

Weekly News Summary for Sunday, October 18, 2026.

A report on the northeaster.

Ferry service is suspended along all routes except Southport-Fort Fisher. All suspended routes are due to the nor'easter bringing strong winds, waves and rain to the coast. The ferries will restart as soon as normal ferry service can resume. Watch for reopenings on NCDOT NC 12 on Facebook or at [ferry dot ncdot dot gov](http://ferry.dot.ncdot.gov).

Dare County issued a State of Emergency at 6 o'clock Friday night with an order for Hatteras Island visitors to evacuate. The State of Emergency remains in place.

On Sunday, the National Weather has in place the following:

Wind Advisory until Tuesday, October 20 at 8 in the morning. North winds 30 to 35 with gusts to 40 miles per hour.

On Sunday, the high gust was 51 miles per hour in Rodanthe and in Frisco, 37.

Coastal Flood Warning of 2 to 4 feet above ground level on the ocean side until 5 o'clock in the afternoon, Tuesday, October 20. Multiple days of coastal flooding at high tide are possible.

High Surf Advisory with 9 to 14-foot waves breaking on the shoreline, lasting until 5 o'clock Tuesday afternoon.

Due to the storm, the National Park Service closed all campgrounds, off-road vehicle ramps and visitor facilities at Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Fort Raleigh, and Wright Brothers. Reopening will begin after conditions improve and post-storm assessments are complete. A complete list of ramps open to ORVs, as well as current conditions and recent updates, can be found on the Cape Hatteras National Seashore's website at nps.gov/caha/planyourvisit/conditions.

And, the National Park Service issued this warning: several privately owned oceanfront houses in Rodanthe remain structurally compromised and at risk of collapse, creating significant safety hazards because of exposed septic systems and instability during periods of high surf and strong onshore winds.

If a house collapses, visitors should avoid walking, swimming or engaging in recreational activities near or downwind of the collapse site, as debris may be transported for miles along the Seashore.

Different month, same patterns for real estate market. The business news this week focuses on the performance of the island's real estate market through September.

Looking at the cumulative sales results from January through September and September on a standalone basis, the overall conclusion would be -- different month/same patterns, writes business correspondent Tom Hranicka.

The most significant economic change in the past month was the Federal Reserve increasing its interest rate. This had the effect of raising the national average interest rate on a 30-year fixed rate mortgage to go above 7.0 percent. While increasing, local interest rates remained in the high 6.0 percent range. There seems to be little hope for a reduction any time soon.

The residential market continues to show weakness in almost all indicators except properties under contract to be sold.

Most indicators for the unimproved lot market were positive for the first nine months of the year with the majority of indicators recording increases. This could reflect some seasonal influence as buyers prepare to build over the late fall and winter months in order to capture as much rental income as possible next year.

All things considered, the bottom line is that it appears that the real estate market on the island will be moving sideways for the near future.

In other news associated with the Hatteras Island economy, meal tax receipts through August were flat, while occupancy tax receipts fell 2.0 percent over the first eight months in 2026. On a monthly standalone basis, meal tax receipts were up 5.7 percent for August, and occupancy tax receipts increased 1.8 percent compared to August of last year.

The following is from a Park Service Media Release. Over the next few weeks, the Cape Hatteras National Seashore is using aerial and ground-based herbicide treatments to control an invasive common reed (*Phragmites australis*) and help restore native wetland vegetation.

During the contracted treatment project, visitors may observe aerial applications conducted by unmanned aircraft systems or ground crews working in designated wetland areas. Treated vegetation may become discolored as the herbicide takes effect; this is an anticipated outcome of the process.

Treatments will occur in the marsh across from Coquina Beach Access, along Lighthouse Road in Buxton, at the salt pond near Cape Point, and along soundside shorelines between ORV ramps 30 and 34, and just north of Haulover Sound Access.

Invasive *Phragmites* can displace native wetland plants, reduce biodiversity and alter habitats. Aerial herbicide application treats widespread infestations in wetlands, marshes and shorelines, including sensitive or inaccessible areas, while minimizing ground disturbance. All herbicide use complies with applicable regulations. The park's plan to administer herbicides is weather-dependent.

On October 17, 2026, Kayem Foods Inc., a Chelsea, Massachusetts establishment, is recalled about 1,584,361 pounds of ready-to-eat meat and poultry products because they may have experienced temperature abuse during storage. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service made the announcement. The ready-to-eat meat and poultry products items were produced between March 31, 2026, to Oct. 7, 2026. The products subject to recall bear establishment numbers "EST. M/P 7839," "EST. P 20935A" and "EST. M 9520" inside the USDA mark of inspection. These items were shipped to retail and foodservice locations Nationwide and Hong Kong.

The list of products is eight pages long in small type. Go to Recall 026 dash 2026 product labels to view labels of recalled products. The problem was discovered after the firm received a retail customer complaint regarding warm product temperatures at point of delivery on October 1, 2026. The establishment investigated and determined that they stored various RTE meat and poultry products in a warehouse cooler that experienced temperature deviations. There have been no confirmed reports of illness due to consumption of these products. Anyone concerned about an illness should contact a healthcare provider.

FSIS is concerned that some product may be in consumers' refrigerators. Consumers may contact Kayem Foods Customer Service Monday through Friday, 7:30 in the morning to 4 in the afternoon at 800-426-6100 or info@kayem.com.

Once the storm passes, how about a trip to the North Carolina State Fair, which opened October 15 and closes next weekend, October 25. A recent study ranked the North Carolina State Fair as the nation's fourth best state fair, behind only Minnesota, Iowa, and Florida.

The ranking, from the site ACE.com, scored major fairs on ticket prices, visitor reviews, Google search interest, and social media buzz.

The 11-day fair has more than 80 new foods and a 230-foot-tall America 250 wheel towering over the midway. Adult gate admission is \$13. Seniors 65 and older get in free Oct. 20, and military members and veterans (plus three guests) get in free Oct. 21.

Cheerleading tryouts to be held at Cape Hatteras Secondary. Middle and high school students at Cape Hatteras Secondary School interested in cheerleading are invited to tryouts Oct. 22 and Oct. 23 from 3:45 to 5 in the afternoon. Meet in the Foyer.

Coaches for this season are Erin Stutts, Jessica Stowe, and Sabrina Polk.

NCBBA's Red Drum Surf Fishing Tournament is scheduled to start Wednesday this week. A post on Facebook reports that a decision will be made at 7 o'clock tonight, Sunday, October 18, 2026, and posted on Facebook and the website, [ncbba dot org](http://ncbba.org) about go or no go.

Be safe out there. This is Radio Hatteras.