



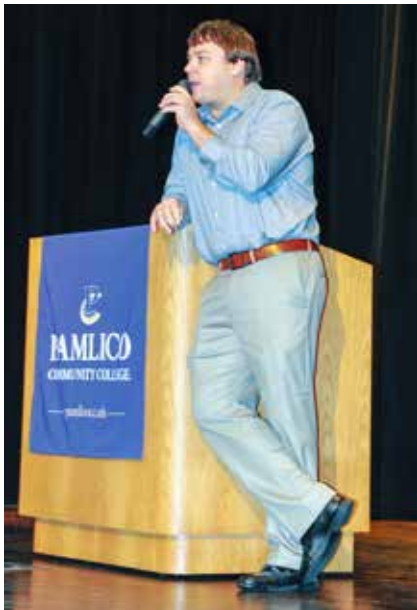
# The Pamlico News

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

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## Schnell appointed president of Pamlico Community College



Zac Schnell, who has worked at Pamlico Community College since 2016, is the institution's sixth president. Contributed photo

Pamlico Community College's Acting President Zac Schnell, who has served as the institution's chief administrator since November, has been appointed to the college's top job permanently.

Acting on the recommendation of the college's Board of Trustees, the State Board of Community Colleges made Schnell's appointment official Friday at its meeting in Raleigh.

Schnell, a Wilmington native who has led the college's Environmental Science Technology program since 2016, had been named acting president following the unexpected death of Interim President Michelle Willis Krauss Nov. 7.

Krauss, the college's vice president of instruction and chief academic

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## New Baseball Field Construction

by: Hiram Lupton

Construction of the new baseball facility for Pamlico County High School kicked into high gear last week. Carolina Greens, a company who specializes in athletic field construction of all sizes from professional stadiums to recreational fields, has commenced working on the next phase of the construction. They will continue at the site for

the next 4 to 6 weeks, depending on the weather, installing drainage, turf, concrete and all other components associated with a functioning baseball field with the exception of fencing and lighting. The new field will be located behind Fred A. Anderson Elementary School and just to the east of Pamlico County Primary School.

## PCA Begins Site Prep for New School Construction

by: Hiram Lupton



Driveway entrance construction off of Lee Landing Road and site clearing and prep are well underway.

If you drive NC Hwy 55 through Reelsboro, you have probably seen the sign situated on a parcel of land announcing that it is the "Future Home of Pamlico Christian Academy." It has been there long enough that it has become a part of the landscape. Last week a big step was made in turning the future into the present as clearing and site prep began for the first phase of construction of the new school. According to Head of School, Earl Sadler, Jr., this is just the first step of several PCA is taking in the building of their new facility. "We are beginning Phase 1 which involves the development of 10 of the 40 acres of land. It will consist of the PreK-5 facility, chapel, cafeteria and administrative offices as well as a soccer field." This first phase will cost nearly \$4 million and additional funding will be required to take the dream forward to completion of subsequent phases. "We started the public phase of our capital campaign in April of 2024 and here we are beginning construction 10 months later. It is amazing how God has blessed this project thus



Layout of the current phase of construction with entrance on Lee Landing Road.

far," says Sadler. "We have begun receiving donations for Phase 2 (6th-12) and are accepting donations for Phase 3 (gym). We are looking forward to seeing if God blesses us in the same manner as he did for Phase 1 so that we can see these projects moving along in the near future. God has blessed us through the generosity of so many with their donations. We are so thankful for those and believe God has reserved others at this time to get these other 2 phases going." When the entire project is complete, all of PCA's

facilities, classroom, athletic, and administration, will be at the same location. So, what is the projected completion date for phase one? "We have been told 8-12 months from the beginning of site preparation, which would put us best case scenario moving in during August which would be perfect. Our contractor (Tarheel Builders) has told us he'll be able to give us a firmer timeline about 6-8 weeks into the project, so we should have a better idea by March what our projected move in date would be."

## A History of Service

by: Hiram Lupton



Mr. George Peacock

George Peacock has always had a love of history, whether it was learning it or teaching it. Even now at age 92, reading historical books and learning is still a passion. His roots go back to southern Georgia, but his family moved to Columbus County in North Carolina when he was young. After his discharge from the army, during which time he served in Korea, he attended college, first at Campbell and then East Carolina where he studied history, receiving his degree in 1959. It was at East Carolina where he also met his future wife, Rosalee Banks, another aspiring teacher to be. That matrimonial bond has now lasted 63 years. He first taught school in Carteret County but made the move to Pamlico County in 1962 to teach first Drivers Education and the next year, American History, which he did until his retirement in 1991. It was only natural that with his love of history, he would join the Pamlico County Historical Association in the late 1960's. He has been there ever since and at one time or another has held every position on the Historical Association Board. During the all-important preparations for Pamlico County's centennial celebration in 1972, he was President of the Association. He also has a great love of historical museums. "About every other year or so, I would take a group of my students on a trip to Washington, D. C. and we would visit one of my favorite places, The Smithsonian Institute. Visiting there enforced my belief that Pamlico County needed a museum to keep and preserve the artifacts of our local history and learn from them." That led to his dedication in establishing the Pamlico County Heritage Center. "I was just one of many who worked to establish the Heritage Center." Mr. Peacock considered fundraising one of his strong points. "I never minded asking someone for money, particularly if it was for something I believed in." Through it all, his love of history and sharing it has never diminished. "We have to preserve our history to learn from it and appreciate it. I tried to instill into my students not just the love of history, but the love of analyzing it and how it relates to current events." Unknown to most, Mr. Peacock also has a very benevolent side that he keeps modestly hidden. He often goes by the Hospice thrift store and will buy coats which he keeps in his vehicle. He gives these away to anyone he sees out and about that looks to be in need of a warm jacket. Just one more



Mr. Peacock in the classroom - 1980.

Continued on Page A3



## Carolina Coastal Railroaders' Train Show is Back

The 2025 Train Show will be February 22 and 23 at the Riverfront Convention Center in New Bern. Open Saturday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday 10:00 am to

4:00 pm. Admission is good for both days. Ten operating train layouts, including LEGO, will be on display. Over 100 Vendor Tables selling and buying all kinds and scales of railroad equipment. We look forward to seeing you at another exciting Train Show! Come join the fun!

