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# Electric bills will increase with Penelec rate hike

By Walt Frank

Customers who use Penelec as their power generation supplier will be paying more for their electricity beginning in December.

Penelec's residential price-to-compare is increasing 6.76% over the current rate, effective Monday, Dec. 1. For an average residential customer using 750 kWh per month, this would be a \$5.58 increase on their monthly bill. The current PTC is 11 cents/kWh — as of Dec. 1, it will be 11.75 cents/kWh, said Lauren Siburkis, spokeswoman for FirstEnergy Corp., Penelec's parent company.

"While we can offer an idea of how supply increases will impact customer bills based on typical usage, the exact amount you might pay depends on several factors, including current and future usage, whether you've chosen a competitive supplier and if you have enrolled in any assistance or budget programs," Siburkis said.

The price to compare for FirstEnergy's Pennsylvania utilities, including Penelec, changes twice each year. The last change in the price to compare for non-shopping Penelec customers was June 1.

"Your electric bill is made up of two main

charges: the supply charge for the cost of the actual electricity you use and a charge from your electric company for delivering electricity to your home. For the supply charge, you can shop and choose a third-party energy supplier who may be able to offer the best price for electricity. If you do not select an alternate supplier, your electric company is required to purchase electricity for you and provide it to you at the same cost we've paid for it," Siburkis said.

Customers who do not shop for electricity receive the "default service" from their electric company for their electric supply and pay the price-to-compare rate.

"These charges are located in the top right

section of a customer's bill under 'Account Summary.' FirstEnergy Pennsylvania does not generate electricity or control supply prices. We simply deliver electricity to homes and businesses and collect any supply costs on behalf of suppliers without a markup," Siburkis said.

For the Altoona area, there are 41 providers in addition to Penelec.

PAPowerSwitch.com shows those range from American Power & Gas of Pennsylvania LLC at 9.49 cents per kwh (variable rate for one month, fixed rate for six months) to IGS Energy at 17.39 cents per kwh (fixed rate for 36 months).

In Clearfield County, PAPowerSwitch.com shows rates range from



— Courtesy photo, Metro

The sun sets behind a series of electric transmission towers in this undated photo.

11.19 cents per kwh (with an intro rate for three months then 13.09 cents per kwh for 12 months) to 15.59 cents per kwh (fixed rate for six months) through Clearview Energy. Visit PAPowerSwitch.com for additional rates.

## PPL's rate hike request raises questions about data center transmission costs

By Robert Swift  
CapitolWire

A request by a major electric utility to increase its base distribution rate by one-third raises issues about who will pay for transmission costs to support data centers.

PPL Electric Utilities Corp. proposes to increase

the distribution rate by 33% to generate \$356 million in additional annual revenue.

If adopted, the request would increase monthly average residential bills from \$177 to \$189, or 9%.

The company operates the transmission network distributing power to 1.5

million customers in 29 counties across eastern and central Pennsylvania.

A number of data center projects are proposed in PPL's service territory.

The state Public Utility Commission is investigating the rate request. The agency has scheduled four public hearings next month

in Scranton, Catasauqua, Harrisburg and Lancaster.

PPL said the extra revenue is needed to strengthen and modernize the electric grid to withstand severe weather and cyberattacks, implement smart grid technologies and improve customer service. "We're proud to have

prevented more than half a million power outages so far this year, but we know our work is not done," said PPL President Christine Martin. "These necessary investments are vital to power the lives and communities we serve."

See **Rate**/Page 5

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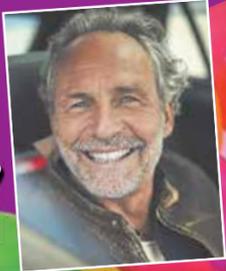
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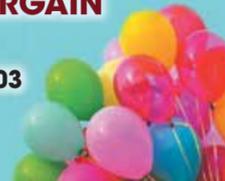
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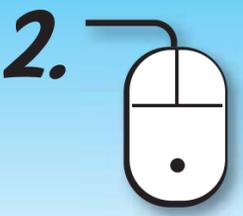
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# Fullington Trailways updates New York stop locations

CLEARFIELD Fullington Trailways will implement updated stop locations in New York for its Route 510/530 service, effective Dec. 1. The changes are designed to enhance accessibility and provide a more convenient experience for passengers. Olean, N.Y., Previous location: 301 S. Union Street; New location: Delaware Park Center Ellicottville, N.Y., Previous location: 13

