


The mission of the Pamlico Musical Society is to present diverse musical experiences that enrich the quality of life in our community.

Glaucoma Awareness Month

Health & Wellness on page A7



Vol. 58 No.03, 12 Pages

# The Pamlico News

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

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## It's Girl Scout Cookie Time

by: Hiram Lupton



As the calendar rolls to mid-January, many of us have already given up on those New Year's resolutions, particularly those which may involve eating and diet. After all, a little snack never hurt anyone. If you haven't already given up, now may be the best time to, because once again it is Girl Scout Cookie season. The young ladies of Pamlico County Troop 4131 are ready to be your cookie supplier. They were out and about last weekend and will be selling your favorites at cookie booths until the first of March.

### January

24th- Pamlico County Library 11 to 2  
24th- Grantsboro VFD 11 to 3  
25th- Grantsboro VFD 11 to 2  
25th-Dollar General (Alliance) 11 to 2  
31st- Piggly Wiggly 11 to 3

### February

1st- Dollar General (Alliance) 11 to 3  
7th- Piggly Wiggly 11 to 3  
8th-Piggly Wiggly 11 to 2  
14th- Library 10 to 2  
15th- Dollar General (Alliance) 11 to 3  
21st- Piggly Wiggly 11 to 2  
22nd- Piggly Wiggly 10 to 2  
28th- Library 10 to 2

### March

1st- Dollar General (Alliance) 11 to 2

Money from cookie sales not only goes to help out girl scout troops but it is much more than that. Selling cookies help the girls to learn the basics of running a business like customer relations, bookkeeping, and inventory control. Stop by and see these girls and by a box or two. You can always restart that diet when cookie season is over.



## Cat & Kitten Fostering Workshop

Have you ever wanted to foster a cat or kitten but just needed a bit of guidance? Join us on Saturday, February 7 at 11am at the Pamlico County Library at 13896 NC Highway 55 in Alliance. Sponsored by the Pamlico Animal Welfare Society, you will learn the basics, and then some, about fostering one or more cats, kittens or a mama and her babies. We will give you lots of tips and guidance and help prepare you to save lives! No commitment and no pressure - our goal is to educate you and hopefully encourage more people to foster. And we welcome folks from other rescues and their volunteers - saving lives takes and entire community! Please RSVP to mehiatt@gmail.com (just for planning purposes.)127

## Road Improvement Projects on Tap for 2026

by: Hiram Lupton

A pair of projects to improve Pamlico County roads have been approved and funded by the North Carolina Department of Transportation for 2026 and now only await for the contractors to begin. The five lanes of NC 55 are the major link from Pamlico County to neighboring Craven County and a large portion of it is now scheduled to be resurfaced this year. The project will stretch from inside Craven County near the Town of Bridgeton to NC 55's intersection with NC 306 in Grantsboro. Hopefully this project will alleviate the dips and bumps along the route. The other project involves State Road 1324, also known as Florence Road. This project will widen both lanes of the road. Both of these projects will most likely cause some minor traffic delays when they commence due to lane closures. The bids for these projects have been awarded, and specific start dates will be announced by the contractors. One other NCDOT project that was originally scheduled to start this summer now looks to be delayed. The Dawson Creek Bridge replacement has been put on hold awaiting a final environmental impact study. The start date on that project is now unknown.



## America250 North Carolina – First in Freedom

by: Hiram Lupton

As one of the thirteen original colonies, North Carolina played a pivotal role in the American Revolution and two events in our state that occurred leading up to the Declaration of Independence exemplified this. These events have been deemed important enough to be immortalized on the North Carolina state flag. The first action is shrouded in a bit of controversy. On May 20, 1775, the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence was alleged to have been signed by a committee of citizens meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina. It supposedly was the first document of its kind signed by a gathering of citizen representatives in the colonies declaring their independence from British rule. I use the word “alleged” because the original document was said to have been destroyed in a fire and a reproduction wasn't published until 1819, written from testimonials from several attendees of the meeting. What is not in contention is another resolution that was produced at this meeting, known as the Mecklenburg resolves. It is a set of resolutions adopted on May 31, 1775, asserting that British authority over the colonies was annulled. The 20-point document asserted the colonies right to self-rule as well as the establishment of governing committees and local courts. It also called for the arming of militias. Nearly a year later, on April 12, 1776, another important resolution was passed in our state by North Carolina's Provincial Congress. Known as the Halifax Resolves, because the State Colonial Congress was meeting in the town of Halifax. The resolution was unanimously passed by all 83 delegates present at the meet-



ing and in effect urged all the delegates meeting in Philadelphia at the Continental Congress to declare independence from Great Britain. It officially empowered North Carolina's three representatives to join with the other 12 colonies to free themselves from British rule, which they did with signing the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. The Halifax Resolves was the first official action in the colonies to expressly declare independence from Great Britain. Both May 20, 1775 and April 12, 1776 appear prominently on the North Carolina state flag. In addition, one of the options for auto license tags in North Carolina also shows these dates along with the words “First in Freedom” displayed at the top.



SPORTS on Page 5

The always awesome Hurricane cheerleaders

## Reverend Rex Horne to Retire

Submitted by: Ben Casey



On December 29, 2025, Evelyn Paul, Board Chair of Silver Hill Christian Church in Grantsboro, announced the retirement of Reverend Rex Horne who served as the church's minister for 14 years. This retirement marked Horne's having served in a ministerial role for 62 years.

Prior to serving at Silver Hill, Horne had retired as the Regional Minister of the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, North Carolina after holding that position for 7 years. Nine years into retirement he accepted the call to serve Silver Hill Christian Church in 2011.

A New Bern native but reared in Kinston, Horne graduated from Atlantic Christian College (now Barton College) in Wilson, NC in 1964 and Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, KY in 1967. He served churches in Alabama and in Charlotte, NC before serving in general ministry for the Pension Fund of the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, headquartered in Indianapolis, IN. He accepted the call to be Regional Minister of the Christian Church in NC in 1995 serving in that position until his first retirement in 2002.

Continued on Page A3



## UNC Gillings School to join Imagine Pamlico's efforts to improve access to health, wellness

BAYBORO, NC – Imagine Pamlico, the innovative nonprofit working to tackle serious healthcare deficiencies in Pamlico County, has partnered with UNC's nationally ranked Gillings School of Global Public Health.

Gillings School leaders agreed last week in a meeting with Imagine Pamlico's Health and Wellness Taskforce to collaborate on aspects of the group's broad plan to create a multidimensional solution to the growing regional healthcare crisis. Gillings committed to providing resources to help develop a metrics system to guide the larger project, and to help create a “wellness team” to confront the top health challenges in the county. The Taskforce has chosen for its initial focus, hypertension and behavioral health (anxiety/depression and addiction). Recent community surveys identified these health issues, as well as diabetes and obesity, as the major health problems facing citizens.

“The problems are large, and we are both small,” said Nancy Messonnier, MD, Dean of the Gillings School, who attended the meeting. “But I'm optimistic.” Messonnier committed to providing both student and faculty assistance, and asked, “How can

Continued on Page A7

### LIKELY WEATHER OVER THE WEEKEND



Saturday, January 24th **36°Hi** Rain and snow showers in the morning



Sunday, January 25th **36 °Hi** Freezing rain ...changing to light rain



8 0 4 8 7 9 3 1 2 0 6 ;

# TURNAGE

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# Spoil your sweetie – or even yourself – at Pamlico Community College

Submitted by Pamlico Community College

*It's time to spoil your sweetie – or treat yourself!*

Pamlico Community College's Esthetics and Cosmetology programs are once again teaming up to offer their popular Valentine's gift package on Feb. 10, 11 and 12.

This pampering package includes a 30-minute strawberry and chocolate facial performed by Esthetics students, along with an updo or hairstyling service by Cosmetology students.

It's the perfect Valentine's Day gift for you or someone you love — a chance to sit back, relax, and enjoy a refreshing, feel-good pampering session.

Important: Participants must arrive with freshly shampooed and dried hair.

Appointments are required. The cost for the package is \$16. Services will be provided at the PCC Cosmetology Building off N.C. 55 (Main Street) in Bayboro.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 252-249-1851, ext. 3130.

*Happy Valentine's Day from PCC!*



Pamlico Community College students are offering a special Valentine's-themed facial and hairstyling package Feb. 10, 11 and 12. Appointments are required. Contributed photo

*Valentine's Day* is a celebration of relationships and love for people across the globe. Although Valentine's Day is widely celebrated across North America and Europe, the holiday also is celebrated in parts of Asia and Latin America. The Philippines is famous for mass weddings on

Valentine's Day. Days devoted to love also are celebrated outside of February in different countries. Brazil celebrates Día dos Namorados (Lover's Day) in June, while Colombia celebrates Día del Amor y la Amistad (Day of Love and Friendship) in September.

# PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

## Pamlico County Library Business Center

Join fellow community members in accessing tools and resources designed to enhance your skills, launch your business, and discover new career paths.

