

Weekly News Summary for Sunday, November 30, 2025 and events scheduled for next week.

Officials join DEQ Secretary Reid Wilson on visit to Hatteras Island

Officials from the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality along with local and state leaders and community partners, toured key sites across the Outer Banks last week to highlight ongoing coastal resilience projects and discuss strategies to address the region's growing climate and flooding challenges.

DEQ Secretary Reid Wilson talked to local officials and toured damage at three sites of concern in Rodanthe and Buxton, where oceanfront homes have fallen into the ocean and additional structures are threatened, and at the Formerly Used Defense Site.

The tour included the following stops:

- In Nags Head, officials viewed the Harvey Sound Access Living Shoreline Project. Division of Coastal Management and Town of Nags Head staff gave an overview of the project, which will use plants and man-made barriers to create a living shoreline to reduce erosion, restore an estuarine habitat and provide more public access to the waterway. The project, which has received more than \$1 million, is funded by the Resilient Coastal Communities Program.
- Driving Tour of Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge and viewing of Canal Zone and Pea Island Visitor Center Highway 12 hotspot where they were met by NCDOT Division 1 officials. Discussion about the use of sandbags and the SAND grant from federal funding to improve resiliency of NC 12 and long-term planning.
- In Rodanthe, the tour focused on the threatened oceanfront structures at East Point Drive where officials discussed a mitigation program to protect vulnerable structures at Beacon Road.
- The final stop of the tour included the former Navy and Coast Guard base in Buxton at Cape Hatteras National Seashore, and a walking tour of the Buxton oceanfront where 15 structures have recently fallen into the Atlantic Ocean.

During the tour, officials met with local government representatives, nonprofit partners and residents to discuss funding opportunities and emerging threats related to sea level rise, storms, erosion and chronic flooding.

Department of Environmental Quality will continue partnering with state, local and federal officials to advance long-term resilience planning, secure funding and employ science-based solutions that protect coastal resources and enhance community safety, states the media release.

Outer Banks Visitors Bureau launches volunteer platform

Dare County nonprofits and government agencies are encouraged to register for a new online volunteer platform to streamline recruitment, scheduling and communication while helping connect residents and visitors with community service opportunities across the Outer Banks.

The Dare County Visitors Bureau has partnered with Galaxy Digital, an Asheville-based company specializing in volunteer management systems, to launch Volunteer OBX, a centralized portal designed to support the county's growing "voluntourism" initiative.

The platform is currently in an early rollout phase, and organizations are being asked to create profiles and begin entering volunteer needs ahead of a broader public launch.

For more information, see an article on Island Free Press.

Volunteer mission comes to Avon Fire Department.

On November 21 and 22, 40 volunteers came to Hatteras Island to provide free dental and medical screenings in partnership with Baptists on Mission.

The clinic was held in the Avon Fire Department. This is the second clinic sponsored by Baptists on Mission. Registration filled almost immediately after the clinic was announced.

Baptists on Mission volunteers stayed in rental homes coordinated by One Church in Avon, in the fire station itself, and in local accommodations arranged through community connections, reports the Island Free Press.

The team served around 80 dental patients, with dozens more coming solely for health screenings.

The Avon Volunteer Fire Department, posting on Facebook, conveyed its “deepest appreciation to Baptists On Mission One Church Avon, as well as all donors and volunteers, for their unwavering support in providing complimentary dental and health screenings to the residents and community of Hatteras Island....The Avon Volunteer Fire Department is honored to host this event for the Hatteras Island community, in partnership with Baptists On Mission One Church Avon.”

Two students earn third place in regional DECA competition

Cape Hatteras Secondary School students Thatcher and Porter Hall earned third place at the DECA Regional competition in Greenville, standing out among an estimated 450 students from across Eastern North Carolina and becoming the only DECA team from Dare County to bring home a medal and a trophy, reports the Island Free Press.

The brothers competed in the Hospitality and Tourism Team Decision Making event, one of multiple role-play contests where students are given a real-world business scenario, have 20 minutes to prepare, and then pitch their solution to a panel of judges.

The winning pair heads for the state competition in February in Greensboro.

Basketball continues this week

For the first time since 2009, Cape Hatteras Secondary has organized a Junior Varsity Girls Basketball team. And, that Junior Varsity team defeated a team from First Flight High School. It's the first Cape Hatteras win over First Flight in a decade.

This week's high school basketball schedule is

December 1: Four games against Manteo will be played in Buxton. Games start at 4 o'clock with Junior Varsity Girls and Boys, then Varsity Girls and Boys.