Washington Street; New location: 47 Washington Street “These stop adjustments reflect our continued focus on making travel more seamless for our customers,” said Jonathan Berzas, CEO of Fullington Trailways. “We’re committed to ensuring our routes meet the needs of the communities we serve while maintaining the reliability our passengers depend on.” For more information,

visit [www.fullington-tours.com](http://www.fullington-tours.com) or contact the company at 814-355-4900. Fullington Trailways Founded in 1908 and headquartered in Clearfield, Pennsylvania, Fullington Trailways provides safe, reliable, and comfortable motorcoach transportation across the region. The company offers charter, line-run, tour, and limousine services and is proud to be part of the Trailways Transportation System, connecting

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'18 Subaru Forester - 2.5L, AWD, 145K	'14 Hyundai Tucson - 2.4L, AWD, 130K
'18 Ford Focus - 2.0L, FWD, 72K	'14 Hyundai Santa Fe - 2.0L, AWD, 118K
'17 BMW X1 - 2.0L Turbo, AWD, 138K	'14 Chevy Impala - 3.6L, FWD, 135K
'17 Lincoln MKX - 3.7L, AWD, 102K	'12 VW GTI - 2.0L, FWD, 175K
'17 Ford F150 - 5.0L, 4x4, 148K	'11 Chevy Traverse - 3.6L, AWD, 177K
'17 GMC Acadia - 3.6L, AWD, 3rd Row, 130K	'06 VW Beetle Conv. - 2.5L, FWD, 75K
'16 Mini Cooper Tradesman - 1.6L, AWD, 125K	'04 Chevy Silverado - 4.8L, 4x2, 79K

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**AD BARGAIN Crossword Puzzle**  
Solution on page 5

- CLUES ACROSS**
- Dough made from corn flour
  - Rise
  - Gratitude
  - A low wall
  - Kidnap
  - A cup golfers want to win
  - Outgoing
  - "Partner" to flow
  - Former Michigan coach Brady
  - Proverb
  - Gasteyer and de Armas are two
  - Helps a body recover
  - Baseball Cy Young winner
  - Very fast airplane
  - Offensive baseball stat
  - Body of water
  - Record of one's heartbeat
  - Signs a contract
  - Atomic #24
  - Bind securely
  - French Jesuit theologian
  - Fragrant brown balsam
  - Post office box
  - Sells tickets at inflated prices
  - Places to hang coats
  - Jewish salutation
  - Yellow fruits
  - Poorly educated
  - Microorganism
  - Talk show host Barrymore
- CLUES DOWN**
- A way to plan
  - Three-banded armadillo
  - Mobile
  - Romanian city
  - Making sour
  - Take a seat
  - "The Golden State"
  - When you hope to arrive
  - Pointed ends of pens
  - Extinct flightless bird
  - Sharp-pointed dueling sword
  - Nape of neck
  - Problems (Spanish slang)
  - Narrow carpet
  - To avoid the risk of
  - Spiritual academic degree (abbr.)
  - Equally
  - Traditional cars still need it
  - Eligible voters
  - Greek alphabet letter
  - Body part
  - Referee-declared outcome
  - Means to moving money
  - Popular footwear brand
  - Cockatoo
  - NFL's big game
  - Botswana currencies
  - News-reporting organization
  - Batman villain
  - Urgent request
  - Not all
  - Hallmark's specialty
  - Knot in a tree
  - Satisfy
  - Notable space station
  - Baby's dining accessory
  - Stitch clothing
  - \_\_\_ and behold

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**Household items that can poison pets**

Homes are filled with many items that are relatively harmless to people but can be quite dangerous to pets if ingested or inhaled. Much in the way new parents must baby-proof a home to keep youngsters safe, the same level of concern should be applied to assessing the home, garage and yard for potential pet hazards.

Safety-proofing a home with four-legged companions (or even other types of pets) comes down to recognizing hazards and making plans to keep items out of reach.

**Pharmaceuticals**  
Although some medicines for people can be safe for pets in doses carefully indicated by veterinarians, medicines also can be dangerous. Simple pain relievers like acetaminophen can interfere with oxygen flow and may do irreparable harm to the livers of companion animals, says Rover.com. Similarly, pet medications, such as flea and tick or heartworm medicines, must be carefully controlled. Often they are flavored, which means pets who gain access may gobble them up. Always store medications well out of reach for pets (including crafty cats who climb).

**Insecticides**  
Many homeowners rely on chemical insecticides to keep pest numbers down. Ant, fly, bee, and roach baits and traps may be toxic to pets. And even if they aren't, some smaller bait traps can be swallowed and cause choking. Pets may become stuck to glue traps designed for catching bugs and rodents. Always read package labels to check for use around pets. A relatively new trend is to have outdoor areas sprayed with mosquito and tick products. Although most of the companies indicate they are safe for pets, this may only be after the solution has adequately dried. Even then, it's best to confirm if a dog or cat that likes to nibble on grass or sniff around will be safe.

