

Weekly News Summary for Sunday, March 2, 2025.

National Park Service hiring seasonal staff

On Thursday morning, February 27, 2025, at just about 11 o'clock, the NPS News Media released the following statement via email from an "NPS spokesperson:"

"The National Park Service is hiring seasonal workers to continue enhancing the visitor experience as we embrace new opportunities for optimization and innovation in workforce management. We are focused on ensuring that every visitor has the chance to explore and connect with the incredible, iconic spaces of our national parks."

On January 20, 2025, President Trump issued a memorandum titled "hiring freeze" applicable to Federal civilian employees. No federal civilian position vacant at noon could be filled.

For the Outer Banks Group of National Parks, vacant seasonal positions were swept into the freeze. The Group includes the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Fort Raleigh National Historic Site and Wright Brothers National Memorial.

The Trump administration allowed the National Park Service to fill a total of 7,700 seasonal positions, higher than the three-year average of 6,350, according to a memorandum obtained by National Public Radio.

National Public Radio also reported that on Feb. 14, the National Park Service laid off 1,000 staffers, most of whom were probationary employees.

The Outer Banks Group of National Parks lost six employees, according to the Association of Retired National Park Rangers.

Division of Marine Fisheries announces scoping period for Southern Flounder; Manteo meeting set for March 6

The North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries is seeking public input as it develops Amendment 5 to the N.C. Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan. A public scoping period will be held from March 1 through March 31, providing stakeholders an opportunity to share feedback on potential management strategies and priorities for the amendment. The scoping period includes four scoping meetings.

A meeting in Manteo is set for Thursday, March 6, 2025, at the Dare County Administration Building, 954 Marshall C. Collins Dr., Manteo. The open-house style meeting will run from 6 to 8 o'clock.

Other locations for additional scoping meetings are March 11 at the DMF Central District Office, Morehead City and March 27 at Cape Fear Community College in Wilmington. Both meetings run from 6 to 8 p.m. On March 4, a meeting was to be held in Raleigh.

Scoping is the best opportunity for stakeholders to help shape the plan, states the media release. The primary purpose of Amendment 5 is to address an August 2024, North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission motion to amend the Southern Flounder Fisheries Management Plan to allow for more recreational access while maintaining the rebuilding requirements of Amendment 3. Amendment 5 and Amendment 4 (in progress) are being developed concurrently to provide long-term, comprehensive approaches to recreational and commercial Southern Flounder management. A scoping document outlining potential issues and management strategies to be addressed can be found on the division website under Information on Southern Flounder FMP Amendment 5.

Beginning March 1, the public may provide feedback through an online form available on the same information webpage or submit a written comment through the mail to N.C. Division of

Marine Fisheries, Southern Flounder Scoping, PO Box 769, Morehead City, N.C. 28557.

Comments must be received by 5 o'clock. March 31, 2025.

At these meetings, there will be no formal presentation or structured public comment period. Instead, participants are encouraged to drop in at any time to engage in discussions and share thoughts and ideas. Stakeholder input gathered during these meetings will be considered in developing Amendment 5.

Lane closures on Oregon Inlet bridge start Monday, March 3; allow extra travel time

The N.C. Department of Transportation will be performing federally-mandated inspections of both the Oregon Inlet Bridge on NC 12 and the Bonner Bridge Pier on Oregon Inlet beginning March 3.

The work requires daytime lane closures for the bridge, while small sections of the pier will be closed to the public while inspections are underway.

Oregon Inlet Bridge –Beginning March 3, weekday daytime lane closures between a half-mile to a mile in length will be in place. The lane closures will be marked by flaggers. Motorists can expect delays of about 5-10 minutes.

Bonner Bridge Pier – Inspections start March 17, but the pier itself will remain open to the public. Sections of the pier will be cordoned off by traffic cones to keep pedestrians from accessing areas where inspections are taking place. The pier may be closed for brief periods while platform trucks are moved on and off the structure. The pier is the last remaining remnant of the Herbert C. Bonner Bridge, which carried NC 12 traffic over Oregon Inlet between 1963 and 2019.

All work is expected to be complete within three weeks.

Outer Edge Docuseries

Episodes 1-5 of The Outer Edge docuseries are now available on YouTube. The episodes feature commercial fishing, Outer Banks creators and musicians, photographers, and the region's boat building tradition.

The six part series was locally by the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau. Some 23 Dare County residents were interviewed and followed on camera during the endeavor. Three local residents also participated behind the camera, and assisted with production of the series.

The final episode, "Mother Nature's Playground," will be released on March 10, 2025.

Buxton Civic raises money

The Buxton Civic Association hosted a community fundraiser on February 22 at Café Pamlico. The Mardi Gras celebration raised just shy of \$1,500 to support the association's upcoming initiatives, reports the Island Free Press.

The association is continuing a push to repair or replace the jetties at the end of Old Lighthouse Road in Buxton.

Dare Commissioners meet Monday, March 3 at 9 in the morning

The commissioners will hear the results of the 2025 Countywide Revaluation and a presentation transport planning from the county's Emergency Medical Services. The board will be asked to approve a construction manager at risk selection for phase III New Construction. Phase III includes redoing the public works site in Buxton and building a new EMS station 6 in Waves.

