

Weekly news summary for August 11, 2024.

Debby dominated the news this week.

Tropical Storm Debby left her calling cards throughout North Carolina.

Debby came ashore a second time at 2 o'clock Thursday morning in Bulls Bay, South Carolina and started travelling north northwest at 10 miles per hour.

Dare County remained under a tornado watch until 8 o'clock Thursday night.

A high surf advisory was in place for Hatteras Island beaches. Large breaking waves hit the surf zone along with dangerous rip currents. Red flag warnings flew the entire week.

Tropical Storm Debby travelled up the central part of North Carolina.

Governor Roy Cooper and state leaders urged people to continue exercising caution throughout the weekend as Tropical System Debby left North Carolina. Riverine flooding and additional showers and thunderstorms increased the risk of flash flooding throughout the state.

Tornadoes caused by Debby were reported in five counties causing structural damages and debris. Power outages totaled nearly 480,000 power outages with approximately 20,000 outages remaining as of Friday morning.

On Hatteras Island, one power outage was reported on Saturday morning. Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative crew members restored power.

River systems draining to the south of Hatteras Island are reaching or about to reach moderate or major flood stage in the next several days, including the Cape Fear, Neuse, Black, North East Cape Fear, Lumber, Tar and Haw rivers. Heavy rainfall from Debby also impacted dams in Cumberland and Harnett counties on Thursday.

As of Friday morning, the North Carolina Swift Water Rescue Teams have had 170 interactions, including structures searched and individuals evacuated or rescued.

On Hatteras Island, N C 12 was flooded, subsided and was flooded again during the storm's passage. Side streets were flooded. Yards remain soggy.

Behind Debby, there is a threat for additional periods of heavy rain through the rest of the weekend as a cold front moves into the area and stalls

July 2024 felony blotter released for incorporated Dare County.

The Dare County Sheriff has released the felony blotter for unincorporated Dare County for July 2024.

Three incidents of scammers were reported. Three financial crimes were committed. One vehicle was reported stolen. Six of the reported crimes are under investigation by the Sheriff's Department. One is under investigation by a bank.

The crimes touch all parts of unincorporated Dare County. Colington has three reported crimes. Roanoke Island, Manns Harbor, Rodanthe and Hatteras village all have one crime reported.

On Hatteras Island, the following crimes were reported:

July 12: Financial Card Fraud. 24000 block of North Holiday Boulevard, Rodanthe. Fraudulent activity on a bank account involving auto-draft payments. The bank is investigating.

July 26: Obtaining Property by False Pretenses. 57000 block of Kohler Drive, Hatteras. Subject sent scammers a large sum of money as part of an online romance scam. Under investigation.

New app available from Sheriff

Dare County Sheriff Doug Doughtie has announced the launch of the official Dare County Sheriff's Office smartphone app. The app will serve as an innovative way to connect and communicate with Dare County residents and visitors.

Users can access features, such as notifications, upcoming News and Events, concealed carry permit information, current inmate search and Dare County sex offenders. To download the app via Google Play or the Apple Store, go to [apps dot my o c v dot com slash share slash a126627954](https://apps.apple.com/us/app/dare-county-sheriff/id126627954).

If you didn't copy that, go to [Radio Hatteras dot org](http://RadioHatteras.org) and hit the button for Weekly News and go to today's date, August 11, 2024.

Dare County projects underway

At the regular meeting of the Dare County Board of Commissioners Aug. 5, 2024, the commissioners moved ahead on additional projects, as reported by The Coastland Times. In July, Dare County advertised for firms to submit qualifications to perform a Dare County Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment. The county received five responses. Submitting proposals were Withers Ravenel, Design Workshop, McGill Associates, Matrix Consulting Group, and Y2 Analytics.

Recommended by staff was McGill Associates. The firm has offices in North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia and staff with experience in parks and recreation planning.

The firm has suggested community input with a steering committee, four public meetings, a recreational survey, six focus group sessions and a work session with the commissioners. The assessment should be ready in five or six months. The commissioners authorized County Manager Robert L. Outten to pursue a contract with McGill Associates.

In a two-step process, the commissioners moved ahead with the architectural planning for the Dare County's Public Works Project and the Buxton Transfer Station Construction Design contract.

The first step was to set up a Capital Project Ordinance which established an initial budget for \$4,604,427. The funds will be reimbursed on the issuance of the S2025 Limited Obligation Bonds.

For the second step, the commissioners authorized the County Manager to sign the contract with the chosen firm, Oakley Collier Architects, Rocky Mount.

Outten brought a facility maintenance concern to the board of commissioners. Over six to nine months, Dustin Peele, Special Projects and Purchasing Director, and Shanna Fullmer, Public Works Director, visited all Dare County structures and issued a report about what needed to be fixed.