In collaboration with :

- NCWorks,
- Small Business Center,
- Pamlico Community College
- NC Vocational Rehabilitation Services

**Pamlico Library is here to provide expert support, host engaging workshops, and create networking opportunities that empower you on your journey.**

MyCPRL.org/pathway

### Land/Home Sales Property Management Appraisals Development

### Agent of the Week

**Gregory Green**  
Broker-

*Here's what one of Gregory's customers had to say...*

I am writing to say how pleased I was with Gregory. I am so impressed by his performance listing multiple lots and achieving two sales in quick order. His enthusiasm is contagious and is so appreciated by me that I would not hesitate to recommend Gregory to my friends and associates. Gregory – you are a welcome addition to Mariner Realty's staff.

Susan, NJ

**ORIENTAL** – Spectacular waterfront views of Smith & Green Creeks from first floor unit at Oriental West Condos. B-7 is a **2BR/2BA** unit w/ a 40' x 16' boat slip w/5' controlling water depth. **OFFERED AT \$339,000**

**ORIENTAL** – Wide-water views of Smith & Green Creeks from Oriental West Condos unit A-1. Fully furnished, first floor unit, **2BR/2BA**, w/deep-water deeded boat slip. **OFFERED AT \$335,000**

**MERRIT** – 1.0 acre fully-fenced waterfront home, privacy, 42' boat dock on protected, deep-water, private boat ramp and multiple storage & work shop buildings in Paradise Shores on Buxton Creek. **2BR/1BA** , 1,440 hsf on pilings, concrete carport/storage under house. Long-life & low maintenance metal roof. **OFFERED AT \$365,000**

**ORIENTAL** – **3BR/2.5BA** w/FROG is a Stuart Hardy built house nestled on wooded Sail/Loft lot. Not in a Federally-designated Flood Zone. Two-garage attached garage, detached 1-car garage/workshop, studio / sunroom, screened porch overlooks pristine back yard with handicap ramp. **OFFERED AT \$425,000**

**ORIENTAL** – **3BR/2.5BA** open floor plan, ideal for family gatherings or entertaining on 3 acres. Offers a great balance of space and tranquility. Property will be sold as is. **OFFERED AT \$425,500**

**MERRITT** – Waterfront **3BR/2BA** with deep water deeded boat slip on Ball Creek. Wide water views, 2.27 acres, 1,919 sf, metal roof, zoned HVAC, & LP Smartside exterior for rot-resistant long-life durability. Gas log fireplace in living room, & Widow's Walk with views of the Pamlico Sound. **OFFERED AT \$ 625,000**

See all Listings & Visual Tours at [www.orientalncwaterfront.com](http://www.orientalncwaterfront.com)  
1-800-347-8246 • 252-249-1014  
Or contact Allen Propst  
252-671-4644  
704 Broad St, PO Box 750, Oriental, NC 28571



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

by: Hiram Lupton

- January 21st – Today is Squirrel Appreciation Day. I'd appreciate it if they quit steal-ing my nuts.
- January 22nd – Today is National Blonde Brownie Day. What about brunette brown-ies and redheaded brownies?
- January 23rd – Today is National Pie Day. Coconut Crème for me.
- January 24th – Today is National Peanut Butter Day.
- January 25th - Today is National Irish Coffee Day.
- January 26th – Today is National Bubble Wrap Day. Have a popping good time.
- January 27th – Today is National Chocolate Cake Day.

Birthdays This Week

- January 22nd – 1949, Actor and musician John Belushi
- January 22nd – 1965, Actress Diane Lane
- January 23rd – 1737, American patriot John Hancock
- January 23rd – 1964, Actress Mariska Hargitay
- January 24th – 1943, Actress Sharon Tate
- January 25th – 1981, Singer Alicia Keys
- January 26th – 1955, Musician Eddie Van Halen
- January 26th – 1961, Hockey Hall-of-Famer Wayne Gretzky



John was a force of nature, leaving a trail of laughter and chaos in his wake.

■ Continued from page A1

Reverend Rex Horne to Retire

Horne recalled that the embryo for his passion to be a minister was first conceived by member-ship and attendance at Gordon Street Christian Church in his home town of Kinston. He stated, “It was there my faith was nurtured and I was sur-rounded by Christians who I knew cared for me, my friends and all others.” He credits activities in which he participated that were sponsored by Christian churches in North Carolina, district and state gatherings, as well as summer youth camps at Camp Caroline on the Neuse River at Dawson’s Creek in Pamlico County as fostering the growth of that embryo that initiated his desire to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Horne said, “The young people and the adult leaders I came to know and love provided the inspiration and vision of how I wanted to spend my life. Little did I know where it would lead me and how it would all work out, but it is a life that I would not trade for any other.”

In reviewing that life, Horne acknowledged another powerful influence, his wife, Carol. “She was God’s blessing that kept me going for those 62 years. On the second Sunday of our marriage, I began my preaching ministry. She was there then and is still with me, thank God, every step of the way. I do not know how I could have walked this journey without her.” Carol Carawan Horne’s fam-ily was originally from Lowland.

Horne expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve in 3 different levels of church ministry, local, regional, and General Ministries. But he said, “I believe that if I had been called to a small church in Eastern North Carolina and had spent my life there, I would have been more than happy. God has been in charge of my different calls to ministry and I have trusted God to lead me. I thank God for this journey.

“I thought when I first retired, I would be retired for the rest of my life. God interrupted my first retirement and called me to Silver Hill Christian Church. God had another way to bless Carol and me. The years at Silver Hill have proven to be a ful-fillment of retirement. I can’t thank God enough.”

A member of the Silver Hill church relayed this observation.

“It is often said, ‘Once a Marine, always a Marine.’ A good Marine doesn’t have to tell you he is a Marine; he exemplifies the good charac-teristics acquired in the Corps by the way he lives. Rex has never had to announce he is a minister on the golf course, while boating with family, riding a motorcycle with friends, or simply shopping in a store. His demeanor exemplifies his passion for living and interacting with his fellow man the way Jesus taught his disciples and the whole world to interact with one another. Rex’s ministry is not over by any means.”

Silver Hill Christian Church was established in 1928. Its current sanctuary on Hwy 306 North, Grantsboro was built in the late 1940s.

A church spokesperson surmised that a nation-wide search for a new minister would not be hurried and that it would most likely include a review of recent graduates from Bright Divinity School of Texas Christian University, TCU, the flagship university of Disciples of Christ colleges and universities.

Board Chair Paul observed, “The Silver Hill church family congratulates Rex on his recent retirement. We were blessed to have our church served so faithfully throughout Rex’s tenure here by not only him, but also his wife Carol. It is with love and prayer that they are wished only the best as they embark on this new chapter in their lives.

COMMUNITY

OBITUARIES



**Robert Wade McGhee, Sr.**, affectionately known as Bobby, age 95, of New Bern, NC passed away on January 16, 2026, at Crystal Coast Hospice House in Newport. Bobby was a man of deep faith whose life was firmly rooted in his love for the Lord and his church. A devoted member of Spring Hope Free Will Baptist Church, his church family was an important and cherished part of his life. He found great joy in farming and gardening and took pride in keeping his yard neatly mowed, a simple pleasure that reflected his strong work ethic and appreciation for God’s creation. He loved his family and treasured every moment spent with them. His gentle presence, steady wisdom, witty sarcasm, and quiet love will be deeply missed. He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Mary McGhee; brother, Dupree McGhee; sons, Joseph F. McGhee, and Robert W. McGhee, Jr.; and most recently his beloved wife, Ruth “Ruthie” McGhee,

who passed away only ten days before him. Their reunion brings comfort to those left behind. He is survived by his daughter, Lillian Buttitta and husband, Chris; son, David Earl McGhee and wife, Angie; daughter-in-law, Linda Davidson; six grandchildren, James Williamson (Crystal), Justin Buttitta (Melinda), Abigail Hester (Matt), Ashley McGhee (Michael), Jason McGhee, and Eric McGhee; four step-grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. A funeral service was held Tuesday, January 20th at Daniels-Sadler Funeral Home Chapel. Private interment at Greenleaf Memorial Park. The family received friends and relatives prior to the service at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Spring Hope Free Will Baptist Church, 100 Spring Hope Church Rd., New Bern, NC 28560, honoring Bobby’s lifelong devotion to his faith and church.

Arrangements entrusted to the care of Daniels-Sadler Funeral Home & Crematory, Alliance, NC.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Why Is Pamlico County in the 1st District for the US House Race For 2026?

Last week this paper did a good job of explaining our new US House district and who is on the ballot. This letter is to explain WHY the change and how it affects our representation. First of all, 84% of North Carolinians are against Gerrymandering, which is a way of drawing districts so certain politicians are safe and will be elected year after year. As people move and there is a change in the politics of an area, the lines of districts can be redrawn to maintain a party in power. This has been done by both parties over the years. The voters don’t like it, but there is no way to change this unless we elect people who will change the process of drawing districts to be non-partisan. In 2022 the US House maps had 7 districts that favored Republicans and 7 that favored Democrats. Due to gerrymandering in 2024 the maps were redrawn so 10 districts favored Republicans and 4 favored Democrats. In 2025 President Trump asked Republican legisla-tures to redraw the maps to get more Republicans into the US House. So without input from the public or from Democrats, the NC Republican controlled legislature redrew the maps to find one more Republican seat. As a result, Pamlico County is now part of the sprawling District 1 enabling Republicans to pick up one more US House seat. In other words, we the voters do not get to choose our representatives–the politicians are rigging the system. One option for making voting districts fair has been proposed by Common Cause. They sug-gest a 15-person civilian commission made up of five Republicans, five Democrats and five Unaffiliateds. They would follow strict guidelines to make districts non-partisan and to keep similar communities together. We should be asking our candidates if they would support this proposal and then hold them accountable to follow through.

