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‘FLAT OUT DON’T GO IN THE WATER’



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Red flags indicating swimming is prohibited are raised Tuesday over the beach in Duck, North Carolina, as precautions are taken ahead of Hurricane Erin.

Lifeguards clear ocean as Hurricane Erin makes its way north this week

WAYNE PARRY & JOHN O’CONNOR
Staff Writers

With Hurricane Erin still hundreds of miles from New Jersey, its winds and swells were creating life-threatening rip currents and rough surf along the state’s beaches Tuesday, and Gov. Phil Murphy urged people to stay out of the water until the storm had passed.

As of mid-afternoon, the Category 2 hurricane was 655 miles south-southeast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, with maximum sustained winds of 105 mph.

It is not expected to make a direct hit on the U.S. East Coast, but its high winds were causing dangerous conditions along the entire coast from Florida to Canada.

The National Weather Service issued tropical storm and storm surge warnings for North Carolina’s Outer Banks, where evacuations were underway Tuesday.

Erin has become an unusually large and

deceptively worrisome storm while moving through the Caribbean, with its tropical storm winds stretching 200 miles from its core. Forecasters expect it will grow larger in size as it moves through the Atlantic and curls north.

It continued to lash the Turks and Caicos Islands on Tuesday, where government services were suspended a day earlier and residents were ordered to stay home, along with parts of the Bahamas before it’s expected to turn toward Bermuda and the U.S.

The center of the hurricane was expected to pass to the east of the Bahamas Tuesday night and then move over the western Atlantic between the U.S. East Coast and Bermuda on Wednesday and Thursday.

The biggest swells along the East Coast were expected to develop Wednesday and last into Thursday.

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ALLEN G. BREED, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dave Cowles eats a burrito at Rodanthe Pier as waves from Hurricane Erin crash along the beach Tuesday in Rodanthe, North Carolina.

EHT votes to spend \$600K to fix roads

Holes had been dug to prep for offshore wind cables

VINCENT JACKSON
Staff Writer

EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP — The Township Committee voted last week to spend \$616,625 to pave and restore West Jersey Avenue and other roads where work was done to prepare for an offshore wind project that never materialized.

New Jersey utility regulators earlier this month canceled their preliminary approval of the Atlantic Shores offshore wind farm, after federal maneuvering all but killed the project.

The company called the action “a pause,” not necessarily the end of the project.

Atlantic Shores had proposed to install 197 wind turbines about 10 miles off the coast between Atlantic City and Barnegat Light, which would have generated enough electricity to power 1 million homes.

President Donald J. Trump issued an executive order Jan. 20 halting all new approvals for offshore wind projects and directing the government to look for ways to cancel existing ones.

But even before Trump returned to office, Atlantic Shores was running into the same financial difficulties that others in the industry faced, seeking to rebid the terms of its project.

Also in January, the energy company Shell pulled out of Atlantic Shores, of which it was a 50% partner, saying the project no longer made sense. It took a write-off of nearly \$1 billion for pulling out.

On March 14, a federal appeals panel revoked a key air quality permit the Biden administration had issued to the project. The move came in response to a lawsuit filed by the anti-offshore wind group Save LBI in a case involving a nature preserve in Brigantine.

That same group earlier this month petitioned the U.S. Department of the Interior to cancel the leases for Atlantic Shores and rescind existing permit approvals.

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Middle Twp. tweaks Rio Grande plan

BILL BARLOW
Staff Writer

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP — A long-vacant stretch of land near Route 47 and North Railroad Avenue in Rio Grande could see the construction of 189 new homes under a development proposal.

Some neighbors brought concerns about increased traffic in the once-quiet area to the Township Committee on Monday, as elected officials voted on an amendment to a development plan for the site.

Several of the neighbors had attended a recent previous meeting to ask the township to address traffic problems on the road, which had once been a dead end and was now a means of connecting Routes 9 and 47 while avoiding the traffic-clogged intersection.

The redevelopment area stands across from the Railroad Avenue playground and park, which has become increasingly popular with the addition of a dog park, pickleball and new playground equipment, and is next to the bike path.

The area was once a concrete plant and has stood vacant for years. Mayor Christopher Leusner said it has been the site of homeless encampments and crime, and that there was recently a significant fire there.

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