

Weekly News Summary for Sun, August 18, 2024.

North Rodanthe ground zero for coastal erosion

Big swells and dangerous rip currents arrived along Hatteras Island Friday, August 16.

The big swells came from Hurricane Ernesto, which is slowly moving away from Bermuda about 650 miles east of Rodanthe.

The National Weather Service posted a Coastal Flood Advisory and High Surf Advisory on Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands. Those advisories last until Monday morning at 8 o'clock.

The big waves came crashing in Friday. At the Rodanthe Pier, a piling was knocked loose and swept away by the north flowing current. The piling was recovered on the beach just north of the Rodanthe Bridge. At the end of the pier, waves were splashing on the pier deck.

At 6:50 Friday evening, ocean waves knocked out pilings and sent an unoccupied oceanfront house floating out to sea. Debris was spread as far north as the north end of the Etheridge Bridge in Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge.

The tides are particularly high as the moon is at its closest orbit point. The high tide is called a King tide. Lower than normal low tides enhance rip currents.

At 8 o'clock Saturday morning, NCDOT posted an "All is well on NC12 this AM - open and passable with no issues from Kitty Hawk to Ocracoke. There was some minor overwash on secondary roads in the Tri-villages" of Rodanthe, Waves and Salvo. On Ocracoke, some ocean water came over the sandbags.

On Saturday evening's high tide, Atlantic Ocean water was coursing down East Corbina on to the remnant of NC 12.

Debris on beach

Very little remains of the house at 23214 East Corbina Drive. Stubs of pilings peak up from the sand. The four-bedroom house sat on a small 10,000 square foot lot. A contractor was hired along with a subcontractor, who was working Saturday afternoon pushing debris up to the base of dunes in an effort to keep the debris contained. Very little debris was seen on the beach at the Rodanthe Pier, south of the collapsed house.

National Seashore and Refuge posted warnings

Both the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge staff strongly urged all visitors to avoid the beaches and stay out of the water around all areas of the beaches and surf in Rodanthe.

Additionally, all public entry from the northern boundary of Rodanthe up to the northern end of the Rodanthe Bridge was closed. Dangerous debris may be present on the beach and in the water for more than a dozen miles. At least six other houses are on the North Rodanthe beach with strong waves washing under them.

Real Estate Market Report

The business news this week focuses on the island's real estate market indicators through July of this year.

A summary of the residential market might be best described in the words of one national commentator as "thawing," writes Business Correspondent Tom Hranicka.

The bright spots in the market are that the supply of homes is continuing to increase, interest rates are decreasing and selling prices remain strong

The July inventory was more than double the number of homes marketed during the same month last year.

However, the number of residential properties sold remains basically unchanged with about 20 sales per month since January 2023.

In addition, the number of properties under contract to be sold, an indicator of future sales, continues to reflect a slight downward monthly trend.

Interestingly, earlier this year, the consensus opinion was that the combined impact on affordability of limited supply, rising interest rates and elevated asking prices were the reason for a slow market.

Another possible reason for the continuing lethargic market may be that some buyers are waiting to see what the results of the November election might mean for the real estate market before committing to purchase a vacation house.

Turning to the market for undeveloped lots, like the residential market, the supply of properties for sale showed an increase in July accompanied by fewer sales than during the first seven months in 2023.

The median sales price for building sites was basically unchanged at \$140,000.

In other measures of the Hatteras Island economy, the results for June, which just became available, reflected continuing weakness in the year-to-date occupancy tax receipts that declined 23.8 percent from last year.

Meal tax receipts were essentially flat reporting a 1.95 percent decline from the January to June period in 2023.

Several food recalls are in place

Perdue Foods, a Perry, Georgia establishment, is recalling approximately 167,171 pounds of frozen, ready-to-eat chicken breast nugget and tender products that may be contaminated with foreign material, specifically metal, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service announced August 16, 2024.

The frozen, ready-to-eat chicken breast nugget and tender items were produced on March 23, 2024. The following products are subject to recall, and all have the best if used by date of March 23, 2025:

22-ounce. vacuum-sealed plastic packages containing "PERDUE Simply Smart ORGANICS Breaded CHICKEN BREAST NUGGETS."

29-ounce. vacuum-sealed plastic packages containing "PERDUE CHICKEN BREAST TENDERS."

22-ounce vacuum-sealed packages containing "BUTCHER BOX Organic Chicken Breast Nuggets."

The products subject to recall bear establishment number "P-33944" on the back of the package. These items were shipped to retail locations nationwide and sold online directly to consumers.

White coated candy recall

Palmer Candy Company, which supplies a variety of snacks and candy to stores around the country issued a recall of its White Coated Confectionary items due to a risk of salmonella.

As of Aug. 6, the recall was reclassified as Class I by the FDA, which is the highest risk level, as reported by Consumer Affairs.

The FDA defines a Class I recall as "a situation in which there is a reasonable probability that the use of or exposure to a product will cause serious adverse health consequences or death."

As of writing, no illnesses have been reported yet in connection with the recalled products.

Palmer Candy Company's recalled items were distributed across the United States at Walmart, Target, and Dollar General

Fisheries fight

The North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission meets August 21 through August 23 in Raleigh.

One item on the agenda is a report from N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries staff on the Southern Flounder Stock Assessment Update and 2023 Southern Flounder landings.

However, Marine Fisheries and the North Carolina Wildlife Commission are fighting over what to do about recreational flounder fishing.

Marine Fisheries has said no to a season for recreational flounder fishing. Wildlife Resources has announced four days of flounder fishing in its waters, including joint waters. The creel limit is one flounder.

Surf and Sounds Chamber Music Series Celebrates 10th Year with a Special Performance in Buxton

The Don and Catharine Bryan Cultural Series is excited to announce the return of the Surf and Sounds Chamber Music Series for its 10th year, bringing world-class chamber music to the Buxton. As part of this milestone season, the Surf and Sounds String Quartet will perform in Buxton on Thursday, August 22, at 7 o'clock in Cape Hatteras Secondary School auditorium.

The program for the evening includes a piece by acclaimed North Carolina composer Caroline Shaw, alongside works by classical masters Haydn and Debussy. This performance is one of several across the Outer Banks, including an appearance in Manteo on Friday, August 23.

This event is free and open to the public. No tickets are required, but donations are welcomed and will support the ongoing work of the Bryan Cultural Series.

The Bryan Cultural Series gratefully acknowledges the support of Towne Bank of Currituck, OBX Chevrolet Buick, Ramada Plaza Hotel of Kill Devil Hills, and Hilton Garden Inn of Kitty Hawk, whose contributions make this cultural offering possible.

Congratulations to Tommy Fulcher who was elected Chairman of the College of The Albemarle Board of Trustees on August 8. Fulcher from Southern Shores is one of two Dare County representatives to the board. He previously served as Vice Chairman of the Board.

On Friday afternoon, August 23, at 3:30, join a ranger at the Little Kinnakeet Life Saving Station, just north of Avon. The presentation is new this year and will happen August 30 too.

And don't forget Hatteras Island's three markets:

On Tuesdays in Avon at Vacasa from 9 to 1

On Wednesdays in Waves at Camp Hatteras from 9 to 1

On Thursdays in Frisco at Frisco Woods Campground from 9 to 2.

Remember Cape Hatteras Elementary and Cape Hatteras Secondary schools open for students August 26.

Be safe out there. ... and Thanks for listening. This is Radio Hatteras.