNDERWAY

With spring underway, many Michigan motorists will face construction commuting to and from work and traveling to and from their favorite Michigan getaways.

The Michigan Department of Transportation web site allows visitors to see where the construction is and a time line for completion.

For more information and to check out construction in your area visit www.michigan.gov/mdot.

CONSUMER ALERT

This "Consumer Alert" was sent to the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) from our South Carolina partners.

FYI from the South Carolina Department of Agriculture:

Especially when our farmers are hit hardest by drought and floods, there is yet another scam taking place. The scammer is using our Market Bulletin ads and other publications throughout the country to buy hay and other items, even livestock. The con artist sends a check over-and-above the amount required to pay for the product. The trusting seller cashes the check taking the amount required and sending the rest back to the buyer. However, eventually, the seller discovers that the check is fraudulent. More about the scams are listed at <http://haybarn.com/main/scams.asp>.

2008 MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE SCHEDULE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- April 8 1:30 p.m.
- April 9 1:30 p.m.
- April 10 12:00 p.m.

SENATE

- April 15 10:00 a.m.
- April 16 10:00 a.m.
- April 17 10:00 a.m.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION TO REVIEW LAND USE ORDER FOR PIGEON RIVER COUNTRY STATE FOREST AT APRIL MEETING

A proposed land use order will be amended to address the public's use of the Pigeon River Country State Forest at the April 10 Natural Resources Commission meeting in Lansing. The order will discuss how multiple users can enjoy recreation in the 118,000-acre state forest tract in northeast lower Michigan, while protecting the wild character of the Pigeon River Country.

The order will be considered for action by Department of Natural Resources Director Rebecca Humphries at the May meeting of the NRC.

The land use order addresses three specific recreational aspects of the Pigeon River Country State Forest: camping with horses, other riding or pack animals; trail riding with horses, other riding or pack animals; and bicycling.

Camping with horses or other riding or pack animals will be restricted under the land use orders to the Elk Hill Equestrian State Forest Campground and Trail Camp, and Johnson's Crossing Trail Camp.

Trail riding with horses, other riding or pack animals will be restricted to certain roads and pathways. A person riding or leading a horse, other riding animal or pack animal will be restricted to the north spur of the Shore to Shore Riding-Hiking Trail; a county road; a forest road designated and illustrated as open on the Pigeon River Country State Forest access map; or a service trail road posted open by the DNR, providing over 280 miles of riding opportunities.

Humphries said it is important to note that recreational activities can still be enjoyed in the Pigeon River Country, but that they will be restricted to certain areas.

"We want to accommodate the users who have enjoyed this area, and who have helped through volunteer efforts to maintain it," Humphries said. "But we also wanted to make sure that the Pigeon River Country remains the 'Big Wild' for recreational activities that have been enjoyed for decades, such as hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, snowmobiling, horseback riding and bicycling. This state forest area belongs to the public, and we are charged with best managing it for multiple public recreational uses."

For more information on the proposed land use order, please visit the NRC section of the DNR's Web site at www.michigan.gov/nrc.

MSU UNDERGRAD TEAM WINS ANIMAL WELFARE COMPETITION

The Michigan State University (MSU) undergrad team placed 1st at this year's Intercollegiate Animal Welfare Judging and Assessment Competition held March 15-16 on the campus of MSU. Teams from universities and veterinary colleges across the Midwest and Canada participated in the seventh annual event.

The contest was created as an educational exercise to enhance students' understanding of the welfare issues affecting animals used for human purposes, including livestock production, research and companionship. The experience promotes critical thinking, teaches ethical reasoning skills, encourages objective assessments based on science, and improves persuasive public speaking and presentation skills.

In addition to a team problem assignment, contestants were challenged to assess the welfare of animals in comparative scenarios featuring show and sled dogs, gestating sows, aquaculture and livestock auction facilities, and to prepare an oral presentation of their evaluations to a team of judges.

To read a complete release about the event and to learn more about the ABWG, visit www.canr.msu.edu/animalwelfare/index.html.

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