

The Pamlico News

Wednesday, February 25, 2026 Your County News Source Since 1968 www.thepamliconews.com | 50 Cents



Experience the Musical Playground of Arcis Saxophone Quartet

The Arcis Saxophone Quartet stands among the world's leading saxophone ensembles, celebrated for its electrifying performances, artistic versatility, and uncompromising technical brilliance. Join us as they take the stage at the Old Theater on Friday, March 20, 2026 at 7:30pm, presented by Pamlico Musical Society. Join us for Prosecco on the Porch before the show!

Founded by four exceptional soloists, the Arcis Saxophone Quartet, based in Munich, combines flawless ensemble playing with an unmistakable sense of individuality. Their performances seamlessly bridge classical masterworks, contemporary compositions, and innovative arrangements, presenting the saxophone as a powerful and refined voice in classical music.

Winners of numerous international competitions, the Arcis Saxophone Quartet has garnered critical acclaim for its expressive depth, rhythmic precision, and stylistic breadth. The ensemble regularly collaborates with leading composers, expanding the saxophone quartet repertoire and championing new works alongside their own definitive transcriptions.

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Board of Education Selects Leadership for 2026

by: Hiram Lupton

The first item on the agenda for Monday's Pamlico County Board of Education meeting was the selection by vote of the members of the leadership team of the Board for 2026. John Prescott was once again chosen to be Chairman of the Board while Erik Smith was voted to assume the duties of Vice-Chair.



Erik Smith



John Prescott

Discussion on Animal Services Ordinance Draws Large Crowd to BOC Meeting

by: Hiram Lupton



Dr Lauren Mercer addresses the Board of Commissioners concerning the plight of animals in the County and the proposed Animal Services Ordinance.

Monday's Pamlico County Board of Commissioners meeting drew an overflow crowd that prompted the Commissioners to move the meeting to the more spacious courtroom down the hall. The agenda topic which brought the crowd was a discussion request on the Pamlico County Animal Services Ordinance. It was also a night for a scheduled Public Comment Period and the opportunity to express an opinion on County Animal Services pulled numerous concerned speakers to the podium. Several represented some of the various animal rescue and welfare groups in the county while there were also several speakers who provide professional veterinary care to animals in the county including Dr. Lauren Mercer. All spoke passionately about the plight of abused and neglected animals in Pamlico County, the proliferation of unspayed and unneutered cats, and the need for animal control. The desire for a dedicated

animal shelter within the county was also a common theme. The speakers who represented several of the animal welfare groups within the county, including the Pamlico Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), expressed an interest to work with the county for a better system for the good of the county's animal population. "We'd just like to see some basic compassion shown by the county towards animals," said Mercer. The proposed ordinance discussed by the Commissioners is essentially what the county has been following for the past several months. It was crafted by the County Attorney and relies on North Carolina General Statutes for establishment of minimum services. The ordinance sought to more clearly define the role of Animal Control in the county and the specific duties of the Animal Services Officer. The officer will fall under the jurisdiction of the Pamlico County Health Department and will continue to

Continued on Page A5

Pet Microchip Scanner Now Available in Oriental

by: Hiram Lupton

There is a new pet microchip scanner available for public use in Pamlico County, located at Town Hall in Oriental. The scanner, mounted on the north side of the building, was placed there by the Pamlico County Animal Services Department. "We are slowly getting these installed in key locations around the County," says Pamlico County Animal Services Officer Berkley Hill. "This is the second unit we have installed, the first being just outside the Pamlico County Health Department behind the Courthouse." To use the scanner just break the small plastic security tie on the bottom latch and

open the box. All the instructions are printed inside the box and are easy to follow. If the scanner picks up a microchip inside a pet, the read out will display a reference number corresponding with that chip. That number can help to identify the owner of a lost pet and hopefully get that pet safely home. "We purchase chips for use in our rabies and microchip clinics that Animal Services usually holds twice a year," says Hill. "For every 100 chips we purchase, we receive a scanner. By getting your pet chipped you are not only protecting it, but you could be helping to get someone else's pet safely home."



Pamlico Arts Council Presents Awards To OWC's Top 5 Student Artists

On Saturday, Feb. 21, 2026, The Pamlico Arts Council (PAC) was pleased to host the top 5 First Place winners of the Oriental Women's Club Student Exhibition and Competition at Broad Strokes Gallery. Awards were presented by PAC VP and BSG artist Marguerite Chadwick-Juner to the 2 students who came with their families. There was a reception with light refreshments also provided by PAC. The remaining 3 students will be invited to receive their awards from PAC at a time and place TBD. Pictured above at left is Georgia Stephens, a fifth grade student at Fred A. Anderson Elementary School with her artwork of a charming and expressive snowman. At right is Lillibeth Parker, a student at PCHS, with her family. Her pastel self portrait with her cat won a first place in her category because of her content and composition and because she also managed to capture and convey the personality of her family pet.



LIKELY WEATHER OVER THE WEEKEND

Saturday, February 28th **61° Hi** Cloudy skies early, then partly cloudy

Sunday, March 1st **68° Hi** Sunny along with a few clouds

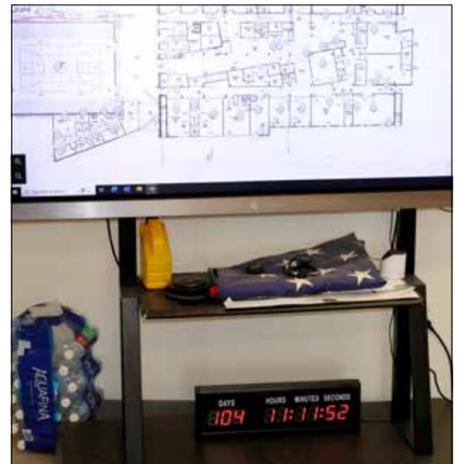


The main entrance

New School Construction Update

by: Hiram Lupton

With the countdown now below 100 days, the timeline pressure is just a little bit tighter for the construction of Pamlico County's new 6-12 school. There is still a lot to be done, but according to MetCon officials, the general contractor for the project, everything is on schedule for a late May completion date of the building. Window and door enclosures are about 98% complete, so now there is expected to be an uptick in the pace of interior work. Graduation this year is set for May 22nd, and it is planned to begin moving into the new school the following week so that everything will be ready for students when they return to school in the fall. There will still be demolition work to be done on the old school, as well as some final parking lot and driveway paving which is expected to be in progress when school begins on August 24th.



The countdown clock at the MetCon Construction trailer keeps on ticking



The High School Gymnasium



Open area



Classroom



Exterior rear



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Pamlico Community College

Empowering PCC students: NCCCS and UnitedHealthcare announce Future Leaders in Health Scholarship Program

Submitted by Pamlico Community College

Pamlico Community College announces its participation in the UnitedHealthcare Future Leaders in Health Scholarship Program, a new initiative aimed at training the next generation of rural healthcare professionals.

North Carolina is currently facing a health care crisis, with nearly three million residents living in areas without adequate medical professionals. Rural counties are hit the hardest, often operating with half the number of providers per capita compared to urban areas. Projections show that by 2033, the state is expected to face shortfalls of over 12,500 registered nurses and 5,000 licensed practical nurses.

To address this challenge, UnitedHealthcare has invested \$500,000 in a new scholarship program that will benefit 400 NC community college students across thirty-five North Carolina Community Colleges, including Pamlico. The scholarship program supports students pursuing both short-term credentials and degrees in health care, specifically focusing on Nurse Aide I (NA I) and Nurse Aide II (NA II), Practical Nurse (PN), and Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) coursework.

At PCC, the scholarships will support students in the college's popular NA I and NA II programs.

"At Pamlico, we see firsthand the passion our students have for serving their communities," said Lori Giles, PCC's chair of

Continuing Education and Technical Programs. "This partnership with UnitedHealthcare allows us to remove financial barriers like tuition, ensuring our local health care facilities are staffed by the talented professionals our neighbors depend on."

This gift is the latest chapter in UnitedHealthcare's commitment to North Carolina's rural health infrastructure.

