

The Pamlico News

Wednesday, July 1, 2026

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Commissioners Approve Interim Budget

by: Hiram Lupton

The Pamlico County Board of Commissioners moved forward Monday evening at a special called meeting by approving an Interim Budget which will keep the county running for the next two months. In essence, this extends the current 2025-26 budget and draws on the reserve balance to fund county government spending. This move was necessitated by two things. First, the state requires the county to have an approved budget by July 1. Secondly, the state has moved at a snail's pace with legislation known as SB 474 which placed Pamlico County under the moratorium on using new property values to determine tax rates for the upcoming year. Until that bill is approved and signed by the Governor, or voted down, the County is in limbo as far as a new budget and the tax rate is concerned. Once that finally occurs, a public hearing on the budget and rate must be scheduled with a two-week notice before it can be voted on. That could come as early as mid-July, or the process could continue to drag on. There is currently a vote scheduled in the legislature this week on the bill. It had been hoped by the Commissioners that by Monday the issue would be resolved and a Public Hearing had been scheduled with a likely vote on the budget. Given the large crowd that packed the Commissioners' room, the Public Hearing was changed to a Public Comment period so those who came prepared to speak would be given the opportunity. One speaker derided the County for an excessive budget and property taxes while the other seven thanked the county for their continued support of the County School System, Pamlico Community College, and The Pamlico County Health Department. The speakers spoke of how much these institutions contribute to the County, and why the support of the Board is vital. Several Commissioners echoed the sentiments expressed by the speakers and also voiced their frustration with the legislature and particularly the lack of communication from those representing Pamlico County in Raleigh.

RETRACTION:

At the Town of Bayboro Commission meeting Tuesday evening, it was determined that the Blue Crab Festival scheduled for Labor Day weekend will be postponed until next year to allow for planning.

Mobile Eye Clinic Visits Pamlico County

by: Hiram Lupton

Vision is perhaps the most important of the five basic human senses and can often be affected by many other health conditions such as diabetes. Providing accessible and comprehensive eye care to underserved communities is the mission of "In Her Vision," a nonprofit organization founded in 2020 by Dr. Mojgan Besharat and based in Durham, North Carolina. Last Friday, the In Her Vision mobile eye clinic and their partner the Durham Tech Vision Van spent the day at Pamlico County's own Hope Clinic providing free eye exams and prescription glasses to over 30 patients who otherwise might not have had the opportunity or means for proper eye care. The visit by these



Patient Mike Sawyer and Dr. Besharat

awesome volunteers was arranged through the partnership between the Duke University School of Nursing and the Pamlico County Health Department. Clinical Services Director, Lynn Hardison and nursing students of the Mobile Prevention and Care Team (MPACT) helped coordinate the event. "It often takes Hope Clinic at least 8-12 months to find an eye specialist for our patients needing screenings and glasses," says Hope Clinic Director Yolanda Cristiani. "There is a huge shortage in our area of eye specialists in general, and we are excited and grateful that Dr. Besharat and her team were here today." In Her Vision, fostering sight and transforming lives.



The Durham Tech Community Health Lab



A volunteer with In Her Vision conducts an eye exam on a Pamlico County patient.

Oriental Adopts Interim Budget

by: Hiram Lupton

Faced with the uncertainty of what actions the North Carolina General Assembly will approve concerning property valuations, the Oriental Town Board chose the route of an interim budget until a final legislative decision is made. The budget process and more specifically what



The Mayor and Town Board listen as Town Manager Diane Miller explains the town's budget options.

tax rate to apply to property values was thrown into a quandary when the NC General Assembly passed SB 889 which placed a moratorium on the adoption of any new property valuations for this tax year. This affected roughly 30 counties in the state which were engaged in their every six-year property revaluations, Pamlico being one of these. A provision in this bill exempted those counties with a population under 15,000, thus allowing Pamlico to proceed with adoption of new values. However, another bill, SB 474, introduced at the General Assembly on June 10, lowers the population exemption from 15,000 to 12,000 thus removing Pamlico's exemption. That bill is now stuck in committee and puts Pamlico County, and it's municipalities in a precarious position as far as what tax rate to adopt. Once the yearly rate

is voted on and adopted, it is set for the fiscal year. Higher property values mean a lower rate per \$100 value, lower values mean a higher rate. If the lower rate is adopted and then property values are frozen at last years values, revenue will not be sufficient to fund services.

