



The Pamlico News will not publish on December 31st.
We will be closed to celebrate this wonderful time of year with our families.
Look for the next issue of The Pamlico News on January 7th

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The Pamlico News

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

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The Old Theater Friends, Lovers & All That Other Stuff

A new play at The Old Theater
Five Tales of O Henry adapted
by Bill Hand

*Produced by the North Carolina
History Theater*

Saturday, January 17 at 7:30
pm and a Sunday matinee,
January 18 at 3:00 pm

Admission is \$25.00 or \$20.00 for
Old Theater members, military, and
students with ID.

Tickets are available at Nautical
Wheelers in Oriental and New Bern, at
the Old Theater Box Office on the day
of performance, and online at [www.
oldtheater.org](http://www.oldtheater.org).

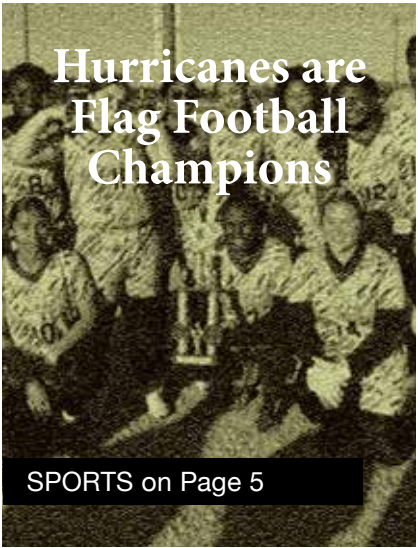
The North Carolina History Theater
is showcasing one of the state's greatest
authors with a stage adaptation of five
of his short stories by Bill Hand. O
Henry (1862-1910) was best known
for his short stories, their humor, poi-
gnancy and their twist endings that
always took readers by surprise. One
of his most beloved stories is "Gift of
the Magi." "Short story writing is a
great art," Bill Hand, NCHT president
said. "As a writer I know how hard it
is to write something brief and get its
point and beauty across." But O Henry
was a master. NCHT has adapted five
short stories, and each is directed by a
different person just to add variety in
interpretation. The stories are:

1. "Makes the whole World Kin," in
which a burglar finds he shares a
curious trait with his latest victim.
2. "Mammon and the Archer," a
soap magnate pulls strings to help
his son's love life along.
3. "Sound and Fury," an author is
driven crazy by his teasing typist.
4. "The Cop and the Anthem," a
New York City bum finds it ridic-
ulously hard to get himself arrest-
ed so he can spend the winter in a
warm jail.
5. "The Last Leaf," a hopeful tale
about a dying artist.

"It's going to be a great show," Hand
said. "The talent we're drawing from
is great and the directors are hard at
work." Proceeds go to support the Old
Theater Corp. and the North Carolina
History Theater, both registered 501(c)
(3) non-profit organizations.

Box Office opens one hour before
the show and doors open half hour
before showtime.

The Old Theater / 609 Broad Street
/ Oriental, NC / mail@oldtheater.org /
252-249-0477



Hurricanes are Flag Football Champions

SPORTS on Page 5

Oriental Tree of Names and Lights

by: Hiram Lupton



In what has become the kickoff event of Oriental's Spirit of Christmas weekend, the Tree of Names and Lights was decorated and lit last Thursday evening at Lou Mac Park. The tree serves as a remembrance and memorial to those Oriental residents no longer with us and was started several years ago by longtime commu- nity member and leader, the late Mrs. Grace Evans. The tree will remain in place until the new year.

Santa Meets with Oriental Mayor Sally Belangia

by: Hiram Lupton

This time of year, Santa Claus is especially
busy with personal appearances and last-minute
preparations for his big trip on Christmas Eve.
His busy schedule did not prevent him however
from a hastily arranged meeting with Oriental
Mayor Sally Belangia where, despite rumors to
the contrary, he assured her that she has indeed
been a good girl this year. Mayor Sally was able
to convey to Santa her list of demands, I mean
wishes, for the Town of Oriental, which included
peace, prosperity, and harmony amongst all the
residents and that good will and spirits flow freely
through the town. St. Nick made no promises but
assured the Mayor he would do his best and that
he would certainly be stopping in town on the
night of the 24th.



Presents for Pamlico Kids

by: Hiram Lupton

From Bikes to Barbies,
hot wheels to hoodies,
the Taylor Lodge at Camp
Seafarer was packed full
of Christmas gifts for
the annual Presents for
Pamlico Kids gift distri-
bution. The collaborative
effort to make sure every
child in Pamlico County



A few of the volunteers who helped out with distribution on Tuesday.

has something under
the tree this Christmas
involves many groups and volunteers but most
importantly the citizens of Pamlico County, who
every year make the donations and every year

and organizations that received toys, all the vol-
unteers who helped with registration and distribu-
tion, and especially all those who donated.



The Taylor Lodge at Camp Seafarer resembled Santa's workshop.

Jingle Bell Run/Walk for The Hope Clinic

by: Hiram Lupton

Saturday was a beautifully brisk morning as
over 50 gathered at the Village Health & Fitness
Center for a little morning run/walk/stroll around
Oriental. Participants were encouraged to wear
their gaudiest holiday gear for the event. There was
no entry fee, but donations in support of the Hope
Clinic were accepted.



A little warm up on a cool morning



And they're off, supporting the Hope Clinic

Oriental Lighted Kayak/ Canoe/Paddle Board Flotilla

by: Hiram Lupton

Friday evening was a calm cool evening, perfect
for a little paddling and about a dozen folks took to
the water for the annual Oriental Kayak Flotilla, a
part of Friday's Town Spirit of Christmas festivities.
The nonmotorized group made their way from the
kayak launch to the town dock area at dusk. Santa
even traded in his sleigh for a paddle board.



LIKELY WEATHER OVER THE WEEKEND

 Saturday, December 20th **54°Hi** Sunny and pleasant

 Sunday, December 21st **66°Hi** Sunny and clear

TURNAGE

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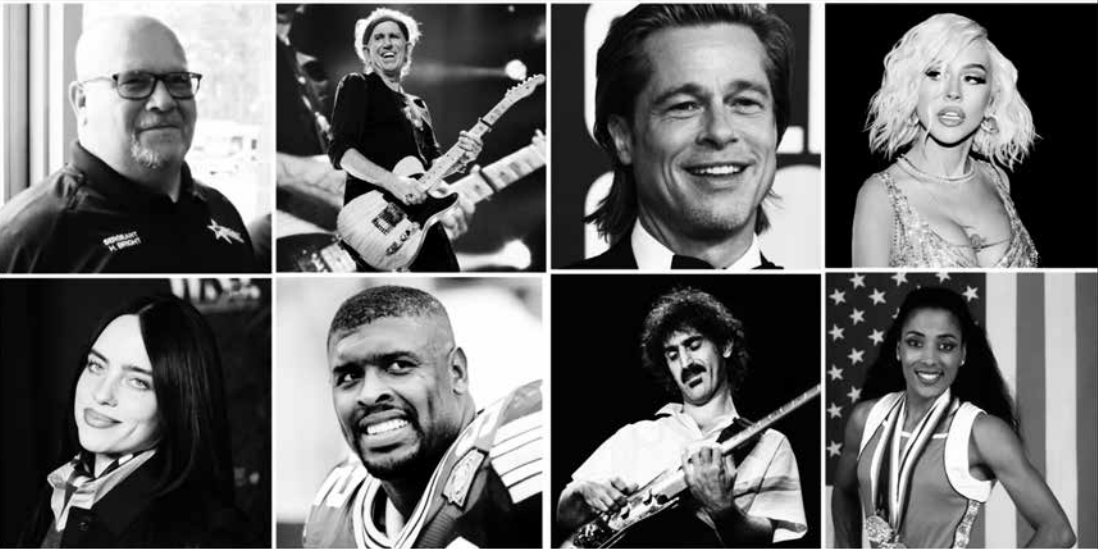
THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

