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one of these
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BEEFING UP PRICES



Matt Welch, an employee at The Butcher Shoppe, slices meat for customers.

GAVIN MICHAELSON PHOTOS, GAVIN.MICHAELSON@LEE.NET

Demand for steak, hamburgers strong despite higher costs

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From steaks to hamburgers, Midwesterners have become all too familiar with rising beef prices in recent years. Prices have drastically increased since the COVID-19 pandemic, and as the supply continues to dwindle, demand remains strong.

“Like produce going up, gas going up – I think it’s just a necessity,” said Andrew Goergen, a customer at The Butcher Shoppe in Hokah. “I don’t really think too many people (are deterred), just because everything else is rising, too.”

In August 2020, the average price for ground beef in the U.S. was \$4.31 per pound. By August 2025, the same product had increased 54% to \$6.63 per pound, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



Please see BEEF, Page A4 Dave Richards and Deb Greene browse the selection of meats available at Bubba's Meats.

Dollar coin design will honor Cray Computers

MATT MILNER
The Leader-Telegram

A company founded in the Chippewa Valley is being honored as Wisconsin’s entry in the American Innovation series of \$1 coins. The series, which dates to 2018, honors people and inventions developed in each state, and Wisconsin’s turn comes in the 2026 editions. The coin features the Cray-1 Supercomputer, the world’s first supercomputer and at the time the fastest computer in the world.

Seymour Cray founded the company as Cray Research, Inc., in 1972. Born and raised in Chippewa Falls, the company still has ties to the area. It’s now owned by

Hewlett Packard, but continues to manufacture parts in Chippewa Falls. The Cray-1 didn’t look anything like the computers most people are familiar with. It was a C-shaped arc with benches around the outside. But the speed was the sensation and sparked a bidding war. Los Alamos National Laboratory won out over the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. The machines sold for between \$5 million and \$8 million, and Cray-1 computers were used for everything from atmospheric research to cryptanalysis at the National Security Agency.



A Cray Inc. supercomputer manufacturing line is seen in Chippewa Falls in July 2014. CHIPPEWA HERALD FILE PHOTO

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