

Weekly news summary for Sunday, October 26, 2025.

Brief weather update. A coastal low pressure system will pass off the Outer Banks Monday through Wednesday, peaking Tuesday, October 28.

The National Weather Service predicts strong northeast winds gusting up to 50 miles per hour along the coast. A Gale Watch is in effect for all coastal waters and inland Sounds/Rivers in Eastern North Carolina.

Large waves will bring ocean overwash and coastal flooding concerns to the Outer Banks, particularly vulnerable locales on Hatteras and Ocracoke islands. The weather service is monitoring a separate low pressure system which could bring additional impacts to eastern North Carolina mid to late week.

Debris removable in Buxton. Dare County debris removal contractor, Dupon started the final round of debris collection in Buxton on Wednesday, October 22, 2025. As of Friday, it was reported that debris piles had been removed from Old Lighthouse Road.

Dare County previously coordinated an emergency debris removal operation with Dupon from Wednesday, October 8, 2025 to Saturday, October 18, 2025 after eight unoccupied Buxton homes collapsed into the ocean during a three-day period due to severe beach erosion caused by a strong coastal storm.

National Park Service continues debris removal. National Park Service staff continued a major debris-removal operation on Monday, October 20, following the recent string of oceanfront house collapses on Hatteras Island. More than two dozen seashore employees filled 52 pickup trucks with debris in Buxton, bringing the total to 415 pickup loads of material collected since cleanup operations began earlier this month.

According to the NPS, all large debris has now been removed from the beach in front of the Buxton Formerly Used Defense Site and from the east side of the nearby pond. Crews cleared large piles of lumber, siding, metal, and other building materials that had washed ashore after the most recent collapse.

The operation follows a series of coastal storms and erosion events that have caused ten oceanfront homes to collapse along Hatteras Island over the past three weeks.

The most recent collapse occurred in Buxton on Saturday night, October 18, marking the 10th home to fall since September 30. Earlier this month, cleanup crews had already removed 363 truckloads of debris after the first nine collapses.

The seashore will continue monitoring the shoreline and nearby structures as cleanup and erosion-mitigation efforts continue in the coming days, and visitors are urged to use caution when walking in the area.

Insurance Commissioner visits Buxton

At the invitation of Marcie Shoemaker, North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey visited Buxton October 20 and discussed the state and federal response to houses falling in the ocean and the operations of the Department of Insurance.

Plenty of media reported on the porch meeting at Fatty's Restaurant in Buxton. Reports are available on the Island Free Press and in The Coastland Times.

Beach Buggy tournament happened

North Carolina Beach Buggy Association volunteers pulled off the 14th annual Red Drum Tournament with a final Awards ceremony and afternoon dinner on Saturday, October 25.

Registration happened Wednesday at the Avon Fire Department. Some 593 anglers were signed up for the all-hours fishing tournament that ran until noon on Saturday. That's a record.

Participants arrived from 17 different states and one foreign country, England, underscoring the tournament's growing reputation far beyond the Outer Banks, reports the Island Free Press.

Funds from the tournament go to local non-profit organizations, fire departments, scholarships to high school graduates and other organizations delivering services. Association members also volunteer, most recently during the Buxton beach cleanups. The Awards Ceremony was held at the Family Life Center, across from the Cape Hatteras Secondary School. Results will be shared next week.

Another surf-fishing tournament happened earlier

The Capital City Four Wheelers' 40th Annual Surf Fishing Tournament brought 586 anglers and families to Hatteras Island on October 18 and 19.

By the end of the weekend, the event had raised \$7,000 to support four local foster families through the St. John United Women in Faith Foster Family Committee

The funds came entirely from a raffle of four custom rod-and-reel combinations built and donated by noted craftsmen. See more information on Island Free Press.

Congratulations to the Marching Hurricanes

Cape Hatteras Secondary School Marching Band has made its mark this competition season, earning top honors at the Peanut Festival Battle of the Bands, the Panther Band Classic, and the Greene Central High School Band Competition.