"By investing in the Future Leaders in Health Scholarship Program, we are not only supporting the career aspirations of dedicated students but also ensuring that North Carolinians in rural and underserved areas have access to the high-quality, local care they deserve," said Anita Bachmann, CEO, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of North Carolina.

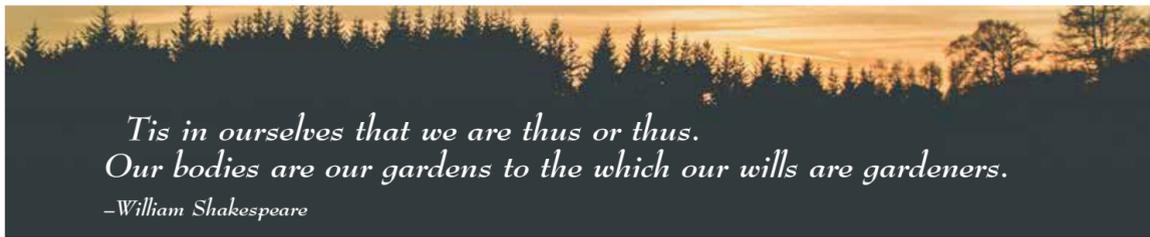
The scholarships are designed to be comprehensive, covering costs ranging from tuition and testing to basic living expenses and transportation.

"This investment allows us to remove the financial barriers that often stand between a student and a health care career," said Dr. Jeff Cox, president of the N.C. Community College System. "It is a strategic investment in the future of our state's economy and the well-being of our citizens."

Students at Pamlico interested in applying for the UnitedHealthcare Future Leaders in Health Scholarship should contact Giles at 252-249-1851, ext. 3015, or email lgiles@pamlicocc.edu.



A new scholarship program from UnitedHealthcare will be used to help students interested in Pamlico Community College's popular Nurse Aide I and Nurse Aide II programs. Pamlico is one of 35 community colleges in North Carolina participating in the new initiative. Contributed photo



*Tis in ourselves that we are thus or thus.
Our bodies are our gardens to the which our wills are gardeners.*

-William Shakespeare

REGISTER FOR FREE NOW!!!!

"Canva Deep Dive" Workshop
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Tierra Norwood

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10AM - NOON
PAMLICO COUNTY LIBRARY**

- Interactive, hands-on workshop to "level up" your visuals, confidence, and creativity.
- Create polished, professional designs for social media posts, marketing materials, event fliers, that actually support your goals.
- Learn how to work smarter, build visual consistency, and use Canva as a real business tool, not just a design app.



Register NOW at www.PamlicoSBC.com



**Land/Home Sales
Property Management
Appraisals Development**



Agent of the Week

Susan Adams

Broker/Veteran

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

I just wanted to give realtor Susan Adams the recognition she deserves for representing my brother and me during the sale of our late mother's home. Susan was incredibly attentive and helpful during the entire process. She was patient and optimistic, even when I wasn't! She was extremely knowledgeable of local real estate trends and because of this, was able to get the house closed at full price within just a few months of listing. The house wasn't in the best of shape and I really thought we'd be carrying it through the winter.

I've bought and sold real estate before and I would 100% sign with Susan again. I've never had a realtor go above and beyond the way she did for us and it's hard to put into words how much I truly appreciate it.

Elizabeth, Oriental



NEW BERN – Fairwinds 2BR/2BA Condo in Fairfield Harbor. Open floor plan, screened deck and open deck, roof replaced last year. Community boat dock, pool, golf course, and restaurant.
OFFERED AT \$209,000



ARAPAHOE – Prime Commercial Opportunity, 12,000 sf on 1.43 acres near Arlington Place, Minnesott Beach and the Arapahoe Charter School. Not in a flood zone. Expansive paved parking, large loading bay door on side.
OFFERED AT \$249,500



NEW BERN – Handicapped-accessible, waterfront 2BR/2BA fully-furnished condo in Oriental Harbor Place. Community pool, air-conditioned commercial elevator.
OFFERED AT \$359,500



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/2BA 1,894 sf open floor plan, deeded boat slip on 1 acre lot. Screened outdoor entertainment area & fire pit. Bright, open spaces indoors and inviting outdoor areas surrounded by mature trees and natural beauty. Being sold as-is.
OFFERED AT \$545,000



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

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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

- February 25th – Today is National Chocolate Covered Nut Day
- February 26th – Today is National Fairy Tale Day. "Once upon a time..."
- February 27th – Today is National Kahlua Day.
- February 28th – 1983, The final episode of M*A*S*H aired on CBS-TV
- March 1st – Today is National Peanut Butter Lover's Day
- March 2nd – Today is National Old Stuff Day. I think I fit this category.
- March 3rd - 1931, The Star-Spangled Banner was officially adopted as the National Anthem of the United States.

Birthdays This Week

- February 25th – 1943, Musician George Harrison
- February 25th – 1949, Professional wrestler Richard Fliehr (Nature Boy Ric Flair)
- February 26th – 1932, Johnny Cash
- March 1st -1954, Actor, director, producer Ron Howard
- March 1st – 1954, Actress Catherine Bach
- March 1st – 1977, Pamlico Partnership for Children Program Manager Michelle Shields
- March 2nd – 1981, Actress and director Bryce Dallas Howard
- March 2nd – 1968, Actor Daniel Craig

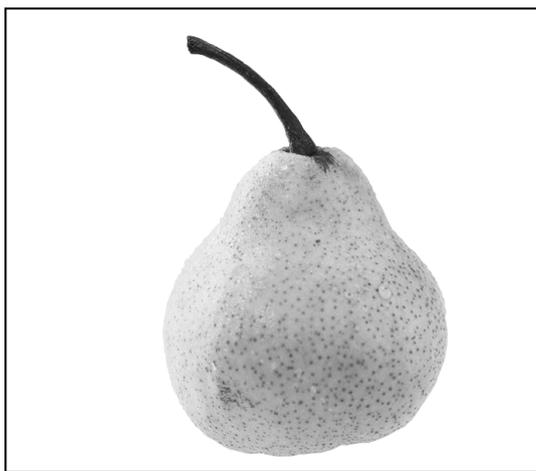


Rosary for Peace on February 21st



fiber promotes a healthy gastrointestinal tract

It might not garner the same level of attention as apples, bananas or other popular fruits, but the humble pear packs quite a nutritious punch. According to USA Pears, a medium-sized, 100-calorie pear contains 21 percent of the recommended daily value of fiber and 8 percent of the recommended daily value of vitamin C. The fiber in pears can be especially beneficial, as fiber promotes a healthy gastrointestinal tract and helps maintain balance and regularity. Fiber also has been linked to a reduced risk for colorectal cancer, making pears a worthy addition to anyone's diet.



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 Freemason St. in Oriental, NC (2nd brick church on the left)

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

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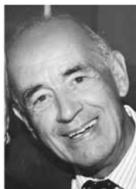
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We place ethical and professional principles of journalism at the center of everything we do in the production of the The Pamlico News.

COMMUNITY

OBITUARIES



Erdoğan Hakki Ertan, 91, of Arapahoe, NC passed away peacefully at home. He enjoyed the outdoors, traveling, fishing and sailing. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Jackie Ertan; brother, Bülent Ertan; two nieces; and one nephew.

Arrangements by Daniels-Sadler Funeral Home & Crematory, Alliance.

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Experience the Musical Playground of Arcis Saxophone Quartet

The quartet has appeared at prestigious concert halls and festivals across Europe, Asia, and the Americas, captivating audiences with performances that are both intellectually engaging and viscerally exciting. In addition to their concert activity, the Arcis Saxophone Quartet is deeply committed to music education, offering masterclasses and workshops at universities and conservatories worldwide. With each project, the Arcis Saxophone Quartet affirms its mission: to explore the full artistic potential of the saxophone quartet and to bring chamber music to life with clarity, energy, and contemporary relevance. We are thrilled they will be bringing that mission to the students of Fred Anderson Elementary School in the afternoon before the concert.

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 pamlicomusic.org.