by: Hiram Lupton

- December 17th – 1903, The Wright Brothers flew the first mechanically powered airplane at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. First in Flight, suck it Ohio.
- December 18th – 1898, A new automobile speed record was set at 38 mph.
- December 19th – Today is National Hard Candy Day. Brush the lint off of it when you take it out of your pocket.
- December 20th – Today is National Go Caroling Day. I'll be on the lookout for girls named Carol.
- December 21st – Winter arrives today at 10:03 AM.
- December 22nd – 1961, James Davis becomes the first U.S. soldier to die in Vietnam.
- December 23rd – Happy Festivus. Time to air the grievances.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

- December 18th – 197?, Pamlico County School Resource Officer Harold Bright
- December 18th – 1943, Guitarist Keith Richards
- December 18th – 1964, Actor William Bradley Pitt (Brad Pitt)
- December 18th – 1980, Singer Christina Aguilera
- December 18th – 2001, Singer/songwriter Billie O'Connell (Billie Eilish)
- December 19th – 1961, NFL Hall-of-Famer Reggie White
- December 21st – 1940, Musician Frank Zappa
- December 21st – 1959, Olympic Gold Medalist Florence Griffith Joyner



DUI costs drivers big time

Driving while under the influence is dangerous and potentially deadly. And driving while intoxicated also hits drivers in the pocketbook. A DUI charge is warranted when a driver's blood alcohol content tests over the legal limit of 0.08 for all states in the United States except for Utah, where the limit is 0.05. According to the alcohol monitoring company BACtrack®, a DUI can cost upwards of \$20,000 or more, even if property damage has not occurred. While every DUI is different, various factors contribute to the price drivers ultimately pay. These include bail, attorney fees, court fines and costs, probation, and DMV fees. A state's department of motor vehicles will charge to reinstate a license if it has been suspended or restricted. One also can face transportation costs, like public transportation and taxis. According to Canada's Department of Justice, impaired driving carries a mandatory \$1,000 fine and maximum 10 years imprisonment on the first offense. On a second offense, there is a minimum 30-day imprisonment to maximum 10 years imprisonment. A third offense includes mandatory minimum 120 days imprisonment and up to 10 years imprisonment. Both the U.S. and Canada fine drivers charged with DUI. Of course, the most serious cost incurred driving under the influence is the cost to human life, which can be a very real possibility if driving drunk or under the influence of drugs. Learn more about state DUI laws by visiting dui.drivinglaws.org/resources/state-dui-laws.htm.



COMMUNITY

The 411 on whole-house generators

Weather is unpredictable. Strong winds or storms can wreak havoc on power lines, resulting in outages that may last hours or even days. People have come to rely on electricity, not only for comfort and safety, but to power just about every aspect of modern life. A power outage can be a minor disruption or downright dangerous, unless a whole-house generator can take over when needed.

What is a whole-house generator?

A whole-house generator, also called a standby generator, is a permanently installed system that provides backup power to a home during a utility outage. The generator typically runs using a natural gas or propane connection. Unlike a portable generator, a whole-house generator is installed outside on a concrete slab. It is wired to the home's electrical panel through an automatic transfer switch (ATS). This switch will continuously monitor the electrical grid's power and start automatically if an outage is detected. When the power comes back on, the ATS will shut off the generator and reconnect the home to the grid.



Generator considerations

NJR Home Services says there are some considerations when determining which generator best meets the needs of a household. It's important to identify where power will be needed in the home, whether it's a few essential pieces of equipment or the entire home. The more one wants to have powered, the more costly the generator will be. The location of the generator on the property must meet local zoning requirements, which vary from town to town. A permit likely will be required for the installation work. Another consideration is gas meter sizing. A trained technician should schedule a pressure check to ensure that the gas supply to the home can handle the new generator.

What if there hasn't been an outage?

Most units will test themselves periodically for a few minutes each week to recharge the batteries and keep the engine lubricated, which serves as a testament to the hands-off nature of these systems. Whole-house generators offer peace of mind in an unpredictable world. When the power goes out, these generators seamlessly kick into action.

GUESS WHO ?

I am an actress born in New York on December 19, 1972. I began acting at age 8 after landing a role on a national tour of "Annie." I rose to fame as a teen on a television show about a male housekeeper. I later starred alongside two other "sisters" on a magical show.

Answer: Alyssa Milano

Horoscopes



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, you have been looking for some new ways to make some extra money, and now might be the time to start putting your plan in motion. Good fortune awaits.



TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Passion is on your mind this week, Taurus. Get together with a spouse or romantic partner and enjoy an evening with just the two of you. Embrace this chance to let the sparks fly.



GEMINI – May 22/June 21
A gift would be a wonderful surprise for a loved one or friend this week, Gemini. Perhaps there is something that this person has had an eye on for some time now?



CANCER – June 22/July 22
A group activity may bring new information and people into your life, Cancer. You might meet people from different backgrounds. Keep your eyes and ears open.



LEO – July 23/Aug 23
Leo, you might be interested in expanding your horizons. You could think about attending a lecture or seeing a documentary on a particular subject. The education will enlighten.



VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, a long-awaited phone call or text from a person who has been out of touch for some time could come through this week. This may reopen the lines of communication between you both.



LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, if finances have been on your mind, now is a good time to read the financial pages or study the stock reports. You also may want to sit down with a financial planner.



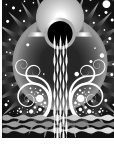
SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, keep communication with business partners warm, open and honest. This will help you see your ideas come to fruition. It's always easier to catch flies with honey than vinegar.



SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, your tasks should go smoothly and quickly this week, particularly any paperwork you may have. Others are willing to help out if you need it.



CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, newfound communication heightens the relationship you have with a romantic partner this week. Feelings and memories are shared willingly, and you may learn something new.



AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
A number of interesting visitors may come to your home this week, Aquarius. At least one may present some fascinating facts on a subject that is new to you. Enjoy the interaction.



PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, expect some interesting new neighbors to move in shortly. A friend will likely introduce you to these people, and a relationship could bloom.

Concerned about your drinking?

You are not alone, there is help available!

Come join others who have found a Solution!

Alcoholics Anonymous: New Bern Hotline (252) 349-0898

Meetings in Pamlico County:

(If you think you may have a problem, you are welcome to attend)

Tuesday 8pm - Oriental Group - Open Discussion Meeting held at the Free Will Baptist Church 600 Ragan Rd. in Oriental, NC (2nd brick building on left off Hwy 55)

Thursday *7:30pm** - Recovery and Beyond Group - Beginner/Open Discussion Meeting at Alliance United Methodist Church, 687 Main Street in Bayboro, NC (close to DSS/Senior Center)

Friday 8pm - Oriental Group - Open Discussion Meeting held at the Free Will Baptist Church, 600 Ragan Road in Oriental, NC (2nd brick building on left off Hwy 55).

