

This is Radio Hatteras. Hello, I'm Grace with the Weekly News Summary for Sunday, May 26, 2024.

The Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum reopened Monday.

On Monday, May 20, the redesigned Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum opened to the public. And the public visited the spectacular new exhibit hall. Over 1,100 people visited that first day. On Tuesday, another 840 people visited.

And, indeed the new exhibit gallery has dramatic displays, lots of artifacts and pictures, and innovative use of technology to tell the maritime history stories so much a part of life on Hatteras Island.

Two exhibits dominate the exhibit hall.

First, the Monomoy Lifeboat with four rowing surfmen and the keeper in the stern with the "sweeper." The lifeboat is plowing through high surf.

Second is the first order Fresnel lens from the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. The lens with its stand just about touches the high ceiling in the exhibit hall.

Some of the artifacts in the community display are familiar, such as the Texaco cloth sign, the Singer sewing machine in stunning, restored cabinetry, and a four-gallon jug found on the Ocracoke beach in 1820.

But while a few things are familiar, new-old photos and new-old things are invitingly displayed. In 2021, the North Carolina General Assembly granted \$4.2 million for the exhibits now on view permanently. Dare County Board of Commissioners and Dare County's Tourism Board each contributed \$250,000 and others contributed another \$300,000 to finish the funding.

Riggs Ward Design, Richmond, Virginia., was contracted to develop a comprehensive design plan. Construction began late in 2022. The museum reopened to the public its week.

The Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum, located at the very end of Hatteras village, is open Monday through Friday, 10 to 4. No admission is charged. Donations are accepted.

The museum will be open Memorial Day, May 27, 2024, 10 to 4.

Ferry crew honored

A six-member North Carolina crew was honored by the state's ferry division and by the U.S. Coast Guard for the heroic rescue on a cold day in January of two men and their dog, reports the Island Free Press.

On January 12, Captain Bill Davis, Chief Engineer Robbie Meekins, Oiler Amanda Przygodzinski, and crew members Gerald Huneycutt, David Butler, and Calob Fulford were onboard the *M/V Hatteras*, tying up the ferry at the Ocracoke-South Dock Terminal. They noticed two men hanging onto an overturned boat. The boat was swiftly floating out of Hatteras Inlet and toward the Atlantic Ocean.

"The weather conditions were worsening, the current was strong, and the two gentlemen were getting sucked out to sea," said Ferry Division Director John "Jed" Dixon at the Monday, May 20 ceremony. "At that time, Captain Bill Davis sounded the general alarm, and the crew snapped into action," reports the Island Free Press.

The ferry crew immediately launched a rescue boat. At the scene, they found the two men clinging to the side of the vessel, and a dog trapped underneath.

The two men had waders on, and were having trouble staying afloat. The strong current combined with the frigid 52-degree water temperature made the situation critical.

The team pulled both victims and the dog out of the water, and shuttled them back to land, with no injuries reported.

“It was just a tremendous day, and all the training that these guys do every week, it just goes to show you how important it is,” said Dixon. “You never know when you’re going to need it, until you do,” reports the Island Free Press.

In addition to the NCDOT’s *Extra Mile Award*, Corrie Sergent, Deputy Commander for U.S. Coast Guard Sector North Carolina, also presented the crew with the Certificate of Merit and Recognition of Notable Services that have Assisted Greatly in Furthering the Aims and Functions of the Coast Guard.

Above normal hurricane activity expected

National Weather Service forecasters at the Climate Prediction Center predict above-normal hurricane activity in the Atlantic basin this year.

NOAA’s outlook for the 2024 Atlantic hurricane season, which spans from June 1 to November 30, predicts an 85% chance of an above-normal season.

NOAA is forecasting a range of 17 to 25 total named storms with winds of 39 miles per hour or higher. Of those, 8 to 13 are forecast to become hurricanes with winds of 74 miles per hour or higher. Between 4 to 7 major hurricanes in category 3, 4 or 5 with winds of 111 miles per hour or higher will happen. Forecasters have a 70 percent confidence in these ranges.

