

Weekly New Summary for Sunday, July 14, 2024.

Civic Association calls for letters for setting up a Restoration Advisory Board for Buxton

The Buxton Civic Association is calling for the setting up a Restoration Advisory Board for the old Buxton Navy Base property.

The association drafted a letter to be sent to various regulatory and legislative representatives asking for a speed up in the set up. The drafted letter is intended for guidance for others to send to the extensive list of representatives.

The letter states “The lack of transparency from the Army Corps of Engineers, the Coast Guard, and the National Park Service regarding these issues is unacceptable. The community is entitled to full disclosure and regular updates on the measures being undertaken to address these serious problems.

“Considering these significant concerns, I respectfully request the immediate establishment of a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) program. This initiative will facilitate enhanced communication and collaboration between the responsible agencies and the affected community, ensuring that cleanup efforts are prioritized and effectively managed. Further, I implore all involved agencies to cease the decades-long practice of finger-pointing, blame-shifting, and compartmentalization of the areas and, instead, work together for a comprehensive solution.”

Go to Buxton Civic Facebook Page or Buxton Civic dot com to copy the drafted letter and a list of suggested recipients and go to Island Free Press dot org for a full discussion of what the Corps of Engineers has done.

Rodanthe channel shoaled

The Dare County Waterways Commission learned Monday, that an area in the federal channel into the Rodanthe Harbor is shoaled and would not be available for an emergency ferry route.

The Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for the Rodanthe ferry channel but the Corps does not have a project planned for the Rodanthe Harbor.

The shoaled area measures about five feet deep. Ferries need five and half feet. The authorized depth is six feet.

Dare County has repaired the area for dredged material which is alongside the harbor.

New recreational, commercial harvest reporting requirements delayed to December 1, 2025

New harvest reporting requirements for recreational and commercial fisheries have been delayed by one year and will now become effective on December 1, 2025.

The N.C. General Assembly recently passed Session Law 2024-45, which, in part, amends legislation from last fall that would have implemented the harvest reporting requirements on December 1, 2024.

This extension will allow the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries and the state’s Wildlife Resources Commission to engage with stakeholders, not only to inform them about the requirements, but also to ensure that the reporting process and tool(s) are robust and user-friendly.

The legislation from last fall requires that any person who recreationally harvests Red Drum, flounder, Spotted Seatrout (speckled trout), Striped Bass and Weakfish (gray trout) must report that harvest to marine fisheries. This requirement applies to fish harvested from coastal fishing waters, joint fishing waters and inland fishing waters adjacent to coastal or joint fishing waters. Additionally, the law requires anyone holding a commercial fishing license who is engaged in a commercial fishing operation to report all fish harvested to marine fisheries, regardless of sale. More information, including links to temporary rules to implement the laws, can be found on the Mandatory Harvest Reporting at [deq dot n c dot gov slash mandatory dash harvest dash reporting](http://deq.dot.nc.gov/mandatory-dash-harvest-dash-reporting). The webpage will be updated as new information becomes available.

Drought strikes North Carolina

For the first time in 15 years, the entire state of North Carolina is either "abnormally dry" or in a drought.

Drought conditions continue to worsen across North Carolina this week, with nearly 90% of the state now facing moderate, severe or extreme drought, reports the Drought Management Advisory Council.

While rain has come in eastern and central North Carolina, it is too late. North Carolina is already seeing widespread crop losses. Some 40% of corn crops are in very poor condition. This is just the second time in 24 years the state has seen such a rapid deterioration of drought conditions, the Department of Environmental Quality said. In late June, more than 50% of North Carolina was increased to a more severe status in just one week.

While rain in the last week slowed the rapid drying, it wasn't enough to improve conditions in some places.

Dare County remains in moderate drought.

Drug arrest day before July 4

On July 3, 2024, at approximately 10:56 at night, the Dare County Sheriff's Office C-District conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle near Kinnakeet Blvd on NC 12 in Avon. During the stop probable cause was established to conduct a search of the vehicle.

During the search of the vehicle an amount of Fentanyl, Heroin and Drug Paraphernalia were located and seized. The investigation continued to a hotel room where the individual was staying and an amount of Cocaine, Marijuana, Prescription Medication and more Drug Paraphernalia were located and seized.

William Thaddeus Bridgeman, 45, Reston, Virginia, was charged with two counts of felony Possession of Schedule I, felony Possession of Schedule II, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and misdemeanor Maintaining a Dwelling. Bridgeman was issued a \$50,000 secured bond.

North Carolina Celebrates More Than 500,000 Enrolled in Medicaid Expansion

More than half a million North Carolinians have now enrolled in Medicaid expansion since the program began seven months ago. Beneficiaries are now able get quality health care they need. People can see a doctor, get preventative care, manage chronic conditions and get life-saving prescriptions without the burden of high premiums or co-pays.

Since December 1, 2023, new Medicaid enrollees have filled more than 1.9 million new prescriptions for conditions like heart health, diabetes, seizures and other illnesses. Medicaid has also covered more than \$28.6 million in claims for dental services since expansion began. Currently, 503,967 North Carolinians have enrolled in Medicaid expansion, something that was expected to take two years.

People who did not qualify for Medicaid in the past may now be eligible, including those who are single, have higher incomes, and don't have children or a disability. The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Medicaid Expansion website provides information on eligibility, how to apply and where to find support. Individuals can also connect with state and local support teams to better understand their health care coverage options, complete Medicaid applications and navigate the enrollment process, as well as for help with language translation services.

To learn more or apply for NC Medicaid, visit [Medicaid dot n c dot gov](https://www.Medicaid.nc.gov).

