

Weekly News Summary for Sunday, May 3, 2026.

National Hurricane Preparedness week starts today and runs through Saturday, May 9, 2026. The upcoming hurricane season officially begins Monday, June 1, 2026. Sign up to receive customized emergency alerts and other critical notifications, have an emergency kit stocked and ready to go if a storm strikes, and have a 2026 reentry pass ready to present to local officials once it's safe to return to Dare County following an evacuation.

Apply for a 2026 Reentry Permit. To enter Dare County following a mandatory evacuation, a current reentry permit or other acceptable identification must be presented. A staged reentry process is used to facilitate a safe and orderly return that allows the recovery process to begin. Go to Dare NC dot gov slash Reentry for acceptable documents.

Non-resident property owners and the owners/managers of local businesses are encouraged to review reentry requirements/priority levels and to submit a 2026 reentry permit application. **Sign Up for OBX Alerts.** Sign up to receive customized emergency alerts—including severe weather watches and warnings, public safety and emergency-related warnings, countywide evacuation orders and other time-critical notifications. Go to OBX Alerts dot com. To receive OBX Alerts via text message by texting DareEmergencyAlerts to 77295.

For more information, go to Dare NC dot gov slash Hurricanes.

The Ocracoke Express passenger ferry returns for the 2026 season May 5, with service continuing through September 7. Online reservations for the upcoming summer season are available at ferry dot NCDOT dot gov slash reservations. Passengers are encouraged to book in advance due to the ferry's continued popularity.

Now entering its eighth season, the passenger-only ferry provides a direct connection between Hatteras Village and Silver Lake Harbor in Ocracoke Village. The trip across the Pamlico Sound takes approximately 70 minutes and can accommodate up to 129 passengers per voyage.

The service is designed to provide a faster alternative to the traditional vehicle ferry, allowing visitors to bypass wait times and arrive directly in the heart of Ocracoke or Hatteras. Once on Ocracoke Island, a free tram operated by Hyde County offers transportation to shops, restaurants, and attractions throughout the village.

Four daily round-trip departures (eight total trips) are typically scheduled from Tuesday through Thursday, while three daily round-trip departures (six total trips) run on Monday, Friday, and Saturday. The ferry does not operate on Sundays to allow for routine vessel maintenance.

A round-trip ticket costs \$15 per passenger, while children ages 3 and under ride free. Bicycles are permitted for an additional \$1 fee.

Night driving restrictions on oceanside beaches within the Cape Hatteras National Seashore have started.

From May 1 through July 31, priority off-road vehicle ramps close at 9 and reopen the following morning at 6. All other designated oceanside ORV ramps close at 9 and reopen at 7:00.

Priority ORV ramps are 2, 4, 25, 27, 43, 44, 48, 49, 70 and 72.

Soundside ramps, Inside Road, and Pole Road do not have night driving restrictions.

Night driving restrictions help protect nesting sea turtles. The Cape Hatteras National Seashore's turtle patrol program also begins in early May.

While night driving restrictions are in place, visitors may still park vehicles in parking areas and walk on the beach at night. For current beach access information, visit go dot nps dot gov slash beachaccess.

Half-staff for flags Monday, May 4, 2026. Gov Stein ordered all U.S. and North Carolina flags at state facilities to half-staff from sunrise to sunset on Monday, May 4, 2026, in honor of National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Day. Flags are to be lowered annually in recognition of the many firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty. "Today we remember the North Carolina firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice for others. May their memories be a blessing, and may we honor their heroic work by celebrating their courage and dedication to keeping their neighbors safe," said Governor Stein.

National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Day is Sunday, May 3. Since this holiday falls on a Sunday, flags at state facilities will be lowered to half-staff the following Monday.

Dare County is conducting a debris removal operation along the Buxton beach. The project is clearing the shoreline ahead of the planned beach nourishment project expected to begin in June. A groin repair project is also anticipated this summer, reports Island Free Press. Cleanup work started April 1 and will continue until crews are ready to place sand on the shoreline. Debris removal is a required condition of the project's Special Use Permit from the National Park Service. The effort does not include private property. Local contractor Top Dollar Construction is removing a wide range of materials. Items include concrete foundations, septic systems, damaged or exposed sandbags that cannot be buried, swimming pools, and structural remnants such as decking, stairs, porches, and walkovers. The debris removal effort has a not-to-exceed budget of \$319,500.