Kathryn Gacia, Diana Silimperi, Doug Sligh

Stand with us, Pamlico Partners for Democracy. We believe in a democratic republic where the rule of law and the constitution guide our citizenry. [pamlicopartnersfordemocracy@gmail.com](mailto:pamlicopartnersfordemocracy@gmail.com)



FREE Tax Readiness Seminar

The Pamlico County Chamber of Commerce presents a FREE Tax Season Readiness Seminar on Friday, January 23rd at 9:30am at the Pamlico County Public Library. Know the changes in the laws for business owners and individuals with presenter Andy Darnell, a CPA from Carr, Riggs & Ingram with over 16 years of experience in the accounting field.

Horoscopes



**ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20**  
Your attention is focused on finances and deeper connections, Aries. This is the week to speak honestly about budgets, debts or your investments with a partner.



**TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21**  
Taurus, the spotlight is shining on your relationships, whether in love or busi-ness. Expect some meaningful con-versations that define your approach going forward.



**GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21**  
Your focus turns to work and wellness as part of your daily routine this week, Gemini. You may feel a strong urge to get more organized and capitalize on resolutions made.



**CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22**  
Your inner child is leading the way for the week, Cancer. Spend time on hob-bies, connect with children or plan a memorable date night. Don't be afraid to take a creative risk.



**LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23**  
Leo, your energies are best spent on your home and family life right now. You may be dealing with a domestic project, a renovation or sorting out a matter with a relative.



**VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22**  
Communication is your strongest tool this week, Virgo. With ideas flowing, you may be up to signing an agree-ment or running errands. You may want to reconnect with an old friend.



**LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23**  
Libra, review your income streams and spending habits to give you a clear picture for the new year. This isn't about cutting things out, but about understanding what you value.



**SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22**  
It is your time to shine and redefine yourself, Scorpio. With cosmic energy focused your way, you have the drive and the focus to launch a personal project or make a major change.



**SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21**  
Take some necessary steps back for quiet work and rest, Sagittarius. This week favors wrapping up older projects so you can think more clearly. Don't overschedule yourself.



**CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20**  
Capricorn, social activities and future goals take center stage right now. It might be wise to start networking or join a new group that will open you up to different people.



**AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18**  
This is an important period for your career, Aquarius. If you've been mulling over making a move, now is the time to get a jump on it. Your professional achievements are getting noticed.



**PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20**  
Pisces, finalize plans for a trip or a new pursuit, such as returning to school. Seek experiences that will broaden your horizons. Adventure beckons you this week.

AQUARIUS Traits & Overview

*Aquarius is the eleventh sign of the zodiac, and Aquarians are the perfect representatives for the Age of Aquarius. Those born under this horoscope sign have the social conscience needed to carry us into the new millennium. Those of the Aquarius zodiac sign are human-itarian, philanthropic, and keenly interested in making the world a better place. Along those lines, they'd like to make the world work better, which is why they focus much of their energy on our social institutions and how they work (or don't work).*

*Aquarians are visionaries, progressive souls who love to spend time thinking about how things can be better. They are also quick to engage others in this process, which is why they have so many friends and acquaintances. Making the world a better place is a collaborative effort for Aquarians.*

FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY

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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# FINANCIAL FOCUS

## New tax laws for 2026 that you should know



Dan M. Roberts

The new year brings more than resolutions and fresh starts; it also ushers in several tax changes that could affect your wallet. Whether you're saving for retirement, funding your child's education or supporting your favorite charity, here's are a few things you need to know about the tax landscape in 2026.

**More room to save for retirement and health-care.** There's good news for savers: Contribution limits for retirement accounts are going up. If you're under 50, you can now contribute up to \$7,500 to an IRA, which is up from \$7,000 in 2025. Those 50 and older can contribute an additional \$1,100, for a total of \$8,600.

The limits for 401(k), 403(b) and governmental 457(b) plans are also increasing, with workers younger than 50 able to defer up to \$24,500. Visit IRS.gov and search "401k limit increases" for an article outlining the details.

Health savings account limits are rising too. In 2026, individual coverage increased to \$4,400 and family coverage to \$8,750. If you are age 55 or older and are not enrolled in Medicare, you can contribute an additional \$1,000 as a catch-up contribution.

The start of the year is an ideal time to review your contributions and consider increasing them, even by small amounts which can add up over time.

**A catch-up rule for high earners.** If you're 50 or older and earned more than \$150,000 last year, there's a new wrinkle in your retirement planning. You can still make catch-up contributions to your workplace retirement plan, but they must now be

Roth contributions rather than traditional pre-tax contributions. This includes 401(k), 403(b) and 457(b) plans.

While you won't get an immediate tax break, Roth contributions offer tax-free income in retirement and can provide a tax-free legacy for your heirs.

**Expanded benefits for 529 education plans.** Families using 529 plans to cover K-12 expenses will see the annual federal distribution limit double from \$10,000 to \$20,000 per student. The definition of qualifying expenses has also expanded to include curriculum, books, certain tutoring expenses and testing fees.

This change provides more flexibility for families with over-funded plans and increases options for managing education costs across multiple children or beneficiaries.

**New charitable giving provisions.** The rules around charitable deductions are shifting in two directions. Taxpayers who take the standard deduction can now deduct up to \$1,000 in cash donations (\$2,000 for joint filers) to qualified organizations.

However, those who itemize deductions face a new threshold: only charitable contributions exceeding 0.5% of adjusted gross income are now deductible. Donors may want to consider bunching strategies or using donor-advised funds to maximize their tax benefits.

**Getting help.** Navigating these tax changes can be challenging, but you don't have to go it them alone. A qualified financial advisor and tax professional can help you understand how these and other changes affect your specific situation. Together, you can develop strategies to make the most of new opportunities while minimizing your tax burden.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC*

NC

COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION

Pamlico County

## Winter Garden and Landscape Chores

By: Daniel Simpson County Extension Director, Agriculture Agent



Winter is here but spring is just around the corner. Use this time to perform a few garden chores and start planning for spring planting.

One of the easiest chores to perform this time of year is soil testing. Soil testing should be conducted every 2-3 years, and provides a snapshot of your current soil fertility and pH levels. You

can pick up all the soil testing materials you will need to submit a sample at our office, and then submit that sample to the North Carolina Department of Agriculture Agronomic Division for analysis <http://www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/>. By amending your soil now, you will be prepared for spring planting.



Winter dormancy pruning can also be conducted during the next couple of months. To learn more about pruning of fruit trees, review the Extension publication "Training and Pruning Fruit Trees in N.C." at <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/training-and-pruning-fruit-trees-in-north-carolina>. You can also find several videos from Extension Tree Fruit Specialist, Dr. Mike Parker, for peach and pecan tree care through our NC State Extension YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/NCEExtension>.

Remember to hold off on heavy pruning of spring flowering shrubs like Azaleas and Camellia. Wait until they have flowered, then proceed to make those cuts. Pruning of these plants early will result in removal of flower buds and decrease your spring bloom. Summer flowering plants like Crape myrtles and evergreen shrubs can be pruned immediately. However, try not to remove more than 1/3 of the canopy of any plant during a single growing season to help maintain shape, balance, and vigor. Light, corrective pruning all year long is much easier on both you and plants and reduces the need to remove large limbs or serve pruning during winter. Winter pruning generally invigorates plants, so look out for a large flush of new growth in the spring. For specifics on when and how to make those pruning cuts, visit the NC State Extension publication "General Pruning Techniques" at <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/pdf/general-pruning-techniques/2014-09-29/general-pruning-techniques.pdf>.

Planting of trees and shrubs can be conducted almost year-round with containerized plants, but establishment is much easier when planting occurs during cooler parts of the year. With less demand for canopy growth, plants can focus energy on root development before the spring warm-up begins. Remember not to plant too deeply and encourage root growth by pruning back restricted roots systems that occur in containers. For more planting tips, review the NC State Extension video series from Dr. Barbara Fair, Extension Horticultural Specialist, at <https://horticulture.ces.ncsu.edu/horticulture-ornamentals/landscaping/>



Soil Test - Karen Neill



Soil Sample



Common Dandelion

Lastly, do not forget about those winter lawn weeds. Winter annuals and perennials are much easier to control in the fall, but we can still take action now. Most winter weeds are broad-leaf plants and can be controlled with mixtures of broadleaf herbicides like Ortho-Weed-B-Gone or Speed Zone Southern. However, cold temperatures will decrease efficacy of these products and add additional time before you notice results. Just be patient and follow the label directions. Stay away from "weed and feed" products during the dormant season. Save the fertilizer for after spring green up, as applications of nitrogen fertilizer during winter dormancy is not recommended for warm season grasses. For more information on identifying and controlling winter weeds, follow this link to the N.C. State Extension Turffiles website at <https://www.turffiles.ncsu.edu/>.