For helping to make this concert possible, the Pamlico Musical Society wishes to thank our season sponsor: Beth Frazer Real Estate & Rentals and individual sponsors: Anne and Paul Manganaro. We are also grateful for a grant from the North Carolina Arts Council, a Division of the Department of Cultural Resources.

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, and like us on Facebook @pamlicomusic.

NOTICE OF SOLICITATION OF BIDS

PAMLICO SENIOR SERVICES NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR OLDER ADULTS

Sealed bids will be received by the Pamlico Department of Senior Services at the Senior Center 800 Main Street, Alliance NC until 3:00pm, Tuesday, March 10, 2026.

Bids will be opened immediately, thereafter providing meals for the Congregate and Home Delivered Meals Programs for the period beginning July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2028.

Bids must be enclosed in a sealed envelope addressed to Tracy Shaw, Director and Michelle Boomer, Nutrition Manager at the Pamlico Senior Services Center, P O Box 184, Alliance NC 28509. The project will consist of preparing 80 meals a day, 5 days per week for the contract years. Meals must ensure a minimum of one-third of the daily recommended dietary allowances for people 60 years of age or older. Caterer must have a Grade A Sanitation Rating at the time of submitting the bid and maintain it during the project years.

A copy of the bid specifications may be obtained from the Office of the Director of Pamlico Seniors Services, 800 Main Street, Alliance NC.

For additional information, contact Tracy Shaw or Michelle Boomer at 252-745-7196.

The County of Pamlico reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Minority-owned, women-owned, and small businesses are encouraged to submit proposals. The County of Pamlico is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Employer.

Boat Show Volunteers Needed

The Oriental Rotary Club is having their annual Boat Show April 10-12. We are in need of volunteers! It does take a Village to help us put on this show! Anyone that would like to volunteer a few hours working the gates, or driving a golf cart as a free taxi service please call or email Sally Belangia at 252-671-9288 or sallytruitt-belangia@gmail.com.

We love people who own their own golf carts and will be taxi drivers on your own time. Need others to volunteer their golf carts so we can get people to volunteer to drive one if you do not want to taxi your own. Thank you for your support!

"Life is a buffet, so take a little bit of everything and enjoy the feast of experiences!"

Horoscopes



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Unleash your inner architect, Aries. Your focus is laser sharp this week. Use this incredible mental clarity to map out a long-term goal that can lead to professional success.



TAURUS – Apr 21/Jun 21

Taurus, you might uncover a previously unnoticed talent or find a fantastic, easy way to increase your income stream. Your instincts about finances are particularly sharp.



GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

You are stepping into a week of elevated confidence and personal magnetism, Gemini. It's the perfect time to make a splash, meet new people or launch a personal project.



CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

This week brings soothing energy, allowing you to find deep comfort and resolution with any lingering personal matters. A moment of quiet reflection will bring a profound realization about your path forward.



LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Your social connections are bringing incredible joy and opportunity, Leo. A friend or colleague has valuable information that can directly benefit your goals.



VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

All eyes are on your professional achievements, and recognition is due, Virgo. Expect positive feedback, a nod from an important figure or a chance to take on more responsibility.



LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

This week ignites your desire for learning and adventure, Libra. If you've been putting off a trip or a new course of study, the time to commit is now.



SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Complex issues feel manageable this week, Scorpio. You have the emotional intelligence to navigate and resolve long-standing challenges in shared resources or relationships.



SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, your one-on-one relationships, both personal and professional, are reaching a new peak of understanding and support. A shared goal with a key person becomes much clearer.



CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

You feel a vibrant surge of energy and vitality this week, Capricorn. It's an ideal time to commit to a new health routine or simply enjoy the ease and flow of your daily tasks.



AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Dive into what sets your soul on fire, Aquarius. Your creative imagination is running wild, delivering innovative solutions and exciting ideas for self-expression.



PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

The cosmos is supporting your home and emotional life, Pisces. You feel a wonderful sense of security and belonging. It's a great time for connecting with your roots.

PISCES Traits & Overview

Smart, creative, and deeply intuitive, Pisces can be close to psychic. Pisces feel things deeply, and have incredibly strong gut reactions. A Pisces "knows" things from deep within, and can often judge whether a person or situation is good or bad. That doesn't mean a Pisces ignores the logical part of their brain, though. Deeply intelligent, Pisces have a profound respect for the power of the human mind. Is it a surprise that Albert Einstein was a Pisces?

Pisces signs are sensitive, and get along well in small groups of people. Sometimes, a Pisces may feel like they have an internal and external self, and they may need to spend a lot of time solo to recalibrate those two halves of themselves. A Pisces is rarely lonely when they are by themselves, and have an active imagination. Creative, Pisces love spending time reading, exploring or creating art or music, and understanding their emotions through art.

Those with the Pisces sign may seem quiet but they are incredibly strong and have a very strong sense of right and wrong. Their moral compass, along with their gut, guides them well. When a Pisces speaks up, people listen. Pisces tend to take in everything around them, and they are great people to ask for advice on pretty much anything. While Pisces has strong convictions about the best way for them to live, they have a "live and let live" approach when it comes to others, and are accepting and nonjudgmental of all.

FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY

Continued from page A1

Discussion on Animal Services Ordinance Draws Large Crowd to BOC Meeting

assist with rabies clinics and rabies investigations. They will also conduct dangerous dog and dog bite investigations. If an instance arises where a criminal offense is believed to have occurred, it would be handled by the Pamlico County Sheriff's Department with assistance from the Animal Control Officer. County Manager Mark Brewington also offered some comments concerning some of the rumors circulating about the ordinance, chief of which was Pamlico County's affiliation with the Craven-Pamlico Animal Shelter. "We still have a working agreement with the shelter in New Bern," said Brewington. "The thing we are not doing as a county, is actively trapping and transporting animals to the shelter. It is available for individuals to use for things such as owner surrenders. This is subject to the availability of space at the shelter so I would highly suggest calling ahead before transporting an animal yourself." During discussion, Commissioners expressed the desire to do more, however expanding the ordinance to include a more comprehensive animal services department

including a county run shelter, could not be done due to the cost. "This comes down very much to a dollars and cents problem," said Brewington. Another factor involved jurisdiction and support of the municipalities located in the county, most of which, according to Brewington, showed little to no interest in assisting the county financially with expanded animal control services. "A couple of the towns expressed some interest in helping, but were limited due to lack of funds, and others stated that they saw no animal control problem in their towns." Animal Services has no legal jurisdiction within town limits unless a town votes to allow it. After brief discussion, which included the idea of tabling the issue, the Commissioners ultimately voted on and unanimously approved the ordinance. One Commissioner expressed the possibility of revisiting the issue during budget discussions, but with another tight year looming financially for the county, modification and expansion of the ordinance at this time seems unlikely. The full Animal Services Ordinance is available from the County Managers Office.

SPORTS

Lady 'Canes are CPC Tourney Champs

by: Hiram Lupton

To say that the Lady Hurricanes of Pamlico County High School were overwhelming favorites to win the Coastal Plains Conference post-season basketball tournament might be a bit of an understatement. Going into the tournament, Pamlico was the regular season champs and had dominated its conference foes this season with a perfect 10-0 record. The dominance is shown even more when you look at the game scores. Not counting a 2-0 forfeit win over Lejeune, they outscored their conference opponents 575-303. Still, you don't win on paper, you win on the court, and the Hurricanes needed to win two to put some icing on their cake and take the tourney crown. The tournament tipped off Thursday evening with Pamlico serving this year as the host. The first victim, I mean opponent, was the Southside Seahawks. Playing the pressure, full-court defense that was characteristic of their season, the Hurricanes never let the Seahawks take flight and led at the half, 34-14 with nearly everyone getting some playing time. The onslaught continued through the second half with Pamlico finishing off Southside with a 63-32 final score. Nya Clark led the way with 29 points while shooting a highly efficient 13 for 17 from the field. In an earlier lady's semi-final game, East Carteret took out Northside-Pinetown, 58-52, setting Friday's championship game as a classic Hurricanes vs Mariners showdown. Any talk of an upset by the East Carteret fans was quickly put to rest as Pamlico's smothering defense put them up 37-14 at the half. The Hurricanes cruised through the second half, at times building the lead to over 30 points before ultimately sinking the Mariners, 60-40. The dynamic duo of Nya Clark and Sydney Whitley-Reese once again providing the offense, Clark putting in 23 points and Whitley-Reese 21. Whitley-Reese narrowly missed a double-double with 9 rebounds. Also a big contributor was Kyliyah Barber. Barber only had 2 points, but she was a catalyst for the Hurricanes with 5 rebounds, 6 assists, and 7 steals. Whitley-Reese and Barber, along with Madison Anderson, were named to the All-Tournament team and Nya Lynn Clark was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player. "I'm so proud of all my girls," said Head Coach April Rose. "New Season starts Monday." That new season is the North Carolina High School Athletic Association State Tournament and Pamlico is primed for a high seed and a deep advance.