Sunday *7pm – Oriental Sunday Night Group - Big Book/12 & 12 Study Meeting held at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 402 Freeman St. in Oriental, NC (2nd brick church on the left)

<https://aaeasternnc.org/> <https://aanorthcarolina.org/> <https://www.aa.org/>

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SAGITTARIUS Traits & Overview

Sagittarius is represented either by the centaur, a creature with the body of a man and the legs of a horse, or by the bow and arrow, as centaurs are generally considered excellent archers.

Their symbol is hard to pin down, as is Sagittarius, who, as one of the mutable signs, is always looking for new adventures and new experiences, so you never find them in the same place for long.

One of the fire signs, Sagittarius has a passion for life.

Ruled by Jupiter, this manifests as constant activities. This sign are runners, thinkers, doers!

They don't like to be idle or feel like they are standing still. They are only happy when they are doing and experiencing.

This does mean that they can have a tendency to act before they fully think through the consequences of their decision.

FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY

FINANCIAL FOCUS

AI in personal finance: The promise and the limits



Dan M. Roberts

Your smartphone buzzes with an alert: Your budgeting app has spotted an unusual spending pattern and suggests transferring \$50 from your savings account to your checking account. Later that day, a robo-advisor automatically rebalances your investment portfolio. Welcome to the age of artificial intelligence (AI) in personal finance, where technology is reshaping how we manage money.

What AI can do for your wallet. From tracking every latte to forecasting next month's bills, AI-powered tools are making financial management more accessible than ever. Some apps categorize transactions automatically, while other platforms offer conversational financial advice through text messages. These tools can monitor your credit score, suggest budget adjustments and even negotiate lower bills on services like cable and internet.

The investing landscape has transformed as well. Robo-advisors use algorithms to build diversified portfolios, automatically rebalance holdings and apply strategies to minimize tax bills. Educational tools powered by AI can explain complex concepts through interactive games and simple question-and-answer formats, making financial literacy more accessible.

Where AI falls short. Here's what the algorithms can't do: understand what truly matters to you.

AI doesn't know whether you value sustainable investing over maximum returns. It can't weigh the emotional complexity of saving for a child's education versus retiring early. When sudden illness strikes or a job change upends your plans, AI lacks the context and empathy to guide you through those human moments.

Technology can crunch numbers brilliantly, but it can't offer wisdom. It can't replace human judgment, experience or ethical reasoning. Robo-advisors' predetermined algorithms may not suit investors with complex financial needs like estate planning or comprehensive tax planning.

The human touch still matters. This is where human financial advisors remain indispensable. They provide what technology can't:

- **Long-term perspective:** Help you maintain focus when markets get volatile and emotions run high
- **Goal coordination:** Balance competing priorities, help partners merge their financial visions and remind you of goals you've tucked away and didn't know still mattered
- **Accountability:** Keep you on track with your financial strategy through life's inevitable changes
- **Emotional support:** Offer reassurance and wisdom during major financial decisions

Research validates it: Those who regularly work with a financial advisor and have a financial strategy are more likely to feel optimistic about their financial future than those who manage finances on their own, according to 2025 research from Edward Jones and Morning Consult.

Find the right balance. The future likely lies in a hybrid approach: combining data-driven AI insights with the human wisdom of a financial advisor who understands your values, priorities and life's inevitable curveballs. Think of AI as a powerful calculator and your financial advisor as the mathematician who knows which equations to use.

As these technologies evolve, the key is treating AI as a tool, not a guide.

Stay curious about what technology can do for your finances. Stay critical of its limitations. And remember: What matters most in your financial life is something only you can define.

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

Wishing you and yours peace, joy and hope this holiday.

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NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION Pamlico County

Nostalgia and 4-H



Kait Neeland
4-H Agent

Each month I get to write two or three articles about 4-H, and what Pamlico County 4-H is doing. Sometimes I write about our 4-Her's accomplishments at tournaments, sometimes about the cool things we did during the summer: NC 4-H Electric Congress, Book Explorers at the Pamlico County Library, and 4-H Presentations. I love writing those articles. This time of year, with the shining lights, and the wrapped presents make me a little nostalgic, so when I sit down to write my article I think about how important 4-H has always been in my life. So Every now and then I like to write about what the 4 H's are.

For myself I don't remember a time when I didn't know about 4-H, it's been a formative part of my life, from my first livestock project at five, to presentations, conservation projects, and being on the teen panel of state policy program. 4-H has meant many things to me over the years, and continues to mean a great deal to me, as I connect Pamlico County youth to programs and opportunities that will be a stepping stone to the wonderful adults they are going to be.

However, I know for many, 4-H is followed by a giant question mark.

- What is 4-H?
- What does it mean?
- Who is it for?

4-H is the youth development branch of North Carolina Cooperative Extension. It began with youth Corn Clubs over a hundred years ago and has grown into one of the largest and most respected 4-H Youth Development Programs in the Nation. With the cornerstones of service, leadership, citizenship, and experiential learning, 4-H has been a part of shaping the lives of North Carolina youth and the nation's 'Leaders of Tomorrow' for generations. We continue our heritage youth programs in agricultural and livestock projects. 4-H has grown to include many other programs: annual presentation competitions; project record books; environmental conservation; media and computers; leadership programs (NC 4-H Ambassadors) and one of the most robust electrical programs in the nation.

The 4 H's stand for Head, Heart, Health, and Hands. Each of these is connected to the founding principles of critical thinking, loyalty, service, and the health of youth as a whole. Each of our programs is based on evidence-based research, with a focused-on hands on learning.

4-H is for all youth ages 5 – 18. With a wide variety of programs to engage and interest youth at any stage. In Pamlico County you might want to join our Book Explorers, or our shooting sports team, or come watch our livestock show, or maybe you would like to join us for summer sleep away

camp. There are lots of options and lots of fun to be had.

We are looking forward to releasing our full Spring Roster of Programs soon, but there's a few things to look forward to! Our Craven Pamlico 4-H Dairy Project will be back again! Last year was our inaugural 4-H Dairy Project and show. Youth were able to work with dairy calves for two months, learning how to properly care, the correct medicines and feed that calves need, and how to show a dairy cow to best advantage. We will be having an interest meeting in January, and we are very excited to have this program again!

We are also very excited for our 4-H Presentation program! We had a blast last year learning how to research, write and present our presentations. Research and public speaking are valuable life skills and this program allows youth to develop them in a fun positive environment. We will be having an orientation in February where youths can learn about the project and pick the topic they are most passionate about.

If you would like more information about our 2026 Spring 4-H programs please give us a call or check out our Pamlico 4-H page. You'll find all the details and registration info on our website: pamlico.ces.ncsu.edu. To complete your registration, you'll also need to enroll in 4-H Online it's required for all NC 4-H programs. Don't worry if you're new to the process, the link is on our website, and if you have any trouble at all, just give us a call. We're happy to walk you through it step-by-step! Want to stay

in the loop about future programs and events? Be sure to sign up for our Pamlico 4-H email list so you never miss an update. If you have questions or just want to learn more about what 4-H has to offer here in Pamlico County, reach out to Kait Neeland at (252) 745-4121 or kait_neeland@ncsu.edu

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IMPORTANT TAX NOTICE PROPERTY LISTING PERIOD

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes 105-307(a), all persons owning personal and or business property on January 1 that is subject to taxation, must list such property during the listing period of January 1 through January 31. The property can be listed from 8AM through 5PM, Monday through Friday at the Pamlico County Tax Listing Department located in the Pamlico County Courthouse.

