

Weekly News Summary for Sunday, September 15, 2024.

Weather advisories posted for Hatteras Island. The NWS has issued a High Surf Advisory and a Coastal Flood Advisory for HI. The High Surf Advisory is in effect now to 8:00 Tues morning. The Coastal Flood Advisory started this afternoon and runs to 9:00 Mon night. For the surf zone, large breaking waves of 6-11' are expected. Coastal flooding of 1-2' above ground level is expected in low-lying areas. Along NC12, areas of ocean overwash are possible around times of high tide, and this may impact travel conditions. Dangerous swimming and surfing conditions and localized beach erosion are possible warns the weather service. Rip currents are a beach hazard.

A low pressure system is off the southeast coast. The National Weather Service stated Saturday evening "considerable uncertainty in the forecast track and intensity remains as the system has yet to fully develop. This system has the potential to develop quickly, with possibly less lead time than normal."

Rain accompanies the system. Four to six inches of rain are expected for Hatteras Island through Tuesday night. The wind is blowing east, which will continue until midnight Monday when it switches to the south.

Dare County Emergency Mgr Drew Pearson reports: "No matter what happens the ocean w/become truly unsafe for swimming. Vulnerable oceanfront sections will be at risk especially the N end of Rodanthe and Buxton as the seas build with a persistent wind from the E to NE. Vulnerable sections of NC12 could see overwash leading hazardous travel conditions especially around high tide. Keep an eye on this still developing storm but those in vulnerable areas please take action now to be ready for changing conditions over the next day or so."

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers deployed a team this past week to the Former Buxton Naval Facility, a Formerly Used Defense Site property located within the Cape Hatt Natl Seashore on Hatt Isl. This team was sent in response to recent reports of additional fuel sheen and odors in the area. The team w/monitor the site and take limited response actions if a petroleum release is observed, states the media release issued Sept 9.

"We are committed to the safety of the community. Together with our federal, state and local partners, we're going to find the contamination, and we're going to remove it," said Lt. Gen. Scott A. Spellmon, United States Army Corps of Engineers commanding general.

The team w/also collect additional data, which will support a subsequent contract action. The contracted interim action will involve removing contaminated soil from the beach, and confirmation samples will be taken to verify that clean soil has been reached. These actions will not affect the planned Comprehensive Sampling Project that is scheduled to be awarded in Oct 2024.

The Island Free Press has an extensive article regarding the work of the Army Corps team w/quotes from Superintendent of the Natl Parks in Eastern NC, Dave Hallac. The article was posted September 12, 2024.

Day at the Docks. After the day, the Day at the Docks committee posted this thank you on Facebook.

"With a blessing from Mother Nature, we were able to pull off the 20th Anniversary Day at the Docks. As a board, we are ten members and like all the events, not all ten can be involved at the same time so we rely on a multitude of volunteers. Volunteers who come briefly and set up or break down tables and chairs, or those who stay for the duration organizing and staffing events. Cape Hatteras Secondary students and student athletes, community members, and even visitors, who gave of their time and labor, we owe you a tremendous thank you. Just know for certain that we could truly not have done it without you. Some shout outs are in order and are forthcoming!

The all-day event was eventful. All displays were set up by opening at 10 o'clock. An hour or so later, rains came along with some wind. But recovery was swift and events happened.

The children's fishing tournament with 118 participants from ages 2 years to 11 years resulted in 20 children winning a bounty of prizes. Grand prizes went to Bodhi Lloyd from Frisco for the heaviest pinfish--a .42 ounce-- and Zackery McMillian from Buxton for a 16.5 inch Flounder. Both are seven years old.

The Concrete Marlin Contest now has three divisions. The event is headed up by volunteer Nicole Fairbanks and crew. Winners this Year are: Adult Men (Marlin) Division: 1st Place Team: Johnny Fairbanks and John Canning; 2nd Place Team: Wheeler Ballance and Pete Wann.

Women's (Marlin) Div: 1st Pl: Eryn Ratliff & Jeidy Garcia-Velazquez; 2nd Pl: Ella Snead & Taylor Hickman. Youth Sailfish Div, 12&Under: 1st Pl: Stella Powell & Emma Oden; 2nd Pl: Ryan Oden & Sylene Midgett.

In the Hatteras Island Cancer Foundation's Chowder Cookoff, Kat's Deli at Stowe on 12 in Hatteras won with Crabsolutely fabulous chowder. Second place went to Breakwater Restaurant and third was Dinky's Waterfront Restaurant. All three are in Hatteras village.

The seafood cookoff resulted in a tie, which has never happened. The mystery fish was pompano. The honors were shared by Chefs Tyler Naughton and sous Josh Klug from Toucana Grill in Hatteras and Brandyn Powers and sous Blake Taft from Froggy Dog Restaurant in Avon.

The day concluded with a Blessing of the Fleet of charter & working boats, captains & mates. Some 22 boats participated in the Parade of boats and filled Hatteras Harbor. Leading the service was Rev. Charles Moseley, who was pastor of the Hatteras United Methodist Church at the time of Hurricane Isabel some 20 years ago.