Contact: Dennis Korn, President, Carolina Coastal Railroaders, a 501c3 organization. dkorn69@gmail.com or (909) 239-4862 (cell phone)

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### WEEKEND WEATHER

Saturday, January 25th **44° Hi** Clear throughout the day

Sunday, January 26th **49° Hi** Cloudy throughout the day

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# Pamlico Community College

## It's not too late to register for online courses at Pamlico Community College

By Sandy Wall

While seated classes for the Spring 2025 curriculum semester have started at Pamlico Community College, there's still time for new and returning students to sign up for online courses, which begin Jan. 27.

Pamlico's online courses are convenient and easy to access. Working adults have found web-based classes offered at the college are a great way to earn a certificate, diploma or degree.

In fact, many of the college's curriculum programs can be completed entirely online.

"If people are still on the fence about going back to school, they should know that the faculty and staff here at Pamlico Community College make the process of getting started as easy as possible," said Acting Vice President of Instruction Neil Callahan. "People still have time to register for online courses. Go to our website – pamlicocc.edu – and complete the online application to get the process started."

PCC is proud to offer students a place where they can succeed. In fact, Pamlico has been ranked in the Top 10 among the nation's community colleges for students' Educational Outcomes in three of the last five years.

Students who enroll at PCC can expect to be treated as a member of the college family as they receive the knowledge, skills and training they need to get started on a bachelor's degree or to prepare for a great career in an in-demand field.

Financial aid is available for qualified students.

Additionally, registration for short-term Continuing Education courses, most of which have different start dates and times, is underway and will continue throughout the semester.

"Start 2025 by taking a step towards a new career or skill," Callahan said. "Regardless of whether students choose a curriculum program or a short-term Continuing Education offering, we're here to help."



Online courses are a convenient way for working adults and others to pursue their educational goals. Pamlico Community College's online classes will start Jan. 27. Contributed photo

For more information about registering at the college, call 252-249-1851, ext. 3001, or email [studentservices@pamlicocc.edu](mailto:studentservices@pamlicocc.edu).

Sandy Wall can be reached at 252-249-1851, ext. 3010, or [swall@pamlicocc.edu](mailto:swall@pamlicocc.edu).

## Chinese/Lunar New Year Celebration in Oriental

Oriental will be conducting its 14th annual celebration of Chinese New Year on Saturday February 1, 2025. Since unofficially adopting the Dragon as a symbol for the Town of Oriental in the 1960s, the running of the Dragon has occurred on New Years Eve and on special occasions throughout the year. Since 2011 we have also done a Dragon Dance/Run for the Lunar or "Chinese New Year". The Dragon Run will take place at 2:00PM at the Oriental Harbor on Hodges Street. This year is the "Year of the Snake." This daylight Dragon Dance

can be quite enjoyable for children and many, accompanied by parents, have walked along with the Dragon. If desired, you can dress up in a Dragon Theme and/or bring pots and pans to make noise. Throughout the day local restaurants and the Piggly Wiggly will have Asian food specials to tempt your palate.

For more information contact Larry Summers –Event Coordinator 252-675-0467

Register for FREE now!



The "faces" of Facebook workshop

Sat., Feb. 8, 9am-2pm  
Pamlico Small Business Center  
701 N Main St, Bayboro, NC

Why pictures and videos on Facebook are essential for attracting views

How to take Facebook-ready photos and videos using only your Smartphone, including creating "reels."

How to edit, archive, and upload your photos and videos from your Smartphone to create eye-catching social media posts

For more info and to register, visit [www.PamlicoSBC.com](http://www.PamlicoSBC.com)



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Property Management  
Appraisals Development



Agent of the Week

Susan Adams  
Broker/Veteran

Here's what one of Susan's customers had to say...

Susan Adams advised us of the completed sale of our property in Oriental which she handled. Through her efforts this has been the easiest real estate transaction we've ever experienced, and we are delighted with the outcome and her professionalism shown to us. She rocks! And we just wanted to acknowledge her success and our pleasure. Should the occasion arise that we need real estate advice and guidance in the Oriental / Pamlico area Mariner Realty and Susan will be our first stop. Thanks so much.  
Ronald and Pamela, NC



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**ORIENTAL** – Spacious 3BR/2.5BA home offers comfortable living. Open floor plan, ideal for family gatherings or entertaining on 3 acres. Whether you're looking for a peaceful retreat or a place to call home, this property offers a great balance of space and tranquility. Property will be sold as is.

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**ORIENTAL** – Waterfront 3,289 sf, 4BR/2.5BA in Heart of Oriental on Tarpon Channel on Whittaker Creek, the most protected deep-water location in Oriental. Not in flood zone; no flood insurance required. Expertly designed landscaping, detached garage/workshop, detached storage building, 32' boat dock with 100' of waterfrontage. No HOA, no HOA fees.

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# FINANCIAL FOCUS

## What should you know about RMDs?



Dan M. Roberts

You may spend many decades contributing to your IRA and 401(k), but eventually you will likely need to take the money out — in fact, you must take the money out or face penalties. What should you know about these mandatory withdrawals?

Here are some of the basics:

- **What are they called?** Mandatory withdrawals are technically called required minimum distributions, or RMDs.

- **When must I take RMDs?** If you were born before 1951, you've probably already begun taking RMDs. If you were born between 1951 and 1959, your RMD age is 73. And if you were born in 1960 or later, your RMD age is 75. You can postpone accepting your first RMD until April 1 of the year after you reach your RMD age, but this will result in two RMDs for the year. After you take your first RMD, you must take subsequent ones by December 31 of each year.

- **What penalties will be assessed if I don't take all my RMDs?** For every dollar not withdrawn, the IRS will charge a 25% penalty, but this can drop to 10% if you subsequently withdraw the correct amount within two years.

- **Which accounts have RMDs?** RMDs apply to traditional IRAs, as well as other types of IRAs, including SIMPLE and SEP IRAs. RMDs don't apply to Roth IRAs. RMDs also apply to traditional 401(k)s, but not Roth 401(k)s.

- **Can I withdraw more than the RMD for any given year?** Yes, you are free to take out as much as you want. However, if you take out more than the RMD for one year, you can't apply the excess to the RMD for the next year.

- **How are RMDs calculated?** Typically, your RMDs are determined by dividing your account balance from the prior December 31 by a life expectancy factor published by the IRS. Your financial professional should be able to perform this calculation for you.