- A listing form is required if one or more of the following apply:
- You own an unregistered vehicle(s) that does not have an active North Carolina registration.
 - You own other reportable personal property such as boats, boat motors, jet skis, aircraft, etc.
 - You own a boat or utility trailer with permanent tags.
 - You own a singlewide mobile home or a double wide mobile home without a permanent foundation.
 - You own business personal property.

If you received a listing form in the previous year for listing your property, a listing form will automatically be mailed to you at the address on record as of December 31. If you do not receive a listing form and you have property that is required to be listed, it is your responsibility to obtain a listing form from the Pamlico County Tax Office.

Failure to list within the required listing period of January 1 through January 31 will result in a penalty of 10% of the total tax levied.

Return the completed listing form to:
**PAMLICO COUNTY TAX OFFICE
LISTING DEPARTMENT
PO BOX 538
BAYBORO, NC 28515**

Real Estate in Pamlico County is permanently listed and does not require an annual listing.

Exclusion for Elderly, Permanently Disabled Persons, Circuit Breaker
North Carolina may exclude from property tax those taxpayers who meet the following requirements and an application submitted.

- Elderly & Circuit Breaker Exclusion:**
- The property is your permanent residence you own and occupy. - You are 65 years or older as of January 1. - See the Listing office for more information regarding the income requirements.
- Disabled & Disabled Veteran:**
- The property is your permanent residence you own and occupy. – You are disabled or have a Service-connected disability. – See the Listing Office for more information.

Property Exempt applications must be filed January 1 through June 1 to be timely.

For an application, contact the Pamlico County Tax Listing Department or go online at www.pamlicocounty.org - Tax Department – Tax forms.
Listing Department – 252-745-3105

Pamlico 4-H

BE CURIOUS

SPORTS

Hurricanes are Flag Football Champions

by: Hiram Lupton



It is very rare for a person or a group to do something perfectly the first time they try it, but that is pretty much what the new Pamlico County High School Girl's Flag Football Team did. As we reported several weeks ago, girls high school flag football is a new sport that the North Carolina High School Athletic Association is considering sanctioning for official competition and is currently in an experimental phase. The area league based in Greenville is competing for the second year and the ladies from Pamlico joined this season. Joined might be an understatement. They dominated in their first season, going a perfect 9-0 and last Saturday they were crowned season Champions of the 14-team league. Congratulations Ladies!

PCMS Basketball

by: Hiram Lupton

The Pamlico County Middle School basketball team only took to the court for one game day last week due to rescheduling as they hosted West Craven Middle School on Thursday. For the girls it was another close night of action as they played a close contest the entire game, only to come up short in the final minutes, losing 33-28. The boy's squad got off to a great start against the Wildcats and although it briefly looked like WCMS may stage a comeback late in the first half, the Hurricanes buried them in the final period, winning 46-30.



Kayton Forbes powers up underneath the basket



Gavin Moody drives to the hoop against West Craven Middle School



The Pamlico County Middle School
Cheerleaders

Hurricane Hoops First Loss for Lady 'Canes

by: Hiram Lupton

As a result of some weather postponements, the Pamlico County High School basketball teams had a rare week with only a single game night on the schedule, that being a Wednesday evening road trip to Morehead City to take on East Carteret. The ladies, who are still a bit shorthanded due to injuries, suffered their first loss of the season to the Mariners in a tight game that went down to the wire, 55-54. Nya Clark once again led the Hurricanes with 31 points. As far as those injuries go, there is some reason for optimism as Sydney Whitley-Reese who suffered a knee injury two weeks ago, is rehabbing and depending on how that goes, may be back with the team after the holidays. The Hurricanes other hobbled player, Bella-Ann Schulz, also received some positive news that she will hopefully not need surgery on her injured ankle and will be able to be back on the court, perhaps before the post season begins in mid-February. Fingers crossed that all goes well for both these players. The Hurricane men had their 1-game win streak snapped by West Carteret, 71-45. VJ Midgett had a game high 12 points for Pamlico. Pamlico also has only one game night this week, a Thursday trip to Plymouth to tangle with Washington County.



Nya Clark

Mariners Take a Pair From JCA

by: Hiram Lupton

Pamlico Christian Academy hosted Jacksonville Christian Academy Friday in a conference matchup. Early in the girl's game, the Conquerors held a slim advantage but the Mariners came out of the locker room with renewed energy that they put to good use on defense. They used full court pressure and some timely 3-point shooting to first take the lead in the third quarter then efficient free throw shooting to build and maintain a lead they carried all the way to the buzzer for a 45-36 win. In the boys contest, Pamlico Christian took control of the game early, running out to an 11-1 lead and never looking back, taking the lopsided win, 60-33. Max Cruz led the Mariners with 22 points on a very efficient 10 of 17 shooting from the field. He also pulled down 13 rebounds for a double-double. This week PCA has a pair of nonconference games on tap, both on the road. On Monday they travel to Chocowinity to take on Unity Christian and on Thursday they make the trip to Trenton to do battle with the Trojans of Jones Senior.



PCA's Lexie Koontz drives to the basket



Noah Haywood works inside for the Mariners

Due to foreseen circumstances well within my control I will be late. Unknown

This

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The Pamlico News will not publish on December 31st.

We will be closed to celebrate this wonderful time of year with our families.

Look for the next issue of The Pamlico News on January 7th

A festive Christmas decoration featuring a large gold bell, a Santa hat, pine branches, and red and gold ornaments. The decoration is positioned on the right side of the page, partially overlapping the text area.

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Santa Visits the Pamlico County Public Library

by: Hiram Lupton



There is always something fun going on at the Pamlico County Public Library and last Saturday that fun was magnified as the big man from the North Pole, Santa Claus, stopped by for a visit. He talked with the kids about the importance of giving, read some Christmas stories, and did a little Christmas magic along with his special guest, Cammie the rabbit. St. Nick also heard the children's Christmas lists and posed for pics with everyone. Library Director Sidney Phibbons told Santa that a new sign for the library was at the top of her list. While Santa was the big event, there was plenty of other festive things going on including a scavenger hunt, crafts, and reading with Frankie the reading dog. For those looking for a few last-minute gift ideas, the Friends of the Library Artisan Show and Sale is still going on with lots of great items made by local craftsmen.



Merry Christmas from Ms. Fran, Santa, and Ms. Sidney



Cammie the Rabbit enjoys all the Christmas attention she received

PCHS Holiday Band Concert

by: Hiram Lupton



The Pamlico County High School Concert Band

It is the time of year for listening to Christmas music and last Thursday evening the Pamlico County High School Band treated the audience to a great selection of live holiday favorites. While the full concert band played many selections, they also broke out into smaller ensembles that featured several sections of the band on several numbers including, trumpet, saxophone, clarinet, flute as well as the talented Pamlico Sound Jazz Ensemble. A fun night of music to get you in the Christmas spirit.

Middle School Athletics

Wrestling

by: Hiram Lupton

Wrestling season is underway and the young grapplers from Pamlico County Middle School took to the mat last Wednesday evening as they hosted Grover C. Fields Middle School and West Craven Middle School in head-to-head team competition. Although the Hurricanes came out on the short end team score wise, they gained valuable experience.