In this scenario, Town Manager Diane Miller estimated that enough revenue would be collected to take care of about two-thirds of the town's needs. If you adopt a higher rate based on lower property valuations and Pamlico winds up exempt from the moratorium, residents are overtaxed. Based on this uncertainty, the Board adopted Manager Miller's recommendation of an interim budget using the town's fund balance through September. This budget, set at \$336,363.85, and covers only the bare necessities for the town with no capital expenditures.

The alternatives, a rate of .16/\$100 based on new valuations or .23/\$100 based on old valuations will be considered once the General Assembly reaches a final resolution on SB 474.

Water Department Informational Videos

by: Hiram Lupton

Have you ever wondered when the Pamlico County Water System began service? Or maybe how many gallons a day it treats? And here's a big one, is my water safe to drink? Pamlico County wants to answer your questions about the water system and will be doing just that with a series of monthly videos hosted by Carl Wall, Pamlico County General Services Administrator, and Haley Manning, Administrative Assistant of the Pamlico County Water Department. "We want to give the public an idea of where their water comes from, how it is treated, and the pro-



• Pamlico County General Services Administrator Carl Wall and Administrative Assistant of the Pamlico County Water Department Haley Manning.
• Carl Wall and Haley Manning at the Kershaw Road Water Treatment Plant.



cess it goes through from the aquifer to your tap," says Wall. "We want to do a new video about once a month and welcome the public's questions." The first video should be available this week and deals with facts and figures about the water system as well as some of it's history. It was recorded at the newly modernized Kershaw Road water treatment plant. These videos will be posted on the County's and the Water Department's Facebook pages. There will also be a link provided to access the videos on the County's website.



July in the American Revolution

by: Hiram Lupton

July 10, 1754 – Benjamin Franklin proposes a single government for the colonies called the Albany Plan of Union. This was not a call for independence from Great Britain but a way to unite the colonies for their self-defense during the French and Indian War.

July 3, 1775 – General George Washington assumes command of the Continental Army outside Boston.

July 5, 1775 – The Continental Congress approves the Olive Branch Petition, a final attempt to avoid all-out war with Britain.

July 4, 1776 – Congress adopts the Declaration of Independence.

July 5, 1777 – The British capture Fort Ticonderoga

July 16, 1779 – The Americans capture Stony Point, New York

July 6, 1781 – The Battle of Green Spring plantation in Virginia.

July 11, 1782 – The British evacuate Savannah, Georgia.



North Carolina withdraws permit application for Red Snapper season

MOREHEAD CITY – The NC Division of Marine Fisheries has asked to withdraw the Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) application for Red Snapper that would have allowed a 62-day recreational season from July 1 through Aug. 31. Until further notice, it remains unlawful to possess Red Snapper taken from North Carolina waters or from federal waters.



North Carolina was one of four Southeastern states that received a Red Snapper EFP from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries for a pilot project to explore whether states can collect near real-time data to monitor the recreational Red Snapper fishery. However, a federal court granted a preliminary injunction sought by plaintiffs in a lawsuit that precluded these EFPs.

The injunction will not be resolved before the July 1 recreational season start date. The DMF will consider submitting a revised EFP application next year, which will continue to focus on collecting recreational harvest and discard data.

Should NOAA Fisheries announce a shorter 2026 federal recreational season for Red Snapper in the South Atlantic, North Carolina would follow the federal season.

LIKELY WEATHER OVER THE WEEKEND

 Saturday, July 4th **98°Hi** Partly sunny and warm

 Sunday, July 5th **94°Hi** Cloudy early. Scattered thunderstorms





Enthusiastic middle-schoolers enjoy STEM-themed day camp at Pamlico Community College

By Sandy Wall

Twenty middle-schoolers spent last week at a Pamlico Community College day camp learning how science and math play critical roles in helping people look their best.

The rising sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders participated in the college’s STEM-focused “Styled by Science” day camp at the college’s Cosmetology Building in Bayboro. They enjoyed hands-on activities in hair design, hair coloring, makeup, manicures and facials.

And, of course, they also had a lot of fun!

“This has been our best day camp ever,” said PCC’s Derek Godwin, who oversees operations of the college’s Bayboro-based programs. “We’ve had some hard-working Beauty Arts faculty members who have come up with some great activities this week. The campers have been really engaged and enthusiastic.”

He continued, “Cosmetology is not generally thought of as a STEM-focused career field, but it is. There are chemicals involved and precise measurements are necessary. We’ve all learned a lot this week.”



Students and instructors gather for a group photo on the final day of last week’s STEM-focused “Styled by Science” day camp in Bayboro. Contributed photo

The day camp, which was free to the 20 participants, was funded by a generous grant from STEM East, a Greenville-based consortium of schools, community colleges, employers, state and local governments, and others designed to enhance Science, Technology, Engineering and Math learning opportunities that align with jobs available in Eastern North Carolina.

Camp participants came from Pamlico County Middle School, Pamlico Christian Academy and Riverside Leadership Academy in New Bern.

Organizers said the campers – all girls – got along exceedingly well and participated fully in the week’s activities.

“I also want to thank the PCC students and employees who have helped make this week’s camp a success,” Godwin said. “We have a great team here.”

To see more about the day camp, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/PCCStyledByScience2026>

Sandy Wall can be reached at 252-249-1851, ext. 3010, or swall@pamlicocc.edu.

Slocum Gate Closure to Impact Cherry Point, Havelock Traffic, Starts July 6



MARINE CORPS AIR STATION CHERRY POINT, NORTH CAROLINA (June 26, 2026) — The Slocum Gate at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point will be temporarily closed starting July 6, 2026, for approximately five weeks. This closure is necessary to

install critical security and infrastructure upgrades.

Traffic disruptions are anticipated both on base and in the surrounding community during peak morning and afternoon commute times, particularly along NC Highway 101 and US 70 Business route in Havelock, North Carolina.

Personnel, residents and visitors to the installation as well as through traffic of the City of Havelock are advised to plan for delays during the peak morning and afternoon commute hours, 6–8 a.m. and 3–5 p.m.

To mitigate traffic congestion, the installation will offer special opening times and modify traffic patterns at some of its access control points, including the Main Gate at Roosevelt Boulevard, Cunningham Gate at Cunningham Boulevard, and Mary Lou Gate along NC Highway 101. Officials are also strongly advising eastbound drivers (approaching the installation from New Bern) to use the Havelock Bypass to route traffic around the city for smoother traffic flow.

To reduce the possibility for bottlenecks in traffic, access for commercial and large transport vehicles will be prohibited between 5–9 a.m. on weekdays. Commercial vehicles should use the Main Gate or Cunningham Gate to access the installation.

During the closure, the following are the Gate Hours of Operations:

- Main Gate at Roosevelt Boulevard: 24 hours, seven days a week (24/7)
- Cunningham Gate at Cunningham Boulevard: 4:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday–Friday; 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday and Sunday.
- Mary Lou Gate along NC Highway 101: inbound traffic only, from 6-8 a.m., Monday–Friday; outbound traffic only, from 3–5 p.m.
- Catawba Gate: open only to designated essential personnel with an official special-access pass provided by the Provost Marshal’s Office, during the morning (6-8 a.m.).
- Access for commercial and large transport vehicles will be prohibited between 5–9 a.m. on weekdays. Commercial vehicles should use the Main Gate or Cunningham Gate to access the installation.

