



PRESEASON OPENER: LIONS AT BENGALS, THURSDAY, 7 P.M.

Monarrez: Petzing’s debut most important for Lions

SPORTS, 1C

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Detroit Free Press

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Some giant sturgeon in Michigan may predate the U.S.

Keith Matheny
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

They’re the mysterious swimming giants of the Great Lakes region — lake sturgeon. They can grow up to 8 feet long. Fossil records show that their ancestors swam the Earth more than 130 million years ago, meaning they existed alongside dinosaurs.

Scientists knew these fish were long-lived, but the estimates were in the 80 to 100 years range. The oldest known specimen was captured at Lake of the Woods on the border between Minnesota and Canada in 1953 and estimated at 152 years old.

New research by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan State University and other partners, however, finds that lake sturgeon are much, much older than was earlier understood — ages that are difficult to comprehend.

“I feel pretty comfortable saying that lake sturgeon can live to be 400 years old,” said Edward Baker, DNR research station manager with the Marquette Fisheries Research Station, and coauthor of the peer-reviewed study reassessing lake sturgeon longevity published this spring in the Journal of Fish Biology.

That would mean there are lake sturgeon swimming in the Great Lakes region today that were hatched in the 1620s — when the pilgrims were first

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Michigan State University assistant fisheries professor Scott Colborne holds the largest lake sturgeon researchers caught in the Black River in Cheboygan County during spring 2026.

PROVIDED BY SCOTT COLBORNE

Love it or leave it? Best ways to enjoy the auto event or to steer clear of it



People drive along Woodward Avenue in Ferndale while cruising during the official start of the Woodward Dream Cruise on Aug. 15, 2025. Many cars are already cruising the road for this year. PHOTOS BY RYAN GARZA/DFP

Woodward Dream Cruise revved, ready



Mark Phelan
Auto Critic
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

It’s Dream Cruise week, the summer week when our neighbors and people from across the country and around the world gather along 16-odd miles of Woodward Avenue to celebrate the art, science and industry that have defined Detroit and Michigan for more than a century.

You don’t have to love cars to love the Woodward Dream Cruise, but it helps. If you live within earshot of Woodward, you have every right to be tired of the sound of rumbling V-8s and tortured Goodyears by mid-August.

They’ll be gone soon. This week we cruise.

The Dream Cruise stretches from Ferndale to Pontiac, its route lined



Arian Hargrove, of Birmingham, looks over a 1965 Ford Mustang parked in a Ford area during the official start of the Woodward Dream Cruise on Aug. 15, 2025.

with businesses, parking and turn-arounds.

Saturday is Cruise Day, but the number of unique and collectible vehicles increases every evening.

Around a million people and 30,000

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MICHIGAN ENERGY COSTS

Regulators propose some ways to lower utility bills

Arpan Lobo
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

The state agency tasked with regulating Michigan’s major investor-owned utilities is calling for an end to annual rate hike cases, as scrutiny over energy affordability mounts.

In a letter sent to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in July, members of the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) outlined a series of proposals aimed at lowering utility bills for residential customers. Whitmer in June called on the agency — whose three members she appointed — to identify ways to ease costs for ratepayers. The letter was released publicly by the MPSC on Monday, Aug. 10.

Commissioners identified measures to lower costs including:

- Barring investor-owned utilities, like DTE Energy and Consumers Energy, from bringing annual rate increase cases to the commission. Currently, state law allows utilities to ask the MPSC to increase their rates every 12 months. Both DTE and Consumers have electric rate increase cases in front of the commission, likely to be decided early in 2027. The MPSC also signed off on electric rate hikes for both companies earlier this year.
- Require utilities companies to use existing electrical infrastructure before approving new projects on the grid. Before requesting approval to build new energy infrastructure, commissioners wrote utilities should have to prove there isn’t already sufficient capacity on the grid. The letter stated around 50% of the grid is currently being used, “which is historically low.”
- Find ways to increase competition among energy distributors. Michigan’s current electrical and natural gas regulatory model sees the MPSC oversee investor-owned utilities, which, in turn, have monopolies over energy distribution in set service areas. The MPSC does not recommend pivoting from that model, but commissioners wrote that encouraging

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Back-to-school supplies at highest prices in years

Costs for lunch items also keep zooming up

Daniel Munoz
NorthJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK

Parents are getting socked with some of the highest prices in years for back-to-school shopping, experts are saying, as retailers struggle with the effects of the Trump administration’s tariffs and oil price shocks from the war with Iran.

From lunch supplies to pencils, glue sticks to scissors, the cost of stocking up

on school needs for the 2026-2027 academic year is expected to be 10.7% higher than in 2025, according to data released by The Century Foundation, a progressive think tank.

Broken down, the typical basket of school supplies will cost \$175 per student, up 7.7% from 2025.

“The Trump administration’s economic policies are driving up nearly every price tag this back-to-school season, forcing families to stretch already-thin budgets even thinner and make difficult choices to cover the basics,” the report says. “Trump’s war in Iran has driven up oil prices, increasing the cost

of filling the gas tank for the drive to school, and comes after a year-plus of chaotic tariffs, which have raised prices on groceries, consumer goods, and other essentials for working families.”

The biggest price increase was in lunch boxes, which went up 26.8% from \$14.91 in 2025 to \$18.91 in 2026, The Century Foundation report says.

Notebook prices increased 23%, from \$4 in 2025 to \$4.92 in 2026. The cost of notebook paper increased 20%, from \$0.90 to \$1.08. Index card prices increased 22.2%, from \$3.16 to \$3.86. And

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One of the steepest increases in price is on lunch boxes, which have gone up 26.8% since 2025. GETTY IMAGES



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