- **If I have multiple accounts, do I have to take an RMD from each one?** If you are taking RMDs from a traditional IRA, you must calculate each RMD individually, but you can take the total amount from one or more IRAs. If you're taking RMDs from a 401(k) or similar plan, you must take the RMD from each of your accounts.

- **How are RMDs taxed?** You are typically taxed at your income tax rate on the amount of the withdrawn RMD. You may be able to avoid taxes in a particular year if you transfer your RMDs to a qualified charity in what's known as a qualified charitable distribution.

- **If I inherit an IRA or 401(k), am I subject to RMDs?** Yes. When you take RMDs from an inherited account, you generally must withdraw all the funds within 10 years, as opposed to over your lifetime, which is the RMD window that applies to your own accounts. The rules are somewhat different if you inherit an IRA or 401(k) from your spouse. In any case, though, you'll want to consult with your tax advisor about how to take RMDs from an inherited account.

If you're already subject to RMDs, be sure you've taken them before the year ends. And if you haven't yet started taking RMDs, learn as much as you can about them — because the more you know, the more likely you'll make the right moves at the right time.

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This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

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## NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION Pamlico County

### NCCEAPA Herter-O'Neal Scholarship Nominations

Qualified applicants interested in applying for this scholarship can obtain an application packet from Ms. Erin Richey (Administrative Assistant) at the Pamlico County Extension office located at 13724-A NC Hwy 55, Bayboro NC 28515. You may also contact Ms. Richey at 252-745-4121 or erin\_richey@ncsu.edu. Deadline for applications is March 20, 2025.

This scholarship is awarded annually to honor the work and dedication of Edith Herter and Frances O'Neal, co-leaders in forming the NCCEAPA in 1973.

Edith Cline Herter and Frances Herman O'Neal were Extension Secretaries in Catawba County who were instrumental in the formation of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Secretaries Association. Frances was employed with Extension from February 1, 1963, to July 31, 1981, when she retired. Edith retired in September, 1975, after approximately five years employment with Extension. During the middle of 1973, Edith Herter and Frances O'Neal conceived the idea of an Extension secretaries' association. They contacted other secretaries using their own financial resources and on their own time. On July 17, 1973, they sent a letter to all Extension secretaries in North Carolina asking if they would be interested in forming an organization. Spurred by the overwhelming positive response, organizational meetings were held in Catawba County, NC and Asheville, NC on Saturday, August 18, 1973. The state organizational meeting was held on Saturday, November 10, 1973 at the Guilford County Agricultural Center in Greensboro, NC. The NCCEAPA continues to support the work of its members today, encouraging professional development in service to the citizens of North Carolina.

If you have additional questions about this scholarship or the NCCEAPA, please contact Ms. Erin Richey at 252-745-4121 or erin\_richey@ncsu.edu.

### Southern Bank in Aurora Closing

by: Hiram Lupton

In a move that will consolidate their services at the New Bern Branch, Southern Bank has announced they will be closing their branch located in the town of Aurora. Local customers of the bank were informed of the closing and consolidation in letters mailed to them dated January 7th and stated in part that “after the periodical evaluation of all their branch locations, they had identified an opportunity to further improve operating efficiencies in one of our communities and thereby assure our ability to profitably serve you for many years to come.” In this case, that community was Aurora. Operations at the Aurora branch will cease on Friday, April 18, 2025. The closing will not affect any customer accounts or account numbers, however, it is requested that customers who have a safe deposit box at the Aurora branch



retrieve their contents by the close of business on April 4, 2025. Southern Bank has had a presence in Aurora since 1981 when they moved into the building that was formerly occupied by Wachovia Bank & Trust. The company, which is headquartered in Mount Olive, North Carolina, operates 60 branches located primarily in eastern North Carolina and Virginia. Matthew Smith, spokesman for the company stated that “Southern Bank remains committed to their customers and this consolidation will ultimately improve customer service.” In addition to the New Bern location, Southern Bank also currently has branches Ayden, Greenville (2), and Belhaven, in addition to their online banking services. None of the employees at the Aurora branch will be displaced from employment by the closing.



The hard working girls of Pamlico County Girl Scout Troop 4131.

## Girl Scout Cookie Time

by: Hiram Lupton

It is now three weeks into the new year and if you had a New Year's resolution to avoid delicious cookie treats, it is about time to break that resolution and there is no better way to do that than picking up a box of Girl Scout cookies. Cookie sales started last weekend and will be continuing until the first weekend in March and the great young ladies of Pamlico County's own Troop 4131 would love to hook you up with a box or 2 (or 3 or 4). They will have a cookie booth set up at the Grantsboro/Silverhill Fire Department every weekend between now and then. There will also be booths at the Piggly Wiggly in Oriental on February 1st, 2nd, 15th, 16th and March 1st and 2nd. You can also find them at the Family Dollar in Alliance on January 25th, 26th and February 9th, 22nd, and 23rd, as well as on February 8th at the Friends of the Library Book Sale at the Pamlico County Public Library. You can also contact any member of the Troop and place an order. This year they are \$6 a box. Cookie sales do much more than raise money for the Girl Scouts. It teaches them about business, customer service, and mathematics. There are 9 great flavors to choose from including my personal favorite, Carmel de Lites. Pick up a few boxes while you can and put that diet on hold. The cookie booth schedule is weather dependent so be aware of that if it is raining (or snowing).

## Hurricanes Begin Conference Action

by: Hiram Lupton

The Pamlico County High School basketball teams began their conference schedule last week with back-to-back game sets last week. On Thursday the Hurricanes traveled to Lejeune to take on the Devil Pups and the Ladies put the puppies in the pound with a 65-20 win. Nya Clark led all scorers with 22 points while fellow sophomores Sydney Whitley-Reese and Kyliyah Barber also hit double figures with 20 and 10 respectively. The entire Lady 'Cane squad had a good night defensively totaling 32 steals for the night. For the Men's team, it was pretty much the exact opposite of the Ladies as the dogs took a big bite out of the Hurricanes with an 84-38 win. On Friday, Pamlico returned home to battle with the Mariners who sailed up from East Carteret. The Ladies opened up as they have done the past several games, with a small lineup and pressure defense, trapping at midcourt. Although the Mariners proved seaworthy early, the Hurricanes pressure was too much and by halftime they had built a 38-14 lead. This continued in the second half with the lead getting up to as much as 40 points and Coach April Rose emptying her bench early in the fourth quarter. Final score, 71-30 Pamlico. The men took the floor with the



