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WEEKEND Lebanon Daily News

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Joe Eisenhauer, Inch & Co. vice president of development, speaks to Lebanon County Commissioners during their April 15 workshop meeting about a proposed \$1.7 billion data center in South Annville Township. MATTHEW TOTH/LEBANON DAILY NEWS

Low pay for home care workers impacts disabled

David Bruce
Erie Times-News
USA TODAY NETWORK - PENNSYLVANIA

A spinal cord injury hasn't stopped Tyler King from earning a college degree and planning his future. But that future could be altered if Pennsylvania doesn't raise the reimbursement for home health aides and nurses who care for King and others who have physical disabilities. Right now, King's grandparents care for him in the late afternoon and early evening, but his grandparents are getting older and eventually he will rely solely on home health nurses. "My poppa works two jobs to support us, so he's sometimes out during those hours," King said. "My grandma is my caregiver during those hours but it's getting harder for her. It's a physical job. I need readjusted on a regular basis and help going to the bathroom."

How much do home health aides, nurses earn in PA?

A home health aide for a client with physical disabilities in Erie County earns an average of just over \$13 an hour, while a home health nurse earns \$25 to \$30 an hour — less than what those nurses can earn elsewhere. Overall, Pennsylvania reimburses personal care workers an average of \$20.63 an hour, far less than Maryland (\$25.58), Ohio (\$28.96) and New York state (\$36.31), according to a Pennsylvania Homecare Association survey.

See **DISABLED**, Page 5A

Officials hear concerns about data center proposal

Matthew Toth
Lebanon Daily News
USA TODAY NETWORK - PENNSYLVANIA

Lebanon County residents took their concerns to the Lebanon County commissioners about a proposed \$1.7 billion data center in South Annville Township. More than 30 residents came to the commissioner's workshop meeting April 15, where 1235 Martina Drive Owner LLC representatives came to share in-

The proposed project would include five buildings that would be between 110,000-square-feet to 150,000-square-feet. Martina Drive representatives believe between 50 and 100 people would be employed at the center.

formation with county officials. A majority of those residents voiced objection to the project, including South Annville Township resident Laura Warner. "I live a half mile from this proposed site, and it is a monstrosity and it is

See **PROPOSAL**, Page 4A

Grocery prices rise, but staples getting cheaper

Betty Lin-Fisher
USA TODAY

Grocery prices are on the rise, but not all foods are seeing increases, according to a new price analysis of some common food staples. CouponFollow analyzed the monthly Consumer Price Index average food price data by the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics for the last two years to take a look at what's happening to your food market basket. Overall, while 11 of the 25 common grocery staples fell in price in the last

two years, the food items that are climbing have offset those savings, the analysis showed. Proteins and beverages saw the biggest increases, according to the analysis. Here are the top five products that saw the largest increase from February 2024 to February 2026:

- **Coffee:** The price per pound for ground roast coffee has increased 55.2% as it rose from \$6.09 in to \$9.46.
- **Lettuce:** The price per pound for romaine lettuce went up 38.6% from \$2.57 to \$3.56.

- **Ground beef:** 100% ground beef per pound rose 31.3% from \$5.13 to \$6.74.
- **Steak:** U.S. Department of Agriculture choice boneless sirloin per pound rose 21.1% from \$11.72 to \$14.19.
- **Orange juice:** a 16-ounce can of frozen concentrate rose 15.4% from \$4.21 to \$4.86.

There has been a high degree of variation in price fluctuation across categories, said David Ortega, a food economist and professor at Michigan State

See **PRICES**, Page 5A



Proteins, specifically ground beef and sirloin, have increased in price the most in the last two years, according to a new analysis by CouponFollow. RICARDO ROLON/FORT MYERS NEWS-PRESS & NAPLES DAILY NEWS FILE

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