

Weekly news summary for Sunday, January 11, 2026.

Frisco was under a boil water advisory

On Friday, all of Frisco was under a system pressure advisory and a boil water advisory. The advisories were in effect until 9 o'clock, Saturday morning, January 10, unless residents receive another message from the Dare County Water Department. No notice was posted on the news site for Dare's Water Department.

A water main break on Piney Ridge Road was reported at 5 o'clock Thursday afternoon. By 9:45, the disruption in the water system had spread to most of Frisco. Service was restored by 3:45 a.m., Friday morning.

If your water service was interrupted and has not been restored, email water@darenc.gov with your service address, name and a contact phone number.

Under a boil water advisory, tap water must be boiled for one minute and then cooled to use for drinking, cooking, brushing teeth, or washing dishes. Bottled water may be used as an alternative.

Dare County pauses Public Works projects

Dare County has paused construction on major Phase III capital projects.

On Monday, January 5, Dare County Manager Robert L. Outten delivered a project report about moving forward with the reconstruction of the Roanoke Island Public Works Facility, a \$42.5 million project.

Outten told the Dare County Board of Commissioners that the county doesn't have approval from the Federal Aviation Administration for the project. He said an FAA worker delivered this statement: "I'm not going to recommend approval."

Dare County has reached out to N.C. Department of Transportation Aviation Division to address issues.

Meanwhile Barnhill Building Group has been told to "hold tight."

The work stoppage will affect timing of other projects.

The Buxton Public Works project is also slated for a major overhaul, costing \$8.14 million. The county has encountered a "regulatory road block," said Outten.

Assistant County Manager Dustin Peele reported, "the Buxton project is contingent upon the County working with the State on getting the necessary permits in place to operate the transfer station as we have done in the past."

During commissioner business, Commissioner Ervin Bateman questioned Outten about fixing the bulkhead behind the Hatteras Village Medical Center. Outten responded that no funding was in the budget. He said the county was waiting to see how NCDOT was going to finish the Slash Creef bridge project – with rip rap, corrugated metal or wood. A living shoreline was also considered. Peele was charged with coming up with a cost figures.

Family Child Care Homes Text Amendment Approved

At the suggestion of the Children and Youth Partnership of Dare County, Dare County Board of Commissioners approved a text amendment to update the definition of Family Child Care Homes to align with recent changes in North Carolina law.

The amendment increases the maximum number of children permitted in a residential child care setting from eight to ten if all children are older than 24 months. Eight children are permitted

with five from birth to 5 years and three school age children; and nine children with three children from birth to 24 months of age, three children from 2 to 5 and three school age children.

Stormwater projects approved

The Dare County Board of Commissioners approved Fred Smith Company as the contractor of choice for two long-planned stormwater mitigation projects on Hatteras Island, and authorized County Manager Bobby Outten to negotiate and execute a contract not to exceed \$734,000.

The projects address chronic flooding and drainage issues along Old Lighthouse Road in Buxton and within the N.C. Highway 12 corridor in northern Hatteras Village.

They are funded entirely through stormwater and disaster mitigation grants previously awarded by the state, which makes the \$734,000 contract amount a firm cap in order to avoid extra costs that would have to be paid for by the county.

County officials said the projects stem from earlier countywide planning efforts that identified Old Lighthouse Road, Hatteras Village, and other low-lying areas on Hatteras Island as priorities for stormwater upgrades due to repeated roadway flooding during heavy rainfall or extreme weather events.

Measles and flu updates

On January 9, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services announced a new case of measles in Rutherford County. This brings the total number of North Carolina measles cases to five since late December. All individuals who may have been exposed have been notified. The department recommends all unvaccinated individuals ages one year and older receive measles vaccination to protect themselves and those around them.

The flu outbreak in North Carolina continues to claim lives. Last week, 22 people died of complications of the flu, according to the latest data from the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services. That brings the death toll to 71 since the season started in October.

People age 65 and older account for about 75% of flu deaths so far. Two who died were between the ages of 5 and 17. Also last week, 3,419 people with respiratory illnesses were admitted to a hospital from an emergency department, about 200 fewer than a week earlier.

State officials say it's still not too late to get vaccinated for the flu. They say it's particularly important for those most vulnerable to the illness, including children under 5 and those with chronic health conditions such as asthma, diabetes or a weakened immune system.

Dry conditions widespread across North Carolina

Dry conditions are widespread in North Carolina, according to the latest update from the North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council released on Thursday, January 8.

All or parts of 32 counties in central and western North Carolina are considered in severe drought, or D2 conditions. Another 53 counties of the state are considered in drought, or D1 conditions. Fifteen counties along the coast are classified as abnormally dry.

Those along the coast include Dare, Currituck, Hyde and Tyrrell

"The state has been drying out since the middle of August," said Klaus Albertin, chair of the council. "The region is seeing a La Niña pattern, which often results in lower-than-average rainfall. We hope to see some relief towards the spring, with forecasts predicting this pattern to weaken over the next few months."

Rainfall has fallen below historical averages statewide. For many weather stations in central and western North Carolina, the period between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31 ranked among the top 10 driest three-month period on record, according to data from the Southeast Regional Climate Center. For water users, stream flow averages statewide are falling below normal. Average stream flows recorded at U.S. Geological Survey gages at many locations in central and western North Carolina have fallen below the 10th percentile.

