

Weekly News Summary for Sunday, October 25, 2026.

NC 12 remains closed

Ocean water continued to pour over NC 12 on Pea Island for a seventh day Sunday morning. NC 12 is obviously closed between Oregon Inlet Marc Basnight Bridge and Rodanthe Roundabout.

More than 1,800 feet of dune is gone. The pavement is damaged for 1,100 feet. It's the second time in less than a month that this NC 12 section has experienced damage.

An emergency ferry operation is now in place. It's operating around the clock between Rodanthe and Stumpy Point. Sometimes hour-long waits on both sides exist. At other times, there is no problem getting on the intended ferry.

Visitors remain excluded from Hatteras Island.

A terrific new park-and-ride service starts Monday, October 26. The new service will give emergency ferry travelers the option to cross between Stumpy Point and Rodanthe as passengers, avoiding the wait in the vehicle boarding line.

Details Emergency Ferry Park-and-Ride Locations and Shuttle Service:

Travelers may park at the following locations, where county shuttle vans will provide transportation to and from the ferry terminals:

- **Rodanthe:** Rodanthe Beach Access, 3731 NC 12, Rodanthe.
- **Stumpy Point:** Pointers Field, 98 Bayview Drive, Stumpy Point.

Shuttle vans will operate Monday through Friday, from 4:30 in the morning to 8:30 at night. Vehicles may remain in these parking areas for extended periods, allowing travelers to leave a vehicle on each side of the ferry route.

All ferry passengers, including those using the park-and-ride service, must meet applicable entry requirements.

Coastal Conditions and Highway Repairs:

King tides and persistent northeast winds are prolonging coastal impacts after the nor'easter's departure. The National Weather Service forecasts moderate coastal flooding and additional beach erosion, with greater impacts possible along Hatteras Island's damaged dunes. Winds should lessen during the coming week, but king tides peak Tuesday and Wednesday, and coastal flooding could persist.

NCDOT crews are stockpiling sand while waiting for tides to subside enough to restore protective dunes and rebuild the highway.

Stein issues State of Emergency for Dare and Hyde counties

On Oct. 22, Governor Josh Stein declared a state of emergency for Dare and Hyde counties and sought federal help. "We need long-term solutions because NC 12 is essential," Stein wrote.

Stein asked for federal help to support immediate repairs and to accelerate long-term solutions.

NCDOT officials are working with the Federal Highway Administration, the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife, says a media release.

On September 24, to September 29, NC 12 was closed due to a strong coastal storm which brought high winds, heavy rain, ocean overwash, and destructive flooding to the Outer Banks. NC 12 sustained significant structural damage in Dare County

On October 16, 2026, a second coastal storm caused additional damage to NC 12 on Hatteras Island.

Looking ahead weather

Currently, ocean overwash impacts will continue through at least mid week, especially around high tide in areas where dunes have been compromised. Coastal Flood Advisories are in place to Wednesday, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

Tide levels will continue to rise with a King Tide Cycle in place through the upcoming work-week. The morning high tide will be the highest of the two daily tides. King Tides peak Tuesday and Wednesday.

A High Surf Advisory is also in place until 8 o'clock at night on Monday, October 25. Some 5 to 8 feet of surf will hit the beaches.

Cape Hatteras National Seashore Update:

The Cape Point and Frisco campgrounds, along with several off-road vehicle ramps, remain closed. Additional ramps will reopen when the driving routes contain fewer hazards. The reopening of additional ramps will be announced at go.nps.gov/beachaccess.

Beachgoers should use caution near soft, water-saturated sand that may be difficult to walk on, particularly in the Buxton area.

Volleyball players made the trip

NC 12 was closed due to a storm. Cape Hatteras Lady Hurricanes were due to play at Weldon STEM in the second round of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's Volleyball playoffs.

So, lots of folks made the trip off the island possible.