For more information on any of these subjects, please contact Daniel Simpson at 252-745-4121 or [Daniel\\_simpson@ncsu.edu](mailto:Daniel_simpson@ncsu.edu).

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SPORTS

Hurricanes Begin Conference Schedule

by: Hiram Lupton

The Pamlico County High School Basketball teams entered a new phase of their season last week as Coastal Plains Conference play began. The Hurricanes hosted East Carteret on Wednesday and it was a nice start for the Lady ‘Canes as they sunk the Mariners, 57-34. Nya Clark and Sydney Whitley-Reese led the way for Pamlico with 18 points each. In the men’s matchup, the Hurricanes and Mariners went toe to toe the entire game. The score at the half, 23-23, was indicative of how evenly matched these two teams were. The second half was much the same with East Carteret finally gaining a slight advantage near the end of the fourth quarter for a 50-45 win. Pamlico was led by Freshman Noah Gibbs with 21 points. On Friday Pamlico hit the road to Trenton to battle the Jones Senior Trojans and the Ladies won in dominating fashion, 59-19. The men once again found themselves in a tight battle before coming out on top, 82-78, evening their conference record at 1-1. This week Pamlico continues conference action with a pair of home contests. On Tuesday they host rival Northside-Pinetown while on Friday the Seahawks of Southside fly down to Bayboro.



High flying Hurricane Freshman Noah Gibbs



Pamlico’s Alex Duran (#31)

PCA Basketball

by: Hiram Lupton

Pamlico Christian Academy had a busy week last week with three game nights on tap for the Mariners. Tuesday, they hit the road to Greenville to take on Trinity Christian in a conference matchup that saw them earn a split with the Tigers. The Lady Mariners took a loss, 46-43 while the Boys picked up a nice road win, 51-46. On Thursday PCA returned home for another conference battle against the always tough Community Christian from Wilson. The Cyclones took both Varsity contests, 46-43 over the ladies and 58-36 over the boys. Finally on Friday the Mariners finished out the week by hosting the Warriors of Trinity Christian Academy from Chocowinity. Both the girls and boys Varsity squads played strong with the Ladies earning a 50-28 win while the men dominated with a 59-20 victory.



PCA’s Jasper Bowers works inside against Trinity Christian.



Lady Mariner Julia Koontz scores for PCA.

# TRAIN YOUR DOG MONTH

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trainyourdogmonth.com

International Train Your Dog Month  
A New Year’s Resolution for You and Your Dog!

When the calendar turns to January, many people intend to make a fresh start whether it be setting new goals or making a change to former schedules or habits. January also marks the 16th year of International Train Your Dog Month.

The Association of Professional Dog Trainers (now International) began their National Train Your Dog month in January 2010. The campaign has now reached international status; reaching out and educating dog owners as a reminder that dogs can benefit from a fresh start too!

Training plays an important role in a dog’s overall well-being. Early puppy socialization and training is especially important in the early months of life. Foundational skills such as leash walking, basic obedience and polite acceptance to handling and grooming can prevent behavioral changes later in life. Puppies are less likely to continue their self-rewarding behaviors - jumping, chewing, nipping - if taught positive and appropriate behaviors when they are young.

Training is not limited to youngsters - “You can’t teach an old dog new tricks” is certainly a fallacy!

Dogs of any age are capable of learning new behaviors and skills when given consistent positive guidance and reinforcement. Adopters of rescue dogs often know very little of their backgrounds, prior training or habits. Allowing the new dog time to settle into a strange environment, with unknown people, surroundings and routines takes time! The dog may need to learn (or relearn) in such cases. A professional trainer can help with this transition so the dog can feel safe and loved in his new home.

**Top reasons to train your dog include:**

- Stronger bond, better behavior in the home, more freedom (well-trained dogs earn more privileges), higher level of confidence for owner and dog, easier vet visits, less risk of flight, mental stimulation and better social skills.

Keep in mind that training is a lifelong investment - not a fix. Now is the time to make your New Year’s Resolution for you and your dog to make 2026 your best year ever!

For more information and helpful tips, please visit the APDT website: trainyourdogmonth.com.

Submitted by Alecia Williams, Merritt APDT Member  
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# Pamlico Vistas

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



Lower Goose Creek looking toward the Neuse

Photo by: Hiram Lupton



## Rotary Club of Oriental Happenings

By Jim Kellenberger & Beth Obenshain 1-14-26

On Monday evening, January 12, Warren Funk was inducted as a returning Rotarian. Four other guests attended as prospective members. The second meeting of each month has been designated as “PCFLO Show and Go Food of the Month Night” by our Community Service Chair, Barbara Stockton. Rotarians donated nearly 50 pounds of food on January 12.

Our largest fundraiser for the year, the Oriental Boat Show and Nautical Flea Market, is just around the corner. Held over three days in April (from Friday the 10th at noon to Sunday 12th at 3:00), this show is in the heart of our town along Hodges Street at the harbor. Featuring both sailing and motor vessels, this year we will showcase our incredible in-shore fishing paradise. You might even catch (pun intended) a selfie with the soon-to-be-famous “Moby Red.” More on “Moby” in later missives in this chronicle. This Boat Show helps the Rotary club raise funds for high school and community college student scholarships.



A big shoutout to all those folks who will exhibit, talk in educational seminars, buy tickets, sponsor, and be inconvenienced by our presence along Hodges Street for the better part of a week. We could not do what we do for Pamlico County without your help and patience.

You won’t be caught out in the rain or sitting on the ground with our Tent, Table, and Chair Rental program. You can even use one of our tents with full sides to hide something like a dragon (see photo), so contact our Tent Team Scheduler Extraordinaire Charles Stackhouse at (919) 920-1355. Our prices are so good that you might want to order two or three tents.

If some or all of this sounds like an organization you want to join, we have room for you. We meet most Monday evenings at 6 :00 in the back room of Brantley’s Restaurant. Contact our Membership Chair, Jim Kellenberger at (919) 621-0362 or jim-kellenberger05@gmail.com and he will help you become part of this fantastic community asset.

Until next week... Service Above Self



“And don’t think the garden loses its ecstasy in winter. It’s quiet, but the roots are down there riotous.”  
—Rumi

## Oriental Woman’s Club

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■Continued from page A1

## UNC Gillings School to join Imagine Pamlico’s efforts to improve access to health, wellness

Gillings intersect with Imagine Pamlico’s goals?” Named the No. 1 public school of public health in the country, Gillings works in all 100 North Carolina counties and over 35 countries.

Bob Fuller, a founding board member of Imagine Pamlico and a former healthcare executive, praised Gillings’ “immediate commitment in joining us to solve this challenge.” Fuller, past president of the Pamlico County Chamber of Commerce and vice chair the Advisory Board of Health, chairs IP’s Community Health and Wellness Taskforce. “What we are doing is developing a comprehensive view of what it means to be well,” he told the group. “What do we need to do to fill in the gaps?”

Rural health care in North Carolina and across the United States is in a critical state. Rural counties have seen significant challenges in recent years, including hospital closures, workforce shortages, and higher rates of chronic disease. North Carolina has the second-largest rural population in the U.S., with one in three residents living in a rural community, and it has one of the highest rates of hospital closures, trailing only Texas and Tennessee. Since 2014, six rural hospitals have closed, leaving 20 rural counties without a hospital and 35 without any ICU beds. Many remaining facilities operate on thin or negative financial margins.

Pamlico County is officially designated as a Health Professional Shortage Area with residents having difficulty securing appointments and accessing timely care, citing long delays and a shortage of providers, according to Dr. Sharon Stephenson, a retired OB-GYN and a member of the Taskforce. The current ratio of primary care physicians to residents is approximately 1 to 3,100, in contrast to the North Carolina state average of 1 to 1,400. A commonly accepted benchmark for adequate primary care access is 1 physician per 2,000 residents. UNC’s Rural Health Care Workforce reports that only 3 percent of primary care physicians practice in rural areas.

At Imagine Pamlico’s first Rural Health and Wellness Conference last June, Stephenson reported that in addition to the county’s top health concerns – substance use, mental health issues, and chronic conditions such as obesity and diabetes – there are critical service gaps in pediatrics, women’s health, and mental health and substance abuse treatment. The proportionate rate of drug overdose deaths in the county is 92 per 100,000 population. The state average is 36 deaths per 100,000 people, and the state, 31.

In addition. Pamlico County has a need for specialists like psychiatrists and endocrinologists, she said. There is also a lack of urgent care and emergency services.

“We are at a crossroads in 2026,” Lenn Murrelle, founder and president of Imagine Pamlico and an epidemiologist with expertise in public health and biomedical research, told the group. In an earlier interview, he noted that counties close to population centers, like RTP or the Triad, get spillover medical benefits. “We don’t have any of that here, so we have to attack these things from the ground up and get grass-roots input.” Murrelle is leading efforts to obtain financial resources to support the project.

Compounding the problem are reductions in services like Medicaid, which expects to see cuts resulting in approximately \$1 trillion in losses nationwide in the next 10 years, including \$49.9 billion in North Carolina, and these cuts will disproportionately impact people who live in rural communities, according to North Carolina’s Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP).

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services last month awarded North Carolina over \$213 million in federal funding through RHTP, but it’s not clear how that money will be distributed. Imagine Pamlico assisted North Carolina in submitting an application for the funds which is reported to total \$50 billion nationwide for the purpose of improving health care for rural communities.

