

Weekly News Summary for Sunday, March 30, 2025.

On March 29, the Island Free Press reported that new issues have been uncovered near the top of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. The newly discovered problems involve corrosion and cracking of most of the support brackets and the tension ring for the gallery. Go to [Island Free Press dot org](http://IslandFreePress.org) for the full story.

North Carolina Marine Fisheries has issued two proclamations to reestablish National Shellfish Sanitation Program requirements. Proclamation SS-1-2025 applies to shellfish. Proclamation SS-2-2025 applies to oysters. Both implement mandated measures to control the temperature of oysters or shellfish after harvest, and establish new resubmergence and other sanitation requirements for shellfish harvesters, shellfish lease and franchise holders, and certified shellfish dealers. The proclamations are effective March 31, 2025.

Measles advisory from NC. So far in 2025, no reported cases of measles have been reported. Dr. Zack Moore, the State's Epidemiologist, says "Vaccination is the best way to protect against measles." In the United States, measles cases surged from 59 cases in 2023 to 285 cases in 2024. As of March 27, 2025, a total of 483 confirmed measles cases were reported by 20 jurisdictions.

Measles is a highly contagious viral disease that can lead to serious health complications, especially in babies and young children. The virus spreads through the air when an infected person talks, coughs or sneezes. It can also be spread by contact with contaminated surfaces or objects and can remain airborne for up to 2 hours after an infected person leaves an area. The virus can spread before and after the presence of symptoms, putting unvaccinated individuals at high risk.

The more infectious a virus is, the higher the percent of the population that needs to be vaccinated to prevent an outbreak. For measles, a population vaccination rate of at least 95% is needed to protect the community from an outbreak. The state's measles, mumps and rubella vaccination rate for kindergartners was 93.8% for the 2023-2024 school year. In 2023, Dare County's vaccination rate was 97%. The rate for Cape Hatteras Elementary was 95.6%.

Nearly 60 fourth and fifth-grade mathletes from across the district competed in the Dare County Schools 3rd Annual 24 Game Math Competition on Wednesday, March 26, at First Flight Elementary School. The district-wide tournament brought together talented math students from Dare County's 5 elementary schools. Students began learning and playing the math card game in their classrooms at the start of the school year to strengthen computational fluency, number sense, and critical thinking skills.

School representative teams were selected from overall classroom winners. After two rounds of play, the top 16 players advanced to the semifinals. The highest scorers then moved on to the final round. This year, three of four finalists were from Kitty Hawk Elementary. One was from Cape Hatteras Elementary. After a competitive round, that Cape Hatteras fourth grader claimed the championship. Congratulations Sylene Midgett and her coach Tami Harsh.

Frito-Lay announced that Bags of Tostitos tortilla chips have been recalled across 13 states because they may contain undeclared milk. The chips were distributed to various retailers including in NC. The recall includes 1,300 12-ounce bags of Tostitos Cantina Traditional Yellow Corn Tortilla Chips with a "guaranteed fresh" date of May 20 and UPC 2840052848. The issue is that some of the bags may contain nacho-cheese flavored chips, which contain milk. Frito-Lay noted that the product is still safe to consume if you do not have a dairy allergy or sensitivity to milk. No other Tostitos products have been recalled.

The Outer Banks Community Foundation has awarded \$71,992 in Community Enrichment Grants to 10 local nonprofits in its 1st grant cycle of the year. Funded projects support youth, preserve history and bring arts and culture to communities across the Outer Banks. Two new non-profits from Hatteras Island received grants. Hatteras Island Community Strings and Hatteras Island Futbol Club were awarded grants to expand youth music & soccer programs. OBX Go Far, which has a program at Cape Hatteras Elementary, received support to celebrate its 15th anniversary with a youth-focused event at the Pioneer Theater following its annual 5K

For more details about these grant awards and the Outer Banks Community Foundation's grant program, visit obcf.org/grants.

Registration for summer programs at the Fessenden Center opened Wednesday, March 26, at 8:30 a.m. and will remain open until a program is full.

Folks can register in person at the Fessenden Center in Buxton or online by using the registration platform at [Dare NC dot gov slash Register](http://DareNC.gov/Register).

A full list of programs and additional information can be found on DareNC.gov, under Parks and Recreation Department. Punch Hatteras Island and then 2025 Summer programs.

All children must be the age listed for the camp as of the first day of the month that the camp is being held. Camps that do not meet the minimum number of children required will be canceled the Thursday before the camp's start date. If registration for a camp is full, add your child to the waitlist.

Upcoming this week:

Draft Amendment 4 to the Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan is out for public comment from April 1 to April 30.

In person comments may be made at advisory committee meetings. The closest one is on April 10, 2025 at the Northern Regional Advisory Committee. The meeting will be held at College of The Albemarle, Dare Campus, Room 110, 205 U.S. 64 in Manteo.

Written comments must be made by April 30 online or by mail.

The **Really, Really Free Market** is scheduled for Saturday, April 5 from 9 to noon at the Avon Fire Station, on Harbor Road.

Coming in mid-April

Get ready for the spring musical production of Big Fish by the Cape Hatteras Secondary Drama Club.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children.

The tickets are on sale at the front office of Cape Hatteras Secondary School, the United Bank in Buxton and the Froggy Dog Restaurant in Avon. Proceeds support the Drama Club.

"Big Fish" will be performed Friday, April 11 at 7 p.m., Saturday, April 12 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Sunday, April 13 at 2 p.m. at the Cape Hatteras Secondary Auditorium.

A couple of reminders

The statewide and Dare County opening burning ban remains in place. No permits for beach fires will be issued for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

The ban is in place due to dangerous weather conditions. Much of the state remains in abnormally dry to moderate drought conditions. A small portion of coastal areas around Jacksonville is in severe drought.

Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative is replacing 34 wooden utility poles with concrete poles in south Avon. River City Construction is the contractor. Expect minimal traffic delays in Avon.

This is Radio Hatteras.