

Weekly News Summary for Sunday, December 1, 2024.

Yesterday, the 2024 Atlantic hurricane season officially ended.

NOAA's summary of the season says the season had above-average activity.

In 2024, the Atlantic basin saw 18 named storms with winds of 39 miles per hour or greater. Eleven of those 18 were hurricanes with winds of 74 or greater and five intensified to major hurricanes reaching 111 miles per hour or greater.

Five hurricanes made landfall in the continental U.S., with two storms making landfall as major hurricanes. The Atlantic seasonal activity fell within the predicted ranges for named storms and hurricanes issued by NOAA's Climate Prediction Center.

Twelve named storms formed after the climatological peak of the season in early September. Seven hurricanes formed in the Atlantic since September 25 — the most on record for this period.

Hurricane Beryl was the earliest Atlantic basin Category-5 hurricane on record. It caused significant storm surge flooding across parts of Texas and Louisiana after making landfall near Matagorda, Texas, as a Category-1 storm.

Hurricane Helene made landfall as a Category-4 storm on the Florida Gulf Coast on September 26. The storm caused catastrophic flooding across the southern Appalachians, widespread wind damage from the Gulf Coast to the North Carolina mountains and storm surge flooding along portions of western Florida.

Preliminary data indicate that Helene was the deadliest hurricane to affect the continental U.S. since Katrina in 2005, with more than 150 direct fatalities, the majority of which occurred in North Carolina and South Carolina.

Hurricane Helene marked the first time ever that NOAA forecasted a system to become a major hurricane before it became a tropical depression or tropical storm. National Weather Service was forecasting extreme rainfall totals and rates over western North Carolina more than 48 hours in advance.

Hurricane Milton made landfall as a Category-3 near Siesta Key, Florida, on October 9 and resulted in a tornado outbreak that produced 46 tornadoes and caused torrential rainfall and localized flooding with total rainfall amounts of 10-15 inches (and higher). Milton also caused overwash and erosion from Oregon Inlet to Ocracoke.

Ernesto in mid-August caused a house to collapse and damaged other oceanfront structures in Rodanthe, and exposed more infrastructure and contaminated sand along Buxton Beach.

Dare Commissioners to be sworn in

On Monday, December 2, five people will take the Oath of Office to become members of the Dare County Board of Commissioners.

Re-elected in the November General Election are Robert L. "Bob" Woodard from District 2 and Steve House from District 3, both of whom will take the Oath of Office.

Newly elected to take the Oath of Office are Carson Creef from District 1 and Michael Burrus also from District 1. Mary Ellon Ballance will be sworn in to represent Hatteras Island in District 4.

A board chairman and vice chairman are elected and the board begins work.

Two hearings on planning matters are set. The first is for a zoning text amendment to add marinas to the VC-2 district mapped in Colington. The second is a Special Use Permit for a 22-lot travel trailer park in East Lake.

The Tourism Board brings 12 grants totaling \$1,159,247.67 for board consent.

Two matters continue the board's building program. The first is a contract of pre-construction fees for the new Early College. The contract with Barnhill Contracting Company is for \$11,633 for pre-construction fees.

The second construction item is to set up a capital project ordinance and approve a design contract for a building to be used for evidence storage and offices for the Dare County Sheriff's Criminal Investigation Division. The building will cost \$4.7 million. The design is slated for \$181,818.

The annual contract for McGuire Woods Consulting, the county's Raleigh-based lobbying firm, is up for renewal at \$5,000 per month.

Five items are on the Consent Agenda. Six boards or commissions are slated for board appointments.

The meeting starts Monday morning at 9 o'clock and will be broadcast from the Commissioners' Meeting Room and 945 Marshall C. Collins Drive, Manteo. A remote location at the Fessenden Center Annex on Buxton Back Road in Buxton is set up to public comment from Hatteras Islanders.

The Cape Hatteras Lighthouse renovation project has moved to repointing.

Repointing is a way to fix the mortar—the stuff holding bricks together—when it starts to wear out. Now that the lighthouse's daymark stripes are gone during restoration, the plan is to check the bricks and to repoint both the outside and inside of the tower.

The outside of the lighthouse is huge! It has about 22,500 square feet of brick to inspect and repair. That's like the size of over 4 basketball courts!

Celebrations of the Christmas season are planned

On Tuesday evening, December 3, at 6 o'clock, the Hatteras Village Tree Lighting will take place in the village center. A sing along is followed by a free take out soup and salad dinner, which can be picked up at the Village Community Building with season's greetings from the Hatteras Village Civic Association.

On Saturday morning, December 7 at 9 o'clock the December Really, Really, Really Free Market opens the doors at the Avon Volunteer Fire Department on Harbor Road in Avon.

Rodanthe-Waves-Salvo Tree Lighting is set for Saturday, December 7 at 5:30 in the evening. The event is sponsored by the village's civic association, which is providing sweet treats, hot cocoa and hot apple cider.

From Cape Hatteras Secondary School

Congratulations to the newly inducted members of the Cape Hatteras Secondary School National Honor Society. These students were welcomed to the Society: Zeke Willis, Liam Van Druten, Max Syrrist, Paizley Schultz and Alexa Booher.

The Cape Hatteras Hurricanes Special Olympics Team who are Adam, McCoy and Drew, won the silver medal in bocce ball at the state playoffs in Charlotte, demonstrating hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship. Similarly, the Bonanni Family was recognized as the Special Olympics of North Carolina Family of the Year for their dedication and volunteerism. Cape Hatteras Secondary is truly honored to have them as part of the Hurricane Family!

Hatteras Village Christmas parade route set

The Hatteras Village Christmas Parade is celebrating its 33rd year in 2024, and the annual event will be held on Saturday afternoon, December 14 at 2 o'clock.

This year, the parade will have a revised route in order to work around the closure of Slash Creek Bridge on N.C. 12.

This year, the parade will still march down N.C. Highway 12 in the heart of Hatteras Village but in reverse order. The parade will start on the southern side of the Slash Creek Bridge area, and will continue south towards Eagle Pass Road.

“Parade participants will continue down N C 12, turn at Eagle Pass, and exit the village or meet everyone out at the Hatteras Civic Center for refreshments afterwards, where winners will be announced.”

Now, be safe out there. Thanks very much for listening. This is Radio Hatteras.