Ashton Heath gives his opponent a lift



Damarion Roberts goes for a pin



Kinley Small



Colt Cowell

Boxing Day is celebrated between Christmas and New Year's Day. It is an official public holiday when banks, offices and schools are closed. When Boxing Day happens to be on a Saturday or Sunday, the holiday is observed on the following Monday. Some believe the name is derived from the tradition of opening alms boxes that were placed in churches to gather donations for the poor. Others theorize the name comes from boxes of gifts given to employees on the day after Christmas, seeing as servants traditionally had to work on Christmas and December 26th was their day to enjoy time off with family. Although Boxing Day is known across the United Kingdom and British Commonwealth nations like Canada, it is not observed in the United States. Activities like shopping Boxing Day sales, participating in polar plunges, watching sporting events, and gathering with friends are customary on Boxing Day.



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BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Stonewall Methodist Church

Sunday, December 21, 2025, at 7:00 pm



A special community Candlelight Service of Hope for the Holidays

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presents Featured Guest Artist

QUIN T. DIONNE



You may have seen the work of Quin Troxler Dionne creations at the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center in Harkers Island. Her paintings radiate wonder, capturing the beauty found in life's little moments that often slip by unnoticed. She holds onto that childlike curiosity about the world around her. Inspired by the ever-shifting sky, the magnificent sea, and those delightful surprises that come from exploring the woods or gliding through the waters of Harkers Island.

& Featured Student Artist

LENA ROBERTSON



But that's not all! BSG is buzzing with excitement as we also introduce our Student Artist of the Month. This January, the spotlight shines on the talented Lena Robertson who is currently an undergraduate student studying at ECU for a Bachelor of Fine Arts with an emphasis in painting. Her current focus is to make each assignment a successful art piece. She enjoys using nature themes in her works painted in a manner that gives them a whimsical, dream-like aesthetic.

Please join us for an opening reception for the artists at the gallery

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Health&Wellness

County Department Consolidation Prompts Public Hearing



A recent proposal for consolidation of several county departments to be under one umbrella department has prompted the Pamlico County Board of Commissioners to schedule a public hearing on the issue. The hearing, titled “Consolidation of Human Services Agency” is set for the Board’s first meeting in January on the 5th, at 7:00 PM. In essence, the consolidation involves positioning several county departments under the umbrella of a Department of Human Services which would fall under the oversight of County Manager Mark Brewington and the Board of Commissioners. The departments involved would include the Department of Health, the Department of Social Services, as well as the Veteran Services Department and the Department of Senior Services. These would include several sub-departments under this core group such as Health Services, Environmental Health, and Animal Services remaining under the Department of Health, while Child Protective Services, Adult Services, Economic Services, and Child Support Enforcement would still be under the Department of Social Services. All would fall under the overall Department of Human Services. “There are several reasons for taking this step,” explained County Manager Mark Brewington at a recent Pamlico County Health Advisory Board meeting. “We feel this consolidation would streamline the oversight under the Board of Commissioners and the County Manager’s office. It will simplify reporting and hopefully improve coordination among these related agencies such as the Department of Social Services and the Department of Health. In addition to being a benefit to the public, we feel that it would be a benefit to employees in these departments as well as it would give the county more freedom to structure pay and classification in these departments in lieu of the more ridged state system many of these employees work under now. In looking at other counties across the state, this is a growing trend.” There are also many questions involving the consolidation. “Ideally this department would be situated in one physical location. That of course would depend on the availability of funding.” Where such a consolidated department could be physically located is also a question. There are currently several departments that have a need for new and improved facilities such as health services and senior services. It is not expected that the consolidation would result in any reduction in force for the county and it is unknown at this time if any new positions would be added. As Brewington explained, there are questions to be answered but moving forward at the department management level, this consolidation is a good first step in improving service to our citizens and improving the work environment for county employees.

5 tips for healthier baking

Baking is a beloved pastime for many people. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many people turned to baking as a way to not only while away the hours, but to have a tangible product they could enjoy after all of their efforts. Baking certainly can produce delicious results, but oftentimes baked goods are not the healthiest fare.

Many baked goods are high in sugar and fat. The World Health Organization considers it urgent to reduce the extreme consumption of sugars and other fast-absorbing carbohydrates which tend to be found in baked goods to curb rising rates of obesity and type 2 diabetes. According to recent data published by the WHO, 13 percent of the world’s adult population are clinically obese and 39 percent of adults age 18 or older were found to be overweight.

Overweight and obesity are tied to the consumption of fat-rich, high-calorie foods, including baked goods. Those who want to bake, but bake more healthfully, can make certain modifications to keep health a priority.

1. Replace butter and cream. Look for recipes that feature healthier monounsaturated and polyunsaturated oils instead of butter and cream, which are high in saturated fat.

2. Prepare bite-sized desserts. Portion sizes should be carefully monitored to ensure one doesn’t go overboard with baked goods. This is easily achieved by creating miniature or bite-sized items that can help reduce the tendency to take a big slice of cake or bread.

3. Incorporate healthy ingredients. Balance out baked goods by improving the nutrient profile. Try adding shredded or pureed apple, banana, carrot, and pumpkin to recipes to boost moisture, flavor and nutrition. These ingredients also can be used to replace some of the butter or oil in the recipe, according to EatRight.org.

4. Try alternative flours. Rather than white flour, consider whole-wheat flour as a substitution. Also, chickpea or almond flour can boost protein without adding carbohydrates.

5. Reduce the sugar. Many recipes call for much more sugar than is needed for the finished item to be tasty. Experiment with reducing the amount of sugar. Opt for “healthier” sugars, such as honey or maple syrup whenever possible. Minor substitutions can make baking a bit healthier so it fits in with a well-rounded diet.



COASTAL LIVING

The Children’s Theater Workshop Live Nativity

by: Hiram Lupton



The Live Nativity presented by the Children’s Theater Workshop at the Oriental United Methodist Church is always one of the most beautiful parts of Oriental’s Spirit of Christmas weekend. The young performers did an awesome job and the musical accompaniment performed by Lynn Rockwell and Dave Burrows, and narration by Christine Wager set the mood perfectly and encouraged audience participation in the traditional Christmas songs that tell the greatest story ever told.



Oriental Christmas Parade

by: Hiram Lupton

Always a highlight for participants and spectators alike, Oriental’s Spirit of Christmas Parade was full of vehicles, decorated trailers, and walkers spreading Christmas cheer. The weather was perfect with hardly a cloud in the sky and temperatures just cool enough to keep the candy you picked up from melting in your pocket. The culmination of the parade of course was the arrival of Santa who was delivered by the United States Coast Guard.



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LEGALS

Notice to Creditors
North Carolina, Pamlico County

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of Kathleen A. Wilkinson, deceased, of Merritt, NC, are notified to present the same to the personal representative listed below on or before February 26, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All debtors of the said estate are asked to make immediate payment. This the 26th day of November, 2025. Douglas Trevor Wilkinson, Executor of the Estate of Kathleen A. Wilkinson
c/o Quay & Associates, P.A.
412 Broad Street
New Bern, NC 28560

PUBLICATION DATES:
11/26/2025, 12/3/2025, 12/10/2025, 12/17/2025

NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION
ALAMANCE COUNTY
25CV006667-000

NOTICE OF SERVICE

BY PROCESS OF PUBLICATION

Rodney Carlyle Jordan, Jr., Plaintiff,
vs.
Violet Mollano Jordan, Defendant.

TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The Plaintiff is seeking an Absolute Divorce.

You are requested to make defense to this pleading no later than the 19th day of January 2026; said date being forty (40) days from the first publication of this notice and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This the 10th day of December 2025.

Robert D. Craig
Attorney for Plaintiff
4 NE Court Sq., Suite D
Graham, NC 27253
(336)266-1526
NC Bar #16457
12/10, 12/17, 12/24

INSPECTIONS

Oct. 24, Steve Walton, Bayboro, mechanical, \$100

Oct. 27, Helen Leary, Oriental, mechanical, \$99.36; Bill Deighton, Arapahoe, mechanical, \$100; Mike Kane, Oriental, mechanical, \$100; Bent Tree, Oriental, electric, \$100; Streamline, Oriental, new, \$1,304.04

Oct. 29, Hope Clinic, Bayboro, gas, \$50

Oct 30, Nikki Kurdys, Oriental, mechanical, \$100

Oct. 31, Pamlico Community College, Bayboro, mechanical, \$100; Oriental Consortium, Oriental, mechanical, \$162; Daniel Greeley, Minnesott Beach, addition/porch, \$114; Joshua Bell, Merritt, electrical, \$150

Nov. 3, Betty Hill, Arapahoe, plumbing, \$50; Roy & Sheila Ray, New Bern, CAMA, \$137.75; Bill Tipton, Bayboro, shed, \$130.24; American Tower, Oriental, remodel/build/electrical, \$50; Lucinda Day, Merritt, set up, \$235

Nov. 4, George Tucker, Oriental, mechanical, \$100; Dustin Turnage, Bayboro, mechanical, \$204.56; Thomas Mattocks, Oriental, electrical, \$50; Carrie GRegory, Arapahoe, mechanical, \$100; Steven Yochum, Oriental, new, \$1,766.16; Graham Carroll, Grantsboro, electrical, \$100

Nov. 5, Maher Construction, New Bern, new, \$1,446.52; Streamline, Minnesott Beach, new, \$1,432.36; Tim Mayo, Oriental, deck, \$75.60

Nov. 6, Theodore Arndt, Oriental, modular, \$796.12; William Olah, Grantsboro, new, \$1,377.64

Nov. 7, Brandi Robertson, Grantsboro, electrical, \$57.68

Nov. 10, William Jackson, Oriental, CAMA, \$153.84; Robert & Rosa Shepard, Oriental, new, \$1,805.06; Jesse & Teresa Cahoon, Oriental, electrical, \$50

Nov. 13, John McGovern, Oriental, build/repair, \$50; Patricia Page, Oriental, solar, \$195; Doug Anderson, Minnesott Beach, garage, \$262.24; Jeffery Hedges, New Bern, new, \$1,575.80

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

Sept. 10, Trustee’s Deed; PIN D061-124; 0.92 AC Halls Creek Rd PCA 38-6 from LLG Trustee LLC/TR, Linda Bennett to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, \$161

Sept. 10, One Tract Metes & Bounds Janiero Rd Arapahoe from Leonard R. Vinson, Jr., Tammie Holland Vinson to Leonard Rose Vinson, Jr., Leonard R. Vinson, Jr./TR, Leonard Rose Vinson, Jr. Revocable Trust, \$0

Sept. 10, 3.75 AC E/S NC Hwy 306 (Formerly Pamlico or Sandhill Rd) from Myra Harrington Blue to Myra Harrington Hardison,\$0

Sept. 11, PIN G042-42; 10 AC Tract see instrument; 0.17 AC Map in DB 271/709 from Mark Tyndall, Jammie Tyndall to Cassandra Nicole Thornton, Thomas Garrett Thornton, \$140

Sept. 11, PIN H091-136 & H091-13; Lot One: N/S Dawson Creek Part LL Wise Map DB 296/453; Lot Two: Tract 1 9545.9 Sq Ft, Tract 2 863.1 Sq Ft Camp Jo Jane Map DB 444/845 from Kenneth Anderson Talton, Kenneth Talton to William Michael Talton, \$1,556

Sept. 11, Creek Pointe Lot: 3 Section I PCA 46-5; Creek Pointe Lot: 4 Section I PCA 46-5 from Kathleen Snow/TR, Kathleen Snow, Kathleen Snow Revocable Trust to Charles Evan Williams, Natasha Scovill Williams, \$1,950

Sept. 11, Indian Bluff Lot: 20 Section I MB 8/15 Wilson Cir Arapahoe PIN F094-1-20 from Seth Monroe Furr, Seth M. Furr to Lynn Furr, \$0

Sept. 11, Cutter Bay Lot: 17 4.96 AC PCB 16-5 & PCB 13-9, Cutter Bay Lot: 80 3.28 AC PCB 16-17 & PCB 13-9, PIN H042-70-17 & H-42-70-80 from Cutter Bay LLC to Jorge Sebastian Merino Herrera, Jorge Sebastian Merino Herrera, Consuelo Yesenia Felix De Merino, Consuelo Yesenia Feliz De Merino, \$500

Sept. 11, Deed of Correction; One Tract SW/S Camp Creek Oriental; Map DB 495/500 from Donna Ricci to Mary Beth Morgan Carlson, \$0

Sept. 11, PIN E041-23, E041-23-A & E041-16; 0.266 AC Tract & 0.30 AC Tract PCB 4-19 from Flockhart Investments, LLC, McNally Flockhart, LLC to Motion Community Church, \$0

Sept. 11, Oriental West Unit: 10 Building B & Boat Slip 12 CB 1/33 & CB 1/59 from Robert C. Pugh to Robert C. Pugh, Tracy L. Vail, \$0

Sept. 11, Cabin Creek Section One Amendment One Lot: 14 PCA 881-0 & PCA 136-7 from Martha Jo Campbell, C. Blake Campbell/ AIF to Connie E. Horton, William Jeffrey Horton, \$958

Sept. 11, 72.71 AC Both Sides Folly Public Rd (SR 1324) from Don Lee Jones, Linda Jones, Buck H. Jones, Kelly C. Jones, Dennis Bryan Jones, Christopher R. Jones to Four J’s of Pamlico, LLC, \$0

Sept. 12, Quitclaim Deed; 33,780 Sq Ft Tract SR 1348 & SR 1347 (Old Bay River Rd) Map DB 381/774 from Amanda G. Ensley, Amanda Ensley to Amanda G. Ensley, Joseph W. Avery, \$0

Sept. 12, Quitclaim Deed; PIN H04-200; One Tract Metes & Bounds Stonewall from Marvin Slade to Marvin B. Slade, Jr., \$0

Sept. 12, Connor Lot: 8 Section 2 PCA 105-6; Connor Lot: 9 Section 2 PCA 105-6; Connor Lot: 10 Section 2 PCA 105-6 Quit-claim Deed; Interest from Michael Ray Bright, Sr., Michael Ray Bright, Michael R. Bright, Marie McClure Bright, Sandra Marie Bright, Sandra M. Bright to Michael Ray Bright, Jr./TR, The Michael Ray Bright, Sr. and Marie McClure Bright Irrevocable Trust, Michael Ray Bright, Sr., Marie McClure Bright, \$0