Imagine Pamlico’s Health and Wellness Taskforce is made up of a diverse group of community leaders, government officials, nonprofit leaders and medical professionals. In addition to UNC, the group has also partnered with NC State University, Duke University and East Carolina University on various aspects of its broad-ranging vision for improving health and wellness in rural Eastern North Carolina. The two-year-old organization has received grants and funding from the Office of Rural Health’s Telehealth Infrastructure Grant Program, the Z Smith Reynolds Foundation, and the Harold H. Bate Foundation, among others.

Its long-term goals are to support health services, wellness education and community engagement through the development of a regional multidisciplinary Health and Wellness Pavilion that could become a model for rural communities across the U.S.

Submitted by Carl Crothers

**The Pamlico News Editorials and Opinions section features opinion articles, newspaper editorials and letters to the editor on the issues of the day.**  
The views and opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of The Pamlico News. Any content provided by authors are of their opinion, and are not intended to malign any religion, ethnic group, club, organization, company, individual or anyone or anything.



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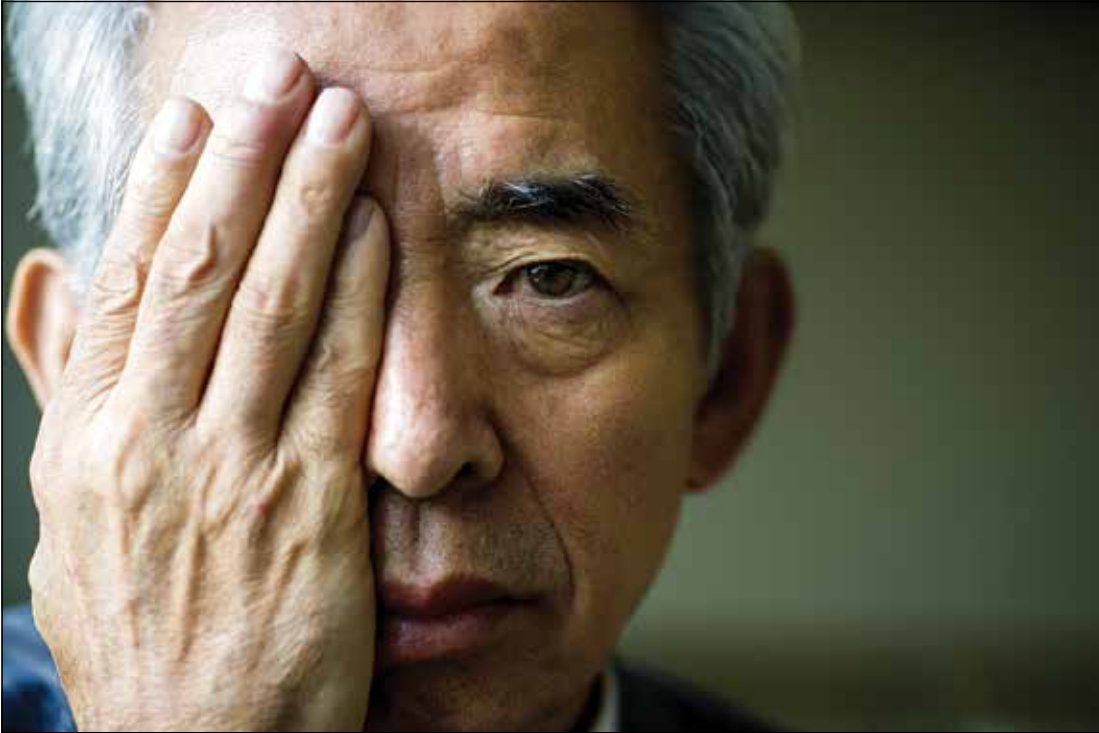


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# Health & Wellness

## SET YOUR SIGHTS ON GLAUCOMA



Eyesight often isn’t fully appreciated until it begins to diminish. Starting in one’s thirties, if not earlier, a person’s vision may start to be less sharp. Items at a distance or up close may be more difficult to discern, and if prescription glasses or contacts are worn, that prescription may need to be adjusted more regularly. However, there are some eye conditions that are not entirely a result of aging. Glaucoma is one of them.

According to Johns Hopkins Medicine, glaucoma is a chronic, progressive eye disease that occurs when the optic nerve is damaged. Glaucoma is the leading cause of irreversible blindness and usually occurs when an abnormality in the eye’s drainage system causes the aqueous humor fluid in the eye to build up, sometimes leading to excessive pressure that impacts the optic nerve. The optic nerve connects the retina with the brain, sending vision signals. Damage to the nerve can cause loss of eyesight. While pressure is largely to blame for glaucoma, glaucoma can occur even if eye pressure is normal.

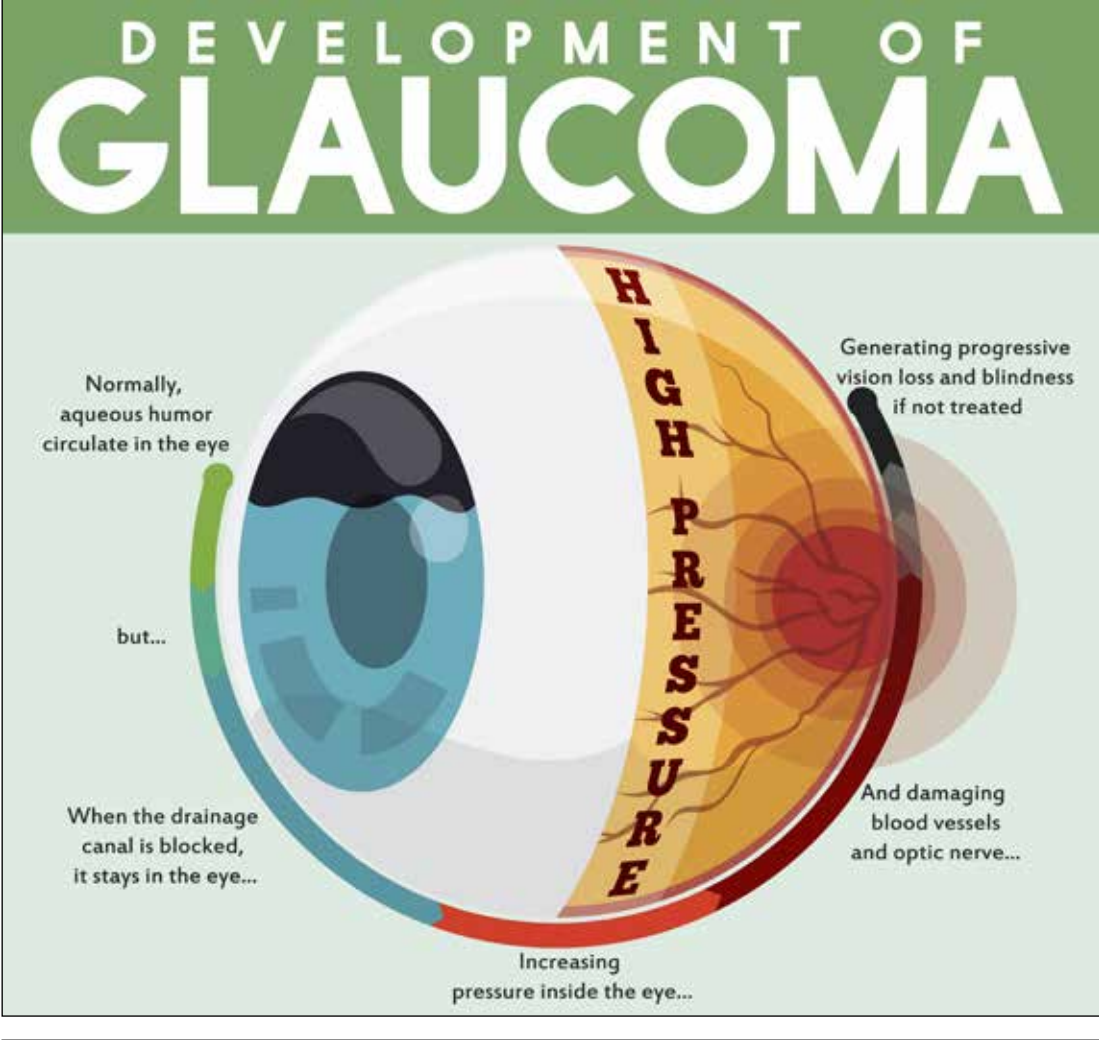
Glaucoma is often a silent condition. The Mayo Clinic advises that many forms of glaucoma have no warning signs. With effects so gradual, no changes in vision may be noticed until the condition is in its later stages.

This underscores the importance of getting regular eye examinations that will include measurements of the pressure in both eyes, says the Glaucoma Research Foundation. Glaucoma caught early can be slowed down or even prevented before it becomes severe. Lifelong treatment and monitoring will be needed after diagnosis.

There are different types of glaucoma. The most common is open-angle glaucoma, which occurs after the clogged fluid does not drain properly. Angle-closure glaucoma, also called closed-angle glaucoma, happens when the iris is very close to the drainage angle in the eye and the iris blocks the drainage angle. This results in an acute glaucoma attack. Some people have normal tension glaucoma, in which eye pressure is in normal range but there are signs of glaucoma. These individuals’ optic nerves may be more sensitive to pressure than others’ and will have to be monitored.