Samyah Maiden (#31) takes it to the hoop against East Carteret



Brinley Altman hits a 3-pointer



Head Coach Keith Reese earns his first conference win

previous night's 46-point defeat still stinging. The Hurricanes however put that loss behind them as they were able to battle with East Carteret on even terms throughout a tight game. Neither team could build up any margin over the other, but by the 4th quarter held the edge by 4 points. East Carteret packed themselves back in a 2-3 zone defense, negating Pamlico's advantage in quickness and penetration. Pamlico then did a smart thing. They were ahead and they simply held the ball near midcourt. The move used up the clock and finally forced the Mariners to come out and put pressure on the ball near the 2-minute mark. This move paid off for the Hurricanes as they limited the Mariners time for a comeback. When the clock hit zero, Pamlico had sunk the Mariners for a 41-38 win. Not exactly the prettiest win, but sometimes you have to win ugly. After all it is still a win and it was Interim Head Coach Keith Reese's first career Conference Victory. We will see if the Hurricanes can keep the momentum as this week they host Jones Senior on Tuesday and travel to Northside-Pinetown on Friday.

## SPORTS

### PCA topples Ahoskie in Hoops Action

by: Hiram Lupton

Pamlico Christian Academy is having a fine season on the basketball court and last Tuesday evening they hosted the Ahoskie Christian School Warriors in hoop action. The girls squad never trailed and picked up a nice win over the visitors, 50-32. They were led by Lily Mathews as the Senior guard pulled off a double-double with 19 points and 11 rebounds. She also made 6 steals in the win. She was supported by Junior Layla Koontz who worked hard on the boards with 14 rebounds and also contributed 9 points. For the boys, it was a tight game for a while, but they slowly began to pull away. Led by the strong play of Max Cruz and James Howard, they pulled away for a win with a 77-58 final.



Layla Koontz heads to the basket.



Junior James Howard rises up high to score

### Pamlico Wrestling Honors It's Senior Grapplers

by: Hiram Lupton

It was another great evening of wrestling action for the Pamlico County High School Hurricanes and since it was their final home meet of the season, they recognized their Senior wrestlers and their families. Six outstanding wrestlers were honored for their contribution to the program in a ceremony before the matches began. After the Senior festivities, it was time for some action as Pamlico hosted West Craven and New Bern in a tri-meet. The Hurricane Ladies had a tough night dropping both their matches, but the Men earned a split, taking down West Craven, 59-19, while submitting to New Bern, 63-18.



Before an evening of matches last Wednesday, Pamlico honored their Senior wrestlers. (L to R), Eric Brantley, Landon Yeates, Diana Harper, Joc Kirkman, Caleb Frankhauser, and Moises Lopez.

### Middle School Athletics PCMS Wrestling

by: Hiram Lupton

The young wrestlers of Pamlico County Middle School took to the mat last Thursday and played host to conference foes West Craven Middle School and Havelock High School. Pamlico fought hard but came up short in both their matches but for these young athletes it's more about learning the sport and improving than getting the win.



Addalyn Kay Nunley gains control of her West Craven opponent.



Brian Brothers wraps up his opponent.



Senior Wrestlers and their families

Pamlico hosted West Craven and New Bern in a tri-meet

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Director of Grace Fellowship Academy, Tina Cowell

## Grace Fellowship Academy

by: Hiram Lupton

If you are a homeschooling parent and are looking for a place to blend a group learning environment with home-schooling days, Grace Fellowship Academy (GFA) in Oriental may be the place for you. Grace Fellowship operates under a hybrid model and is a non-denominational Christian school. Students attend school two days a week (Tuesday and Thursday), while learning at home under parent's guidance the other days. One of the major worries of home-schooling parents is the choice of a curriculum for their child. GFA helps with that by providing a curriculum that builds on what is taught in the classroom by providing guidance for at home days to build continuity for the student. While this is a structured approach, there is also enough flexibility to enhance each student's individual learning. The ultimate goal is not just to learn, but to foster a love of learning. GFA caters to students from kindergarten through the 4th grade. If you have any questions about whether GFA is right for you, Director Tina Cowell would be happy to meet with you. Contact her at [director@gracefellowshipacademync.org](mailto:director@gracefellowshipacademync.org) or by phone at 252-670-2471. GFA would like to remind parents of prospective students that scholarships to help cover tuition and fees are available but applications are due in February for the 2025-26 school year. Grace Fellowship Academy is located at 605 Broad Street in Oriental, North Carolina.



## Churches of Pamlico

Photo by: Hiram Lupton



Bethel Missionary Baptist Church - Merritt

## The Old Theater Celebrates 79 years

The Old Theater invites all its members to an Annual Membership Meeting and Reception on Sunday, January 26, 2025, at 3:00 pm at The Old Theater. Past members and those who are interested in joining the theater are also invited to attend. Prospective members will have an opportunity to join before and after the meeting. There will be social time with refreshments before the meeting. The Board of Directors will present a review of 2024 events and share their vision going forward. A question/answer session will follow the business meeting giving members an opportunity to provide input and ask questions. An hour of music will follow with the local talent of Sticks and Strings for a 30-minute set followed by Hoff 'n' Finch to end the delightful afternoon.



Seventy-nine years ago, The Old Theater was the local movie theater. Many residents remember when movies cost a quarter and popcorn was a dime. The theater has an interesting history and has always been a cornerstone of life in Oriental. The Old Theater continues to provide a venue for civic and cultural events as well as performing arts for Oriental and Pamlico County. The 501(c)(3) non-profit organization is grateful for the support of its members in maintaining the building, operating with the latest electronic equipment, and renovating the inside for the comfort of its patrons. All memberships and donations are tax deductible and greatly appreciated. Donations can be mailed to: Old Theater Corp., P.O. Box 521, 609 Broad St., Oriental, NC 28571.