New online learning platform for adults at Dare Library

The Dare County Library now offers patrons access to a new online learning platform called Gale Presents: Udemy, which is designed to help adults improve work-related skills and develop personal interests through thousands of on-demand courses across 75 categories in business, technology, design and personal development.

Gale, a provider of research and learning resources, has partnered with Udemy, a marketplace for online learning, to offer public libraries the platform that connects patrons to video-based. The on-demand courses are available for Dare County Library patrons to access anytime and anywhere, allowing users to download classes for offline use and listen via podcast-style audio or stream on Chromecast or Apple TV.

Dare County Library patrons can access Gale Presents: Udemy by visiting the library's website, [Dare N C dot gov slash Virtual Library](https://www.DareNC.gov/VirtualLibrary).

Meetings and events happening this week

Dare Board of Commissioners meets at 9, Tuesday morning

The Dare County Board of Commissioners meets at 9 o'clock, Tuesday, July 16, 2024.

The agenda is extensive.

A public hearing will be held on Releasing Balloons in Unincorporated Dare County.

Outer Banks Forever is asking Dare County to sponsor a grant request for installing restrooms and shower facilities at the Old Lighthouse Beach Access. Outer Banks Forever will provide matching funds.

Salty Dawg Lecture, Tuesday, July 16, 11 o'clock

What did Alexander Hamilton, Pat Etheridge, Billy Mitchell, Sam Dosier, B.B. Dailey, Billy Mitchell, John Rollinson and other Hatterasmen and Hatteraswomen do for Hatteras? They put it on the map! Check out old maps, artifacts, lore, mysteries, history, and old and loved stories with a strictly Hatteras twist with Hatteras historian and storyteller Danny Couch. The program is part of the museum's Salty Dawgs Lecture Series, which features presentations on North Carolina

maritime history and culture. The museum is located at 59200 Museum Drive in Hatteras village. The series is free and open to the public.

Beach sweep in Refuge July 18

The Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge is hosting a series of beach cleanups along the beaches of the refuge throughout the summer. Volunteers from the community are invited to attend. Those who would like to participate are asked to meet at the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center, located midway between Oregon Inlet Bridge and Rodanthe, at 10 o'clock in the morning on Thursday, July 18, 2024. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing, For more information, contact the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center at 252-987-2394.

St. John United Methodist host bazaar July 18

St. John United Methodist Church in Avon is hosting a community bazaar Thursday, July 18, starting at 7 in the morning and continuing until 2 in the afternoon. The daylong event features kids' activities, music, homemade meals for breakfast and lunch, and much more.

The United Methodist Women will be selling homemade biscuits and sausage gravy in the morning, followed by a Barbecue lunch.

A host of activities throughout the event will be offered like face painting, games, a huge yard sale, and a silent auction.

Celebrating its fourth year in 2024, the annual bazaar serves as a fundraiser toward Ret's Retreat, a new building project creating a retreat center for local youth.

The St. John United Methodist Church is located at 40336 McMullen Road in Avon Village, and everyone is welcome to come visit throughout the day to join in the fun.

Family Fun in the Park set for Friday, July 19

Dare County invites residents, visitors and property owners from throughout the county to attend the Dare County Parks and Recreation Department's first Family Fun in the Park Block Party.

The party takes place along Mustian Street in Kill Devil Hills on Friday, July 19 from 5 to 8 in the evening. This free event will feature a cookout, water slide, games, scavenger hunts and work vehicle displays, among other activities.

The fun begins at the Veterans Drive entrance to Family Recreation Park between the baseball fields. Participant will pick up a map that can be stamped at each stop and returned when finished for entry to win several prizes. This is a free event, and everyone in the community is invited to attend! For more information about the Dare County Parks & Recreation Department's Family Fun in the Park Block Party, view the Family Fun in the Park Block Party Facebook event page.

Sign up for tourney now

The 15th annual North Carolina Beach Buggy Association Red Drum Tournament is scheduled for October 23 to October 26, 2024, and tournament organizers are urging anglers to sign up now. A cap of 500 anglers is in place this event

The 2023 NCBBA Tournament featured a record 455 anglers, with 120 red drum caught and released.

The annual tournament offers miles of naturally isolated fishing grounds along the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Anglers will fish from Off-Road Vehicle Ramp 23 to Ramp 45.

During the 60 hours of wide-open fishing, anglers may fish where and when they wish, with no assigned stations, if the area is accessible by vehicle from midnight on Wednesday to noon on Saturday.

Judges are still needed for the tournament, and all are welcome to apply. If you choose to judge two 6-hour sessions, your entry fee is refunded and you will be eligible for a \$1,000 cash prize in the “judges only” category, while also vying for all the additional prizes which totaled over \$13,000 in value in 2023.

For more information on the tournament and to secure a spot now before time runs out, visit ncbba.org/red-dash-drum-tournament.

In celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Life-Saving Service, Jen Carlson is providing snippets of maritime history, titled All in a Day’s Work.

Sometimes it’s just about patience: Just before daybreak on December 27, 1895, Keeper Little Bannister Midgett, Jr. was in the lookout stand and spotted a schooner about 3 ½ miles south of the Chicamacomico LifeSaving Station. Moments later a signal was spotted from the schooner indicating help was requested. Immediately, Keeper Midgett lead his crew into the early morning hours. Upon arriving on scene, it was discovered that there was nothing that could be done to assist as the crew of the Lou Willis actually landed themselves onshore before the Chicamacomico crew arrived and the tide going out had left the schooner high and dry. It was going to take skids to get the vessel off the sandbar. Nearly a month later, the vessel’s master requested help once again as the skids were now acquired and he needed assistance in launching the schooner. He was very appreciative of the work the surfmen did to help him relaunch his vessel.

Be safe out there. Love the Beach. Respect the Ocean. Thanks for listening to this news program. This is Radio Hatteras.