

Rookie WR Meeks a tough roster decision **SPORTS, 1C**

Prosecutors slow to punish employers

No firms face charges on undocumented workers

Dave Boucher
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

A little after noon on Aug. 3, a 32-year-old man from Honduras accidentally drove onto the Ambassador Bridge in Detroit. When he turned around, immigration officials stopped him. He told them he was “on his way home from a construction job he had just completed and traveled onto the bridge to Canada by mistake.”

He was charged with entering the country illegally and will likely be deported. Yet federal prosecutors have not charged his employer, or any other business owners, with knowingly hiring undocumented workers in Michigan.

The Free Press found federal prosecutors in Michigan have yet to bring such a charge against an employer in the state this year, despite promises from the Trump administration to go after scofflaw businesses that employee people unauthorized to work in the country.

Local officials have prosecuted hundreds of people accused of being in the country illegally, taking a blistering

pace that far outstrips recent years. And immigration officials have already arrested more than 1,400 people in the state through July, according to publicly available records from the Deportation Data Project.

Representatives from the U.S. attorneys in Michigan’s eastern and western districts recently acknowledged they had no current cases against someone for hiring undocumented workers. Typically, prosecutors won’t acknowledge if they have an open investigation that has yet to result in criminal charges.

Gina Balaya, spokeswoman for the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Detroit, said they have prosecuted about 200 people

this year on charges of illegally returning to the U.S. after being removed. She did not answer additional questions about prosecuting business owners.

Jamie Calouette, a spokeswoman for the western district, said in late July that their office had yet to prosecute business owners but had brought roughly 34 immigration-related cases since the start of the year. In late August she declined to provide updated numbers, and did not answer additional questions about prosecuting business owners.

A former prosecutor told the Free

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STORM UNLEASHES POWERFUL WAVES AND RIP CURRENTS



A person uses their mobile phone on a beach in Sea Bright, New Jersey on Aug. 21 as Hurricane Erin, the first hurricane of the 2025 Atlantic season, passes by hundreds of miles offshore. EDUARDO MUNOZ/REUTERS

Hurricane Erin hits closest point to the U.S.

Dinah Voyles Pulver, Thao Nguyen and Jeanine Santucci
USA TODAY

Hurricane Erin reached its closest approach to the East Coast and was beginning to move away from North Carolina early Aug. 21.

Erin remained a large Category 2 hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 100 mph as of 11 a.m. ET Aug. 21. It was located about 260 miles east of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, and was moving north-northeast at 18 mph.

The storm was expected to make a turn to the northeast and pick up speed. Its timeline for passing by the East Coast has accelerated some, and Erin is expected to slowly weaken until it reaches post-tropical cyclone status by Aug. 23, forecasters said.

However, the storm continued to unleash powerful waves and rip currents, threatening beachfront homes and flooding roads as authorities urged people to stay out of the water.

At 9 a.m. on Aug. 21, a buoy roughly 12 miles east of Buxton, North Carolina, in the Outer Banks reported that the highest one-third of waves averaged 15.1 feet. Earlier, a buoy just to the west of Erin’s estimated center position reported an average wave height of 32 feet among its highest waves, according to the Nation-



Satellite view of Hurricane Erin 8 a.m. Aug. 21. PHOTO PROVIDED BY NOAA/CIRA/USA TODAY NETWORK VIA IMAGN IMAGES

al Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration.

Those big waves, combined with storm surge, caused “significant flooding” along the Outer Banks and Highway 12, the main artery through the islands.

Sustained wind reports from the Outer Banks on the morning of Aug. 21 were between 25 mph and 40 mph, with gusts as high as 54 mph, according to the weather service.

Major flooding was forecast at more than a half-dozen tidally influenced locations on the mid-Atlantic coast, including Lewes, Delaware, and around the entrance to the Chesapeake Bay. The

National Weather Service said flooding at some locations would pose a “significant threat” to property and life, necessitating evacuations.

The tide was forecast to reach 6 feet on Chesapeake Bay at the Bay Bridge Tunnel in Virginia and 8.7 feet at Oyster, Virginia.

Coastal flood advisories were issued in Maryland, including a warning for Annapolis, where flooding was expected in the low-lying historic community. In New Jersey, swimming and other water activities were prohibited on beaches, with high surf and rip current warnings in effect through Aug. 22, the weather service said.

Coastal flooding from Hurricane Erin was expected across much of New York City’s waterfront, city officials and the National Weather Service warned. The National Hurricane Center said it is monitoring three other areas in the Atlantic.

“For now we don’t see any significant land threats from the systems being monitored,” WPLG-TV hurricane specialist Michael Lowry wrote on Substack.

One was a few hundred miles east of the Leeward Islands. Environmental conditions mean “a tropical depression is likely to form this weekend,” the hurricane center said.

Tea app makes a stir in Dearborn

Dating platform for women fuels divorce

Nour Rahal
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Tea Dating Advice app, advertised as “the first-ever dating safety platform for women,” has taken social media by storm. In metro Detroit — particularly among the Muslim community — it has been especially popular.

A Dearborn-based app developer even launched Teaborn, a rival gossip app to Tea open to everyone, but it was short-lived after nude photos were shared, its creator said.

Tea, which recently experienced security issues, allows users to anonymously share information about men they have dated or interacted with, or seek insight on men they are interested in.

Family attorney Mohamed Ali Hammoud of Mourad Law in Dearborn said he has handled about a dozen divorce filings in which the women-only platform played a role.

“One party may have suspicions about the other person cheating, and then the Tea app just confirmed it, or was the final straw for them,” he said. “Due to the public embarrassment” and “shock from it, they felt like divorce was the right option.”

Hammoud said many of his clients are Muslim, and within the small, tight-knit community, gossip “spreads like wildfire.” While the app may help women uncover hidden truths, he

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The controversial Tea Dating Advice app, advertised as a women-only safety platform, lets users anonymously share information about men, rate them, perform background checks and more. NOUR RAHAL/DETROIT FREE PRESS