The upcoming Atlantic hurricane season is expected to have above-normal activity due to a confluence of factors, including near-record warm ocean temperatures in the Atlantic Ocean, development of La Nina conditions in the Pacific, reduced Atlantic trade winds and less wind shear, all of which tend to favor tropical storm formation.

Lifeguards are now in place

Lifeguards are returning for the summer season to Cape Hatteras National Seashore’s three lifeguarded beaches on Hatteras Island starting Saturday, May 25.

From Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day, lifeguards are on duty daily from 9 in the morning to 5 in the afternoon at:

- Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Beach adjacent to the Old Cape Hatteras Lighthouse site
- Frisco Beach Day Use Area, located just south of Frisco Village
- Rodanthe Beach Access at 23731 N.C. 12, Rodanthe

The lifeguards can answer questions on swimming safety and weather conditions. Visitors can also access information on swimming conditions via the daily rip current forecast at [weather dot gov slash beach slash m h x](http://weather.dot.gov/slash/beach/slash/mhx)

Visitors can also sign up for ocean safety text messages by texting O B X Beach Conditions to 77295.

Life-saving drill now performed at Chicamacomico

At Chicamacomico Life-Saving Station in Rodanthe, the U.S. Life-Saving Service’s Beach Apparatus Drill is currently performed to visiting crowds on a weekly basis on Thursday afternoons at 2 o’clock.

Chicamacomico proudly announces it is the only place in the country that regularly performs the complete drill, including live black powder firing and live shots, conducted by local volunteers. During this drill, each member of an eight-man team has a specific role to play in order to successfully launch a breeches buoy.

The weekly reenactment for 2024 continues through Labor Day Weekend.

Great news for Ocracoke

On Friday, NCDOT announced great news, just in time for Memorial Day weekend. NC 12 is repaired and all lanes are open on Ocracoke Island. Thanks NCDOT.

Stay safe; weather may be severe

The National Weather Service Morehead City is monitoring the potential for severe thunderstorms and elevated heat impacts tomorrow, Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, 2024. Scattered severe thunderstorms are possible, with a 20 to 40 percent chance, Monday and Monday night.

Elevated heat risk is in place for Monday especially for those outdoors for a longer period of time.

A life-saving station story

Throughout 2024, Jen Carlson is writing about shipwrecks and rescues in advance of the 150th anniversary to the Chicamacomico Lifesaving Station.

Sometimes it's about being a safe harbor: On March 11, 1896, seven fishermen sought refuge at the Kitty Hawk station after a storm forced them from their camp. Keeper Samuel J. Payne provided them with dry clothes from the supply of the Women's National Relief Association while their belongings dried. The weather didn't ease so the men remained at the station overnight until the weather improved and they were able to return to their camp safely.

Memorial Day Service in Hatteras village at 10 in the morning

A Memorial Day Service to give thanks and honor those who have served the United States of America will be held Monday, May 27, 2024 at Hatteras United Methodist Church in the center of Hatteras village.

The service will start at 10 a.m.

To reserve seating for a veteran, call or text the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, Cape Hatteras Flotilla, at 304-281-5355. The invocation will be offered by Pastor Toni Wood. The speaker will be Charlie Kline.

Community Housing Task Force is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, May 28 at 9 o'clock, at the Dare County Administrative Building on Roanoke Island in the first-floor conference room.

Memorial Day schedule

All Dare County offices and facilities will be closed on Monday, May 27, 2024 in observance of Memorial Day. These offices and facilities will reopen and operate under regularly scheduled hours on Tuesday, May 28, 2024.

However, there will be **no** changes to the Dare County residential trash collection schedule on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27.

Now, stay safe out there. Keep up with changing weather conditions. Listen to the lifeguards. Thanks for listening to this Sunday news show and keep listening this week to our music programming. This is Radio Hatteras.