



## Erie wrestlers pay tribute to longtime youth coach

SPORTS, 1B

# Erie Times-News

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Edison Elementary School principal Diane Sutton greets students entering the new building.

PHOTOS BY GREG WOHLFORD/ERIE TIMES-NEWS



Third-grade student Elijah Santiago-Rodriguez enters the new elementary school building as students returned from Easter break.

## 'SO EXCITED'

### Erie's new Edison Elementary opens to students

**Dana Massing**  
Erie Times-News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Third-grader Elijah Santiago-Rodriguez walked up to the new Edison Elementary School on crutches April 8.

"You're going to be the first kiddo in our elevator," Principal Diane Sutton said as she greeted Elijah, 9.

Had he broken three toes on his right foot before spring break, he would have had no elevator to accommodate his injury in the old Edison. Students spent their last day in the old building before spring break began in late March. They returned from break on April 8 to the new building that has a lift and other up-to-date features.

"It looks good," first-grader Leilani Wallace, 6, said as she stood with her mom near the front door at 1916 E. Seventh St. The new school was built just south of the old at 1921 East Lake Road.

Leilani said she was looking forward to her new classroom. Inside the school, students were being directed to the cafeteria or gym, where teachers were waiting to take everyone to their rooms. Teachers had spent the day before preparing for the students' first day.

"I'm so excited for these kids, the staff," Leilani's mother, Lillian Wallace said, adding that the new building would push Edison forward.

The old Edison was constructed in the 1930s and last renovated in the 1950s.

The district broke ground on the new Edison in May 2024, with the \$35.5 million school originally expected to be ready in August 2025. Construction complications required the opening to be pushed back to this spring.

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## Chances of 'super' El Niño growing

**Brandi D. Addison and Kimberly Miller**  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Recently released climate models are pointing to what could be the most powerful El Niño event in recorded history – raising the possibility of a rare "super" episode developing later this year.

A "super" El Niño – also referred to as a "Jurassic El Niño" by Colorado State University hurricane expert Phil Klotzbach – typically refers to unusually strong warming of sea surface temperatures across the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. That warming can disrupt global weather patterns, shifting storm tracks, rainfall and temperatures for months at a time.

Forecasters stress it's not a certainty yet. But multiple long-range models are now trending warmer, with some pushing into territory rarely seen in modern records – a signal that has caught scientists' attention.

El Niño occurs when Pacific Ocean waters in the central and eastern regions are warmer than average, according to NOAA. This warming changes global weather patterns in different ways than La Niña. In the United States, El Niño winters usually bring wetter, cooler conditions to the southern states and milder, drier weather to the Pacific Northwest.

Not all El Niño events are created equal. Some are mild and have only localized effects, while others can dramatically reshape weather patterns

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## Third child victim identified as probe continues into fatal Erie apartment fire

**Tim Hahn**  
Erie Times-News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Authorities have identified the third child who died following a March 29 apartment fire in Erie as the investigation continues into the circumstances surrounding it.

The Allegheny County Medical Examiner's Office on April 8 identified the 5-month-old girl who was flown to

Pittsburgh following the fire at 535 1/2 E. 26th St. as Amirah Al-Mansouri. She died shortly after 5 p.m. April 3 at a Pittsburgh hospital, the office reported in an email to the Erie Times-News.

Erie police revealed the child's death April 6.

Amirah died days after her siblings, identified by the Erie County Coroner's Office as 5-year-old Tobias Huff and 3-year-old Da'liyla Huff, were pronounced dead at UPMC Hamot after the

### INSIDE

Rise in cases involving child victims has Erie police adding detective. **2A**

three children were rushed there from the fire scene March 29.

Erie Bureau of Fire crews rescued the three children from a bedroom of their second-floor apartment after they were

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