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Hours: Mon. – Fri. 7:30 am to 6:00 pm • Sat. 7:00 am to 6:00 pm

## The INN at Pamlico Fundraiser

by: Hiram Lupton



If you happen to pass through Bayboro between 10 AM and 2 PM on January 25th, you will see a dedicated group of folks wearing vests and hard hats around the intersection at the stoplight. Don't be alarmed, this isn't a major work zone, at least not yet. These folks will be collecting donations for The INN at Pamlico in

the "fill the boot" style that many fire departments and first responders use for fundraising. As organizer Lorraine Yaeger says, "We are having an open house, without the house." The house she is referring to is The INN at Pamlico, a transitional facility to assist formerly incarcerated women break the revolving door cycle of detention to freedom to detention by providing safe housing and life changing experiences. This will be built at the intersection right where the donations will be collected, at the corner of 3rd and Main in Bayboro, across the street from the Pamlico County Courthouse. In addition to collecting, the group will be handing out information about The INN. Target has donated a cache of snacks for the event so you may also get a little treat while supplies last. They are over halfway to their goal of \$50,000 and with your help at events like this, they will hopefully soon meet their goal and turn the lot on the corner into a real construction zone. The INN at Pamlico would like to thank Target for their donation as well as Pamlico Tree Service and Twin Rivers Plumbing for the use of their hard hats and vests. You can follow the progress of The INN and see how you can help this worthy cause by following them on Facebook at The INN at Pamlico or by emailing [lorraineyaeger@yahoo.com](mailto:lorraineyaeger@yahoo.com)

**PLEASE JOIN US!**

**GRAND OPENING & OPEN HOUSE**

**SAT, FEBRUARY 8TH 10AM-1PM**

**RIBBON CUTTING AT 10:15AM**

**13808 NC Hwy 55, Bayboro NC 28515**

PAMLICO COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL



This week kindergarten has been learning all about Polar Bears. One of our new vocabulary words we discovered was blubber. The students in Ms. King's class had a blast with a hands-on learning activity to understand how blubber keeps your hands warm when emerging in ice water.

# Health & Wellness

## WHAT IS NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR MONTH?



January is National Blood Donor Month! Every two seconds in the United States, someone needs blood. You may have volunteered at blood drives or blood donation centers before—if so, you've been participating in one of the Red Cross's fundamental lines of service. We need the support of all our volunteers, especially youth and young adults, to help Blood Services with their own work!

### What Happens to Donated Blood

Your blood journeys through many steps and tests that ensure our blood supply is as safe as possible and helps as many people as possible.

#### Step One - The Donation

- You arrive for your blood donation appointment.
- Health history and mini physical are completed.
- For a whole blood donation, about 1 pint of blood is collected; several small test tubes of blood are also collected for testing.
- Your donation, test tubes and your donor record are labeled with an identical bar code label.
- Your donation is kept on ice before being taken to a Red Cross center for processing; the test tubes go to the lab.

#### Step Two - Processing

- At our processing center, information about your donation is scanned into a computer database.
- Most whole blood donations are spun in centrifuges to separate it into transfusable components: red cells, platelets, and plasma.
- Plasma may be processed into components such as cryoprecipitate, which helps control the risk of bleeding by helping blood to clot.
- Red cells and platelets are leuko-reduced, which means your white cells are removed in order to reduce the possibility of the recipient having a reaction to the transfusion.
- Each component is packaged as a "unit," a standardized amount that doctors will use when transfusing a patient.

#### Step Three - Testing

- In parallel with Step 2, your test tubes arrive at a testing laboratory.
- A dozen tests are performed, to establish the blood type and test for infectious diseases.
- Test results are transferred electronically to the processing center within 24 hours.
- If a test result is positive, your donation will be discarded and you will be notified (our test results are confidential and are only shared with the donor, except as may be required by law).

#### Step Four - Storage

- When test results are received, units suitable for transfusion are labeled and stored.
- Red cells are stored in refrigerators at 6°C for up to 42 days.
- Platelets are stored at room temperature in agitators for up to five days.
- Plasma and cryo are frozen and stored in freezers for up to one year.

#### Step Five - Distribution

- Blood is available to be shipped to hospitals 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Hospitals typically keep some blood units on their shelves, but may call for more at any time, such as in case of large scale emergencies.

#### Step Six - Transfusion

- An ill or injured patient arrives at a hospital or treatment center.
- Physicians determine whether the patient requires a transfusion and, if so, which type.
- Blood transfusions are given to patients in a wide range of circumstances, including serious injuries (such as in a car crash) surgeries, child birth, anemia, blood disorders, cancer treatments, and many others.
- A patient suffering from an iron deficiency or anemia may receive red blood cells to increase their hemoglobin and iron levels, improving the amount of oxygen in the body.
- Patients who are unable to make enough platelets, due to illness or chemotherapy, may receive platelet transfusions to stay healthy.
- Plasma transfusions are used for patients with liver failure, severe infections, and serious burns.



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**PUBLIC MEETING FOR  
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO 15TH STREET  
BETWEEN U.S. 17 BUSINESS AND U.S. 264  
WASHINGTON, BEAUFORT COUNTY**

**STIP NO: U-5860**



**WASHINGTON** - The N.C. Department of Transportation will host a public meeting to provide information on the proposed improvements to 15th Street between U.S. 17 Business (Carolina Avenue) and U.S. 264 (Pactolus Highway) in Washington, Beaufort County.

**Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025  
6 to 8 p.m.**

**Washington 15th Street Church of God  
336 E. 15th Street  
Washington, NC**

To reduce congestion during peak hours, improve safety and provide a complete street for all users, the project proposes to provide four 11-foot travel lanes a 17.5-foot-wide concrete median, curb and gutter, a 5-foot sidewalk on the north side, and a 10-foot multi-use path on the south side of 15th Street.

NCDOT representatives will be available in an informal, open house-style setting to answer questions and gather public input regarding the proposed projects. The opportunity to submit written comments or questions will be provided and is encouraged. Citizens may attend at any time between 6 and 8 p.m. There will be no formal presentation. Project maps and other information can be found on the project website: <https://publicinput.com/15th-street-improvements>

For more information the NCDOT Project Manager Allison Thorburn by email: [ext-aemcauliffe@ncdot.gov](mailto:ext-aemcauliffe@ncdot.gov), phone 984-302-3434 or mail at the address below.

By Mail: Allison Thorburn  
NCDOT Highway Division 2  
1037 W.H. Smith Boulevard  
Greenville, NC 27834

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for people who want to participate in this public open house. Anyone requiring special services should contact Diane Wilson at [pdwilson1@ncdot.gov](mailto:pdwilson1@ncdot.gov) or 919-707-6073 as soon as possible so arrangements can be made.

Persons who do not speak English, or have a limited ability to read, speak or understand English, may receive interpretive services upon request prior to the meeting by calling 1-800-481-6494.

Aquellas personas que no hablan inglés, o tienen limitaciones para leer, hablar o entender inglés, podrían recibir servicios de interpretación si los solicitan antes de la reunión llamando al 1-800-481-6494.