December 3: First Flight High holds a tournament

December 5: Croatan brings varsity teams to Buxton. Girls game starts at 5 p.m.

Also, December 1 kicks off the high school's Christmas tree competition. Students vote with pocket change for the best tree. The decorated trees are distributed to community members.

Hatteras Island celebrates in a lineup of events

December 1:

—Hatteras Village Tree Lighting and Soup and Salad take out dinner. 6 p.m. Village Triangle. And, in Hatteras Village, walk the Holiday Trail of Lights along the Sea Breeze Trail. Experience peace and tranquility along the extravagantly lit trail. Open nightly weather permitting. Ends in early January.

—On Dec. 1, a Christmas Light Festival opens at Frisco Woods Campground at 5 p.m. Walk or drive through the campground until 8 p.m. The festival is on-going nightly until Dec. 15. Admission is \$10 per car or group and all proceeds benefit the Frisco-Buxton Pathway.

Dec. 4, 2025

—Thursday, December 4, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Fessenden Center a health fair will be offered. Get a free flu shot and visit. Outer Banks Health's wellness van offers free health screenings. Dare County Sheriff's Office accepts unwanted over-the counter and prescription medications. Others visiting are the Dementia Friendly Coalition, Dare County Library, Dare County Social Services, Crisis Management Services.

—At Buxton United Methodist Church, at 5 p.m., a free community dinner is offered.

—Hatteras Island Community Strings will present a Winter Concert, Dec. 4 at 5:30 p.m. at the Rodanthe-Waves-Salvo Community Building, 23646 NC 12 in Rodanthe.

Dec. 5, 6 and 7, 2025

—Cape Hatteras Secondary School's Drama Club is raising the curtain on a high-energy performance with Disney's "Newsies: The Broadway Musical." The musical opens Friday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. in the campus Auditorium in Buxton and continues on Saturday, Dec. 6 at 2 p.m. and at 7 p.m., and 2 p.m. Sunday. Dec. 7. The production features elaborate choreography, stunts, and set designs that promise to transform the school stage into turn-of-the-last-century New York City. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. Tickets are available at The Froggy Dog in Avon, United Bank in Buxton, and the Cape Hatteras Secondary main office. The ticket office will also open one hour before each performance for same-day sales on a first-come, first-served basis.

Saturday, Dec. 6, 2025

—On this Saturday, Rodanthe-Waves-Salvo Annual Tree Lighting takes place at the villages' Community Building. Festivities start at 5:30 p.m.

—On Saturday night, from 5 to 8 p.m., Frisco Woods Campground visitors can enjoy a number of activities and enticements in addition to a hayride cruise with Santa himself, including Santa pictures, music, bounce houses, hot dogs, hot cocoa, cookies, and much more. The event is free and open to the public, but like the Light Festival, all donations towards the Frisco-Buxton Pathway Project are appreciated.

—The Avon Volunteer Fire Department launches its first-ever Christmas tree lighting, held in conjunction with the department's annual Community Dinner on Saturday, December 6.

Doors open at 5:30, and the 16-foot tree, sourced from Greenbrier Farms in Chesapeake, Virginia, be lit at 6 o'clock. The event is free and open to the public, and will feature a lasagna dinner. Attendees are encouraged to bring a canned good for donation to the local food bank.

Coastal Storm expected Tuesday

Late Saturday afternoon, the National Weather Service in Morehead City said a coastal storm is expected Tuesday. The potential for strong winds, combined with king tides, may pose a minor coastal flooding risk to vulnerable areas of the Outer Banks during periods of high tide Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning.

In Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge

At the beginning of November, a remarkable sighting of about 150 white ibis was observed feeding together in South Pond in the Refuge. These striking birds are characterized by their long, curved red bills and vibrant red legs, which not only enhance their beauty but also serve crucial roles in foraging behavior. As social wading birds when not feeding in shallow water, white ibis can often be found gathering in flocks, probing into the soil and grass of various habitats, including golf courses, schoolyards, and open fields. Their diverse diet consists of insects, worms, fish, crabs, lizards, snails, and other invertebrates, revealing their important ecological role in maintaining the balance of local ecosystems. Visit the refuge to observe these remarkable birds in their natural habitat. Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge has a free bird walk year 'round every Friday morning 8 to 9:30. No reservations required. The photos posted on social media sites was taken by Karen Lebing, a Rodanthe resident.

Be safe and thank you for listening. This is Radio Hatteras.