Chicamacomico Banks Fire&Rescue told this recent story of multi-agency teamwork. On Sept 9, 2024, at 7:50pm, Chicamacomico Banks Fire & Rescue, also Station 50, was dispatched for an overdue person on a jet ski. The ski was last seen west of Oregon Inlet around 5pm. Station 50 initially launched 2 jet skis for a northbound search from Rodanthe Harbor. Dare Med-Flight was launched for an aerial search of the area. The US Coast Guard also launched a helicopter from Elizabeth City, as well as a boat from the Oregon Inlet station. Ultimately, Dare Med-Flight was able to locate the missing person/jet ski due NW of Rodanthe Harbor around 11pm. The jet ski had engine failure & was inoperable. A boat from Station 50 was able to locate the vessel w/the help of Dare Med-Flight. The operator was returned to the harbor uninjured.

This was a great example of multi-agency teamwork which resulted in a good outcome. Thanks to all agencies involved: Dare Med-Flight & Dare Emergency Medical Service, U.S. Coast Guard, Dare County Sheriff deputies, U.S. Fish and Wildlife staff and the Chicamacomico Banks Vol Fire and Rescue.

2 Individuals Arrested for Multiple Breaking&Entering and Larceny Charges in Buxton. On Sept 8, deputies from the HI District successfully apprehended two suspects in connection with a series of breaking, entering and larceny incidents reported between Sept. 7 & 8, in Buxton and Avon. The deputies worked diligently in these incidents and were able to identify 2 suspects involved. About 10:45am Sept. 8, deputies located & stopped the suspects near the 4800 block of Quidley La in Buxton. During the stop, deputies discovered several of the stolen items in the suspects' vehicle. The individuals arrested are Wyatt Kennedy, 33, of Buxton, and female Madison Hershberger, 28, also of Buxton.

The charges filed against them are as follows: Felony Breaking and Entering, Felony Illegal Possession/Use of Food Stamps, Felony Accessory After the Fact, Misdemeanor Larceny (3 counts), and Misdemeanor Possession of Stolen Goods/Property (3 counts). Kennedy has an additl charge of Misdemeanor Larceny of Motor Fuel. Both suspects were denied bond due to their current pretrial release status.

The Dare County Sheriff's Office commends the diligent efforts of the deputies and all involved in this case, that led to the apprehension, arrest, and property recovery. Those with info pertaining to this case or any other cases/crimes, call the Dare Co Sheriff's Off, 252-475-5980 or the Dare Co Communications Ctr, 252-473-3444.

Once again, scammers are at work. This was posted on Facebook on the official site of the county's Sheriff. "The Dare County Sheriff's Office will not call you about missing court for Jury Duty or other court related issues. You will not be called to purge yourself by paying money. Scammers will tell you to meet them at the

Sheriff's Office but to not get off the line. While driving, they will direct you to buy money cards and send them to a number so they can get the cash. Call the Sheriff's Office 252-475-5980 or the Sheriff on his cell phone 252-216-9898 for more information.

Speed limits change Mon. NC Dept of Trans crews w/reinstall off-season speed limit signs along sections of NC12 in several parts of HI on Sept 16, weather permitting. On Mon, speed limits in the HI villages of Rodanthe, Waves, Salvo, Avon & Frisco w/return to 45mph from their seasonal speed limits of 35. Off-season speed limits also w/resume in NC12 areas of the CH Natl Seashore, such as between Avon&Salvo, Buxton & Avon and Hatteras&Frisco. Motorists are advised to continue driving w/caution, as there are still many motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians on the OBX in the fall. Seasonal speed limits will return on May 15, 2025.

Also, the NC Dept of Trans crews will briefly close a section of NC12 in Rodanthe early Tues morning to remove an unused overhead sign structure. The sign structure at the intersection of NC12 and Trade Winds Dr will be removed September 17 starting at 5:30am, weather permitting. While the work is underway, traffic on NC12 will be stopped in both directions. There is no detour for this closure, which is expected to last about 20min. Motorists planning to travel during those hours are advised to be aware of the closure&plan accordingly.

And another Transportation Issue: For those making regular trips from Hatteras Island to Roanoke Island--traffic on the U.S. 64 Washington Baum (Pirate's Cove) Bridge between Manteo and Nags Head will be reduced to one lane in each direction starting today, Sept 15, as the second half of a \$21.3M bridge rehabilitation project proceeds. **This Evening**, traffic will be shifted to the outside lanes of the bridge while new pavement markings are installed. Once that is complete, the two eastbound lanes of the bridge will close and all traffic will be diverted onto the two westbound lanes.

The speed limit on the bridge and its western approach will remain at 45mph. The entire project is expected to be complete by the Fall of 2025.

Register to vote! National Voter Registration Day is Tuesday, September 17. Dare County encourages all eligible voters to ensure they are registered to vote in the upcoming General Election that will be held on Tuesday, November 5. If you aren't already registered, be sure to do so before the voter registration deadline, which is Friday, October 11 at 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

If you miss the registration deadline, you may be eligible to register and vote or make changes to your voter registration—with the exception of changing your party affiliation—during the early voting period that starts Thursday, October 17.

Blood Drive on Tuesday. There is a Nationwide emergency blood shortage. The Rodanthe Waves Salvo Civic Association is hosting a blood drive with the American Red Cross on Tuesday, September 17 from 10 to 3 at the Salvo Fire Hall. Additional details can be found on Facebook at the RWS Civic Association page. Walk-ins are welcome.

Now, be safe out there. Keep alert on the weather... and Thanks for listening. This is Radio Hatteras.