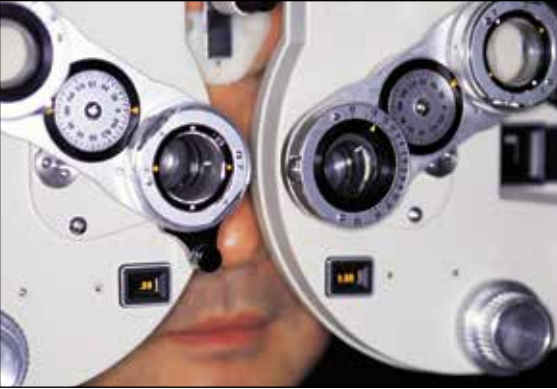
Certain people are at a greater risk for developing glaucoma than others. Individuals over 40; those with a family history of glaucoma; people of African, Hispanic or Asian heritage; people with high eye pressure; those who have had an eye injury; and individuals who use long-term steroid medications are at increased risk. Other factors also affect glaucoma risk.

Glaucoma should be discussed at routine eye wellness visits to prevent lasting vision damage.



### Did you know?

Glaucoma is an umbrella term used to characterized a group of eye diseases that can gradually diminish individuals’ vision and eventually lead to blindness. The National Eye Institute says the symptoms are a result of damage to the optic nerve due to increased intraocular pressure. Treatments designed to reduce eye pressure can help to prevent further damage but will not reverse what already has occurred. Glaucoma can occur at any age, but it is much more common in older adults. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicates all people over the age of 60 have a higher risk of developing glaucoma. Glaucoma also is more common among Black people over the age of 40. The American Academy of Ophthalmology recommends a more frequent eye exam schedule as individuals age to increase chances of early detection. People 65 and older should see an eye professional every two years, if not every year.





COASTAL LIVING

Warm Up this Winter with Guitar Trio  
The String Revolution

Grammy-winning guitar trio The String Revolution is coming to Oriental! Renowned for their electrifying performances blending classical, rock, jazz and flamenco into an original and unique sound, the String Revolution will take the stage at the Old Theater on Friday, February 6, 2026 at 7:30 pm, presented by Pamlico Musical Society. Come be amazed by the astonishing guitar skills that have earned them world-wide acclaim.

Formed in 2015 and based in Los Angeles, The String Revolution is a boundary-pushing, genre-blending ensemble comprised of three world-class guitarists who fuse diverse styles into a singular, captivating sound. With a style marked by intricate melodies, rich harmonies, and virtuosic technique, the trio features guitarist Janet Robin, who has toured with the likes of Lindsey Buckingham, Air Supply and others; Markus Illko, an award-winning Austrian guitarist;



and Cuban guitarist Rober Luis. With a 2024 Grammy Award under their belt, The String Revolution's innovative arrangements of original and cover songs incorporate percussive techniques and sonic effects that have gained them international recognition and made them one of the most sought-after guitar trios in the world today. You won't want to miss their Oriental debut!!

Tickets to the concert are \$30 and are available in Oriental at Nautical Wheelers, 411 Broad Street; in New Bern at Nautical Wheelers, 202A Craven Street; and online at pamlico-music.org.

For helping to make this concert possible, the Pamlico Musical Society wishes to thank our season sponsor: Beth Frazer Real Estate & Rentals; business sponsors: Harbourside Gardens and Gibbs Hall Hearing Aid Center; and individual sponsors: Carol & Bill DeMoranville.

Celebrating 28 years of presenting great music for our community, the Pamlico Musical Society is a non-profit organization bringing quality musical entertainment, enrichment, and education to Pamlico County. We welcome your support! To learn more about the benefits of joining our group, including advance ticket sales and artist receptions, call 252-617-2125 or visit [www.pamlicomusic.org](http://www.pamlicomusic.org), and like us on Facebook @pamlicomusic.




*The mission of the Pamlico Musical Society is to present diverse musical experiences that enrich the quality of life in our community.*

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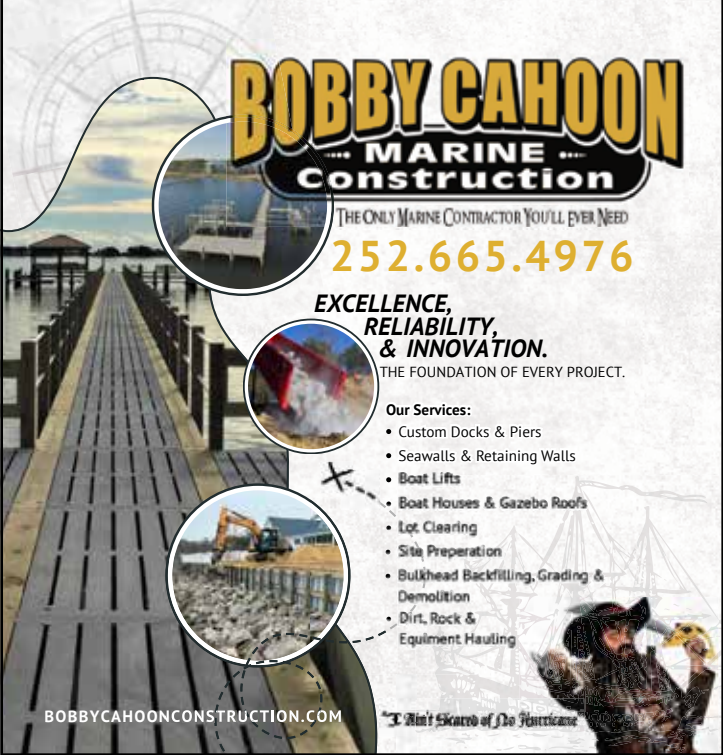


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~Jackson Pollock



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“Reality continues to ruin my life.”

**LEGALS**

**NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE PAMLICO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF CHARLES M. ALEXANDER**

File No.: 26E000006-680

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against deceased, are notified to exhibit them to KAREN ALEXANDER CO-EXECUTOR or SHANNON ELLENBERG CO-EXECUTOR on or before APRIL 21, 2026 at the address listed below or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named CO-EXECUTORS.

This 21st OF JANUARY, 2026

ESTATE OF CHARLES M. ALEXANDER  
C/O KAREN ALEXANDER  
803 SPAIN FARM RD  
STONEWALL, NC 28583

ESTATE OF CHARLES M. ALEXANDER  
C/O SHANNON ELLENBERG  
PO BOX 28  
STONEWALL, NC 28583

Publish JANUARY 21, 28 AND FEBRUARY 4 and 11 2026.

**NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE PAMLICO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF CAROLYN ANN RICE**

File No.: 26E000009-680

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against deceased, are notified to exhibit them to WILLIAM FREDERICK RICE, JR EXECUTOR on or before APRIL 21, 2026 at the address listed below or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named EXECUTOR.

This 21st OF JANUARY, 2026

ESTATE OF CAROLYN ANN RICE  
C/O WILLIAM FREDERICK RICE, JR.  
4909 BRIARHILL RD  
NEW BERN, NC 28562

Publish JANUARY 21, 28 AND FEBRUARY 4 and 11 2026.

**Notice to Creditors North Carolina, Pamlico County**

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of Joyce Grey Cagle, deceased, of Bayboro, NC, are notified to present the same to the personal representative listed below on or before April 7, 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 7th day of January, 2026.

Guillermina Gregg, Ancillary Executrix of the Estate of Joyce Grey Cagle c/o Quay & Associates, P.A. 412 Broad Street New Bern, NC 28560

PUBLICATION DATES: 01/07/2026, 01/14/2026, 01/21/2026, 01/28/2026

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS:**

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of Clara Jean Ensley, deceased, of Pamlico County, N.C., File No.: 25E001221 are notified to present the same to the undersigned on or before April 7, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All debtors of the said estate are asked to make immediate payment.

This 7th day of January 2026.

Randy R. Beeman, Administrator of the Estate of Clara Jean Ensley, deceased c/o John W. King, Jr. King & Moss PLLC Attorneys at Law PO Box 1112 New Bern, NC 28563 (252) 638-1103

Run Dates  
1) January 7, 2026  
2) January 14, 2026  
3) January 21, 2026  
4) January 28, 2026

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, PAMLICO COUNTY**

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT BEFORE THE CLERK FILE NO. 25SP001040-680**

Velma Barrett, *Petitioner* v. David Coleman, Jr., Anthony Cox, Jr., Tanya T. Neil Cox, Samantha Cox, and Michelle Best, *Respondents*.

TO: ANTHONY COX, JR.