Dare Planning Board meets Tuesday, March 4 at 6 o'clock

The Dare County Planning Board meets Tuesday, March 4, 2025, in the Dare County Commissioners Meeting Room, 954 Marshall C. Collins Dr., Manteo. The meeting starts at 6 o'clock.

Two items, both on Hatteras Island, will be considered.

A Zoning Map Amendment to allow for rezoning from R-3 to C-3 in Buxton is the first item. William S. Quidley owns two parcels and John Canning owns one. Total land when combined is 2.72 acres. One of the parcels has six mobile homes. The address of one parcel is 49251 NC 12 in Buxton.

The second item is for approval of a four-lot subdivision at 27214 Ocean Spray Road, Salvo, with access to NC 12. The land totals 1.84 acres. Dare County GIS notes that a 1910 Bungalow is on the property.

Hatteras-Ocracoke ferries switch to early springtime schedule

On Tuesday, March 4, the North Carolina Ferry System's Hatteras-Ocracoke vehicular ferry switches to its early springtime schedule, increasing the total number of daily departures from 28 to 36.

For the daily schedule, go to Island Free Press for departure times.

The *Ocracoke Express* passenger ferry, which provides service between Hatteras and the heart of Ocracoke Island (Silver Lake), is scheduled to run from May 13-Sept. 15.

The passenger ferry will have four daily round-trip departures (eight total trips) from Tuesday through Thursday when ridership is highest, and three daily round-trip departures (six total trips) during the less active days of Friday, Saturday and Monday. The ferry will not operate on Sunday when ridership is lowest, and will instead dedicate Sundays to vessel maintenance.

The *Ocracoke Express* passenger ferry and the vehicle ferries that travel between Ocracoke and Swan Quarter and Ocracoke and Cedar Island offer reservations 90 days prior to departure.

Rootle Roadster Tour coming to Buxton, March 8

On Saturday afternoon, March 8 from 1 to 4 in the gym at Cape Hatteras Secondary School comes the Rootle Roadster Tour! In collaboration with Rootle PBS Kids NC, Children and Youth Partnership is bringing this fun event to Hatteras Island.

The Rootle Roadster Tour will be an afternoon of fun and exploration for children and their families, with hand-on activities, games, demonstrations and resources, from PBS Kids and Children & Youth Partnership for Dare County (CYP) and several local organizations.

Health Fair Monday, March 10 in Rodanthe

A Health Fair will be held Monday, March 10 from 10:30 to 1:30 at the Rodanthe-Waves-Salvo Community Building. Outer Banks Health and Community Care Clinic of Dare will be offering wellness screenings. The event is free and open to everyone.

Other nonprofit organizations will also be in attendance. Appointments are not required to attend the event and get a free health screening. However, appointments can be made at [secureforms dot ecuhealth dot org slash 2503 3566 4626 863](https://secureforms.dot.ecuhealth.org/250335664626863). Here's that number again.

The Community Care Clinic of Dare has recently expanded hours at the Dare County Health Department in Frisco. A provider is available to see patients in the morning on the second and fourth Thursday of every month.

Rescue squad adds another CPR class

Hatteras Island Rescue Squad regrets that all spaces in the March 13 CPR class have been filled. Actually, we are happy that we have so many members of our community wanting to learn how to save a life. In order to accommodate the additional requests we have scheduled another class on Wednesday March 12.

The public CPR class on Wednesday March 12 runs from 7 to 10 p.m. at the squad's station in Buxton located at 48103 NC 12 Hwy. This one night, three-hour class will cover adult, child and infant CPR and use of an AED. The class is open to property owners and residents over 12 years old of Hatteras Island. Minors must be accompanied by a parent.

The cost of the class is \$12 per student and includes the cost of an American Heart Association certification card and a pocket mask.

Attendance and completion of the class is \$5 if you do not need an American Heart Association certification card.

Payment must be in cash in exact change on the night of the class.

Due to the overwhelming response to many of our classes, pre-registration is required. Call the Station at 252-995-5490 and leave your name, a contact telephone number and the number of students wishing to attend. If you prefer, you may message us with the information. You will be contacted to advise you if space is available for you to attend.

Walk-ins are welcome on a space available basis in the event of vacancies or cancellations.

Severe Weather Preparedness Week starts today

This week is North Carolina's annual Severe Weather Preparedness Week. The National Weather Service and the North Carolina Department of Public Safety are teaming up to bring a severe weather safety campaign to all of North Carolina. With warmer weather quickly approaching, now is the time to prepare for the severe weather season. Learn about severe weather safety and implement a safety plan, so we're ready when severe thunderstorms and tornadoes inevitably strike the state.

As part of preparedness week a Statewide Tornado Drill will take place at 9:30 on Wednesday morning, March 5. The drill will be broadcast on NOAA Weather Radio and the Emergency Alert System via the Required Monthly Test.

If there is actual severe weather occurring on the morning of Wednesday March 5, 2025, the statewide tornado drill will be postponed. The alternate date for the drill is Friday, March 7, 2025, at 9:30.

Check out Radio Hatteras Storm Coverage on Facebook

Now stay safe out there. Thanks for listening. This is Radio Hatteras.