On Oct. 4, Hurricane marching band traveled to Edenton, for the 50th Annual Battle of the Bands. One of 12 schools competing, the marching band performed an impressive show featuring the classical music of Johann Sebastian Bach titled "Decomposer: Bach from the Grave," earning top awards in the 1A division in multiple categories: 1st Place Overall, 1st Place Music, 1st Place Visual, 1st Place General Effect, 2nd Place Drum Major, 2nd Place Color Guard, 2nd Place Percussion

Two weeks later, on Oct. 18, the Cape Hatters marching band competed at the 11th Annual Panther Band Classic in Elizabeth City, facing 18 high school bands from Northeastern North Carolina and Southeastern Virginia. The band continued to impress, placing in four categories in the 1A division: 1st Place Visual Effect, 1st Place Color Guard, 2nd Place Music, 2nd Place Overall Placement.

The Cape Hatteras Marching Canes finished their season with an incredible Saturday at the Greene Central High School Band Competition!

The talented band earned an impressive list of awards: 1st Place Color Guard, 1st Place Percussion, 1st Place Visual, 1st Place General Effect, 1st Place Music, Best in Class, 2nd Place Drum Major.

An even more spectacular honor, Sean McCroskey, the Marching Hurricanes Director, was named Best Band Director in Class 1A–6A.

Radio Hatteras congratulates the Cape Hatteras Secondary Marching Hurricanes and salutes Sean McCroskey for his leadership and dedication to the Cape Hatteras Music Program.

Peak passenger ferry rides

More than 18,000 people rode the state's Ocracoke Express passenger ferry during its 2025 run – marking the service's highest ridership since 2022.

The passenger ferry, which completed its seventh year of operation in September, boasted 18,786 riders this year. That figure is the highest since over 25,000-plus people rode the *Ocracoke Express* in 2022. It's also 13% more passengers than rode the ferry in 2024.

The ferry carries up to 129 passengers directly between Hatteras and Ocracoke's Silver Lake Harbor on a 65-minute ride across the Pamlico Sound.

Coastal Reserves to hold fall local advisory committee meetings

The N.C. Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve will hold fall local advisory committee meetings Nov. 5 - 18 for the following reserve sites, which are in northeastern North Carolina. All meetings are open to the public.

The Buxton Woods Reserve advisory committee meets November 5 at 1 o'clock at the Fessenden Center.

Local advisory committees consist of residents and representatives from community organizations, government agencies and non-governmental partner organizations who provide the Division of Coastal Management's Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve staff with guidance and feedback regarding program activities and management of the reserve sites.

Veterans Celebration set for Nov. 7 at Cape Hatteras Secondary

Cape Hatteras Secondary School will be hosting its annual Veterans Celebration, Friday, November 7, 2025. The program is designed to honor all area veterans as well as to remember the Hatteras Island veterans that have passed away in the past year.

The celebration is open to all area veterans and active duty servicemen and women. The day begins at 9 o'clock in the Cape Hatteras Secondary School's cafeteria where the veterans will be served breakfast prepared by the school's Foods and Nutrition classes.

At 9:45, the group will move to the school gymnasium where at about 10 o'clock they will be honored by students, faculty, the Cape Hatteras Secondary award-winning band, a guest speaker, and community members. The names of recently deceased area veterans will be read. The Cape Hatteras Secondary graduates who are currently serving in the Armed Forces will be recognized.

"We look forward to this wonderful day to honor those that keep us free," writes Keith Durham, who organizes the event. Questions about the program can be emailed to Keith Durham at durhamke@daretolearn.org.

Winners for Cape Hatteras Secondary

The Cape Hatteras Cross Country Team had a wonderful day at regionals!

Gabby Baker took 1st place in the region and Quin Farrow finished 4th overall. Their outstanding performances have earned our team a spot at the North Carolina High School Athletic Association State Championship Meet in Kenersville next weekend.

FINAL NOTE: Now is the time to contribute to the Island-wide food drive for the Cape Hatteras Food Pantry.

Eight places on Hatteras Island are collecting canned goods, toiletries, pet food. Here are five places: Our Lady of the Seas Catholic Parish Social Hall in Buxton, with a 24-hour drop-off box on the porch of the social hall

Midgett Realty with offices in Hatteras, Avon, and Rodanthe

Sun Realty in Avon

Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum, Hatteras

First National Bank, Avon (Mon. – Fri., 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.)

Be safe out there. This is Radio Hatteras.