

Weekly News Summary for August 31, 2025.

Amazing cleanup in Buxton. On Tuesday, August 26, North Carolina Governor Josh Stein, who had visited Dare County four days earlier, lifted the Hurricane Erin State of Emergency, “Hurricane Erin has moved away from North Carolina and remained offshore throughout the weekend, so a State of Emergency is no longer necessary. I am grateful to our State Emergency Response Team for all the work to prepare for the storm, keep people safe, and reopen roadways. We will continue to support local needs as crews clean up and assess the full scope of damage Hurricane Erin caused.”

Folks with the Buxton Civic Association had seen up close the debris on Buxton beach and around houses off Old Lighthouse Road. Mid-week, the association announced a community cleanup of the area for Saturday morning, August 30 starting at 10 o’clock.

At the appointed hour, a line had formed to check in. An hour later, an estimated 200 people had signed in to help with the cleanup.

And cleanup they did. Dare County provided four big dumpsters for collection of construction debris. By noon, all four dumpsters were full to the brims. Additional piles of construction debris, vegetation, metal, and trash were stacked down Old Lighthouse Road.

People stuffed pickup trucks and SUVs with construction debris to haul to the dumpsters. Street by street, informal groups picked up debris. Some hauled with trailers.

Folks from the North Carolina Beach Buggy Association and the Cape Hatteras United Methodist Men came. People came from Hatteras Island villages and visitors from outside Dare County.

Buxton Civic Association leaders staffed the check-in and worked with other volunteers. Perhaps, those organizers were a bit awed by the turnout and the work that was accomplished.

Dare County Commissioner Mary Ellon Ballance from Hatteras Village was present. While people worked to cleanup the neighborhood, to return the beaches to beautiful, she remarked “it’s the people.”

Officials from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Headquarters and South Atlantic Division were at the old Buxton Navy Base in Dare County. Also at the site were Colonel Ron Sturgeon, the Savannah District commander, the program team and Bay West contractors this past week.

The Army Corps people along with National Park Service team members and the Board of Commissioners assessed the damage unearthed by Hurricane Erin for the best way forward to clean up the site.

After the storm, about 100 linear feet of asbestos-cement pipe used for water distribution, storm drains, sewer lines, etc. was removed from the site surface and secured for proper disposal. A small remnant of the asbestos pipe remains attached to a sump associated with the former Wastewater Treatment Plant, and it has been temporarily stabilized and wrapped in place. The removal of the asbestos pipes is authorized under the Formerly Uses Defense Site authority due to possible risk to the health and safety of the on-site team and public.

An alternate road is being used to access the site until the Old Lighthouse Road is repaired by the state. About 100 feet of beach washed away. Hundreds of feet of asphalt roadway and parking area were lost.

The National Park Service had multiple equipment operators and dozens of people there that removed dumpsters full of house debris, septic system and drain field parts, and almost all of the asphalt road that was destroyed by waves.

Now, visually, the site looks swept clean.

When Hurricane Erin passed by, the Corps team was in the process of awarding a contract for phase two of the interim response action that began August 8, 2025. The scope of work has changed. Once the contract is awarded, the Corps will remove petroleum-impacted soil and groundwater.

The team is evaluating a possible postponement of the comprehensive sampling, due to the interim response action.

Hurricane Erin brought down cooperative transmission line and three utility poles running across the old Navy site about 7:45 Thursday night. Working in a difficult area, the cooperative's crew rerouted the line by placing one pole rather than three. The work was finished about 4:30 on Friday afternoon.

The power outage affected all the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse buildings, including the visitor center, bathrooms, the law enforcement building and residential housing. Additionally, an estimated 80 homes or sites in Diamond Point Estates subdivision were without power.

Cape Hatteras National Seashore announces public comment period and meeting for Dare County project to repair groin in Buxton, North Carolina. Cape Hatteras National Seashore invites public review and comments on a proposed Dare County project to repair the southernmost groin, often referred to as a jetty, in Buxton. Public comments will be accepted from August 27 through September 29, 2025.

In addition to the comment period, the Seashore will hold a public meeting to discuss the proposed project from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 3, 2025 at the Fessenden Center.