Tournament Most Valuable Player Nya Clark with PCHS Principal Rebecca Lansche

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- Near Arlington Place, Minnesott Beach



Allen Propst

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e: allenpropst@orientalncwaterfront.com



The Lady Hurricanes, Conference Champs and Conference Tournament Champs



(L to R), Sydney Whitley-Reese, Kyliyah Barber, Madison Anderson, and Nya Clark

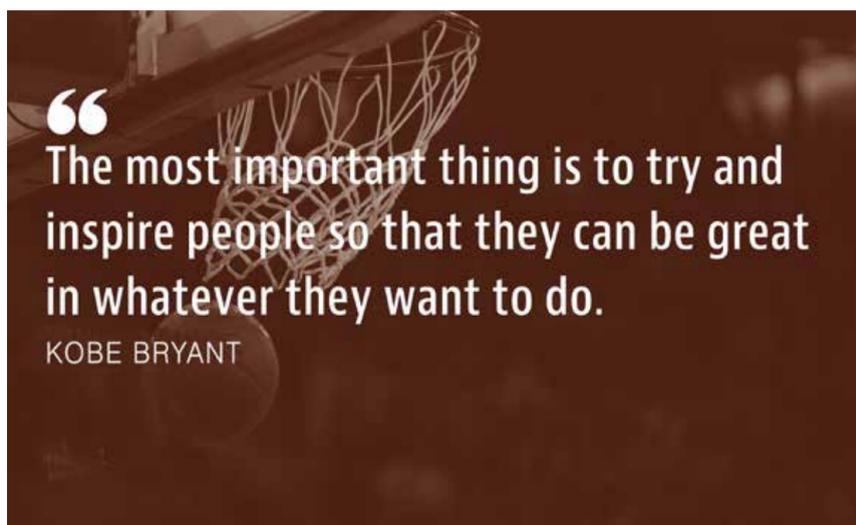
Mewborn Brings Home State Championship

by: Hiram Lupton

The North Carolina High School Athletic Association state wrestling championships were held last weekend in Greensboro and one competitor from Pamlico County High School can now be referred to as State Champion. Isaiah Mewborn, competing in the 1A/2A 150-pound class, won all three of his matches to earn the title. Mewborn wasn't the only Hurricane to bring back some hardware from the championships. In the 1A/2A 132-pound class, Riley Treacy earned a silver, while Syler Hall, competing in the 215-pound division, brought back a bronze. Mewborn and Hall are Seniors while Treacy is only a Sophomore. Overall Pamlico finished 5th out of a field of 32 in the 1A/2A division, an outstanding accomplishment considering they only had four wrestlers competing at the championships. Congratulations to all our wrestlers and their coaches on an outstanding season.



Isaiah Mewborn



“

The most important thing is to try and inspire people so that they can be great in whatever they want to do.

KOBE BRYANT

How to spot foundation issues at home

Home ownership can be a rewarding endeavor and a good investment over time. But homes require consistent upkeep to ensure a property remains safe, a condition of ownership that renters typically do not need to concern themselves with.

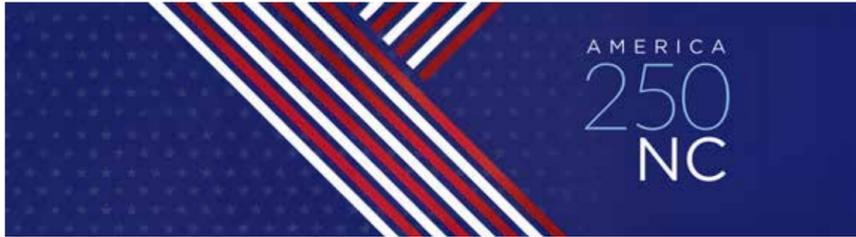
Foundation issues are a component of home ownership that can be easy to forget, as such concerns are not necessarily evident in frequently visited areas of a home. A foundation provides structural integrity for the entire home, so addressing damage is essential. The experts at This Old House indicate that some foundation issues can be relatively easy and inexpensive to address. Other issues may not be so simple, especially if they challenge the structural integrity of a home.



Learning to recognize foundation issues can help homeowners sort through small problems and big ones. But what are signs of foundation problems? Consider these potential issues, as noted by This Old House, Robbie Breaux & Team Real Broker, LLC and Bay Crawl Space Foundation Repair.

- Cracks in walls: Cracks appearing in foundation walls, drywall or plaster, especially diagonal or stair-step cracks forming near doorways, windows or corners, might be indicative of foundation movement. If a crack has formed in a living space, something is likely moving below since floors are supported from the foundation upward. Cracks thicker than one-quarter of an inch in foundation walls or home walls can be a problem.
- Sagging porches and stoops: Notable sagging of porches or stoops can indicate that a house is sinking or changing faster than other areas.
- Separation between door and window frames and walls: Gaps can form around windows and doors if the foundation is shifting. The gaps that form can lead to water and pest infiltration if left untreated, causing even more issues.
- Cabinets and countertops separating from walls: Homeowners who notice considerable space forming between cabinets or countertops and the wall indicate that the frame of the home is out of square. That likely means a foundation is settling or sinking.
- Squeaky, bouncy or sagging floors: While these issues in floors may not always result from foundation issues, they often indicate that moisture has invaded the basement or crawl space. That moisture may have gained access through a cracked or compromised foundation.
- Leaning or cracked chimney: If a chimney resembles the Leaning Tower of Pisa, it could be a sign of possible foundation issues causing settling or sinking.

Bringing in a professional to assess potential foundation issues is a good idea. While certain foundation problems can be remedied by homeowners themselves, it's best to rule out more serious issues that may require professional expertise before going the DIY route.



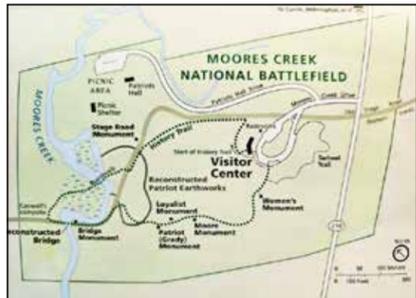
The Battle of Moore's Creek One of the earliest major battles of the American battles

by: Hiram Lupton



The Battle of Moore's Creek from the British Loyalist perspective

in the southern colonies was fought right here in North Carolina. The Declaration of Independence hadn't been written yet, but the rebellion was beginning to go from a simmer to a full-blown fire. In the north, the battles of Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill had already occurred, but in the south, there had not been any major action. The British army had very little presence here, but that was about to change. There were rumors of a planned British expedition headed south by ship to the Wilmington area and in preparation of this, the Royal Governor, Josiah Martin, began calling for loyalist regiments to be formed to support them. Colonial Militia units were already being formed in response to a call by the North Carolina Provincial Congress to take up arms. When word got out that the British loyalist units from the western and central part of the colony were moving toward Wilmington, the Colonial Militia began assembling in the area to block them. Although the loyalist troops started out numbering around 1,600, by the time they reached the Moore's Creek Bridge, there number had dwindled to somewhere between 1000 and 800 men. The Patriot forces were composed of 650 militiamen out of Wilmington led by Colonel James Moore, along with roughly 800 militia from the New Bern area commanded by Richard Caswell. These two armies began maneuvering through southeastern North Carolina like chess pieces, with the loyalists crossing rivers and creeks where they could and the Patriot militia moving to block their advance where possible. Things finally came to a head on February 27, 1776, about 35 miles northwest of Wilmington at a bridge over Moore's Creek as both sides confronted each other. Gunfire was exchanged and the British loyalists, com-



