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DEP says dunes did their part during hurricane

BILL BARLOW
Staff Writer

Beaches took a hit from the high tides brought by the passing Hurricane Erin but held up to the storm, a preliminary investigation by the state Department of Environmental Protection found.

DEP spokesman Larry Hajna outlined the findings this week, saying that notable erosion occurred, mostly in the southern three-quarters of the coast and in areas most prone to erosion.

“Beaches overall withstood the impacts of Erin and performed their function in protecting property,” Hajna wrote in an email.

He cited specific areas in Atlantic City and Ocean City, along with oceanfront erosion throughout Cape May County.


Officials in some shore communities have expressed concerns over the loss of beaches and damage to dunes, especially in August, an early part of the hurricane season, with the potential of northeast storms through the winter to follow.

Representatives of multiple seaside towns met with U.S. Rep. Jeff Van Drew, R-2nd, on Tuesday to discuss the need for funding for future beach projects. The meeting had been set well before the storm but gained additional urgency with the latest loss of sand.

This week, Hajna said, the DEP was in the process of compiling information and will post a post-storm survey and damage assessment in the coming days at dep.nj.gov/wlm/drec/ce/coastal-storms.

Meanwhile, preliminary reporting indicates erosion damage from the storm the length of New Jersey’s beaches, from Monmouth County to Cape May.

Please see **DUNES**, Page A3

 **VIEW:** For photos of beach erosion along the Jersey Shore, point your smartphone camera at the QR code, then tap the link. **NEWSVU**



MATTHEW STRABUK, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Second Avenue in North Wildwood on Wednesday, days after Hurricane Erin passed. Erosion has been a problem on that part of the island in recent years.

BATTLE AT THE BEACH

SEASON STARTS WITH A HARD LESSON



MATTHEW STRABUK, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Holy Spirit quarterback Ty Costabile leaps up to receive a deflected pass on a two-point conversion Thursday during a Battle at the Beach football matchup against Northern Highlands at Carey Stadium in Ocean City.

Holy Spirit loses to Northern Highlands in state’s first game of year

MICHAEL MCGARRY
Staff Writer

OCEAN CITY — The Holy Spirit High School football team opened the season with a lesson Thursday morning.


The good news for the Spartans is there are plenty of games left to put what they learned to use.

Chase Calarco rushed 16 times for 127 yards and two TDs to spark Northern Highlands to a 27-12 win in a Battle at the Beach game.

“We did a lot of things to shoot ourselves in the foot,” Spirit coach Andrew DiPasquale said. “We had a lot of penalties. There’s stuff we have to clean up. Northern Highlands played a really good game. It’s a good football team.”

The Battle at the Beach is the epicenter of the season’s opening weekend. The fifth annual event again features some of the state’s top teams and games with national implications. The showcase continues Friday and Saturday at Rowan University.

Spirit/Northern Highlands

 **VIEW:** For more photos from the game, point your smartphone camera at the QR code, then tap the link. **NEWSVU**

kicked off at 10 a.m. and was the first game in the state this season.

Northern Highlands was 6-4 last season, while Spirit finished 10-2. The Spartans are ranked No. 11 in The Press Elite 11.

Spirit never really sustained any offense Thursday. The Spartans relied primarily on senior quarterback Ty Costabile, who completed 20 of 40 passes for 209 yards and two TDs.

“We couldn’t have asked more from Ty,” DiPasquale said. “We’re going to look for him to be a leader, starting tomorrow morning when we have practice and get us going in the right direction for the next week.”

Costabile and Calarco, who also had eight tackles at safety, won the game’s MVP awards.

“The big emphasis was on our

physicality,” Calarco said. “We needed to establish the run, and defensively we needed to establish the line of scrimmage. We did both.”

Holy Spirit senior defensive back Taylor Cartwright impressed with 13 tackles. Spartans senior wide receiver Jordan Gonzalez caught five passes for 67 yards and a score.

Northern Highlands led 14-6 at halftime, but the Highlanders dominated the second half behind Calarco, who gained 119 of his yards in the third and fourth quarters.

Northern Highlands quarterback Jack O’Callaghan completed 12 of 16 passes for 205 yards and two TDs.

“You always want to challenge yourself,” DiPasquale said. “They are certainly that. You want to challenge yourself, see where you stand and go from there. We have to make some adjustments and fixes, and we’ll get there.”

The Spartans will play at Oakcrest on Sept. 5.

Please see **GAME**, Page A3

Schools in P’ville to start a little later

JOHN O’CONNOR
Staff Writer

PLEASANTVILLE — The city’s Board of Education unanimously approved a resolution Tuesday night to push back school start times a week before students return to class.

The high school day will begin at 8 a.m. as opposed to 7:45 a.m. Middle school classes will commence at 8:30 a.m. instead of 8:05 a.m., while elementary school students will report at 8:55 a.m. rather than 8:50 a.m., Superintendent Marilyn Martinez said during the meeting.

Elementary students can be dropped off at 8:30 a.m. for free breakfast, Martinez said.

Classes will be dismissed at 2:50 p.m., 3:20 p.m. and 3:14 p.m. for the high, middle and elementary schools, respectively.

On early dismissal days, the high school will let out at 12:20 p.m., middle school at 12:50 p.m. and elementary schools at 1:15 p.m.

Martinez said the district will use various means of communication to ensure students and staff are aware of the schedule change. Classes begin Sept. 4.

“We’ll use social media, letters to parents, robo call and smoke signals if we need to,” Martinez said. “We’re very excited.”

The approval came after the board discussed the idea during its Aug. 12 meeting.

“It would support our high school students in perhaps attending school on time and giving them the opportunity to begin their classes in a way that engages them more productively,” Martinez said during the meeting.

There’s also a logistical benefit to it, Martinez said, as the 30-minute start difference between the middle and high schools will help ease traffic congestion since both schools are located on the same Mill Road campus.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has been calling for later start times since 2014, according to a statement on its website.

“Although a number of factors, including biological changes in sleep associated with puberty, lifestyle choices, and academic demands, negatively affect middle and high school students’ ability to obtain sufficient sleep, the evidence strongly implicates earlier school start times (ie, before 8:30 am) as a key modifiable contributor to insufficient sleep, as well as circadian rhythm disruption, in this population,” the academy says.

Please see **SCHOOLS**, Page A3