The Drought Management Advisory Council is a collaboration of drought experts from various government agencies in North Carolina, Virginia and South Carolina, and organized by the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Resources. To view North Carolina's drought map, visit ncdrought.org.

Cape Hatteras Electric about finishes a couple of projects

In two projects, Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative switched transmission and distribution lines from wooden poles to concrete poles between Avon and Buxton and along Cape Creek which runs behind the Fessenden Center. Completing both projects was LineTec Services, a U.S. electric utility contractor specializing in transmission, distribution, restoration services, environmental and matting services, and design services across the Mid-Atlantic, Gulf Coast, and Midwest. LineTec, based in Houston, brought nearly 100 employees to complete the pole projects over two days from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 6 and 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 7.

New Marine Patrol Colonel

Chris Lee was formally pinned during a ceremony as the new Colonel of the N.C. Marine Patrol, the top law enforcement officer at the Division of Marine Fisheries.

Lee, who has worn the Marine Patrol uniform for 18 years and most recently served as Captain of Marine Patrol District 1, which covers northeastern North Carolina.

The Marine Patrol Colonel manages more than 64 individuals, including 57 officers and six dispatchers, and directs law enforcement efforts over 2.7 million acres of ocean and coastal fishing waters in 21 eastern counties.

Lost fishing gear recovery project underway

In January, the North Carolina Coastal Federation started its 12th annual Lost Fishing Gear Recovery Project, enlisting the support of 21 dedicated commercial fishermen and women. This initiative aims to locate and remove displaced and potentially dangerous fishing gear along the northern and central coast.

Each year, crab pots and other gear are lost in coastal waters due to various circumstances, creating hazards that can disrupt both the ecosystem and local fisheries. Since its inception in 2014, the Federation has successfully led the charge to clear lost gear from North Carolina's sounds, finding more than 24,000 lost crab pots.

This year, commercial fishermen will be active from January 8 to January 31, during the annual closure that prohibits the use of crab, eel, fish, and shrimp pots in internal coastal waters, specifically north of the Highway 58 bridge to Emerald Isle. Last year, collaborative efforts between commercial watermen and the N.C. Marine Patrol resulted in the recovery of 2,136 pots across all three Marine Patrol Districts.

Pound net closure period set

North Carolina Marine Fisheries proclamation M-2-2026 sets the pound net closure period in all Internal Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters starting 6 o'clock, Monday evening, January 19, 2026. Certain areas of the Albemarle and Currituck are exempted from the closure. This closure is effective until 11:59 p.m., Saturday, January 31, 2026.

Cape Hatteras Secondary Sports

Cape Hatteras Secondary and Ocracoke opened Atlantic Conference basketball season Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2026. Both Cape Hatteras varsity teams captured big wins.

The Cape Hatteras Hurricanes girls defeated Ocracoke 50-18. Cape Hatteras boys won the evening's finale 66-33.

In the boys game, Hurricane Ty Stephens racked up 25 points on nine field goals, including two threes. He also went 5 for 6 at the free line. As a team, long-distance threes numbered eight. At the foul line, the team took 14 shots and made 10.

Cape Hatteras plays at home against Mattamuskeet on Tuesday, January 13.

Dates to note

The Hatteras Island Community Strings presents a free winter concert on Tuesday, January 13, offering the community an evening of live music. The concert is scheduled for 5:30 in the evening at the Avon Volunteer Fire Department Station and is open to the public. Donations will be accepted to support the program.

Ferry division looking for seasonal workers

North Carolina Ferry Division is hosting a series of four career events to find qualified applicants to staff its ferries, terminals and shipyard.

These events are focused on finding temporary and seasonal employees for the upcoming summer season. Seasonal employees are a key part of the N.C. Ferry System's service, and they are often the first considered for permanent roles.

An event is scheduled for the Hatteras Ferry Operations Center, 59063 NC 12, Hatteras for January 21 from 10 to 3.

January 14 is for Morehead City, Jan. 28 is in Southport and Feb. 3 in Bath.

At the events, applications will be accepted for temporary/seasonal employment at all experience levels, from general utility worker to experienced boat captains. Those seeking permanent employment are welcome to attend the event to learn more about open positions and how to obtain a Transportation Worker Identification Card or a Merchant Mariner Credential for the application process

Annual Winter Art Show Returns to Glenn Eure Ghost Fleet Art Gallery

Dare County Schools invites the public to view the creative talents of K-12 art students at the district's Annual Winter Art Show at Glenn Eure Ghost Fleet Art Gallery.

The exhibition runs from January 12 through January 23, with gallery hours from 3 to 6 in the afternoon, Monday through Friday. The gallery will be closed Jan. 19 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The art show is free and open to the public.

Info session about social media dangers

Parent Information Session set at Cape Hatteras Secondary for January 28 at 4:30 in the afternoon for a program on dangers of social media, how online predators operate, and warning signs for parents. Parents are urged to attend.

Path to School Readiness is set for February 5, from 4 to 5:30 at Cape Hatteras Elementary. Come anytime.

It was a delightful Friday and Saturday until it turned cool and rained some. Old Christmas saw 33 rounds at the oyster shoot and lots of good food inside. Izzy Heilig opened the music during supper.

Thanks for. This is Radio Hatteras.