Map of the current Battlefield Park

posed primarily of Highland Scots, attempted to charge across the bridge. They were met with a hail of musket and canon fire which decimated their ranks. It was estimated that as many as 50 loyalists were killed and the remaining troops scattered in retreat. The Colonials suffered 1 killed and 1 wounded. The Patriot forces proceeded to cross the creek and capture over 800 loyalists. The battle prevented the loyalist force from reaching the coast, which in turn caused the British to abandon their immediate plans to land regular troops in the Wilmington area. The other result was to galvanize much of the State in support of the Revolution. It also severely curtailed loyalist recruiting. Major British activity in North Carolina did not occur again until 1780 when troops of General Charles Cornwallis began to expand British controlled territory from his base of operations in Charleston, South Carolina. The site of the battle is now administered by the National Park Service as the Moore's Creek National Battlefield. It is located in Pender County, just off NC Hwy 210 near the town of Currie, North Carolina. The site has a Visitor Center and walking trails to explore the battlefield.

Pamlico Vistas

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



Bay River - Vandemere

Photo by: Hiram Lupton

"In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: **it goes on.**"
- Robert Frost

Paws, Paint, and Parade!



On March 28, the Pamlico Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) invites the community to its much-loved Annual Dog Parade at Lou Mac Park in Oriental—a joyful celebration where Pamlico County's four-legged (and two-legged) stars show off their best looks and biggest personalities.

In conjunction with the parade, Broad Strokes Gallery, Inc. is proud to present a "Celebration of Animals" exhibition, partnering with PAWS to support animal welfare across the county. The gallery will also sponsor a special raffle for an original acrylic pet portrait (up to 16" x 20") by renowned artist Kevin Fetzer, featuring your favorite dog or cat.

Raffle tickets go on sale March 4 at Broad Strokes Gallery, Inc and will also be available at Lou Mac Park prior to the parade. All proceeds benefit PAWS and its county-wide animal care programs.

Kevin Fetzer, widely known for his coastal artwork, has also created a beloved series of pet portraits—some of which are on display at Oriental Village Veterinary Services, courtesy of Dr. Sherri Hicks.

Come celebrate animals, art, and community—while supporting a great cause.

Registration \$5.00 10AM at Lou Mac Par., Parade starts at 11AM. Costumes optional. Broad Strokes Gallery is located at 800 Broad Street, Oriental, NC.



ELECTION DAY

POLLING PLACES

Primary election day is March 3rd and if by then you haven't taken advantage of early voting at the Board of Elections office at the Courthouse, you will need to cast your vote at your assigned precinct based on your address.

| Precinct | Polling Location |
|------------|---|
| Arapahoe | Arapahoe Volunteer Fire Department |
| Bay River | Vandemere Town Hall |
| Courthouse | Board of Elections Office in the Courthouse |
| Crossroads | Grantsboro Town Hall |
| Oriental | Southeast Volunteer Fire Department |
| Reelsboro | Reelsboro Volunteer Fire Department |

If you have any questions about where you should go to vote on election day, stop by or call the Pamlico County Board of Elections at (252) 745-4821. You can also look up your voting registration status, your assigned election day polling location, and see sample ballots for your precinct by going to the North Carolina State Board of Elections website at ncbs.e.gov and tagging the voter search box on the front page.



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**Dental Billing and Coding
Online program starts March 2!**

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- * **Med. Billing/Coding, Starting March 2!**
- * **Phlebotomy Technician, Begins March 3!**
- * **Pharmacy Technician, Coming March 5!**
- * **Nurse Aide II, Starting March 12!**
- * **Medication Aide, Starting March 19!**
- * **Notary, One-day course in Bayboro! March 21!**
- * **Microsoft Excel, Course begins March 26!**
- * **Basic Computers, Coming April 14!**



Financial aid is available for many of Pamlico's short-term Continuing Education courses! Call 252-249-1851, ext. 3015, or email lgiles@pamlicocc.edu for more information!

For more information or to register for any of these great courses, please call 252-249-1851, ext. 3015, today!



Health & Wellness

CAROLINA EAST MEDICAL CENTER RECEIVES 2026 BEST HOSPITALS RANKINGS BY WOMEN'S CHOICE AWARD®

New Bern Hospital Recognized as one of America's 100 Best Hospitals for Patient Experience Plus Six Specialties



(New Bern, NC) – CarolinaEast Medical Center has been recognized as one of America's 100 Best Hospitals for Patient Experience by Women's Choice Award®. This honor places CarolinaEast among the top 100 hospitals in the nation within its size category, based on number of beds. Additionally, CarolinaEast received top rankings in Knee and Hip Replacement, Minimally Invasive Surgery, Obstetrics, Orthopedics, Outpatient Experience, and Patient Safety.

The Women's Choice Award for Patient Experience is the only national designation that combines HCAHPS survey results with primary research on women's healthcare preferences to identify the top 100 hospitals in each size category.

Today's patients are more engaged in their healthcare decisions than ever before, and they expect a seamless, compassionate experience throughout their care journey. Hospitals that prioritize patient experience not only improve outcomes but also build trust, loyalty, and long-term relationships with their communities. 82% of consumers say they would switch healthcare providers after a poor experience and 86% of women would travel up to 50 miles for a hospital with a better patient experience.

"By raising your standards to meet the highest expectations—often held by women—you're giving everyone the best care possible," said Delia Passi, founder and CEO of the Women's Choice Award®. "This award is more than a badge of honor. It lifts the entire hospital and all service lines by recognizing the exceptional experience you provide—not only for women, but for all patients."

In addition to the patient experience ranking, Women's Choice Award recognized CarolinaEast for performing as a Best Hospital in the United States for Knee and Hip Replacement, Minimally Invasive Surgery, Obstetrics, Orthopedics, Outpatient Experience, and Patient Safety. Notably, CarolinaEast Medical Center ranked in the top 5% of nearly 5,000 facilities in the Outpatient Experience category.

"We are honored to receive recognition from such a respected ratings organization," said Michael Smith, President and CEO, CarolinaEast Health System. "These rankings, and the many others we have earned over the years, speak directly to the exceptional work of our 3,000 compassionate healthcare professionals. Their dedication is what truly sets CarolinaEast apart."

The full list of hospital rankings is available on the Women's Choice Award website: <https://womenschoiceaward.com/best-hospitals>



February is American Heart Month.

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HEALTH SYSTEM

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COASTAL LIVING

Oriental Celebrates Chinese New Year

by: Hiram Lupton



Debbie Slook leads one of Dragons past the Drummin' Dragons



Expert Rickshaw peddler Larry Summers leads the Chinese New Year's parade down Hodges Street



It is the Year of the Horse

Since 2011, the Town of Oriental has celebrated the Chinese Lunar New Year and on Saturday they once again took up the noise makers, donned traditional Chinese fashion and paraded the dragons down Hodges Street in celebration. Since it is the Year of the Horse, there was even one parade participant of the equine variety. Many Oriental restaurants offered Asian food specials to join in the celebration. No word if horse was on the menu anywhere. Xin nian kuai le.



Mayor Sally Belangia

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NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE PAMLICO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF THEDA RAE BUTKUS
File No.: 26E000019-680

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against deceased, are notified to exhibit them to MARY C. DILLON, EXECUTOR on or before May 5, 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 4TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

ESTATE OF THEDA RAE BUTKUS
C/O MARY C. DILLON
1922 MAIDEN LANE SW
ROANOKE, VA 24015

Publish February 4,11,18 AND 25 2026

NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE PAMLICO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF ROLAND RAY JOSEPH SANNER
FILE NO. 25E001122-680

All persons, firms, and corporations having claims against Roland Ray Joseph Sanner, deceased, of Pamlico County, NC, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before May 5, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This is the 4th day of February 2026. Elizabeth Sanner, the fiduciary, is fully authorized to receive and administer all assets belonging to the estate.