Whenever possible look to all-natural ways to keep pests at bay, such as sealing packages against ants and removing stray brush and matter where rodents and insects could hide away from the home.

**Laundry and detergents**  
Pets often eat inedible items. The Food and Drug Administration says that ingesting laundry detergent, dryer sheets and various chemical cleaning products can have serious implications for dogs and cats, potentially leading to ulcers and even proving fatal to dogs and cats or other companion animals. Consider storing these products in locked cabinets.

**Tobacco products**  
Just like tobacco products, such as pipes and cigarettes, aren't exactly healthy for human use, they can be quite dangerous to pets. Tobacco products contain nicotine, and ingestion at high doses may cause hyperexcitability, hypersalivation, fast breathing, twitching, and even coma or death, according to Metropolitan Veterinary Associates in Pennsylvania. Consider quitting tobacco, or at the very least, keep these products out of reach.



# Altoona Mirror Plus!



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2025



Mirror photo by Patrick Waksmunski  
Bill Herr Jr. is the owner, along with his father, Bill Sr., of the Triangle Barber Shop at 1518 12th Ave, Altoona.

## Still making the cut

### Triangle Barber Shop continues to thrive under father-son duo

By WALT FRANK  
wfrank@altoonamirror.com

The Triangle Barber shop in Altoona has withstood the test of time, and although the shop is no longer in its namesake building, it continues to thrive under Bill Herr Sr. and his son, Bill Jr.

According to Bill Sr., there had been a barber shop in the historic Triangle building since it opened in 1924. Bill Sr. decided to become a barber after he graduated from Philipsburg-Osceola High School in 1962. He then completed a nine-month course at the now-defunct Cambria Barber School in Johnstown. He received his barber's license in May 1963.

He decided to try his luck as an apprentice. Although owner Patrick "Babe" Cuzzolina had no openings for full-time barbers, he gave Bill a chair and kept him on

once he finished his apprenticeship.

He took over the barber shop when Cuzzolina died in 1970.

"When he died, he left me the shop in his will. He left me the business license and equipment, (but) we had to buy the name. There were a lot of barber shops in the family, but he left it to a kid from Clearfield County," Bill Sr. said.

Bill Sr. grew up in Osceola Mills and was 17 when he went to barber school.

"We delivered coal for my dad, I told my mom I was not going to be shoveling coal when I was 50. I wanted something warm in the winter and cool in the summer, so I decided to become a barber," Bill Sr. said.

The business continued in the Triangle building until 2001, when Bill Sr. moved it to the present location, 1518 12th Ave., because of some problems with his landlord.

"Larry Moore had a space in his building. My customers came and helped me move the shop on a Sunday. It is nicer and bigger," Bill Sr. said.

Bill Jr. graduated from Altoona Area High School in 1986 and went to a barber school in Camp Hill, graduating in early 1987. He went to work with his father in April 1987.

"I wanted to do it because of my dad, I thought it was an interesting job to take up. I enjoy the different people that come," Bill Jr. said. "It is an honor to follow in my dad's footsteps." "He has never had another job, he has always been with me. He is very good at what he does," Bill Sr. said. "He wanted to work with me, (and) I encouraged him. I put everything I learned into him."

Bill Sr. had become known as an expert on "flat tops." He received a call from the school Bill Jr. was attending, asking him if he would

come down to teach students how to give a good "flat top" haircut. Instead, Bill Jr. did the teaching.

"Dad taught me and then I taught the folks at the barber school. It was different, I was there to learn and not teach," Bill Jr. said.

Bill Sr., now 81, said the key to survival as a barber has been hard work.

"Working 60 hours a week, you need to do a good job and be there when they want you. It takes a lot of hard work. If you want them to come back, you better do a good job," Bill Sr. said.

"We've been able to adjust to the various hairstyles over the years. The long hair period in the 1960s and 1970s really hurt the barbering business, but we are a survivor. At one time, there were many barber shops downtown. Because of the different styles, some could not adjust and some closed because of the age of the barbers," Bill Jr., 57, said.

Another change came in 1991 when licensed cosmetologists were permitted to cut men's hair.

"When this was allowed, barbers started to fall away like rain. Men started going to beauty shops and that took away from the barbering trade," Bill Sr. said.

#### History lesson on the wall

Triangle Barber Shop has long been known for its decor.

There are post cards all over the mirrors. There are lots of railroad pictures, old medals, police badges, military flags and banners and a Christmas tree that is up year-round and is updated with new decorations for the various holidays. There is also a painting of a black dog with a red scarf painted by Bill Sr.'s granddaughter, Emily McCloskey, about 15 years ago.