# COASTAL LIVING

Continued from page A1

## Schnell appointed president of Pamlico Community College

officer, had been appointed interim president last year following the retirement of President Dr. Jim Ross, which was effective in February 2024.

Schnell, who lives in Arapahoe, said he looks forward to his new role with the college.

“I am excited to work with our team here to build on our accomplishments and to help lead the college forward,” he said. “Pamlico County is a wonderful place, and all of us at the college are dedicated to providing new opportunities for our community to grow together and thrive. I am eager to strengthen partnerships and to create new ones. I’m ready to hit the ground running.”

Schnell, who turned 36 earlier this month, becomes one of the youngest people ever appointed to lead a community college in the United States.

Bob Lyon, chairman of the college’s Board of Trustees, said he viewed the new president’s age as a positive, adding Schnell had worked at Pamlico for nearly a decade and knew a great deal about the area and its residents.

“He is young, energetic and extremely smart,” the chairman said. “He is going to lead the college in new directions and add to its program offerings. It’s an exciting time at Pamlico Community College.”

Schnell grew up in coastal North Carolina, developing an interest in the environment through boating, kayaking, hiking and scuba diving.

After graduating from Wilmington’s Eugene Ashley High School, he enrolled at N.C. State University, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in Environmental Technology and Management. He went on to earn a master’s degree in Natural Resources from NCSU.

Schnell spent two years in the Peace Corps, working on coastal resource management projects in the Philippines. Not content with exposure to only coastal environments, he also worked for a while at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Institute at Tremont.

He joined the PCC faculty in 2016. During his tenure, he has been recognized for his work in the classroom and has been active on campus.

Schnell was voted Pamlico’s instructor of the year in 2020, and he has helped to lead multiple summer day camps for middle schoolers.

In 2018, Schnell organized a monthlong trip to the Philippines, where he and four Environmental Science students worked with local authorities on environmental projects. Last July, he and program graduate Russell Williams traveled to Iowa to participate in a workshop organized by



Zac Schnell, kneeling, is Pamlico Community College’s new president. He has led the college’s Environmental Science Technology program since 2016. Contributed photo



Pamlico Community College President Zac Schnell, at left, takes a break from working at a site in the Philippines. He led a group of four Environmental Science Technology students to the island nation for a monthlong trip in 2018. Contributed photo

the Environment and Natural Resources Technology (EARTH) Institute at Central Carolina Community College.

In recent years, Schnell has expanded his teaching at PCC by leading OSHA and other safety courses at the college. He earned a master’s degree in Occupational Safety from East Carolina University in 2023, and he has helped organize and lead the statewide Association of Community College Safety and Security Officials (ACCSSO) group.

Most recently, Schnell has become a vocal proponent for the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education. He has led

presentations and trainings about AI at community colleges across the state and nation, and he was interviewed by local radio station Public Radio East (WTEB-FM) about the uses of AI in the classroom in April 2024.

Schnell said he wants to be accessible to the community, even if they only know him as “Magic Zac,” a nickname from being an amateur magician.

“Students know me from doing magic tricks and other engaging activities in the classroom,” he said. “I want to bring that spirit and a touch of magic to this new role.”

## Southern Snow Cream

With the invasion of brutally cold temperatures into our little southern paradise, plus the issuance of a rare winter weather advisory for frozen precipitation, we felt it would be a good time to share a recipe for a true North Carolina delicacy. If you are a native of Pamlico County, you already know, but if you are one of our beloved transplants (i.e. from “up there”) you may have never heard of the rare delight that is Snow Cream. There are only three required ingredients, but it is rare because one of them is so hard to obtain. You will need 1 can of sweetened condensed milk, vanilla extract, and the most important ingredient of all, a large bowl of fresh, newly fallen Carolina snow. It must be Carolina snow because it is the sweetest most pure in the world. You could make it with imported Ohio or New York snow but it just wouldn’t taste the same. No, North Carolina snow is required. It should be clean and by that, I mean gathered from a surface without touching the surface. The best way is to simply put out a large mixing bowl to catch fresh



snow as it falls. This also chills the bowl which is a good idea to slow the melting process. After collecting the required virgin Carolina snow, it gets down to preferences. The ratio of the next two added ingredients come down to taste. For a large bowl full of snow, add about 14 oz of the sweetened condensed milk and roughly 2 tsp of vanilla. I say roughly because this is “to taste” so to speak. If you like it a bit stronger, add a little more, less strong, a little less. Stir all this together and mix very well with a wooden spoon. That’s all there is to basic Carolina Snow Cream. Every native NC family has their own ratios and “add ins” that they like to put in to give their batch a more unique flavor. If I have the chance this winter, I hope to try mixing in a small amount of imported creams I obtained from the Smoky Mountain Moonshine distillery on a recent trip to Tennessee, but this is where you can get creative or keep it basic. There you have it. Hopefully we will get a little of the rarest ingredient sometime this winter, but if not, there is always hope for next year.

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252.249.1797



For every snowflake that falls an idiot forgets how to drive!

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# AROUND THE COUNTY

## Pamlico Betty Jo Rodgers, *Correspondent*



I am finishing writing my article on January 20, 2025. The country is celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. who was a great preacher and civil rights leader who believed in non-violence. Today is also Inauguration Day and President Donald Trump will become the United States of America's 47th president. Donald Trump was also the 45th president of the USA. No matter how you feel about this, both of these men deserve the respect of their position.

Pamlico Methodist Church has begun work on the expansion of their parking lot. The pavement has been poured behind the current parking lot so they can expand their parking for about 10 more cars. I can remember as a child everyone walked to church, there was no need for parking. What a blessing to see this little church thriving. I can remember when Tillie Jo Roberts had the foresight to encourage the church to buy the lot next door when Vincent died. When attendance was only 8-10, only she saw the need for expansion.

The Pods are empty, and it appears Ms. Mary Mattocks has finally moved into her new home across the road from Broad Creek United Church of Christ. The "man cave" that is being built beside the church has shown some improvement with concrete poured under the pilings that had been erected.

Pamlico expects it to be colder and wetter this week. There is the possibility of a wintry mix of freezing rain, sleet, or snow. Because of this, Stonewall Methodist Church has canceled the weekly Bible Study and choir practice on Wednesday night, and they also canceled the fellowship meal that was scheduled for Thursday night. They want everyone to stay safe and warm. On Sunday, January 26, James Edwards and the Gideons will be join them for worship.

