

Weekly News Summary for Sunday, August 25, 2024.

Public schools on HI and the rest of Dare County open Monday, August 26. Yellow buses will roll. The traditional traffic backup at the elementary school will happen as parents bring young children to that first day. On Thursday last week, parents and students previewed the upcoming year at open houses, conveniently arranged so that parents could attend one at the elementary school and a second one at the secondary school. Elementary school principal Rachel Benton expects to greet 309 students tomorrow. At the secondary school, principal Beth Rooks anticipates seeing about 360 students for grades six through 12.

Lots of things happened at the Cape Hatteras Elementary School. Students and parents met teachers. Some 38 students received free haircuts and 31, a free eye exam.

This year's theme is "Let's Root for Each Other and Watch Each Other Grow." At the PTO table, seeds were given away. This year's One School, One Book is Charlotte's Web.

At Cape Hatteras Secondary School of Coastal Studies, students lined up in the atrium to receive class schedules and then went looking for classrooms and teachers.

Precautionary swimming advisory lifted for most sound-side sites. On Aug 22, NC recreational water quality officials lifted the precautionary advisory against swimming issued due to Tropical Storm Debby for all but eight locations.

The precautionary advisory was lifted for most sound-side swimming sites in Brunswick, New Hanover, Pender, Onslow, Carteret, Hyde, and Dare counties. Test results of water samples taken from these waters show bacterial levels that meet the state's and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's safe swimming standards.

The precautionary advisory of most ocean-side sites was lifted Aug.14.

Eight areas remain under swimming advisory due to bacteria levels that exceed safe swimming standards. Four of the eight areas are in Dare County. The sites are

—Pamlico Sound at the Sandy Bay sound-side access near Frisco along the Cape Hatteras National Seashore;

—Roanoke Sound at the Colington Harbour swim beach at the end of Colington Dr in Kill Devil Hills;

—Ocean waters at GA Kohler Court in Rodanthe along Cape Hatteras National Seashore;

—Ocean waters at Tower Circle in Buxton along Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Recreational water quality officials continue to monitor these areas and will notify the public when conditions meet the state's and EPA's safe swimming standards.

The precautionary advisory was issued Aug 7 as Tropical Storm Debby approached NC. Excessive rains and flooding can cause high levels of bacteria in the water that can make people sick. Floodwaters and storm water runoff can contain pollutants such as waste from septic systems, sewer line breaks, pet waste, wildlife, petroleum products and other chemicals.

The big swells from Hurricane Ernesto lapped over into last week.

On Fri afternoon, Aug 16, ocean waves snapped pilings and sent an unoccupied oceanfront house floating out to sea. Debris spread as far north as the north end of the Etheridge Bridge in the Pea Isl Natl Wildlife Refuge. The CH Natl Seashore estimated the debris field at 11mi. The contractor hired by the homeowner has been working.

Chicamacomico Banks fire and rescue busy on Saturday. About a quarter to seven, Sat morning, August 24, emergency vehicles headed north from the Chicamacomico Banks Fire and Rescue Department. At least, three fire vehicles, two ambulances, and two highway patrol troopers had sirens and lights going through Rodanthe. The crews were called to a head-on accident on NC12 at the persistent puddle in Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge. Air bags deployed. No significant injuries were noted by Fire Chief Mike Daugherty, though two people were transported to Outer Banks Hospital.

And, around 3 p.m., the station's water rescue team was called out. A family group was walking on the sound side and a 19 year old boy walked ahead and into the sound. He was found by a pontoon boat. Water rescuers approached the pontoon boat, just to check, and found the wanderer.

Visitor spending continued to break records for NC in 2023, according to data released Tuesday, Aug. 13 by the NC Dept of Commerce. Travel spending statewide rose 6.9% to \$35.6B in 2023 to set a record in visitor spending. That growth followed a record-breaking increase of 15% in 2022. Direct tourism employment also increased statewide by 4.8% to 227,000. The preliminary findings from an annual study commissioned by VisitNC, a unit of the Economic Development Partnership of NC, reflect the economic impact of tourism on local economies across the state. Locally, Dare Co had the fourth highest visitor spending of NC's 100 counties, at roughly \$2.1B in 2023. It ranked tenth among counties in percentage growth in spending in 2023, at 8.8%.

An August 15 “End of Summer Party” and benefit concert at the Koru Beach Klub in Avon raised \$13,910 for the non-profit HI Rescue Squad, thanks to generous donations from local businesses and the island community.

