



BACK FOR MORE

CADE CUNNINGHAM, WHO WAS NAMED TO THE ALL-NBA TEAM LAST SEASON, RETURNS FOR HIS SIXTH YEAR LEADING THE DETROIT PISTONS. TRAINING CAMP KICKED OFF ON TUESDAY. **G1**

ECONOMY



Cattle eat at a feedlot in Brazil. Republican lawmakers fear that a flood of cheap foreign beef would undermine American farmers and ranchers, who are already struggling with high fuel, grain and fertilizer prices. *AP file photos*

Trump’s ideas to lower costs run into resistance

From beef to diesel, White House efforts to bring down prices have failed so far to pan out.

Riley Beggin *Washington Post*

First came a proposal to permit tariff-free beef imports, but that immediately angered America’s farmers and ranchers. Then came a plan to ban exports of domestic diesel fuel, but that met with pushback from major oil companies. In between, President Donald Trump pitched the idea of simply cutting \$5,000 checks to adult Americans frustrated, polls show, by high food and gas prices — if the GOP maintains control of Congress. But that idea, too, has come under fire, even from some Republican lawmakers concerned about the potential hit to the budget deficit. With just five weeks until Election Day, the White House has thrown out multiple ideas for combating persistent inflation, which has outpaced wage growth. But experts say it is unclear whether Trump can execute any policy that would placate inflation-weary voters and help the GOP maintain control of Congress.



On Tuesday, the average national price for a gallon of diesel was \$6.44. But it’s even higher in places like Los Angeles, above. *AFP, Getty Images file*

“These are symptoms of panic in the administration about problems that they have in part created,” said David Wessel, director of the Hutchins Center on Fiscal and Monetary Policy at the Brookings Institution. Inflation has been running over the Federal Reserve’s target rate since 2021, but an array of Trump policies have fed the problem, economists say. Trump’s decision to join Israel in going to war with Iran has disrupted the global oil supply, leading to elevated energy rates. His tariffs have produced higher prices for some imported goods. And his administra-

tion’s immigration crackdown has made low-cost labor harder to find, keeping price pressures on domestic companies high. Consumer frustration is reflected in polling. The gap has steadily widened between voters who approve of and disapprove of Trump’s performance as president, and 73% of Americans said they disapprove of Trump’s handling of the economy in a recent poll conducted by SSRS for CNN. Only 27% approved — his lowest approval rating on the issue ever recorded by the survey. Against that backdrop, Trump has floated a parade of ideas for cutting prices. “President Trump pledged to lower costs and raise real wages for everyday Americans, and the Administration continues to rigorously evaluate every option on the table to deliver,” White House spokesman Kush Desai said. On top of the political hurdles, however, these policies have been “small in the grand scheme of things ... if they’re helpful at all,” said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody’s Analytics. “So it’s not like it’s moving the dial on the affordability crisis.” Douglas Holtz-Eakin, president of the American Action Forum, a conservative-leaning think tank, said it’s not uncommon for politicians to try to bring down prices in the run-up to elections, **SEE ECONOMY, A3**

DATA CENTER ISSUES

Wayne County executive vetoes \$125M tax break

The incentive was sought for the Google-backed “Project Cannoli” data center project in Van Buren Township.

Jennifer Eberbach *jeberbach@mlive.com*

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP — Wayne County Executive Warren Evans vetoed \$125 million in tax incentives for a Google-backed hyperscale data center project in Van Buren Township. The Wayne County Commission and Van Buren Township officials had voted to approve the local tax break, also approving a community benefits package. Evans said the process was “rushed” and did not allow enough time for public feedback and analysis, according to a report from The Detroit News. “This veto is not a rejection of responsible economic development, technology investment or Van Buren Township,” Evans said. “It is a rejection of a rushed process that did not provide sufficient time for public participation, independent analysis, and informed decision making.” **SEE DATA CENTER ISSUES, A3**

MICHIGAN BUSINESS

3 expansions will add jobs, investment

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced the business moves in Kent, Ingham and Oakland counties.

Ehren Wynder *ewynder@mlive.com*

LANSING — Gov. Gretchen Whitmer on Monday announced three business expansions in Kent, Ingham and Oakland Counties that will result in more than \$90.6 million in capital investment and 127 new jobs. “Michigan is on the move and open for business, competing for and winning big projects in next-generation industries like data analytics and manufacturing,” Whitmer said. The business expansions represent growth in Michigan’s life sciences, agriculture and mobility industries. The Michigan Economic Development Corp. supported all three projects with Michigan Business Development Program performance-based grants. **SEE MICHIGAN BUSINESS, A3**



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