Elizabeth Sanner, Administrator
C/O Attorney Caitlin A. Preston,
Pierce Law Group, PLLC
3020 South Miami Blvd, Ste 201
Durham, NC 27703

NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE PAMLICO COUNTY

INCIDENTS

- Jan. 16, Main St., Bayboro, order for arrest for DWI
- Jan. 16, Main St., Bayboro, child support warrant
- Jan. 16, South St., Oriental, obtain property by false pretenses
- Jan. 16, Bennett Neck Rd., Grantsboro, resist/delay/obstruct public officer
- Jan. 16, NC Hwy 55, Alliance, no liability insurance
- Jan. 17, Winding Creek Dr., financial card theft, take/withhold/use without person's consent
- Jan. 17, Swan Point Rd., Bayboro, assault with a deadly weapon
- Jan. 17, Mill St., Stonewall, misdemeanor child abuse
- Jan. 17, Main St., Bayboro, revoked registration plate
- Jan. 19, Longleaf Dr., New Bern, domestic verbal
- Jan. 19, Old Bay River Rd., Alliance, communicating threats
- Jan. 19, NC Hwy 55, Grantsboro, larceny from merchant, remove/destroy/deactivate anti-theft device
- Jan. 20, Foxwood Trail Rd., New Bern, order for arrest driving while license revoked not impaired
- Jan. 20, NC Hwy 306 N., Grantsboro, order for arrest possess methamphetamine, order for arrest fail to heed to light or siren, possess methamphetamine, illegally possess food stamps/electronic benefits
- Jan. 21, Florence Rd., Merritt, suspicious activity
- Jan. 22, Main St., Bayboro, driving while impaired
- Jan. 22, Pennsylvania Ave., Vandemere, obtain property by false pretenses
- Jan. 22, Pine Lane, Grantsboro, break or enter any building - intent commit felony/larceny
- Jan. 23, Main St., Bayboro, failure to appear for a violation or a court

LEGALS

SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF ALONZA BERRY SAWYER SR
File No.: 26E000021-680

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against deceased, are notified to exhibit them to WENDY SAWYER, EXECUTOR on or before MAY 19, 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 18TH OF FEBRUARY, 2026

ESTATE OF ALONZA BERRY SAWYER SR
C/O WENDY SAWYER
PO BOX 807
BAYBORO, NC 28515

Publish FEBRUARY 18, 25 AND MARCH 4 AND 11 2026.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO LEASE PROPOSED SHELLFISH BOTTOM AND/OR WATER COLUMN LEASES IN PUBLIC TRUST WATERS OF PAMLICO COUNTY

Notice is hereby given pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. ? 113-202(f) that the following parties have filed applications to lease public trust waters in Pamlico County for shellfish aquaculture:

- 1) Evan R. Gadow – Shellfish Bottom and Water Column – No. 25-018BL/25-019WC – 0.72 acres – Little Bear Creek, Pamlico County.

The areas will be marked at each corner as a Proposed Shellfish Bottom Lease and/or Water Column Lease with the above numbers.

The Director of the NC Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) has notified the applicants that a public hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Pamlico County Courthouse, Commissioners Room - upstairs, 202 Main Street, Bayboro, NC 28515. The hearing will be conducted both in person and virtually via Webex. Meeting materials, including the biological

investigation report and presentation materials, and the Webex link and call-in number will be posted on the Division's hearing webpage: deq.nc.gov/2026-02-18-pamlico-county-shellfish-lease-hearing.

Members of the public may comment in person or via Webex. Those who wish to comment by Webex must pre-register to speak no later than 4:00 p.m. on March 23, 2026, at: deq.nc.gov/pamlico-county-shellfish-lease-hearing-speaker-registration. Those who wish to comment in person must register to speak at the meeting location between 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on March 24, 2026.

Sworn written comments may be submitted up to twenty-four (24) hours following the proceedings by mail to: NC DMF, Shellfish Lease and Aquaculture Program, PO Box 769, 3441 Arendell St, Morehead City, NC 28557, or through the online form at: deq.nc.gov/pamlico-county-shellfish-lease-hearing-comment-form.

Kathy B. Rawls, Director
NC Division of Marine Fisheries

NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE PAMLICO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF HARRIETTE B. MCCOTTER
File No.: 26E000007-680

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against deceased, are notified to exhibit them to LOUIS PATTERSON MCCOTTER, EXECUTOR on or before MAY 26, 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 25TH OF FEBRUARY, 2026

ESTATE OF HARRIETTE B. MCCOTTER
C/O LOUIS PATTERSON MCCOTTER
PO BOX 187
VANDEMERE, NC 28587

Publish FEBRUARY 25 AND MARCH 4, 11 AND 18 2026.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as the Executor of the Estate of ROBERT LEWIS GOODWIN, deceased, late of Pamlico County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them, duly verified, to the Executor's counsel, at 10130 Mallard Creek Road, Suite 300, Charlotte, North Carolina 28262, on or before the 27th day of May, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to said estate is to make immediate payment to the Executor.

This the 25th day of February, 2026.

Carol Marie Mancini, Executor
c/o The Canipe Law Firm, PLLC
10130 Mallard Creek Road
Suite 300
Charlotte, NC 28262
File # 26E000024-680 (Pamlico County)

NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE PAMLICO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF ROBERT BRYAN MILLER
File No.: 26E000030-680

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against deceased, are notified to exhibit them to RANDY MILLER, EXECUTOR on or before MAY 26, 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 25TH OF FEBRUARY 2026

ESTATE OF ROBERT BRYAN MILLER
C/O RANDY MILLER
135 MOORE'S SWAMP RD
NEW BERN, NC 28560

Publish FEBRUARY 25 AND MARCH 4, 11 AND 18 2026.

REPORTS

- Jan. 29, Chair Rd., New Bern, exploit disabled/elder (F)
- Jan. 29, NC Hwy 55, Alliance, injury to real property, simple possession of Schedule VI controlled substance, possession of marijuana paraphernalia, second degree trespass
- Jan. 30, Lee Landing Rd., New Bern, injury to personal property
- Jan. 30, Main St., Bayboro, communicating threats
- Jan. 30, Hudson Lane, New Bern, warrant for arrest simple assault, warrant for arrest injury to personal property, warrant for arrest communicating threats
- Jan. 30, Swan Point Rd., Bayboro, verbal domestic
- Jan. 31, Nc Hwy 306 S., Grantsboro, driving while license revoked not impaired revoked
- Feb. 1, Lynchs Beach Loop Rd., Bayboro, stranded motorist, injury to personal property
- Feb. 1, NC Hwy 55, Grantsboro, simple assault
- Feb. 2, Bennett Tingle Rd., Grantsboro, assault employee state/local detention center cause physical injury, assault on government official or employee, resist/delay/obstruct public officer
- Feb. 4, Shingle Brook Rd., New Bern, welfare check

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

- Sept. 30, 11.39 AC Lot 2 PCB 6-19 from Cayton Development, LLC to Matthew T. Caraway, Shelly D. Caraway, \$196
- Sept. 30, 1.00 AC McCotter Rd & NC Hwy 55 from JLO Enterprises, Inc. to Raquel Cox, \$420
- Oct. 1, Grace Harbor Marina Unit: A-35 Condo Cab 1 Slide 12-3, PIN L10-6-A35 from Chris Bellairs, Christopher J. Bellairs, Jeannien Bellairs, Jeanne M. Bellairs to Jeffrey L. Wolters, Stephanie P. Wolters, \$88