The HI Rescue Squad is on the beaches of southern HI during the summer months, as squad volunteer teams routinely patrol the shoreline on weekdays from Memorial Day until Labor Day. Proceeds from the “To the Rescue” concert, which featured 1980s dance band Raygun Ruby, go towards a new Utility Task Vehicle for the rescue squad. A hefty contributor to the fundraising success was the raffle, which featured packages from local businesses.

Join Barrier Island Group for its first-ever Labor Day Lighthouse 5K. The CH Lighthouse is still undergoing renovation but running this 5K offers a view of the lighthouse and part of the seashore's newly installed multiuse pathway. The first 200 registrants will receive a commemorative shirt, an eco-friendly reusable cup, an awesome finisher medal, and a post-race celebration just steps from the beach!
Date: Monday, Sept. 2, 2024; Start Time: 7:30 a.m.; Location: Old Lighthouse Beach Access, Buxton; Cost to Register: \$48. Registration ends at 7:30 a.m.
Go to BarrierIslandGroup.com to register and for more information on the 5K

Events this week

It's **Taco Tuesday in Salvo**. On Tues, August 27, tacos will be served up by the Clarks Bethel Methodist Church. Serving starts in the evening at 6:30 at the Salvo Fire Department Hall.

Science on the Sound Lecture Series occurs Thurs evening, Aug 28 at 6:00, presented by Coastal Studies Institute in Skyco.

Don Hornstein, Thomas F. Taft Distinguished Professor, UNC School of Law and a political appointee of the NC Insurance Commissioner to the State's “insurer of last resort” – the NC Insurance Underwriters Assoc'n, also known as the “Beach Plan.”

The title of his presentation is “What in the World is Happening with Homeowners and Flood Insurance at the North Carolina Coast?” Professor Hornstein is a practicing lawyer and expert in environmental and insurance law. He Chairs the Beach Plan's Mitigation Committee that has designed the \$50M “resilient-roof grant” program for Beach Plan policyholders on the Outer Banks/Barrier Islands.

The presentation is free, and the public is welcome and encouraged to attend. Each lecture is live-streamed on the Coastal Studies Institute YouTube channel where it is also recorded for later viewing. Go to CoastalStudiesInstitute.com for the YouTube connection.

A Hazard Mitigation Plan meet is set for Aug. 28 in Avon. This public meeting is designed to give community members an opportunity to provide input on the Outer Banks Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. It has been scheduled for 5pm on Wed, Aug 28, at the Avon Vol Fire Department, 40159 Harbor Rd, in Avon. The Outer Banks Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan update is currently underway, and Dare County and Currituck County are seeking input from the public on changes in risks and vulnerabilities as well as new opportunities for mitigation. This Outer Banks Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan update is required for all communities to maintain eligibility for pre- and post-disaster mitigation funding from FEMA.

The Frisco Vol Fire Department hosts a barbecue fundraiser Fri, Aug 30. The meal will be ready at noon and runs still it's sold out. Donations for the new station are accepted. The address is 52470 NC12 in Frisco.

Labor Day Community Give Back. For two days, Sun Sept 1 and Mon, Sept 2, festivities will happen in the Waves Village. The festival takes place from 2:00-8:00 both days. Featured are live music, food and kiting. The events are sponsored by Kitty Hawk Kites, Kitty Hawk Kite Boarding and Good Winds Restaurant to benefit the Chicamacomico Banks Fire and Water Rescue Department and Hatteras Island Meals.

Here's your Dare County Schedule for Labor Day. All Dare County offices and facilities will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2, in observance of Labor Day. These offices and facilities will reopen and operate under their regularly scheduled hours on Tuesday, Sept. 3.

These closures include the Dare County C&D Landfill, Manns Harbor Transfer Station, Buxton Transfer Station and the Manteo Recycle Yard.

There are NO changes to the Dare County trash collection schedule on Labor Day, Monday, September 2. For Labor Day week, all of Hatteras Island will operate on normal schedules during the week.

Congratulations to Daniel Pullen who received a Pelican Award from the North Carolina Coastal Federation for Exceptional Efforts to inspire Coastal Stewardship through Art and Actions. The tribute says "he is a trusted and respected artist, using his gift to document and celebrate the uniqueness and beauty of the Coast."

Radio Hatteras also salutes Donnie Farrow for his 34 years as a lineman for the Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative and wishes him well in retirement.

And **Happy Birthday to the National Park Service**, which turns 108 years old on August 25th. A hearty thank you to the more than 20,000 National Park Service employees, who work tirelessly to care for America's 431 national park sites and work with communities across the nation to help preserve "America's Best Idea."

The National Park Service has created a beautiful pictorial display to celebrate the National Parks and Seashores. Bodie Island Lighthouse at night is one of the photos. Radio Hatteras is proud to broadcast from a village in the midst of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore.