

THE MORNING CALL

\$4.00

AUGUST 4, 2025

MONDAY

Hazy sunshine today. 86° | 61°



Weather, Page 12



A parade participant waves a Puerto Rican flag while marching in the Lehigh Valley Puerto Rican Day Parade in Allentown on Sunday. **AMY SHORTELL/THE MORNING CALL PHOTOS**

All smiles for Puerto Rican festival



Two festivalgoers in a car smile as other vehicles pass by.



Two women dance and cheer as they watch motorcycles and other vehicles playing music travel along the parade route.

Lehigh Valley electric prices continue to rise

A record-high capacity price of \$329.17 per megawatt-day went into effect June 1

By Elizabeth DeOrnellas
The Morning Call

Lehigh Valley utilities are expecting consumer electricity bills to keep rising as the latest results of the regional grid operator's capacity auction push supply costs higher.

Increasing demand from large customers such as data centers, lowered reliability of gas plants, and continued delay in connecting clean energy and battery storage projects to the power grid are the main factors driving up supply costs for PJM, the company that oversees the regional power grid, and its 67 million customers.

PJM estimates future power demand and then runs an auction in which generators submit bids that commit them to providing power when needed. The auctions are designed to identify sufficient supply and set the price for generating that electricity.

The capacity price is given in the unit of dollars per megawatt-day — which means that's the price a generator would get for making one megawatt of power available for a day, enough to power 400-900 homes.

The most recent auction, results of which were announced July 22, set a record-high capacity price of \$329.17 per megawatt-day, up from \$269.92 that went into effect June 1. It's the maximum allowed under a price cap set in an agreement that Gov. Josh Shapiro helped negotiate

after the previous year's tenfold price spike, which is only now being seen in consumer bills.

Without that price cap, PJM estimated that the new capacity price, set to go into effect in June 2026, would have been nearly \$389 per megawatt-day, or about 18% higher.

PJM, which covers 13 states and the District of Columbia, estimates that customer prices will rise 1.5%-5% next summer as the rates affect the supply price portion of customer bills.

What local utilities have to say

PPL Electric estimated that the latest auction results will add \$5-\$6 to the supply portion of a typical residential customer's monthly bills beginning next year, according to a statement from spokesperson Dana Burns.

"Combined with the increase from the 2025/2026 auction, the last two capacity auctions will have raised customers' bills by more than \$20 per month with essentially no added benefit to consumers," Burns said.

"Under current state law, PPL Electric cannot control or mitigate energy supply costs," Burns said. "PPL Electric passes these supply costs through to default service customers without mark up or profit."

Met-Ed spokesperson Todd Meyers said it would be premature to speculate

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Comcast cable comes to Lehigh Valley

Damage from installation upsets some residents

By Anthony Salamone
The Morning Call

William Kuntze isn't happy Comcast cable is expanding to the Lehigh Valley.

More specifically, Kuntze is unhappy Comcast workers dug holes from the curb into his front lawn, instead of the grassy strip between the sidewalk and curb, in

Bethlehem Township.

The underground work left his lawn, in a newer area of the Miller Heights neighborhood, with a bunch of bumps instead of a smooth, slightly sloped grade he had running to the sidewalk. He also said some work was done at least 7½ feet into his front yard instead of closer to the sidewalk or, ideally, in the strip.

"It's been an annoyance," Kuntze said, sitting on his front porch after showing the work done to the well-manicured front lawn. "It's not the worst thing in

the world, but this is obviously something that they can't remedy. They changed it."

Officials with Comcast of Southeast Pennsylvania and the township said the service agreement between company and community calls for Comcast's workers to make appropriate repairs to property disturbance within 20 business days, weather permitting.

"We can't make grass grow back in 20 days, but we will work to make it grow back," Comcast spokesperson Jennifer Bilotta said.

Workers, who have begun in earnest to install lines for cable, internet and other communications services in multiple Lehigh Valley communities, replanted seed, applied topsoil and straw, and generally repaired Kuntze's front lawn, she said.

Bilotta noted the work was all in the township right of way.

"Customers are responsible for maintaining the township's right of way, which includes watering

Turn to Comcast, Page 2



Jose Merino, a contractor for Comcast, uses a hydro-vac Tuesday in Bethlehem Township. Comcast is installing cable lines for internet and other digital service as it continues to expand into the Lehigh Valley.

APRIL GAMIZ/THE MORNING CALL

Visit to flashpoint holy site decried

Some viewing prayer by official for Israel there as provocation

By Wafaa Shurafa, Sam Metz and Samy Magdy
Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — Israel's far-right national security minister visited and prayed at Jerusalem's most sensitive holy site on Sunday, triggering regional condemnation and fears that the provocative move could further escalate tensions. The visit came as hospitals in Gaza said 33 more Palestinians seeking food aid were killed by Israeli fire.

With Israel facing global



Palestinians carry bags as they return from a food distribution point Sunday in the central Gaza Strip. **EYAD BABA/GETTY-AFP**

criticism over famine-like conditions in the besieged strip, Itamar Ben-Gvir's visit to the hillside compound threatened to further set back efforts by international mediators to halt Israel's nearly two-year military offensive in Gaza.

The area, which Jews call

the Temple Mount, is the holiest site in Judaism and was home to the ancient biblical temples. Muslims call the site the Noble Sanctuary. Today it is home to the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third-holiest site in Islam.

Visits to the site by Israeli officials are considered

a provocation across the Muslim world, and openly praying violates a long-standing status quo. Jews have been allowed to tour it but are barred from praying, with Israeli police and troops providing security. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said after Ben-Gvir's visit that Israel would not change the norms governing the site.

Ben-Gvir visited following Hamas' release of videos showing two emaciated Israeli hostages. The videos caused an uproar in Israel and raised pressure on the government to reach a deal to bring home the remaining 50 hostages who were captured on Oct. 7, 2023, in

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YOUR HOMETOWN TEAM NEXT HOMESTAND

AUGUST 5-10

AUGUST 5

BERKS PACKING \$1 HOT DOGS
TAIL WAGGIN' DAY

AUGUST 6

TACOS & TALLBOYS, TAIL WAGGIN' DAY
SLIME HAT GIVEAWAY
(FIRST 1,500 KIDS 17 & UNDER)

AUGUST 7

TWISTED THURSDAY
EASTON CITY SERIES CAP GIVEAWAY
(FIRST 3,000 ADULTS 18 & OVER)

AUGUST 8

FRIDAY NIGHT FIREWORKS
FEFE'S VERSION
(SWIFT THEME NIGHT)

AUGUST 9

POLKA NIGHT
POST-GAME FIREWORKS

AUGUST 10

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