Many in the Pamlico Community are suffering with colds and the flu. So, please remember them in your prayers and also Lib Litchfield who has Covid.

Gary Harrison, a former owner of the Oriental Hardware store, died on January 18, 2025. He bought the store from Dick Walker in the 80's.

Chubby's on Highway 55 in Merrit has been open for business for two years. Stop by and support this local establishment.

Celebrating birthdays in January are Shelby Sutton, Elizabeth Farmer Tillman (1/15), Kelli Hinson and Ruth Ireland (1/16), Ned Ferris (1/21), Kate Moyer, Ellen Lupton, and Jenny Lupton (1/22), Desiree Brinson (1/25), Ann Smithwick (1/26), Willy Hope (1/28), Nan Gilbert, Becky Sadler (1/30), and Shari Roberts Hale (1/31).

Have a blessed week. Crying? Take Spiritual Vitamin C. "Cast all your cares upon him; for he cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7)

## Whortonsville Reba Tiller, *Correspondent*



It is Monday morning and a very special day for the inauguration of our new president. Donald Trump, and it is also celebration for the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. It is a cold day here and in Washington but that did not deter the people who are there for the celebrations. They just announced there are 20 thousand people there, but I am going to enjoy watching it from my warm house. Late today I have to drive to New Bern and I am not looking forward to that. Church yesterday was a small congregation. It was announced that on Valentine Day we would have a steak dinner. Bad news for me. I had 5 pans of rolls to go in my oven on Saturday night and my oven would not

come on. Russ to the rescue, he came and put them in his oven. Thank goodness he just lives around the corner. I really wasn't expecting to start the new year off by having to buy a new stove. After our community brought back parties at Christmas we have decided to celebrate January, February, and March birthdays on St Patricks Day. We have always had a close knit community, but after the pandemic it kind of fell apart, so we are bringing it back! Bethel is still having Wednesday night prayer service at 6:00p.m.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK, Æi PRAY FOR OUR NEW PRESIDENT AND FOR THE HOSTAGES STILL HELD BY HAMAS!

## Aurora Joy McCracken, *Correspondent*



Well, as you read this we may be getting or have gotten some significant snowfall. I'm glad we got the propane tank filled last week (Hicks was prompt and the new driver very professional and polite).

The other big news is that Southern Bank is closing its branch here in Aurora. Such a blow. Seems we can't get a foot ahead without going backwards on something else. However, the medical center is slated to reopen and the old Family Dollar will be retrooled as some sort of grocery. We are still anticipating the construction of the new BCCC satellite campus.

Sometimes the water is so smooth far off ducks swimming on the creek look like miniature John boats with their wakes. I've been seeing a substantial amount of Grebes; usually I only see a couple. The duck blind at the point has had good use.

Flocks of about 20 Doves are coming and going along with Blackbirds. The feeder is seeing new visitors such as Nuthatches and White-throated Sparrows. That bark butter has been the best investment for enticing Wrens.

I've seen my three Deer in the yard several times. I think they are eating the fallen Camellia blooms. Anneke the Cat got to see her Possum again. She never approaches them but just likes to sit and observe.



My Photo of the Week is of Egrets hanging about near the ferry.



## Vietnam Veterans Still Living

The United States entered the Vietnam War on August 5, 1964, and stopped fighting on May 7, 1975 by order of President Gerald Ford. Millions served in the Vietnam War and many lost their lives while others were wounded. Estimates of how many Vietnam veterans are still living vary. According to DAV®, an organization that helps war veterans, today there are fewer than 850,000 living Vietnam War veterans. However, the 2022 American Community Survey estimated 5.44 million living Americans are veterans of the Vietnam War. These individuals would be 80 years of age and older, comprising a large sector of the senior citizen population.

## STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS

**Auctions**  
ESTATE AUCTION (liv) Saturday, February 1st @10am 10200 Amsterdam Drive Mount Pleasant, NC - L3130 Kubota Loader Tractor, 2024 Polaris 1000, 2019 John Deere Z930M Zero Turn, Guns, Trailers, 2 Shops of Tools. www.ClassicAuctions.com 704-791-8825 NCAF5479

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If veterinary care is unavailable or unaffordable, ask for Happy Jack® animal healthcare to treat yeast infections, hook & round worms. At Tractor Supply® & Southern States®

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**Miscellaneous**  
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**Miscellaneous**  
Get a break on your taxes! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-855-869-7055 today!

**Miscellaneous**  
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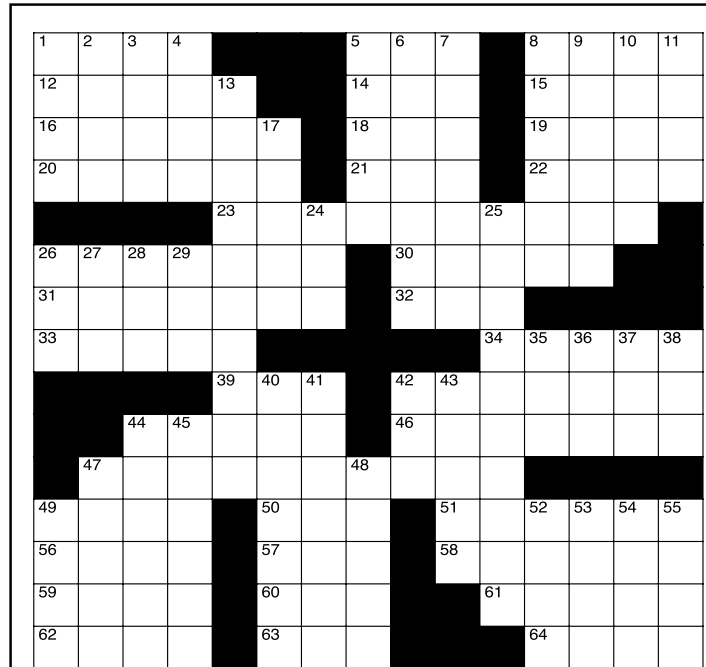
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**Miscellaneous**  
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**Miscellaneous**  
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# CROSSWORD