In 1970, in response to coastal erosion adjacent to Naval Facility Cape Hatteras (now known as the Buxton Beach Access or Buxton Formerly Used Defense Site), the U.S. Navy constructed three groins—two to the north of and one just south of the former location of Cape Hatteras Lighthouse for the purpose of protecting Naval Facility Cape Hatteras.

Shortly after their construction, the northern and southern groins experienced wave damages, leading the U.S. Navy to change designs; however, the damages continued. Today, the northern and middle groins are completely submerged on most days; the southern groin is consistently visible above the water but clearly shows signs of significant deterioration.

Public comments may be submitted electronically at [parkplanning dot nps dot gov slash buxton underscore groin](https://parkplanning.nps.gov/buxton/groin), the preferred method, or mailed to: Superintendent, 1401 National Park Dr., Manteo, N.C. 27954.

Following a discussion on the proposed groin project at the Sept. 3 meeting, the Seashore leaders will discuss Dare County's proposed project to renourish beaches in Buxton and Avon in 2026 and provide other updates.

Dare offices closed; residential trash pickup as usual. All Dare County offices and facilities are closed Monday, September 1, to observe Labor Day. The offices and facilities reopen on Tuesday, September 2. The Buxton Transfer Station is closed on Monday. However, residential trash pickup does not change. Trash will be picked up on Monday in Hatteras, Frisco and Buxton. And on Tuesday in Avon, Salvo, Waves and Rodanthe.

The annual raffle for Hatteras Island meals is underway. Hatteras Island Meals is a longstanding and all-volunteer organization on Hatteras Island that provides nutritious meals to elderly or homebound island residents. The nonprofit began in 1987 as an informal endeavor, (where local folks prepared meals for their neighbors), and today it serves clients from Rodanthe to Hatteras Village.

The roughly 60 volunteers pick up the meals from generous distributors on the island – Marilyn's Deli at Island Convenience and Waves Market & Deli in the Tri-villages, Diamond Shoals Restaurant in Buxton, and Sonny's in Hatteras in the summer months. The volunteers then deliver the meals to folks along their assigned route. Like many local nonprofit organizations, the organization relies on fundraising initiatives to keep day-to-day operations rolling. The annual raffle is a primary source of funds.

Raffle tickets are available for sale at Ace Hardware, Conner's Supermarket, and other locations until the official drawing on October 4. Tickets can also be purchased online through [hatteras island meals dot org](https://hatteras-island-meals.org). Tickets are 1 for \$10, or 4 for \$35. Prize packages will be announced soon.

A bit of Fisheries news

Governor Josh Stein has appointed Johnathan Edward Mallette of Onslow County to the Marine Fisheries Commission. He is appointed to the seat for Commercial Dealer or Processor from the Coastal Region who derives more than 50 percent of income from dealing/processing. Mallette is a life-long commercial and recreational fisherman and the owner of Southern Breeze Seafood in Jacksonville, as well as a Chef Ambassador for NC Catch and Got to Be NC.

Salvo Cemetery photo exhibit to be reinstalled

The Salvo Community Cemetery will soon have its photo exhibit banner reinstalled after the original display deteriorated from years of exposure to the harsh Hatteras Island weather, reports the Island Free Press.

The new banner will be added to the soundside site during a small gathering on Thursday, September 5, at 10 a.m., with designer Justin Hook traveling from Durham to attend the event.

The Salvo Community Cemetery, one of the oldest and most well-known burial spots on Hatteras Island, had fallen into severe disrepair by the early 2000s. Graves were obscured by brush, fencing had decayed, and the historic site had succumbed to accelerating erosion.

Community members, descendants, and volunteers began working together more than a decade ago to restore the cemetery, clearing the grounds, repairing markers, and ensuring that the families interred there would be remembered and honored.

That restoration effort culminated in 2023 with a rededication ceremony and the installation of the photo exhibit banner, featuring archival images of the families and history tied to the cemetery.

Doodle and De-Stress at Hatteras Library

Adults, take some time for yourself to relax and hang out for Doodle & De-stress at the Hatteras Library! All art supplies will be provided.

Now on the first and third Wednesday each month. Scheduled for Wednesday, September 3, and Wednesday, September 17, from 1 to 3 in the afternoon.

And, an hour of freestyle block-building fun for all ages from curious kids to imaginative teens. No registration is needed for this free event; just bring your creativity Friday, September 5, 2025 from 4:30 to 5:30.

That's all for now. Be safe out there.