- Oct. 1, Preservation Section I Lot: 3, 4.46 AC Map DB 685/310 & PCA 187-8, PIN L10-5-3 from Chris Bellairs, Christopher J. Bellairs, Jeanne Bellairs, Jeannie M. Bellairs to Jeffrey L. Wolters, Stephanie P. Wolters, \$670
- Oct. 1, Silver Acres Lot: 2 Section Two, Silver Acres Rd Merritt PCA 152-3, Point Marina 1/42 Und Int Common Area PCA 158-19, Point Marina Boat Slip 42 PCA 170-13 & Membership Point Marina Owners Association, Inc., PIN K071-47-25-2 from Alex McFarland, Ashley McFarland to McFarland Living Trust, Alex Michael McFarland/TR, Ashley Rose McFarland/TR, \$0
- Oct. 1, Broad Creek Village Lot: 4 PCA 7-2 & MB 8-75, Broad Creek Village Lot: 4A PCA 23-5, MB 8/75 & PCA 7-2, PIN K08-55-4 & K08-54-4 from Cheyenne Lloyd, Zechariah Lloyd to Mr. Biggs, LLC, \$30
- Oct. 1, 1.29 AC Tract PCB 21-4 from Ronald E. Brinson, Kelly W. Brinson to Melissa S. Jones, \$60
- Oct. 1, Sea Vista, Pierce Creek Area Block: A Lot: 10 Addition VI MB 11/63, PIN J083-34-10 from John George Schwab, Beth Ann Schwab to John George Schwab/TR, John Schwab, Beth Ann Schwab/TR, Beth Schwab, John and Beth Schwab Revocable Trust, \$0
- Oct. 3, 1.55 AC W/S Swan Point Rd (NCSR 1219) PCA 177-2 from James Maddox, Shanda Maddox to Shannon Maldonado, \$470
- Oct. 3, WC Yacht Club 1/82 Und Int Exhibit A DB 262/835, DB 323/911 & DB 382/111; WC Yacht Club 1/82 Und Int Piers & Docks PCA 47-9 & PCA 130-5, WC Yacht Club Boat Slip 1 PCA 130-5 from Gerald L. Points, III to William R. Raper, \$44
- Oct. 3, 0.0165 AC, 0.114 AC, 0.049 AC & 0.028 AC N/S Neuse River & Both Sides River Rd PCA 136-6 from Edward Fruhsamer to Kimberly Schoen, \$0

AROUND THE COUNTY

Pamlico Betty Jo Rodgers, *Correspondent*



This has been a week of seeing lots of wildlife. I had to stop on Trent Road to let a young flock of turkeys cross the road on Saturday. Speaking of turkeys, I had a nice conversation with the mayor of Aurora, and he is an avid turkey hunter. He told me that turkeys have a keen sense of hearing and eyesight, but they do not have a keen sense of smell. I guess that is why so many turkey hunters do it sitting on the ground where they can be quiet and still, no matter what they smell like.

I also had to be careful not to run over turtles crossing the road. I have seen many birds fishing the creek from our pier, including pelicans, great blue herons, snow geese, an eagle, and one other bird I could not identify. I tried looking him up before he flew away, and I think it might have been a black skimmer. But I am not sure, because he flew away too soon.

The Reverend Tara Lain, District Superintendent of the Sound District, was in Pamlico County on Sunday. She shared a meal with the members of Alliance UMC after worship Sunday at Charlie's Restaurant in Bayboro.

Contractors continue to work on the houses at the intersection of Trent Road and Straight Road. I noticed the new construction in downtown Pamlico seems to be getting a foundation. It is being built on the property where Mildred and I lived as children in the 50's. It is exciting to see how big the trees have grown over the years, and it is nice to see that someone will live in one of our old homeplaces. It is especially nice to see the Pamlico Community growing.

Bayboro Baptist Church is hosting the weekly Lenten services this year. For anyone new to the county, these are short ecumenical services each Wednesday during Lent at noon, followed by a donation fellowship meal. Various clergy from different denominations speak each week. On February 18th, Reverend B. J. Rodgers officiated with the imposition of ashes.

Here is the schedule for March and April:
 February 25 - Father Jeremiah Day, Retired Episcopal Priest
 March 4 - Reverend Peg Witt, Riverside UMC Pastor
 March 11 - Reverend Joyce Bell, Retired AME Zion Methodist Church Pastor
 March 18 - Reverend John Farmer, Alliance UMC & Bayboro UMC Pastor
 March 25 - TBA
 April 1 - Evangelist Carnell J. Barrow, West Branch Missionary Baptist Church

Celebrating birthdays in February Elizabeth Cuthrell (2/25), Lupe Bennett (2/28), and Bless Her Heart, Penny Ford will not get a year older since her birthday is February 29th. Celebrating birthdays in March are Karen Alexander (3/4), Lester Carey (3/8), Cameron Paul (3/10), Larry Gracie (3/13), Maurice Benton & Lisa Franklin Jackson (3/15), Frank Bacon & Patrick Phillips (3/21), Heath Fulcher (3/24), Emma Machle & Joanna Harrell (3/27), Asa Gatlin (3/28), Debbie Willis Fulcher (3/30), and Santa Klotz (3/31).

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 8th and St. Patrick's Day is March 17th.

Have a blessed week. Depressed? Take Spiritual Vitamin D. "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you." (James 4:8)

Grantsboro Jeff Roberts, *Correspondent*



Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening.

I hope this finds all of you well after the arctic blast that paid us a visit earlier this week. Monday morning was especially chilly on my drive to work, with a few patches of black ice lingering along the highway. Those quiet stretches of road can fool you this time of year, everything looks calm until you hit a slick spot. So if these temperatures keep dipping, take your time in those early hours. No appointment is worth sliding for.

Cold snaps like this remind us we still live in a place where nature sets the pace. One day it's shirtsleeves and sunshine, the next we're scraping windshields and watching our breath hang in the air. It's part of coastal North Carolina life, unpredictable, but never boring.

The Community College is hosting its annual Oyster Roast and Chili Cook-Off this weekend from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. If you're able, make plans to attend and support a great cause. Events like this don't just raise funds, they bring neighbors together. You'll see folks you haven't run into since fall, catch up on stories, and maybe debate whose chili really deserved first place. That's the kind of gathering that keeps small communities stitched tight.

If you've driven through Alliance lately, you may have noticed new construction along Highway 55 between the daycare and Hardison's Tire. It's hard to miss. A billboard is going up, and it's a sizable one. Whatever ends up on it won't go unnoticed. Growth has a way of showing itself in big, bold shapes. Sometimes it's exciting. Sometimes it makes you pause. Either way, it's a reminder that even in places that feel unchanged, movement is always happening.

Pamlico Babe Ruth has been holding sign-ups for spring ball. If your child plans to play, be sure to reach out soon; the deadline is March 1st. Representatives will be at the recreation ball-field Sunday at 1:30 for anyone needing to register. It's a strong program with dedicated coaches who truly invest in these kids. Baseball here isn't just about wins and losses. It's about learning how to shake hands after a tough inning, how to trust the person beside you, and how to keep showing up. Those lessons stick long after the uniforms are put away.

Many of you have likely seen the changes at Forest Farm Supply, now operating as 3 Rivers Outdoors. After the closing of Neuse River Bait and Tackle, there has certainly been a void in the county for an outdoor store. It's encouraging to see someone step forward to fill that space. I wish them much success as they begin this new chapter. And to Chuck and Wanda I hope retirement brings quiet mornings, open water, and time to enjoy the community you've supported for so many years. Places like that aren't just stores; they're part of the fabric of the county.



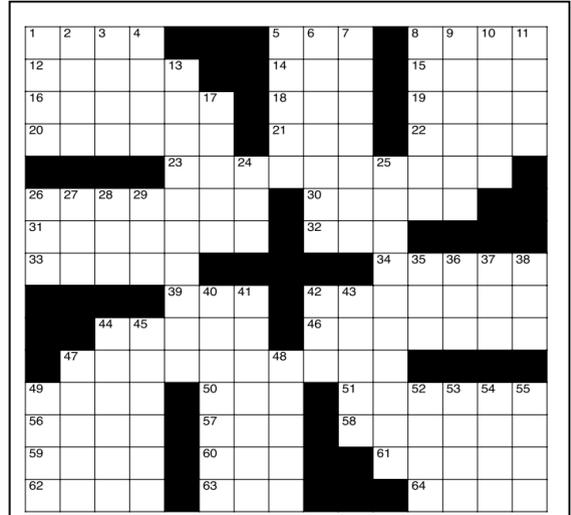
This week's photograph comes from the harbor in Oriental. Early light. Still water. Working boats resting before another day begins. After a week of sharp wind and frozen ground, the harbor looked steady and almost patient. The reflections were so clear it was hard to tell where the water ended and the sky began.