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled special proceeding. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows:

1. Petition to Partition requesting the sale of certain real property located at 1302 Silverbrook Road, Oriental, NC 28571 and more particularly described as follows:

A certain tract or parcel of land in Pamlico County, State of North Carolina, described as follows:

Lying and being on the Silverbrook Road near Oriental beginning at a cedar stake on the South side of the Silverbrook or Main Road, the western corner of the Henry Ormand property, and the north-east corner of a lot of land owned by Henry Collins in Hudstontown, and runs thence a southeastwardly course with Henry Collins line 50 feet; thence a northeastwardly course parallel with the Main road 100 feet; thence a northeastwardly course with the first (Henry Collins') line 50 feet; thence a southwesterly course 100 feet to the Beginning, being one lot of land in the western corner of the tract of land formerly belonging to Henry Ormand, known as the Henry Ormand property, being the same deeded by G.H. Roberts and L.F. McCabe to Henry Ormand, by deed of record in Book 56 at page 545, Pamlico County Registry, and being also the same lot conveyed to Commissioner to Pamlico County, by deed of

**LEGALS**

record in Book 101 at Page 425, Pamlico County Records, also the same property conveyed to Allied Mortgage & Development Company, Inc. by Trustee's Deed recorded in Book 139, Page 75 of aforesaid records.

2. Private sale of the property under N.C.G.S. § 1-339.3A.

3. Reimbursement or contribution from the Respondents for a pro-rata portion of any carrying costs proven.

4. Reasonable attorney's fees in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 46A-3 and other applicable law.

5. Any other relief the Court deems necessary and appropriate in the interests of justice.

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than February 16, 2026 and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.

This the 7th day of January, 2026.

/s/ John W. Moss  
JOHN W. MOSS  
N.C. Bar No. 54932  
King & Moss, PLLC  
P.O. Box 1112  
New Bern, NC 28563  
Phone: (252) 638-1103  
Fax: (252) 638-0400  
Email: jmoss@newbernlaw.com

Publication dates:  
01/07/2026  
01/14/2026  
01/21/2026

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, PAMLICO COUNTY**

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT BEFORE THE CLERK FILE NO. 25SP001040-680**

Velma Barrett, *Petitioner*, v. David Coleman, Jr., Antohny Cox, Jr., Tanya T. Neil Cox, Samantha Cox, and Michelle Best, *Respondents*.

TO: MICHELLE BEST

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled special proceeding. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows:

1. Petition to Partition requesting the sale of certain real property located at 1302 Silverbrook Road, Oriental, NC 28571 and more particularly described as follows:

A certain tract or parcel of land in Pamlico County, State of North Carolina, described as follows:

Lying and being on the Silverbrook Road near Oriental beginning at a cedar stake on the South side of the Silverbrook or Main Road, the western corner of the Henry Ormand property, and the north-east corner of a lot of land owned by Henry Collins in Hudstontown, and runs thence a southeastwardly course with Henry Collins line 50 feet; thence a northeastwardly course parallel with the Main road 100 feet; thence a northeastwardly course with the first (Henry Collins') line 50 feet; thence a southwesterly course 100 feet to the Beginning, being one lot of land in the western corner of the tract of land formerly belonging to Henry Ormand, known as the Henry Ormand property, being the same deeded by G.H. Roberts and L.F. McCabe to Henry Ormand, by deed of record in Book 56 at page 545, Pamlico County Registry, and being also the same lot conveyed to Commissioner to Pamlico County, by deed of record in Book 101 at Page 425, Pamlico County Records, also the same property conveyed to Allied Mortgage & Development Company, Inc. by Trustee's Deed recorded in Book 139, Page 75 of aforesaid records.

2. Private sale of the property under N.C.G.S. § 1-339.3A.

3. Reimbursement or contribu-

tion from the Respondents for a pro-rata portion of any carrying costs proven.

4. Reasonable attorney's fees in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 46A-3 and other applicable law.

5. Any other relief the Court deems necessary and appropriate in the interests of justice.

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than February 16, 2026 and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.

This the 7th day of January, 2026.

/s/ John W. Moss  
JOHN W. MOSS  
N.C. Bar No. 54932  
King & Moss, PLLC  
P.O. Box 1112

New Bern, NC 28563  
Phone: (252) 638-1103  
Fax: (252) 638-0400  
Email: jmoss@newbernlaw.com

Publication dates:  
01/07/2026  
01/14/2026  
01/21/2026

**NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE PAMLICO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF JAMES A MASON**

**File No.: 25E001231-680**

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against deceased, are notified to exhibit them to JO ANN CLAY EXECUTOR on or before APRIL 7, 2026 at the address listed below or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named EXECUTOR.

This 7TH OF JANUARY, 2026

ESTATE OF JAMES A MASON  
C/O JO ANN CLAY  
PO BOX 147  
BAYBORO, NC 28515

Publish JANUARY 7, 14, 21 AND 28, 2026.

**NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE PAMLICO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF DAVID ALAN PETERSON**

**File No.: 25E001234-680**

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against deceased, are notified to exhibit them to VERONICA P. LANCE, EXECUTOR on or before APRIL 14, 2026, at the address listed below or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above-name Executor.

This 14TH DAY OF JANUARY 2026

ESTATE OF DAVID ALAN PETERSON  
C/O VERONICA P. LANCE  
3954 NC HWY 304  
BAYBORO, NC 28515

Publish JANUARY 14,21, 28 and February 4, 2026

**NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE PAMLICO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF PAUL C. BRADY**

**File No.: 25E001201-680**

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against deceased, are notified to exhibit them to PAULA B. PHILLIPS EXECUTOR on or before APRIL 14, 2026 at the address listed below or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named EXECUTOR.

This 14TH OF JANUARY, 2026

ESTATE OF PAUL C. BRADY  
CO PAULA B. PHILLIPS  
625 HEARTWOOD DRIVE  
GRIMESLAND, NC 27837

Publish JANUARY 14, 21, 28 AND FEBRUARY 4 2026.

Official Election Notice  
County of PAMLICO

2026 PRIMARY  
Election Date: 03/03/2026

This is an official notice of an election to be conducted in PAMLICO County on 03/03/2026. This notice contains a list of all of the ballot measures and federal, State, and local offices this county expects, as of this date, to be on the ballot on the date of the election. (See Attachment)  
An Election Notice will be prepared not later than 100 days before a regularly scheduled election that permits absentee voting, and as soon as practicable in the case of an election or vacancy election not regularly scheduled. For a second primary, an Election Notice will be prepared, no later than the day following the date the appropriate board of elections orders that a second primary be held.

As soon as ballot styles are printed, this county board of elections will update this notice with the certified candidates for each office and ballot measures and referenda questions that will be on the ballot. For General Elections during even-numbered years, ballots will be printed 60 days prior to the election. For statewide primaries and other elections (except municipal elections), ballots will be printed 50 days prior to the election. Municipal ballots are available 30 days prior to Election Day. You must request an updated Election Notice. Transmitting a Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot:

This notice may be used in conjunction with the federal write-in absentee ballot (FWAB). Covered military & U.S. citizens living outside the U.S. seeking to vote by absentee ballot may use the FWAB to register to vote, request an absentee ballot, and vote an official military-overseas ballot. When using the FWAB to register to vote, and/or request an absentee ballot, please transmit your signed and completed FWAB no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day before Election Day. If submitted later than this day and time, your absentee ballot will not be counted. Federal write-in absentee ballots are available at www.NCSBE.gov. You may also request a regular absentee ballot by using the federal postcard application (FPCA), available at www.FVAP.gov. A regular ballot can be mailed, faxed or emailed to you. You may return the FWAB or a regular absentee ballot by mail, secure fax (1-919-715-0351) or email (absentee@ncsbe.gov). Marking a Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot:

When marking a FWAB, for each office for which you wish to vote, write in either a candidate's name or political party designation. For ballot measures or referenda, write either "YES" (you are for the ballot measure or referendum) or "NO" (you are against the ballot measure or referendum). In a primary, if you are registered as Democratic, Green, Libertarian, or Republican, for partisan contests, you may only vote for the candidates of the party for which you are affiliated. You are also eligible to vote for non-partisan contests. If you are registered as unaffiliated ("independent"), in a primary, you may choose to vote for the partisan contests of one of the parties Q! you may choose to vote for nonpartisan contests only. Please contact your local board of elections to confirm your party affiliation or voter registration status. Please check the website for the NC State Board of Elections (www.NCSBE.gov) for additional information on militaryoverseas absentee voting.



# AROUND THE COUNTY

## Pamlico Betty Jo Rodgers, *Correspondent*



The house at the intersection of Trent Road and Straight Road is really looking nice. The stairs and entry ways are inviting. The underbrush has been cleared so that you can easily see our pier and the Wise plantation silos from the stop sign on Trent Road. Joannis and Walt Summerlin came to visit and bring us lunch and supper yesterday. It is always a joy to have family and friends come to visit. Yesterday evening we saw several turkeys fly past our window as they were going up into our woods to roost for the night. They roost in the trees at night for protection from predators on the ground. Even though it was a dreary, rainy morning, Stonewall Methodist Church was well attended. The young families with their young children are a delight for everyone. I was blessed to have Jesse Rodriguez assist me with part of the service since I am still not up to par.

My article this week will be short again, because I have not been out and about in the county this week. I was an outpatient at Carteret day surgery on Wednesday in Morehead City. Glenda Benton kindly drove me for an intracept procedure on my back, and I appreciate all prayers for quick healing. Also, please remember Paul Delamar, Sr. and Penny \$ Farmer and her family in your prayers this week. Celebrating birthdays in January are Ned Ferris (1/21), Kate Moye, 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. Yearning for peace and comfort? Take Spiritual Vitamin Y. “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.” (Psalms 23:4)

## Grantsboro Jeff Roberts, *Correspondent*



Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening. I hope everyone has enjoyed our recent tour through the seasons spring to winter, winter back to spring, and a fair amount of rain in between. One thing we can always count on around here is that the weather rarely stays the same for long.