The Avon Volunteer Fire Department has signed a contract for the purchase of a new fire engine. The engine, which will be built by Emergency Atlantic Solutions, is expected to boost the department's ongoing effort to maintain a modern and reliable fleet as call demands evolve and equipment ages. The new apparatus is not expected to be delivered until around 2030. For additional details, go to [island free press dot org](http://islandfreepress.org).

The Outer Banks Visitors Bureau announces Season 3 of the popular video series, The Outer Edge. A new video details developments with the upcoming production of the series exploring the people, their passions and the places that make the Outer Banks distinct. The public is encouraged to visit [outerbanks dot org slash story](http://outerbanks.org/story) to see the previous two seasons, with eleven videos in all, and suggest who should be featured in the upcoming Season 3 scheduled for production later this year. The deadline for contributing recommendations is May 29, 2026.

On Cape Hatteras Secondary's baseball field, Gene Stoel umpired his last baseball game Tuesday, April 28, 2026. Over the past two decades, he has officiated athletic contests at Cape Hatteras Secondary.

His officiating journey started in 1985. Through the years, he has officiated football, basketball, volleyball, field hockey, lacrosse, softball and baseball in various youth, high school and adult leagues.

"Thank you Gene for your contribution to the lives of so many young people on Hatteras Island and around the country," said Keith Durham, former baseball coach at Cape Hatteras. "Please know that every time a fan or coach would yell 'Come on Gene!' in protest of a call, that it was accompanied by a genuine level of respect and admiration for what you have done."

To commemorate his amazing career as an official, Cape Hatteras Secondary Principal Beth Rooks presented Stoel with a custom plaque that reads: "Gene Stoel, thank you for your dedication and love of the games, the athletes and the fans. Your 41 years of officiating youth and high school sports has allowed us to play and watch the games we love."

Cape Hatteras Secondary's baseball team finished the season with a win streak in place and a winning regular season record of 12 wins and 10 losses. The state championship bracket will be announced on Monday, May 4, 2026.

Fourth of July Run on July 3

The Barrier Island Group (B.I.G.) is preparing for its third annual Independence Day-themed run and walk in Avon. This year's event is scheduled for Friday, July 3, instead of the holiday itself due to increased traffic on turnover day on Hatteras Island. The event features a four-mile run or walk through Kinnakeet Shores, along with a shorter 1776-foot dash for children. Participants will receive a performance T-shirt, finisher's medal, eco-friendly race cup, and access to a post-race breakfast gathering.

The organizing group continues its focus on supporting local causes, with proceeds benefiting Chicamacomico Life-Saving Station, Hatteras Island Meals, and the Hatteras Island CERT Team.

This year, the event will also support "Mighty Milly." Milly, a Buxton resident, was diagnosed in late February with high-risk B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia. She has since begun an intensive treatment plan that is expected to last about two and a half years.

Organizers are currently seeking additional business support and are reaching out to Avon-area businesses. For more information and to help sponsor the event, visit [barrier island group.com](http://barrierislandgroup.com)

Dare County Board of Commissioners meet May 4.

On Monday morning May 4 at 9 o'clock, the monthly meeting of the Dare County Board of Commissioners will go into session. Hatteras Island residents can gather at the Fessenden center Annex off Buxton Back Road to offer public comment and view the proceedings.

First, the commissioners will honor those nominated for a Governor's Award for Volunteer Service.

Just before the consent agenda, County Manager Robert L. Outten will deliver the Manager's 2027 budget.

In a surprise move, a group in Wanchese are organizing a Dare Day Dockside event. The group is asking for \$10,000 to fund the effort.

The agenda has 16 items. The consent agenda has 14 items.

Cemetery service scheduled May 7

On May 7, community members on Hatteras Island will once again gather to honor the World War II sacrifice with ceremonies at a historic cemetery.

The Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum in Hatteras will be closed to the public on May 7 as staff takes part in the commemoration paying tribute to the men lost in service far from their homeland. Representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Navy and the British Royal Navy, along with local residents and visitors, will gather May 7 at 11 o'clock at the Buxton Br British Cemetery near the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse for the first 84th anniversary commemorations. This ceremony honors the crew of *San Delfino*, a British armed tanker torpedoed by German U-boat 203 off Pea Island in April 1942.

A member of the Royal Merchant Navy and an unknown sailor are buried in the Buxton graveyard.

Fried shrimp dinner in Avon Friday, May 8

Starting at 5 o'clock, volunteers will start serving Fried Shrimp dinners to benefit the island Fourth of July Fireworks display in Avon. The event is held at the Avon Fire Department on Harbor Road. The cost is \$15 for each platter.

This is Radio Hatteras.