



## BIRDS TO GET GOING

THE EAGLES ARE LANDING AT TRAINING CAMP WITH WORK TO DO AS THEY LOOK TO DEFEND THEIR TITLE — PLUS, SEE THE BEST NFL PLAYERS FOR EACH POSITION AROUND THE LEAGUE. **SPORTS**

### ENERGY

## AI data centers are using more power. Regular customers are footing the bill.



As power-hungry data centers proliferate, states are searching for ways to protect utility customers from the steep costs of upgrading the electrical grid, trying instead to shift the cost to AI-driven tech companies. *Dana DiFilippo, New Jersey Monitor*

*Most are connected to the same electrical grids that power residential homes, commercial buildings and other structures.*

**Paige Gross** *States Newsroom*

Regular energy consumers, not corporations, will bear the brunt of the increased costs of a boom in artificial intelligence that has contributed to a growth in data centers and a surge in power usage, recent research suggests.

Between 2024 and 2025, data center power usage accounted for \$9 billion, or 174%, of increased power costs, a June report by Monitoring Analytics, an external market monitor for PJM Interconnection, found. PJM manages the electrical power grid and wholesale electric market for 13 states and Washington, D.C., and this spring, customers were told to expect roughly a \$25 increase on their monthly electric bill starting June 1.

“The growth in data center load and the expected future growth in data center load are unique and unprecedented and uncertain and require a different approach than simply asserting that it is just supply and

demand,” Monitoring Analytics’ report said.

Data centers house the physical infrastructure to power most of the computing we do today, but many AI models and the large AI companies that power them, like Amazon, Meta and Microsoft, use vastly more energy than other kinds of computing. Training a single chatbot like ChatGPT uses about the same amount of energy as 100 homes over the course of a year, an AI founder told States Newsroom earlier this year.

The growth of data centers — and how much power they use — came on fast. A 2024 report by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission in Virginia — known as a global hub for data centers — found that PJM forecasts it will use double the amount of average monthly energy in 2033 as it did in 2023. Without new data centers, energy use would only grow 15% by 2040, the report said.

As of July, the United States is home to more than 3,800 data centers, up from more than 3,600 in April. A majority of data centers are connected to the same electrical grids that power residential homes, commercial buildings and other structures.

“There are locational price differences, but data centers added anywhere in PJM have an effect on prices everywhere in PJM,” Joseph Bowring, president of Moni-

toring Analytics said.

**CREEPING COSTS**

At least 36 states, both conservative and liberal, offer tax incentives to companies planning on building data centers in their states. But the increased costs that customers are experiencing have made some wonder if the projects are the economic wins they were touted as.

“I’m not convinced that boosting data centers, from a state policy perspective, is actually worth it,” said New Jersey State Sen. Andrew Zwickler, a Democrat and co-sponsor of a bill to separate data centers from regular power supply. “It doesn’t pay for a lot of permanent jobs.”

Energy cost has historically followed a socialized model, based on the idea that everyone benefits from reliable electricity, said Ari Peskoe, the director of the Electricity Law Initiative at the Harvard Law School Environmental and Energy Law Program. Although some of the pricing model is based on your actual use, some costs like new power generation, transmission and infrastructure projects are spread across all customers.

Data centers’ rapid growth is “breaking” this tradition behind utility rates.

“These are cities, these data centers, in terms of how much electricity they use,” **SEE ENERGY, A6**

### CAMDEN

## Finding fresh food remains a challenge for city residents

*With SNAP, Medicaid funding at risk, local organizations prepare for increased demand in a city where 65% already experience food insecurity.*

**Paige Britt** *For South Jersey Times*

Arleni Rivas, 31, is a mom with four daughters who has lived in Camden for six years.

Rivas, who spends between \$700 and \$800 a month on groceries to feed her family of six, said Camden’s lack of fresh and reliable food options means she has to leave the city to shop for groceries.

Trying to shop for fresh food in Camden has left her disappointed by the lack of options.

According to the Camden Food Access Work Group, 65% of city residents don’t have access to healthy food choices, and more than two-thirds don’t live near a supermarket. Feeding America estimates that over 66,000 people in Camden County experienced food insecurity.

Cathedral Kitchen is a Camden-based community kitchen that serves up to 600 clients a day, offering case management and mental health services in addition to providing groceries and some 700 meals daily.

Noreen Flewelling, senior development director at Cathedral Kitchen, said the three areas that impact their clients’ ability to access healthy food is mental health, inflation and the high cost of housing. Many Camden city residents live in what are called food deserts, an area without supermarkets or grocers.

“If they really take advantage of the services that we have, that might allow them the extra money to pay for their rent, their utilities,” Flewelling said. “We really serve as a safety net for a lot of Camden and the **SEE CAMDEN, A4**

### NATION & WORLD

## ‘Cosby’ star dies at 54

Malcolm-Jamal Warner, “Cosby Show” actor, dies in accidental drowning. **C3**

### LIFE

## Will AI take your job?

Knowing the 4 S’s of the technology’s advantages over humans is key. **F3**

### NEW YORK

## Appeals court orders new trial for N.J. man convicted in 1979 Etan Patz case

*He had been arrested in 2012 after a decades-long, haunting search.*

**Jennifer Peltz** *Associated Press*

The New Jersey man convicted in the 1979 killing of 6-year-old Etan Patz was awarded a new trial Monday as a federal appeals court overturned the guilty verdict in one of the nation’s most notorious missing child cases.

Pedro Hernandez, of Maple Shade, has been serving 25 years to life in prison since his 2017 conviction. He had been arrested in 2012 after a decades-long, haunting search for answers in Etan’s disappearance, which happened on the first day he was allowed

to walk alone to his school bus stop in New York City.

The appeals court said the trial judge gave a “clearly wrong” and “manifestly prejudicial” response to a jury note during Hernandez’s 2017 trial — his second. His first trial ended in a jury deadlock in 2015. His lawyers said he was innocent.

The court ordered Hernandez’s release unless the 64-year-old gets a new trial within “a reasonable period.”

The Manhattan district attorney’s office, which prosecuted the case, said it was reviewing the decision. The trial predated current DA Alvin Bragg, a Democrat.

Harvey Fishbein, an attorney for Hernandez, declined to comment when reached Monday by phone.

A message seeking comment was sent to Etan’s parents. They spent decades pursuing an arrest, and then a conviction, in their

son’s case and pressing to improve the handling of missing-child cases nationwide.

Etan was among the first missing children pictured on milk cartons. His case contributed to an era of fear among American families, making anxious parents more protective of kids who had been allowed to roam and play unsupervised in their neighborhoods.

The Patzes’ advocacy helped establish a national missing-children hotline and made it easier for law enforcement agencies to share information about such cases. The May 25 anniversary of Etan’s disappearance became National Missing Children’s Day.

“They waited and persevered for 35 years for justice for Etan, which today, sadly, may have been lost,” former Manhattan DA Cyrus Vance Jr. said after hearing about Monday’s reversal. Vance, now in private **SEE NEW YORK, A6**



A photograph of Etan Patz hangs on an angel figurine as part of a makeshift memorial in the SoHo neighborhood of New York in May 2012. *Associated Press file*