Sept. 12, Connor Lot: 8 Section 2 PCA 105-6; Connor Lot: 9 Section 2 PCA 105-6; Connor Lot: 10 Section 2 PCA 105-6, Quit-claim Deed; Life EState from Michael Ray Bright, Sr., Michael Ray Bright, Michael R. Bright, Marie McClure Bright, Sandra

Marie Bright, Sandra M. Bright to Michael Ray Bright, Sr./TR, Michael Ray Bright, Jr., Marie McClure Bright/TR, The Michael Ray Bright, Jr. Revocable Trust, \$0

Sept. 12, PIN I043-78; 24E000191-680; 36, 950 Sq Ft Tempe Gut Rd MB 9/7 from April G. Major/EXR, Terry R. Garner/EST, April G. Major, David Christopher Major, Jason Roger Garner, Leah Reynolds Garner to Jonathan K. Skinner, Misty M. Skinner, \$1,160

Sept. 12, Kennels Beach Estates Lot: 3 PCA 84-3, Kennels Beach Estates Lot: 4 PCA 84-3, Kennels Beach Estates Lot: 8 PCA 84-3 from Kennels Beach, Inc. to Jerry Burton, \$76

Sept. 12, Quitclaim Deed; 2,809 Sq Ft Tract PCA 131-10 from Thomas Earl Lupton, Sr., Jenny Marie Lupton to Christopher C. Machle, Marie W. Machle, \$0

Sept. 12, Mill Creek Lot: 350 Arlington Place Phase II PCA 164-2 from William L. Boddie, Kimberly W. Boddie to Douglas E. Anderon, \$150

Sept. 15, Windward Views Unit: C-1 CB 1/76 from Christopher Edward Mullins, Christopher E. Mullins, Kimberly Allaire Mullins, Kimberly A. Mullins to Barbara Miller, \$750

Sept. 15, Neuse Heights Lot: 25 Map in DB 141/274 from Marc P. Kaplan, Lynne N. Kaplan to Christopher Mullins, Kimberly Mullins, \$1,060

Sept. 16, Deed of Correction DB 746/382; 3.75 Ac E/S NC Hwy 306 (formerly Pamlico or Sandhill Rd) from Myra Harrington Hardison, Myra Harrington Blue to Myra Harrington Hardison, \$0

Sept. 16, Timber Deed; PINS G08-74 & G08-75; See Instrument from Lois L. Davis, William E. Davis to Superior Land and Timber Corporation, \$25

Sept. 16, Timber Deed; 100 AC S/S Vandemere Creek N/O NC Hwy 307 MB 5/86; PCA 76-8 from Judy H. Thaanum to Superior Land and Timber Corporation, \$110

Sept. 16, PIN I042-1; 1.25 AC Tract NC Hwy 304; Swan Corner Rd Bayboro from Christian Lloyd Smith, Christian Smith to GOKCE Capital LLC, \$70

Sept. 17, Dogwood Landing Lot: 10 PCA 22-10; Map in DB 462/175 from Rental Up, LLC to Carolyn Jones, Bruce Jones, \$58

Sept. 17, Cottages at China Grove Unit: 2 CB 1/106 PIN H094-93-C2 from Jonathan Miller Richman, Elizabeth Stauffer Richman, Elizabeth S. Richman, Jonathan Miller Richman/TR, Elizabeth Stauffer Richman/TR, Elizabeth S. Richman/TR, Richman Family Trust to Jonathan Miller Richman/ TR, Elizabeth Stauffer Richman/ TR, Richman Family Trust, \$0

Sept. 17, One Tract N/S Neuse River, S/S South Ave & W/S Neuse St Oriental PCB 20-18 from James Franklin Roe, Jr., Jennifer G. Roe to Scott Warren Hadley, Patricia Jamerson Hadley, \$2,400

Sept. 17, Tutton Lot: 3 10.36 AC N/S Paul J. Daniels Rd from Elizabeth S. Hancock, Elizabeth S. Harris to Elizabeth S. Hancock, Jimmy Louis Hancock, \$0

Sept. 18, Commissioner’s Deed; PIN M011-103; 1/6 AC E/S Watson Ave (SR 1236) Lowland from Mark B. Bardill/COMR, Jody Glenn Tinney, Citimortgage, Inc., Pamlico County to Kevin M. Lewis, \$11

Sept. 18, Water’s Edge Lot: 23 PCA 67-1 Commissioner’s Deed PIN K07-19-23 from Mark B. Bardill/COMR, NCBF, Inc., Tri Pointe Holdings, Inc., Water’s Edge Homeowners Association, Inc., Pamlico County to Mark Vaughn, \$17

Sept. 18, PIN G041-88; One Tract NC Hwy 55 & Ben McCotter Rd (SR 1351) MB 1A/151 & MB5/42 from Chester L. Scott, Francine Scott to Kimberly Dawn Smith, \$570

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AROUND THE COUNTY

Grantsboro Jeff Roberts, *Correspondent*

Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening, Pamlico County.

Depending on when you’re reading this, the weather may be doing what it so often does here on a quiet morning with fog lifting off the fields, a warm afternoon breeze moving through the pines, or an evening settling in just slow enough to make you pause. These are the moments that remind us why this place feels like home, and why its stories matter.

Today, I want to take a short step back from current happenings and return to something I wrote about when I first started the history woven into the everyday places we pass without thinking. And few places embody that better than Grantsboro, sitting right at the crossroads of Highway 55 and Highway 306.

Long before traffic lights and road signs, this intersection served as a natural meeting point. Roads don’t appear by accident; they follow need, movement, and community. Grantsboro grew because people needed a place to gather to trade, to worship, to learn, and to build lives rooted in the land around them.

Originally known as Grant’s Mills, the area took its early name from the Grant family, whose mill became a focal point for local farmers. Mills were more than machinery; they were social centers where news was exchanged, problems were solved, and neighbors leaned on one another. Over time, Grant’s Mills evolved into Grantsboro, a name that stuck as the community grew beyond its earliest function.

Grantsboro became home to stores, churches, and schools that shaped generations. Nearby, family names Grant, Dixon, Brinson, Sumrell, and Paul, Cahoon, Reel among many others became part of the fabric of daily life, passed down through land deeds, headstones, and stories told on front porches.

The crossroads of 55 and 306 brought opportunity. Travelers passed through, goods moved in and out, and Grantsboro quietly became a connector between inland farms and coastal waters. Fishing families, farmers, and tradesmen all intersected here, each leaving a mark that doesn’t always show up in textbooks but lives on in memory.



Like many small towns, Grantsboro has changed. Some buildings are gone, others repurposed, and some are holding on through sheer stubbornness much like the people who built them. But the bones of the place remain. You can still feel it if you slow down: the sense that this town has seen hardship, resilience, and pride in equal measure.

History isn’t just something preserved behind glass. It’s in the routes we drive, the names we recognize, and the way communities like Grantsboro continue to matter even as the world speeds up around them. When we talk about where Pamlico County is going, it helps to remember where it stood right there at a crossroads, choosing connection over isolation.

As always, these stories aren’t finished. They live on in the people who still call Grantsboro home, and in those who pass through without realizing how much history they’re crossing.

Until next time stay safe, take a moment to look around, and remember that even the quietest places have something to say

Pamlico Betty Jo Rodgers, *Correspondent*

The Stonewall Methodist Women met for their annual Christmas meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 2025. There was a little business and a lot of fun and fellowship. As always, Beth Wood provided us with a neat way to have our gift exchange. Joann Kelleher and I commented we had so much fun, we forgot to take pictures. Oh well, the memories are priceless.