"The memorabilia came together over a long period of time. Customers used to talk about things in the old downtown. A lot of the photos depict Altoona. It brings back memories, people remember what used to be around the buildings," Bill Jr. said.

#### Longtime customers key to success

Loyal longtime customers have been important to Triangle Barber Shop's success.

Jeffery Rickabaugh of Altoona received his first hair cut at the shop in March 1986 when on leave from Marine Corps boot camp.

"Bill Sr. gave me a Marine Corps 'High and Tight' cut that surpassed every cut I received from a base barber during my enlistment. Every time I returned home on leave, the shop was my first stop. That started a decades-long relationship. Bill Sr. and Bill Jr. treat every customer like family and when you return, the conversation continues," Rickabaugh said.

He said the barber shop offers a glimpse into Altoona's history with all the decor around the shop, along with all the facts about the town Bill Sr. provides while cutting hair.

**"Every time I returned home on leave, the shop was my first stop. That started a decades-long relationship. Bill Sr. and Bill Jr. treat every customer like family and when you return, the conversation continues."**

Jeffery Rickabaugh, Altoona



Courtesy photo

Triangle Barber Shop owner Bill Herr Sr., 81, is seen outside the business at 1518 12th Ave., Altoona. A recent fall has sidelined him from his usual 60-hour work week, but his son is optimistic he will return to the business.

The business has survived many highs and lows over the years, including the loss of many other businesses in the downtown district.

"Bill Jr. is now my son's barber and has been for 10 years and that will continue. It's not just the quality of the haircut; it's

the tradition and history that lives in the shop. It's actually an experience," Rickabaugh said. "As hundreds of downtown businesses fell by the wayside, Triangle Barber shop has endured."

Jim Flaig of Williamsburg has been a loyal patron for 20 years.

"My barber in Martinsburg got ill, retired and passed. A fellow I work with suggested I come here and I have been coming here ever since. It is fantastic. Bill Sr. likes gardening and so do I," Flaig said.

Ken Hofer of Duncansville has been coming to

the shop since the 1990s.

"I came here because of their reputation and word of mouth. I started coming here and have gone nowhere else. It is very traditional as far as a barbershop. I enjoy talking with Bill and Billy catching up. They give a good haircut and have a strong following," Hofer said.

#### Rough patch

Bill Sr. has been absent from the business since he fell at work in October.

"I turned around in the shop and fell and broke my femur. Customers helped me up and she (wife, Nancy) took me to Conemaugh Nason and they operated on me the next morning (Oct. 12). They put a rod through the hip on the left side," Bill Sr. said, adding he is not sure when or if he will be able to return to the shop.

Bill Jr., however, remains optimistic his father will some day be back on the job.

"I think he will come back, but I don't know when. Being at home is hard for him. He doesn't like to sit," Bill Jr. said. "If he can't come back, I will add another barber sometime down the road, I have to see what he decides."

Mirror Staff Writer Walt Frank is at 814-946-7467.



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# 2025 SEASON OF SHARING RECIPIENT: Dreams Go On



Mirror photos by Patrick Waksunski  
**Top:** Riders experience riding outside. **Bottom:** Aiden Andrews, 10, of Duncansville hangs a ring as part of an activity while riding Romeo JAC.

Altoona Mirror  
**Season of Sharing**

**HISTORY:** The Altoona Mirror Season of Sharing is a holiday fundraiser that aims to combine the power of the local newspaper, the expertise of the Central Pennsylvania Community Foundation and the generosity of our central Pennsylvania readers.

Season of Sharing has become a holiday tradition, and the money raised benefits a specific charity or charities each year.

Over the past 20 years, Season of Sharing has raised more than \$468,512 for local charities, with last year's total of \$74,244 to the Central PA Humane Society.

**PAST RECIPIENTS:**

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- 2006 Brian Morden Foundation
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- 2017 Hurricane Relief (Florida Keys, Houston, Puerto Rico)
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- 2023 Sweat For Vets
- 2024 Central PA Humane Society

**THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENT:** Dreams Go On provides therapeutic horseback riding sessions to adults and children who are physically challenged, receive mental health, behavioral health or family therapy services. Certified instructors and dedicated volunteers teach responsibility, trust, rules, patience, compassion, self-confidence, teamwork, and safety.

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**HOW TO DONATE:** The first and easiest way is to fill out the coupon below and mail it along with an envelope to the address listed below.

You can also drop off the coupon and your contribution at the Altoona Mirror, 301 Cayuga Ave., Altoona PA 16602.

The funds raised through the Season of Sharing will be administered by the Central Pennsylvania Community Foundation. 100% of the donations to the Season of Sharing will go directly to that year's charity.

Of course, donations to the Season of Sharing are tax deductible. Deadline for donations is Jan. 31, 2026.

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