That's something I've always loved about this place. Even when the weather turns harsh or the landscape changes, there's a rhythm underneath it all. Boats go out. Kids sign up for ball. Neighbors gather around oysters and chili. Businesses close. New ones open. And the water keeps reflecting whatever sky is above it.

Thank you for reading and for being part of what makes this county feel like home.

Until next week, take care and keep an eye on those early morning roads.

CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. What travelers must do
- 5. Calendar month
- 8. Hopefully quickly
- 12. Once more
- 14. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- 15. "Cheers" actress Perlman
- 16. Astronomy unit
- 18. Savings vehicle
- 19. Get your ducks in this
- 20. Right away
- 21. Popular sports league
- 22. Containers
- 23. Entireties
- 26. One who wassails
- 30. Turned-up position
- 31. Extreme modesty
- 32. Writing utensil
- 33. Rewards (archaic)
- 34. Ancient capital
- 39. S. American wood sorrel
- 42. General discomfort
- 44. Philippine island
- 46. A witty saying
- 47. One who summarizes
- 49. Covered in
- 50. Mimic
- 51. Henry was a notable one
- 56. Daughter of Hera and Zeus
- 57. Retired NFLer Newton
- 58. Playground equipment
- 59. Concept
- 60. Satisfaction
- 61. Fishing net
- 62. Hammer end
- 63. A father's male child
- 64. Japanese drink

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Off-Broadway figure
- 2. Gelatinous substance
- 3. Concern
- 4. "Lick It Up" rockers
- 5. Serbian river
- 6. Part of a hat
- 7. Bowl-shaped drinking vessel
- 8. Semitic language
- 9. Utter a shrill cry
- 10. Long times
- 11. Animal parts
- 13. Causing annoyance
- 17. Amorous talker
- 24. Attempt
- 25. Harmonic effects
- 26. Cost per mile
- 27. They ___
- 28. Bitterly regret
- 29. Not even
- 35. A way to drop
- 36. Title of respect
- 37. World leader
- 38. Georgia rockers
- 40. National capital
- 41. Great Plains people
- 42. Duck-sized dinosaur genus
- 43. Architectural recesses
- 44. Member of U.S. Navy
- 45. Mountainous
- 47. Kite bird
- 48. Sweetheart (archaic)
- 49. Popular snack made of potato
- 52. 70s songsters The Bee ___
- 53. SE China port ___men
- 54. Something to fill up
- 55. League of Legends character

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pamlico County Tax Office is implementing the 2026 Countywide Revaluation mandated by the State every 8 years. Property owners can expect to receive their notices mid-late March. If the owner disagrees with his/her new appraised value of real estate, the notice will instruct the owner of the appeal process. The last date to appeal is Monday, May 11, 2026.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing on a Special Use Permit (SUP) for a short term rental for 307 Vandemere St in the Town of Oriental will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 6PM, or as soon thereafter as can be reached, in the large Board Room in Town Hall, 507 Church St, Oriental, NC. The Board is required to review any evidence presented at that time. The application will be available for viewing by the Public at Oriental Town Hall and online at www.TownofOriental.com. The meeting is open to the Public.
 Diane H. Miller, Manager/Clerk

REQUEST FOR BIDS

The Town of Oriental is seeking bidders for the repair of the Dinghy Dock and seawall. The RFP and associated documents are available at www.townoforiental.com under BIDS (2026-05), or at Town Hall, 507 Church St Oriental, NC between the hours of 8AM and 4 PM M-Th, 8AM-3PM F.
 The proposals will be opened at Town Hall (address above) on March 18, 2PM.
 The Board has the right to reject any and all proposals.
 A voluntary pre-bid meeting will be held March 4, 2026, 2PM at the dinghy dock.
 Questions can be directed to Diane H. Miller, MPA, ICMA-CM at manager@townoforiental.com.

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS

- Auctions**
COURT ORDERED DIVORCE AUCTION, Saturday, March 7th @10am
201 S. Central Ave. Locust, NC. Tractors, Trucks, Cars, Kubotas, 4-Wheelers, Farm Equipment, Bank Repos, more. www.ClassicAuctions.com
704-791-8825 NCAF5479
- Auctions**
COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE AUCTION – Six-unit shopping center in Granite Quarry, NC! Live & Online March 6, 11AM. Preview Feb 27. – Rogers Realty & Auction - NCAL#685 – 336-789-2926, rogersauctiongroup.com/auctions/detail/bw156526
- Home Improvement**
No more cleaning out gutters. Guaranteed! LeafFilter is backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferrable warranty. Call today 1-877-649-1190 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Plus get 75% off installation and a bonus \$250 discount! Limited time only. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details.
- Miscellaneous**
We Buy Vintage Guitar's! Looking for 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg. And Gibson Mandolins / Banjos. These brands only! Call for a quote: 1-833-641-6577
- Miscellaneous**
WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-833-928-1861. Have zip code of service location ready when you call!
- Miscellaneous**
We Buy Houses for Cash AS-IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Call today for your fair cash offer: 1-919-925-6362.
- Miscellaneous**
Get a High Quality, Modern Design bath or shower transformation in as little as One Day. \$0 Down, \$0 Installation, \$0 Payments for 12 months! Call: 1-877-243-7050.
- Miscellaneous**
Denied Social Security Disability? Appeal! If you're 50+, filed SSD and denied, our attorneys can help! Win or Pay Nothing! Strong, recent work history needed. 877-553-0252 [Steppacher Law Offices LLC Principal Office: 224 Adams Ave Scranton PA 18503]
- Miscellaneous**
Donate your car today, running or not. Support Patriotic Hearts for our Veterans and their Families! Free fast pickup. Max tax deduction. Se habla Español. Call now: 877-317-3360
- Miscellaneous**
Get a break on your taxes! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-855-869-7055 today!
- Miscellaneous**
Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material – steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer – up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-855-585-1815
- Miscellaneous**
BEHIND ON YOUR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS? Threatened with foreclosure? Denied a loan modification? Let us help! Call the Homeowner Relief Line to speak with a mortgage specialist 844-492-0883

100 Days!!

Arapahoe Charter School



Arapahoe Charter School celebrated the 100th Day of School in style! Students marked the milestone with creative projects, fun activities, and plenty of excitement as they reflected on 100 days of learning and growth. We are so proud of our Bobcats and all they've accomplished so far this year!

Arapahoe Charter School's 5th graders recently transformed their classrooms into a magical Winter Wonderland Wax Museum, where history came to life!



Kindness was contagious at Arapahoe Charter School as students, families, and staff came together to celebrate Random Acts of Kindness Week!



As a teacher- and parent-directed school rooted in strong community connections, ACS proudly embraced the opportunity to spread positivity throughout our campus and beyond. From small thoughtful gestures to meaningful acts of service, our Bobcats showed that kindness truly does create a ripple effect. We are proud of the heart our school community continues to show each and every day.

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Students researched influential historical figures, wrote informative speeches, and presented in character, complete with creative costumes and confident performances. This engaging project blended literacy, history, and public speaking, giving students a memorable opportunity to showcase their learning. We are so proud of their hard work and creativity!

Lady Hurricanes Seeded #1 in the East

by: Hiram Lupton

The North Carolina High School Athletic Association's State Basketball Tournament tips off Tuesday of this week with first round games all over the state but the Pamlico County High School Hurricanes won't be playing Tuesday thanks to a first-round bye they received by virtue of being the Number 1 seed in the 2A East Region. Pamlico will host the winner of the #16 seeded Triangle Math and Science Academy and #17 seeded Union High School contest. Time of the game to be announced. As long as they win, Pamlico will be the host right up to the East Regional finals which will be played at Minges Coliseum on the campus of East Carolina University on March 4th through the 7th. The State Championships will be held in Winston-Salem at Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum on March 11th through 14th.



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TUESDAY, MARCH 24

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or emailing
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