### CLUES ACROSS

- This regulates cortisol production (abbr.)
- People of northern Vietnam
- Employee stock ownership plan
- Regions
- The center of a city
- Hindu serpentine deity
- Roared
- Sun up in New York
- "Sir" in Malaysian
- Shrimp dish
- Muckraker Tarbell
- Apex
- Harmonic effects
- One of Babe Ruth's nicknames
- Groups in organic chemistry
- More pleasant-tasting
- Spring forward
- Noted writer
- Building occupied by monks
- "The world's most famous arena"
- Colorless liquid hydrocarbon
- Long or fast speech
- Things you can eat
- Substance in which magnetic moments are not aligned
- Actor Idris
- 1 (German)
- Taxes
- Indonesian island
- Nuisance (slang)
- Shawl
- Digits
- Moved on foot quickly
- "For goodness \_\_\_"
- Facial body part
- Russian river
- Urinates

### CLUES DOWN

- Partner to "oohs"
- Scaly water dweller
- Pueblo people of New Mexico
- Music producer Teo
- Greek mythological goddess and east
- Got together to discuss
- Acquires
- Involve
- Some are tomato-based
- Old Irish alphabets
- A sheet of glass in a window or door
- Blood poisoning
- A moon of Saturn
- Neither
- Sums
- They follow "A"
- Satisfaction
- People of southeastern Burma
- Small amount
- Guy (slang)
- Sound unit
- Midway between northeast and east
- Affirmative
- Almost at the top
- Extremely slow
- Pearl Jam's debut album
- Influential mid-century playwright
- Martens
- Approval
- Dallas-adjacent Texas city
- African nation
- Dark brown or black
- A place to get caught
- Large-headed, elongated fish
- Type of sword
- Scottish tax or levy

**PUZZLE SOLUTION**

A	C	T	H		T	H	O	E	S	O	P
A	R	E	A	S		H	U	B	N	A	G
H	O	W	L	E	D		E	D	T	T	U
S	C	A	M	P	I		I	D	A	A	C
						T	O	N	A	L	I
B	A	M	B	I	N	O		E	N	O	L
C	H	O	I	C	E	R		D	S	T	
D	A	N	T	E					A	B	B
						M	S	G		T	O
						S	P	I	E	L	E
						P	A	R	A	M	A
E	L	B	A			I	C	H		T	I
B	A	L	I			P	I	A		S	E
O	N	E	S			R	A	N		S	A
N	O	S	E			O	L	A		P	E

**WORD SCRAMBLE**

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to skating.

**RLLREO**

Answer: Roller

Brace yourself. It's that time for snow covered patio furniture pictures...

**GUESS WHO?**

I am an actor born in Australia on January 13, 1990. Before becoming an actor, I worked in the construction industry. I am best known for a prominent role in "The Hunger Games" series, as well as my high-profile marriage to a pop singer.

Answer: Liam Hemsworth

# PAMLICO COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

## KEEPING THE BEAT

Happy New Year from Mrs. Wilkinson's Kindergarten Class.



Despite the fast tempo of the violins, students in Mrs. Egan's class kept the beat! Tapping their balloons kept them slow and steady while listening to the orchestra play. Mrs. Dawn Wilson, music teacher, has done this activity with all of first graders. Students have analyzed rhythm and pitch in a song and played a jumping game with months of the year.



We BLINKED and our Kindergarten students are reading! Mrs. Ruffin's students practiced a few trick words after reading their text "Log Cabin" and practicing phoneme manipulation. It's always so incredible to see the growth from beginning to midyear when it comes to Kindergarten reading!

Our second graders are reading about American artist, George Morrison's work through their decodable text this week. Specifically, they are learning about how he used textures to create stunning landscapes. Once they found the horizon line today, they used their imaginations to see other shapes and textures bring this landscape to life.

You're invited to  
**Pamlico County Primary School**  
 NC PreK - Kindergarten Registration  
**PUP ROUND-UP**  
 FEBRUARY 28TH  
 8AM - 5PM  
 PCPS MEDIA CENTER

NC PreK Registration students must turn 4 years old on or before August 31, 2025.  
 Please bring:  
 • Proof of residence  
 • Proof of income  
 • Copy of the student's birth certificate

Kindergarten Registration students must turn 5 years old on or before August 31, 2025.  
 Please bring:  
 • Proof of residence  
 • Copy of the student's birth certificate

Completed NC Health Assessment will be required but is not needed prior to registration.

Pamlico County Primary School  
 323 Neals Creek Road, Bayboro, NC (252) 745-3404

**"SNOWFLAKES and SNUGGLES"**

Bring a blanket and come read with your child during their library elective time..  
 Any family member: 10:05 to 10:55 the week of Jan 27-31.

(\*share a snack and make a snowflake as well...  
 Each child will receive a book to take home!)

Monday (1/27): Hutohens  
 Tuesday (1/28): Nelson  
 Wednesday (1/29): L. Hardison  
 Thursday (1/30): Gibbs  
 Friday (1/31): Egan

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# ***There's still time to register for the Spring 2025 semester, but you need to act **FAST!*****

## **Pamlico's convenient online courses start Monday, Jan. 27!**



*The formal registration period has passed, but there's still time to enroll at Pamlico this semester!*

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*Many of PCC's programs can be completed entirely online!*

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*Call, email or drop by the college today to explore your options for 2025!*



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Pamlico Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award Associate Degrees, Diplomas, and Certificates. Pamlico Community College also may offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels. Questions about the accreditation of Pamlico Community College may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website <https://sacscoc.org/>



### ***Save the date!*** **13TH ANNUAL GREAT OYSTER REVIVAL & CHILI COOKOFF**

Featuring entertainment by Hoff'n'Finch!  
Back by popular demand!

**Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025  
3 to 5 p.m.**

**PCC Campus - Grantsboro**

Rain or shine! Proceeds directly support PCC students!

\$30 per person for all-you-can-eat oysters and chili!  
(\$15 per person "chili-only" tickets are also available.)  
BYO gloves, knives, beverages, etc.

Calling all cooks! Enter a crockpot of your best chili for a chance at a trophy and bragging rights!  
(Entries are due by 2 p.m. on the day of the contest.)

Door prizes and a 50-50 raffle!

Tickets on sale now at PCC's Bookstore, Nautical Wheelers in Oriental and New Bern, Bayboro Pharmacy, and online at [www.pamlicocc.edu](http://www.pamlicocc.edu).

Contact Heather Arevalo for details and to register for the Chili Cookoff.  
252-249-1851, ext. 3084, or [harevalo@pamlicocc.edu](mailto:harevalo@pamlicocc.edu)