There hasn't been much major news locally this week. Construction continues on the new school, with windows now going in and most of the siding in place. It's steadily taking shape and will be a welcome addition to our school system.

This week's focus is a place that has quietly shaped this community for generations.

At a sharp curve along the paved road between Reelsboro and Arapahoe, a white church sits beneath the night sky. To many, New Bethlehem Original Free Will Baptist Church may appear to be just another rural sanctuary - well kept, modest, and familiar. But the ground it stands on has carried prayers, disagreements, fellowship, and faith long before the current building ever stood.

According to Pamlico Profile by Charles Crossfield Wade (1961), this area was once known as Goose Creek. The congregation appears on the roll of the Neuse Association of “United Baptists” when it met at Chinquapin Chapel in Jones County on October 19, 1811. At that time, Goose Creek was one of 22 churches, reporting 58 members - numbers that represented a strong and committed presence in early eastern North Carolina.



By the late 1820s, the church appeared again under the area named “Beard’s Creek” at the Bethel Conference of Free Will Baptists, held November 6–8, 1829, at Bay River Church. It served as a union meeting house, where Free Will Baptists and Regular Baptists worshiped side by side. Records show Regular Baptists listed 18 members here in both 1832 and 1836, reflecting a time when shared faith mattered more than denominational lines.

The significance of this place reaches even further. It was from the Neuse Association in the mid-1830s that the Disciples’ movement in North Carolina first emerged, placing this quiet Grantsboro site within a much broader religious story.

Today, New Bethlehem continues to evolve while holding fast to its roots. A recently constructed fellowship hall provides space for gathering beyond Sunday mornings, and a motorized wheelchair lift offers improved accessibility, small but meaningful signs of continued welcome.

I spent a season of my own life here, attending services and teaching the adult Sunday school class before returning to my mom's church just up the road. Many families in Pamlico County share similar connections, worshipping here for a time, then carrying those experiences with them. In the early morning hours, when the gravel lot is still and the steeple rises against a star-filled sky, New Bethlehem feels less like a building and more like a witness. It has seen roads change, congregations shift, and generations pass through its doors, yet it remains steady at the bend in the road, holding stories that stretch back more than two centuries.

## Aurora Joy McCracken, *Correspondent*



There have been some Bobcat and Coyote sightings on the peninsula recently. My neighbor has a fake one in his yard to scare off the deer. Of Sound Minds is a new recreational stay out here and they have a darling cottage to rent on Isle of View. You can reach them at Welcome@OfSoundMindRetreat.com

The Partnership for Aurora and Richland Township has completed the paperwork to have downtown Aurora a designated Historic District. There is lots of new energy to get us ready for the 250th Anniversary.

## Vandemere Sandra Snipes, *Correspondent*

### “A New Chapter on the Bay: Vandemere’s Fishing Pier Comes into Focus”



With state grant funding secured, the Town of Vandemere is moving forward with plans for a new ADA-compliant public fishing pier that will re-establish safe access to the Bay River. Designed to serve residents and visitors alike, the pier will provide space for recreation, subsistence fishing, and community gatherings in an area where public shoreline access is limited.

More than a stand-alone structure, the fishing pier is envisioned as the centerpiece of the Heritage Connection Trail—a larger effort to link Vandemere's waterfront with its historic landmarks through accessible infrastructure and digital interpretation. Interactive features such as QR-coded signage, educational content, and future connectivity will highlight local history, ecology, and fishing culture. Town officials emphasize that the project reflects a long-term commitment to inclusion, resilience, and economic vitality. By honoring its fishing heritage while expanding public access and engagement, Vandemere is creating a waterfront destination that supports community well-being and positions the Town for sustainable growth.

We lost, unexpectedly, Dalton Bennett, who had just been elected Town Commissioner. Jamea Reed will take his place. You can read the article at <https://www.witn.com/2026/01/16/newly-elected-aurora-town-commissioner-passes-away/> I saw a Starling Murmuration on the way home the other day. They are amazing to watch. They've clear cut a swatch on 306 and one can see a ridge in the distance now. Captain Mills is our new BCSO resident and he states that he loves all cookies. Go by and see him at his office in Aurora and have a chat on Wednesdays from 9-12. I hope you have been following the Monks on their walk to WDC. Peace is the most wonderful of common and shared concepts.

The Town is deeply grateful for the support of its all-volunteer Town Council, Planning Board, residents, entrepreneurs, and visitors. We look forward to sharing progress, challenges, milestones, and excitement as this new fishing pier comes to life. See what Vandemere is about at [www.vandemerenc.com](http://www.vandemerenc.com).



Projected fishing pier design. Measurements depicted are only an estimation.

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“If pizza can’t fix it, it’s a serious problem.” – Unknown

**Town of Oriental – Owner Bid 2026-01**  
**507 Church St PO Box 472**  
**Oriental, NC 28571**

The Town puts the following project out for bid:  
Separate sealed Bids for the construction of:

**Town of Oriental Valve Replacement** the installation and replacement of valves. The project will involve the installation of approximately 11 gate valves and 14 insertion valves, as well as the replacement of 21 gate valves. Work will include efforts in traffic control, sediment and erosion control, and surface restoration of disturbed roadways and driveways.

Will be received by: **Town of Oriental** at the Town of Oriental Town Hall until **2:00 PM, (Local Time) Wednesday, February 25, 2026**, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The Contract Documents may be examined at the following location(s):  
Owner – Oriental Town Hall, Oriental, NC 28571 Issuing Engineer Office – TRC Engineers, Inc.  
114 Edinburgh South Drive, Suite 200, Cary, NC 27511  
(919) 827-0864  
Contract Documents can be downloaded for free from the TRC Companies Online Planroom (<https://www.trccompanies.com/knowledge/trc-construction-planroom/>) or purchased from: TRC Companies – located at  
114 Edinburgh South Drive, Suite 200  
Cary, NC 27511  
upon payment of \$100 (non-refundable)

General Contractor's license is required.

With request for Bidding Documents please supply the following information:

- Company name
- Contact person
- Street address
- Phone and fax numbers of Bidding office
- N.C. contractor's license numbers with limitation and classification.

Also please indicate if firm will be a bidder, supplier, or sub-contractor.

Bids will be received for a single prime Contract. Bids shall be on a lump sum and unit price basis.

A non-mandatory Pre-Bid meeting will be held at 2:00pm Wednesday February 4, 2026 at 507 Church St, Oriental, NC 28571.

Each bid must be accompanied by a Bid Security as specified in the Instructions to Bidders.



OUR SCHOOLS



Our First Day in the New Building – a joyful Milestone

There’s no better way to begin the New Year than by stepping into a space built through prayer, vision, and generosity.



Moving Day: A Community on the Move

Trucks, trailers, and teamwork turned months of planning into action as classrooms were packed, loaded, and delivered to our new campus. From staff and students to parents and volunteers, it was all hands on deck!

The official move may have happened in December, but the heartbeat of PCA stepped into a new rhythm in the New Year, as students began learning in a space built just for them.

From the Sky: A New View of God’s Faithfulness

Aerial shots of the new campus reveal more than buildings—they tell the story of transformation.

What was once raw land now includes vibrant structures, walkways, and play areas where students grow in faith and knowledge every day. These images remind us that every brick, every blade of grass, every open door is a testimony of God’s provision.



Pray | Share | Give

Tax-deductible gifts support Phase 2 classrooms and facilities

We’re seeking **sponsorships**—do you or your employer offer corporate giving, matching gifts, or sponsorship programs?

Scan the QR code to learn more about our Phase 2 expansion or visit our website @ [Pamlicochristianacademy.org](http://Pamlicochristianacademy.org)



Pamlico Christian Academy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

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**CAT & KITTEN  
FOSTERING WORKSHOP**

**Saturday, February 7  
@ 11am**

**Pamlico County Library**  
13996 NC-55, Alliance, NC 28509

Have you ever wanted to foster a cat or kitten but just needed a bit of guidance?

Please RSVP to [mehliatt@gmail.com](mailto:mehliatt@gmail.com) just for planning purposes.

**DELAMAR & DELAMAR, PLLC**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
Sara L. Delamar

408 Main Street • Bayboro, NC  
252-745-3222 • M-F 8:30am to 5:00pm

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

**Tideland EMC**

**Real People, Real Power.**

*We believe in the  
power of education.*

“I had been told that the training procedure with cats was difficult. It’s not. Mine had me trained in two days.”



***There’s still time to register  
for the Spring 2026 semester,  
but you need to act FAST!***  
**Pamlico’s convenient online  
courses start Monday, Jan. 26!**



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

*You can still sign up for online  
courses! Many of PCC’s  
programs can be completed  
entirely online!*

*PCC can prepare you for a  
great career or can get you  
started on a four-year degree  
at a fraction of the cost of  
university tuition!*



*Pamlico features small classes!  
That means personalized  
attention for you!*

*The college also has great  
short-term career-training  
courses starting soon!*

*Financial aid is available for  
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***A national leader in student success!***

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