On Wednesday, October 20, the team members together with coaches and Cape Hatteras Principal Beth Rooks climbed aboard a retired U.S. Army deuce and a half, a really big truck that is very high off the ground and able to transit a broken road. The big truck was driven by Mike Daughtery, Fire Chief with the Chicamacomico Banks Fire and Water Rescue Department. Daughtery has made this trip numerous times bringing medical emergency patients to the other side of the NC 12 break.

A Cape Hatteras Secondary activity bus drove the team to the break, where the big truck was waiting. Team members were loaded with the principal and head coach sitting on the last seats. The truck passed through a breaking wave. On the other side, Dare Schools Superintendent Steve Basnight and Transportation Supervision Alex Chandler were waiting with another Activity Bus.

On Wednesday, the Lady Hurricanes won the second round match defeating Weldon STEM 3-0 with scores, 25-8, 25-9 and 25-10.

The Cape Hatteras Secondary Squad faced Woods Charter in Chapel Hill on Thursday evening, Oct. 22, in the third round of the state playoffs. The Cape Hatteras team lost to Woods Charter by 25-14, 25-23, and 25-12.

New director of Marine Fisheries

Jonathan Howell will be the new director of the NC Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF). Howell, currently the Deputy Director of the Division of Coastal Management (DCM), will take the helm at DMF Oct. 26.

Howell replaces former DMF Director Kathy Rawls, who retired Aug. 1. Since then, DMF Deputy Director Mike Loeffler has served as interim director.

Feeding the workers

Baptists on Mission are stationed at the KOA Kampground in Rodanthe. Volunteers from local churches helped the effort to feed NCDOT and ferry workers and law enforcement officers. A special thank you goes to businesses who supplied food, other items and logistic support.

Life goes on

Cape Hatteras Elementary GoFar kids were supposed to go the Dare to Scare race in Manteo. Due to the road closure, they are not able to attend so the race was brought to them.

A 5k run is what these young runners have worked for all fall!

They were joined by the Cape Hatteras Hurricane High School Cross Country team and ran to the Elementary School from the Buxton Woods Trail via the multi-use path and Buxton Back Road.

Big thanks to Cape Hatteras National Seashore staff for the support, GoFar coaches and the Cross Country team and coaches.

A night of Fright

Get ready for a night of fright and fun as the annual Haunted Trail returns to Hatteras Island on Thursday, October 29, 2026. This year's theme, "Marsh Madness," invites brave thrill-seekers to "Follow the Trail. Fear the Marsh," reports the Island Free Press.

This terrifyingly fun Halloween tradition will take visitors into the eerie marshlands for an unforgettable evening.

- Date: Thursday, October 29, 2026
- Main Event Hours: 7 to 10
- Sensory-Friendly Session: 6 to 6:45 (*A low-scare experience designed with reduced audio and visual intensity for children and guests with sensory sensitivities*).
- Admission: \$5 per person
- Check-In Location: Hatteras Community Building (Library)
- Transportation: Shuttle transportation will be provided from the check-in location directly to the Haunted Trail.

Attendees are encouraged to dress appropriately for autumn evening weather and prepare for a spooky journey through the marsh.

Halloween events, October 31

Trunk or Treat, Hatteras Village together with free hot dogs or hamburgers at Community Building, 5 o'clock Family Life Center, 48737 NC 12, Buxton, 5 to 8. No costumes. Come as you are.

Avon in previous Koru Parking Lot for Trunk or Treat, 5 o'clock.

New Trash Schedule

Beginning Monday, October 26, trash collection on Hatteras Island will follow this adjusted schedule:

- **Monday:** Commercial collection throughout Hatteras Island.
- **Thursday:** Residential collection in Hatteras Village, Frisco and Buxton.
- **Friday:** Residential collection in Avon, Rodanthe, Waves and Salvo.

The adjusted schedule will help free up space on the emergency ferries for residents and nonresident property owners traveling with vehicles.

Stay safe out there. This is Radio Hatteras.