

# SUMMER MOVIES

FROM THE MINIONS TO 'THE ODYSSEY,' HOLLYWOOD'S SUMMER MOVIE SEASON IS PACKED WITH BIG NAMES AND FRANCHISES. **L3**

# Sunday

## KALAMAZOO GAZETTE



### Another summer, another batch of road construction

Lanes in both directions are closed for construction of a new ramp at the intersection of M-14 and I-96 in Livonia in Wayne County, as seen on April 23. Completion of the project is slated for October. *Jacob Hamilton, MLive.com*

**Travel:** The state plans to repair 2,000 miles of road and nearly 100 bridges, with major highway closures through November.

**Justin P. Hicks** *jhicks3@mlive.com*

LANSING — Michigan drivers may see more orange barrels than usual this summer.

The message from Gov. Gretchen Whitmer: I'm sorry and you're welcome.

State leaders came together last fall on a deal that would boost annual funding for roads and bridges by at least \$1 billion starting this year. That funding could be even higher in the years to come as revenue comes in from taxes on gas, marijuana and corporate profits.

More money in the transportation fund should mean more repairs — and ideally longer-lasting fixes — for primary and local roads across the state. But it also means more headache-inducing traffic bottlenecks and travel delays.

#### AGAIN WITH THE LANGUAGE

"Drivers, when you hit the road this spring and summer, we ask that you slow

**Eastbound I-696 is closed for a reconstruction project on the border of Ferndale and Royal Oak in Oakland County. The highway is closed from Telegraph Road to I-75, with work expected to be completed by November.**  
*Jacob Hamilton, MLive.com*

down and pay attention, there's Michiganders at work here," Whitmer said. "Construction season is officially open and we're going to continue to fix the damn roads in Michigan."

The governor's office says that the Mich-



igan Department of Transportation will fix about 2,000 lane miles of state roads and nearly 100 bridges this year, bringing totals under Whitmer's leadership to about 26,500 lane miles and almost 2,000 bridges fixed over eight years. Those totals don't include local roads.

Among the most significant MDOT projects on the schedule this year are repairs on I-696 in Oakland County, I-96 and I-94 in Wayne County, U.S. 127 in Ingham and Clinton counties, U.S. 31 in Grand Traverse County, M-46 in Muskegon County, and I-69 in Genesee County. What follows is a summary of nine of the most significant projects that will affect traffic this spring through the fall.

#### I-696 IN OAKLAND COUNTY

Eastbound drivers won't have access to about 10 miles of I-696 for much of this year. The highway from about Lahser Road to Dequindre Road closed earlier this spring and will remain shut down into November.

Michigan has moved onto the second phase of the Restore the Reuther project, which will include work in 2027 as well. This year's agenda includes rebuilding the eastbound highway, repairing nearly 60 bridges and replacing the Church Street plaza bridge.

Westbound traffic won't be affected for most of the closure.

**SEE TRAVEL, A4**

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

### Scientists say this year's weather pattern will only get worse

*Michigan is experiencing a pattern of disasters that researchers link directly to climate change.*

**Sheri McWhirter** *smcwhirter@mlive.com*

TRAVERSE CITY — From record flooding to devastating ice storms, Michigan has been hit by a string of extreme weather disasters in recent years, and scientists say it's exactly what a warming planet foretells.

The latest example is widespread flooding this spring that pushed rivers and lakes over their banks, damaging homes, roads and bridges while raising concerns about dam safety across the state.

It follows a growing list of disasters in recent years: a massive ice storm that snarled power lines and damaged millions of acres of forest in Northern Michigan, repeated urban flooding and sewage overflows in Detroit, the dam failures near Midland, and flash floods in the Upper Peninsula that washed out roads and collapsed homes.

Scientists say the pattern is consistent with a warming climate and serves as a warning that Michigan's infrastructure must be upgraded to keep pace.

Research shows that for every 1-degree Fahrenheit increase in average temperature, the atmosphere can hold about 4% more water vapor. That has contributed to a 45% increase in heavy downpours in the Midwest over more than six decades, according to Climate Central.

"The warming atmosphere can carry and transport more moisture," said Andrew Gronewold, a hydrology researcher and associate professor at the University of Michigan's School for Environment and Sustainability.

"This water that's getting dumped on us is being carried by a bigger bucket in the sky. It's gathering moisture from the oceans. It gathers moisture from across land surface, across the continent, and a lot of it gets dumped right in our region here," he said.

**SEE CLIMATE CHANGE, A5**



**A drained Bucks Pond is all that's left after the dam near Barton City failed on April 13 after heavy rains and snowmelt.**  
*Sheri McWhirter, MLive.com*

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