Structure maintenance is behind, said Outten. The report states \$1.9 million will fix the problems. Two big ticket items are office space at the Fessenden Center in Buxton and replacing outdoor restrooms at Recreation Park in Kill Devil Hills which are \$800,000 to \$900,000 of the overall cost.

Fixing the maintenance problems needs to be done prior to crafting a long-term maintenance plan.

Otten suggested using up to \$2 million to get everything done with money coming from the Housing Fund, which initially had \$13 million in the account. The commissioners gave \$1 million to the Dare Education Foundation for funding additional teacher housing at Run Hill. The commissioners agreed to pull \$2 million for maintenance issues from the Housing Fund, leaving \$10 million in the account.

Dare County is trying to dredge the Rodanthe Harbor

Dare County is taking steps to dredge the shoaled area of the Rodanthe Harbor to enable the emergency ferry route to Stumpy Point to become operational, writes Island Free Press. No contract for the work has been finalized at this time, although potential contractors have been notified. The remainder of the federal channel along the emergency route is navigable. Dredging the Rodanthe Harbor would require a CAMA permit.

John Havel named consultant on lighthouse project

In June, Salvo resident John Havel was named the official historic preservation consultant to Stone and Lime Historic Restoration Services, Inc., the primary contractor for the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse restoration.

Over two decades, Havel has researched the famed structure. He has traveled extensively in searches for information and photographs.

Congratulations John Havel for the distinct honor. For an in depth report on Havel's research visit Island Free Press for an article by Mary Ellen Riddle reprinted from Outer Banks Voice dot com.

Upcoming events

Shake Hatteras π (pi) takes off Monday, August 12, 2024, at Neptune's in Rodanthe.

This is the fourth year for the homegrown, do it yourself festival that started in Salvo. The festival features music, this year from 10 bands and solo performers on two stages, a vendors' market, a food truck row, charity raffles and carnival games.

The festival runs from 1 to 10 p.m. at Neptune's Restaurant and Dive Bar located at milepost 40 or 24394 NC 12, Rodanthe.

Buxton Civic Association also meets Monday, August 12 at 6:30 at the old Buxton Volunteer Fire House next to Burrus Baseball Field.

Tropical Storm Debby unearthed the remains of the U.S. Naval Facility.

On the association's agenda are presentations by Cape Hatteras National Seashore Superintendent Dave Hallac and a representative of Southern Environmental Law Center.

Coexisting with Coyotes is the topic to be presented at the Hatteras Village Library on Wednesday, August 14, from 5:30 to 6:30 in the evening.

Chase Luker with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission will make the presentation in person or online via Zoom. Register at dare nc dot gov slash enrichment. A link to the Zoom

presentation will be sent via email within 24 hours of the event from updates@info dot darecounty n c dot gov

Cape Hatteras Elementary dates

For Cape Hatteras Elementary kindergarteners, it's Popsicles in the Playground on Thursday, August 15. Visit the playground from 9 to 10 or 3 to 4 and meet classmates and new friends and enjoy a treat.

And at Cape Hatteras Elementary an Open House and Hair Salon, which is free for Cape Hatteras Elementary students, will be Thursday, August 22, from 2 to 5 o'clock.

Rescue Squad community concert set for August 15

Hatteras Island Rescue Squad is hosting a community concert, Thursday, August 15 at Koru Beach Club in Avon at 7 o'clock.

The "To the Rescue" concert features dance band Raygun Ruby. All proceeds from ticket sales go to purchase a Utility Task Vehicle for the Squad. The concert gathering also features a raffle and other fundraising opportunities.

Tickets for the concert are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. For tickets go to koru village dot com slash 2024 dash concert dash series.

Really, Really Free Market is set for August 17

The Really, Really Free Market is returning to Avon on Saturday, August 17, from 9 until noon at the Avon Fire Station. Stop in for some free shopping.

The Really, Really Free Market started more than a decade ago and became a valuable resource for islanders in need after several historic storms, including Hurricane Isabel in 2011, and Hurricane Dorian in 2019, when the market was stationed in Frisco.

Everyone is welcome at this free event, where all are encouraged to volunteer. Gently used or new donations are always appreciated. Nothing is required to attend the event.

All in a Day's Work by Jen Carlson in preparation for the 150th celebration of the Life-Saving Service.

Sometimes it's about being respectful.

On September 29, 1896, while on morning patrol, Surfman G. L. Baum from the Whales Head Life Saving Station, formerly known as Jones Hill, discovered a man's body on the edge of the surf.

Knowing of an incident that happened at the Kitty Hawk station only days before, the body was removed from the surf and Keeper Jesse E. Ward notified his sister station of the discovery. At the request of Mr. Coley, the Whales Head crew built a coffin and prepared the body for burial before laying Thomas Thomas to rest in a local cemetery.

For more stories like these, visit the Chicamacomico Life Saving Station where history is alive.

Stay safe out there. Thanks for listening. This is Radio Hatteras.