The Pamlico Middle School band concert had to be postponed, so put it on your calendar for Wednesday night, December 17, 2025 at 7:00pm. the Pamlico County High School Holiday Band Concert was a wonderful success. Jim Durham, Director of Bands, is to be commended for the fine work he does with our students. There were performances by the Concert Band, the Jazz band, the Trumpet Ensemble, the Saxophone Ensemble, and the Flute Ensemble. Senior members who will graduate this year are Lily McGowan, David Mewborn, Z’rya Squires, and Brianna Young. They will be missed.

As always, The Spirit of Christmas in Oriental was a big success. I know the children really enjoyed the parade because some told me about it. It was not as cold as the weather will be this week. I woke up to 20 degrees outside Monday, brrrrr.....cold.

Vandemere Sandra Snipes, *Correspondent*

Greetings from Vandemere! Our waterfront park is glowing with white and colorful lights, anchors are dressed with garland, and holiday flags line the streets of Town. Most importantly, our community is filled with holiday spirit as neighbors came together to celebrate the season.

On Friday, December 6, a little rain didn’t stop our annual tree-lighting celebration—we simply moved the festivities indoors! The Pamlico County High School Band set the tone for a joyful evening, and the Saint Peter’s Missionary Church Choir filled the room with peace and faith through their strong, beautiful voices that truly touched our hearts.



S’mores, Christmas carols, and the hard work of the Mayoral Elves handing out gifts to the children made the night especially memorable.

The celebration continued on December 8 with our Community Potluck—and it did not disappoint! Vandemere truly has some of the best chefs around. The games, fellowship, and the wonderful music of Jasper Voliva singing and playing guitar made for a perfect afternoon.

Now it’s time to enjoy all that the rest of the holiday season has to offer. I hope this season brings you joy and peace as you share special moments with your loved ones.

Happy Holidays—and come see what Vandemere is all about at www.vandemerenc.com.



The typical small business may be even smaller than many consumers recognize. According to the 2022 Annual Business Survey from the U.S. Census Bureau, 49 percent of small employer firms with fewer than 500 workers have between one and four employees. An additional 16 percent of such firms have between five and nine employees. Such data indicates that nearly two-thirds of all small businesses feature nine or fewer employees. That might surprise many consumers, as might the findings regarding the nature of small businesses in relation to ownership. Though it’s common to view small businesses as “mom and pop” operations, just 10 percent of small businesses in the United States were jointly owned and operated equally by spouses in 2021.

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THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE HOME...

... THE CHRISTMAS TREE FAINTED

Photo by: Brian Getty/Unsplash.com

FRED A. ANDERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Shining Bright: FAA Students Explore Music, Careers,
and Community Connections

Lions Clubs Provide Free Vision
Screenings for FAA Students



Fred A. Anderson Elementary extends heartfelt appreciation to the Pamlico County Lions Club and partnering organizations for providing free vision screenings to students.. Supported by the New Bern and Twin Rivers Lions Clubs and assisted by volunteers from the Aurora Lions Club, Kinston Host Lions Club, Goldsboro Downtown Lions Club, Twin Rivers Lions Club, and NC Lions District 31N KidSight Mobile Screening Coordinator Nan Bejian, the team served 119 students in a single day.

These screenings play an essential role in early vision detection, helping support student success both inside and outside the classroom. FAA is deeply grateful for the Lions Clubs’ dedication and continued partnership, which ensures that All Stars are quite literally seeing their future more clearly.

Laptops become possessed with slowness when they see that you are in a hurry. –Unknown

Careers on Wheels Event Inspires FAA Students with
Hands-On Career Exploration



Careers on Wheels was a tremendous success at Fred A. Anderson Elementary, giving students an exciting opportunity to explore the world of work in a hands-on, memorable way. In collaboration with the district’s Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, fourth- and fifth-grade All Stars met professionals from across Pamlico County, asked thoughtful questions, and learned how various careers keep our community running.

Students loved exploring vehicles, tools, and equipment up close while learning directly from experts in fields ranging from wildlife conservation to public safety, transportation, energy, and agriculture.

FAA extends its sincere thanks to the community partners who made this event possible: Hardison Tire Company, Meherrin Ag, NC Wildlife, Pamlico County Sheriff’s Department, Sevenski Trucking, Inc., and Tideland EMC.

Their time, generosity, and willingness to engage with students helped inspire future leaders and expand students’ understanding of the many career opportunities available in their community.

FAA Students Complete Six-Week Ukulele Unit with
Impressive Performances



Fourth- and fifth-grade students at Fred A. Anderson Elementary recently wrapped up a six-week ukulele unit in music class, showcasing both creativity and skill. During the unit, students learned the parts of the ukulele, mastered five chords, practiced multiple strumming patterns, and performed a variety of songs. They also learned to read lead sheets and even composed their own chord progressions and strum patterns.

Fifth graders expanded their musicianship by learning to read tablature, allowing them to play individual notes and

perform melodies. For their final assessment, small groups selected a song they had never studied and were given just ten minutes to learn, practice, and perform it—singing and playing together. Every student rose to the challenge and demonstrated strong musical growth.

Enthusiasm is high as students look ahead to learning additional instruments this spring. FAA extends special thanks to the Oriental Women’s Club, whose grant last year provided additional ukuleles, ensuring every student had their own instrument in class.



Peanut butter may not seem like a typical “diet” food when reading a nutrition label. After all, peanut butter is high in calories and fat, even for a small portion size of a tablespoon or two. However, many health experts point to peanut butter (in moderation) as a smart option. According to Avery Zenker, R.D., with Everflex Fitness, peanut butter contains healthy unsaturated fats, fiber, protein, and essential vitamins and minerals. It’s also widely available and generally affordable. Certain studies suggest that eating peanut butter can help a person feel full longer, stabilize blood sugar levels and boost metabolism. It’s best to choose natural, unsweetened peanut butter over processed versions. Keep in mind that overeating peanut butter can contribute to weight gain.

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An aerial photograph of a marina or beach area. There are green trees, a sandy beach, and a body of water. A small building is visible on the shore.

Pamlico Vistas

vista /vis-ta/ n / : a distant view through or along an avenue or opening



Seafarer Road - Arapahoe

Supporting small businesses ensures more money stays in the communities those businesses serve. The U.S. Small Business Administration says \$48 out of every \$100 spent at a small business stays in the community. On the flip side, when a person spends \$100 at a big-box store or a national chain, only \$14 remains in the community. Local businesses are more likely to utilize other local businesses, such as banks, service providers and even farms. Small businesses also pay employees, many of whom are local and shop local, thereby keeping even more dollars in their communities.

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

Parents recognize the important role fun plays in a happy childhood, but finding time to laugh and have a good time is important for adults as well. Unfortunately, that lesson seems to have been lost on modern adults. A recent survey from the American Psychological Association found that 76 percent of adults felt stress from politics, race relations, violence, and inflation. Such stress has had an adverse effect on respondents' health, contributing to episodes of headache, fatigue and depression, among other things. According to the nonprofit HelpGuide.org, adult play can help to alleviate stress, improve brain function, boost creativity, and strengthen relationships. Sharing laughter and fun with others can encourage empathy, build trust and foster intimacy with others.

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