



Toppmeyer: Why coach Mike Elko suits Texas A&M football

SPORTS, 1B

Erie Times-News

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RISING COSTS

In 2020, 20.1% of households earning between \$60,000 and \$100,000 reported experiencing problems affording their energy. In 2024, 32.1% of those households did – a 12 percentage point increase. GETTY IMAGES

Data: 1 in 3 households struggles to pay energy bills

Diana Hernández
Columbia University
THE CONVERSATION

Americans' concerns about being able to afford electricity and home heating fuel have been elevated since the beginning of the Iran war. But recently released nationwide data shows that even before the war began, these concerns were widespread, long-standing and getting worse faster than the data can reflect.

The information is from preliminary reports based on the Residential Energy Consumption Survey, a representative survey of U.S. households conducted every four to five years by the U.S. Energy Information Administration. These early results show that energy insecurity, a hidden hardship defined as the inability to adequately meet household energy needs, affects millions of American households and is worsening quickly.

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Seniors have historically been among the most protected from high energy bills, partly by programs to assist with energy costs and partly because wealth usually peaks in later life. Even so, the share of older Americans experiencing energy insecurity climbed to 1 in 4 in 2024 from roughly 1 in 5 in 2020. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Driver is acquitted

Not guilty of vehicular homicide despite DUI in pedestrian's death

Ed Palattella
Erie Times-News
USA TODAY NETWORK

A 28-year-old Erie resident has been acquitted of vehicular homicide while DUI after the defense argued that he was still capable of driving safely despite being legally drunk and high on marijuana when he struck and killed a pedestrian at a busy Erie intersection in 2024.

A jury in Erie County Common Pleas Court returned the verdict against the defendant, Logan T. Wing, after deliberating a little over an hour on May 15.

Though he was found not guilty of the vehicular homicide count, Wing was convicted of the misdemeanors of driving under the influence of alcohol and driving under the influence of marijuana.

The vehicular homicide charge was

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Erie School Board approves revised student clothing policy

Dana Massing
Erie Times-News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Erie public school students won't be wearing jeans, T-shirts or hoodies in class once the 2026-27 school year starts.

The Erie School Board voted without comment at its May 13 meeting in favor of a revised dress and grooming policy that applies to students in prekindergarten through 12th grade. The board had discussed the policy at a prior meeting.

The Erie School District had moved

away from standard school attire during COVID-19, officials said, but will now be more limiting again on what kids can wear in class.

"The district's standard school attire requirements are designed to create a

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