

Weekly News Summary for Sunday, February 8, 2026

Dare County will host a public meeting at 6 o'clock, Wednesday evening, February 11, 2026, to provide general information and answer questions from the community about the Buxton beach nourishment project that is scheduled to begin this summer.

The meeting will be held at the Fessenden Center, which is located at 46830 N.C. Highway 12 in Buxton. It will also be livestreamed on the Dare County YouTube channel for those who are unable to attend in person. The meeting video will also be available for viewing on the county's YouTube channel.

Several members of the Dare County Board of Commissioners and Dare County staff, including County Manager Robert L. Outten and Assistant County Manager/Special Projects and Procurement Manager Dustin Peele will attend. The meeting will also feature representatives from the National Park Service - Outer Banks Group.

The discussion about the nourishment project will include information about the expected timeline and duration. Following the discussion, an opportunity for attendees to ask questions regarding the information shared will be offered.

If you are unable to attend the meeting but have comments or questions you'd like to have addressed during the meeting, submit them via email to Dare County PR at DareNC dot gov no later than Sunday, February 8, 2026. That's today.

Early Voting for the primary election starts February 12

Polls are open from 8 in the morning to 7:30 at night.

Schedule: Thursday, February 12 and Friday, February 13, 2026,

Monday through Friday, February 16 to February 27

Saturday, February 28 from 8 in the morning to 3 in the afternoon.

The early voting place on Hatteras Island is the Fessenden Center Annex at 47017 Buxton Back Road, Buxton.

Same day registration is available at the polling places. Party affiliation cannot be changed.

On Friday evening, February 20, a forum for three of the four candidates for Dare County Sheriff will be held.

The forum is scheduled for the Avon Volunteer Fire Department, 40159 Harbor Road, in Avon. The meeting starts at 6 o'clock.

Candidates who have accepted the invitation from Marcie Shoemaker are Rodney Rawls, Jeff Derringer and Jimmy Pierce. Teddy Daniels has not accepted.

All four candidates are Republican. No Democrats are running for the office.

In a North Carolina primary election, Republicans and Independents, who ask for a Republican ballot, may vote on the sheriff's race.

A new Northeastern North Carolina Drug Task Force has formed

Law enforcement agencies across northeastern North Carolina have announced the formation of the Northeastern Drug Task Force, a collaborative effort aimed at significantly reducing drug trafficking and drug use throughout the region.

The newly formed task force brings together four sheriffs from Currituck, Dare, Gates and Pasquotank counties; two towns including Nags Head and Kill Devil Hills police departments; the District Attorney's Office and the State Bureau of Investigation.:

By combining investigative resources, intelligence-sharing, and prosecutorial coordination, the Northeastern Drug Task Force will focus on identifying, disrupting, and dismantling drug trafficking networks operating in the northeastern corridor of North Carolina. The task force will also work to address the broader impacts of drug use on local communities, including associated crime and public safety concerns.

Officials emphasized that collaboration is key to the task force's mission, allowing agencies to operate more efficiently across jurisdictional lines and deliver stronger cases for prosecution.

The Northeastern Drug Task Force represents a unified commitment by law enforcement and prosecutors to protect communities, improve public safety, and make a meaningful impact on the drug trade affecting northeastern North Carolina.

Additional information about the task force's operations and initiatives will be released as it becomes available.

Frisco man arrested on drug charges

On the evening of February 5, at about 7:40, a Dare County Sheriff's deputy recognized a vehicle in the Buxton Area as being associated with an individual with an active arrest warrant. The driver was confirmed to be the wanted individual and was placed under arrest.

Dennett A. Ransom, 52, from Frisco, was arrested and charged with Felony Possession with intent to manufacture, sell or deliver a Schedule II Controlled Substance and Felony Maintain Vehicle/Dwelling/Place for Controlled Substances.

As of February 6, Ransom was held without bond at the Dare County Detention Center.

Spotted seatrout shut down due to cold stun events

North Carolina's Division of Marine Fisheries has closed Coastal and Joint fishing waters in North Carolina to both commercial and recreational Spotted Seatrout harvest at 4 o'clock, Friday, February 6, 2026, due to widespread cold stun events.

Cold stuns are natural events that occur when there is a sudden drop in water temperature or prolonged periods of cold weather that makes the fish sluggish.

The Division has confirmed significant Spotted Seatrout cold stun events in 10 waterbodies, from Hyde County to Pender County. The Division is still receiving and verifying more cold stun reports and collecting associated environmental data.

Amendment 1 to the N.C. Spotted Seatrout Fishery Management Plan specifies that if a significant cold stun event occurs, the Division of Marine Fisheries will close all Spotted Seatrout harvests through the spring.

The intent of the closure is to allow the surviving fish a chance to spawn in the spring before harvest reopens. Peak spawning occurs from May through July.

The Spotted Seatrout season will remain closed through June 30, when it will reopen by proclamation.

On Friday **February 13**, Cape Hatteras Secondary School will host its annual Homecoming. The varsity basketball teams will play and then the Homecoming court will be presented. The girls varsity basketball game starts around 6 o'clock and the boys varsity around 7:30.

On **Saturday, February 21**, a Big Beach and Island Cleanup will happen from Duck to Buxton. The event will take place from 10 in the morning to 1 in the afternoon. Go to volunteer OBX dot com to register. If Hatteras Island is your choice, select Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

On **Wednesday, February 25**, Dare County's debris removal contractor will begin collecting storm debris in Buxton. The contractor will continue the following one to two days, if needed. Affected property owners in Buxton are asked to ensure that all debris is moved by their private contractors to the designated right-of-way on the east side of Old Lighthouse Road

Be safe out there and stay warm. This is Radio Hatteras.