

# THE PRESS

## OF ATLANTIC CITY

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### HURRICANE ERIN

# SEARCHING FOR SAND DOLLARS



VERNON OGRODNEK PHOTOS, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Visitors on a crowded Ocean City Music Pier watch the giant waves and churning ocean Thursday, as Hurricane Erin pounded the Jersey Shore. Gov. Phil Murphy declared a state of emergency for Thursday night into Friday.

## Murphy: beach erosion comes amid shortage in federal resources

**WAYNE PARRY**  
Staff Writer

ATLANTIC CITY — Hurricane Erin turned away from the U.S. mainland Thursday, but left behind pounding surf and high winds that ate away at Jersey Shore beaches as flooding remained a concern and Gov. Phil Murphy declared a state of emergency.

The governor issued his emergency declaration due to high waves along the shore and the likelihood of high-tide flooding in the evening around 7 p.m. Thursday.

Although the powerful storm was 370 miles offshore, its effects were becoming significant.

The National Weather Service predicted waves of between 10 to 17 feet Thursday night, along with “significant” beach erosion. Wave heights were already reaching 14 feet as of 2 p.m. in some spots, and wind gusts onshore were 35 to 45 mph.

“As the storm moves past New Jersey over the next 24 hours, we are expecting high surf and rip currents, coastal and flash flooding, and a high erosion risk in parts of the state,” Murphy said in a statement. “We ask all New Jerseyans to monitor local weather forecasts and warnings, and stay informed on evacuation protocols, especially if you’re down the Shore.”

The damage from erosion hit some Jersey Shore beaches that were newly replenished, or not even finished getting new sand.

Murphy noted that the Erin’s erosion could not have come at a worse time, with Congress having failed to appropriate any money in its new budget for beach replenishment projects.

“It looks like the cupboard is bare on the federal side in terms of replenishment,” the governor told local talk show host Harry Hurley on WPG Talk Radio on Thursday. “We will fight to try to change that trajectory.”

“We’ll cobble whatever we can on that,” Murphy said. “But we don’t have the resources we need on this.”

Congress typically allocates between \$100 million and \$200 million each year for beach replenishment initiatives — projects that dredge sand from the ocean floor or other places and deposit it onto U.S. coastal beaches to combat erosion.

This year, however, the federal budget earmarked zero dollars — marking the first complete funding halt for such projects since 1996.

In Ocean County, beaches in Brick Township had just finished being replenished when the storm hit, with heavy equipment still on the beach where tons of sand had just been pumped ashore.

The extent of erosion likely will not be determined until after the storm passes.

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Waves carve the beach at the north end of Brigantine on Thursday.

### ATLANTIC CITY

## City Hall a step closer to renaming

**JOHN O’CONNOR**  
Staff Writer

ATLANTIC CITY — City Council on Wednesday night unanimously approved the first reading of an ordinance to rename City Hall after late Atlantic County Commissioner Ernest Coursey.

Coursey, 62, who was also Mayor Marty Small Sr.’s chief of staff, died Aug. 5 after battling colon cancer.

Coursey’s brother Ed said his brother broke down crying when he was informed of the plan to rename the building.

“I was with him those last days,” Coursey said. “He told me he cannot believe this. He has an eight-month-old grandson, and when he’s old enough to read, he’ll see his pop-pop’s name on this building. That’s an honor, and I appreciate the mayor for bringing it up and the governor for approving it.”

Fourth Ward Councilman George Crouch said it wasn’t hard for council to come together and honor Coursey.

“Your family took care of a lot of families in the inlet,” Crouch told Ed Coursey, “You fed a lot of people, gave a lot of people toys, gave people skills and showed that you can be an entrepreneur and still stay in your neighborhood.”

“Everybody had small businesses up in the inlet when I was growing up. But nobody gave back like the Coursey family, so this was easy for everybody on this council to put beefs and everything else to the side.”

The building’s courtyard, which opened in June, was named in honor of former Lt. Gov. Sheila Oliver, who died in August 2023 at 71.

Coursey served on City Council from 1991 to 2002 and was elected vice president and then president.

In 2013, Coursey was elected to what is now known as the county Board of Commissioners and was reelected in 2016, 2019 and 2022. In January, Coursey announced he would not seek reelection so he could focus on his health.

Coursey also served as deputy mayor under Mayor Lorenzo T. Langford and as superintendent of Surf Stadium and Bader Field.

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### PLEASANTVILLE

## Sneakerhead to hand out shoes, school supplies to kids

**VINCENT JACKSON**  
Staff Writer

PLEASANTVILLE — Over the past 25 years, Darryl Glover has collected more than 1,000 sneakers.

The website sneakerfreaker.com called Glover, 37, “quite possibly the GOAT of collecting Kobes,” referring to sneakers named for Kobe Bryant, the five-time NBA champion shooting guard for the Los Angeles Lakers who died in 2020.

Glover, a former Pleasantville resident who lives in Roselle, Union County, has not forgotten where he came from or where his sneaker collecting started.

Last year, Glover founded the Sole Scholars Foundation, which seeks to empower K-12 students by providing essential supplies and resources, motivational support and scholarships.

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