More information regarding the closure is available at www.cherrypoint.marines.mil.

Direct inquiries to MCAS Cherry

There is no happiness, there is no liberty, there is no enjoyment of life, unless a man can say, when he rises in the morning, I shall be subject to the decision of no unwise judge today. –Daniel Webster



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4TH OF JULY, 2026



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



Agent of the Week

Linda Hoff
Broker
Here’s what one of Linda’s customers had to say...

We would like to thank Linda for all the help she has given us in our search for a place to purchase. Being first time buyers she was extremely good at explaining the process and the things we needed to do. She answered all our questions and was quick to get back to us. It was a pleasure to work with Linda.

Robert & Michelle, Oriental



GRANTSBORO – Unrestricted 1.57 acre mini-farm, 1,792 hsf, **3BR/2.5BA** with heated and cooled 2-car garage, detached workshop, detached poultry barn w/outside fencing & a carriage barn. **OFFERED AT \$279,500**



ORIENTAL – 4,000 hsf commercial, fully-insulated. Covered porch opens to reception, conference room & 2 offices. Carrier 2.5 ton heat pump for office area, 2 5-ton HVAC systems for warehouse. Attic, 208 3-Phase 200 amp elec system. Ingersoll Rand 200 PSI air compressor. Fabrication equipment does not convey. **OFFERED AT \$ 449,900**



ORIENTAL – Waterfront **3BR/3BA** on 10 acres with scenic gardens, and a dock and solar boat lift. Screened deck, sunroom, living room fireplace, completely remodeled kitchen. HVAC system replaced in 2023, and hot water heater replaced in 2026. **OFFERED AT \$615,000**



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**



MINNESOTT BEACH – Luxurious waterfront **3BR/3.5BA** town-home on the Neuse River near Minnesott Golf & Country Club and Wayfarers Cove Marina. Screened porch, elevator to 2nd floor, 2nd floor balcony, 2-car garage, close to ferry, & elevation of this home is not in a flood zone. **OFFERED AT \$ 629,900**



ARPAHOE – Waterfront **3BR/2BA** on 1.04 acres, not in flood zone, protected deep-water, 2 boat lifts, no HOA. Attached 2-car garage, 2 storage-workshop buildings. Fire pit gathering area overlooks Dawson Creek. Invisible fencing in front & back yards. **OFFERED AT \$ 685,000**

See all Listings & Visual Tours at
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

- July 1st – 1847, The United States issued the first postage stamp.
- July 2nd – Today is National I Forgot Day. Celebrated by me more and more every day.
- July 3rd – 1775, General George Washington took command of the Continental Army.
- July 4th – Happy 250th Birthday America!
- July 5th – Today is National Bikini Day. One of my favorite holidays.
- July 6th – Today is National Fried Chicken Day. Cows and Baptists rejoice.
- July 7th – Today is National Macaroni Day. Add some cheese and you will have something.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

- July 1st – 1967, Model and Actress Pamela Anderson
- July 2nd – 1937, NASCAR Racing Champion Richard Petty
- July 2nd – 1990, Actress Margot Robbie
- July 3rd – 1962, Actor Thomas Mapother (Tom Cruise)
- July 6th – 1747, Revolutionary War Naval Hero John Paul Jones
- July 6th – 1946, Actor Sylvester Stallone
- July 7th – 1906, Baseball Hall-of-Famer Leroy Paige (Satchel Paige)
- July 7th – 1940, Drummer Richard Starkey (Ringo Starr)



Rosary at the Waterfront

Once again our small group of dedicated prayer warriors will meet at Lou mac Park on Saturday, July 11th at noon. We gather to honor Our Lady and to pray for the conversion and moral protection of this country we love. We welcome anyone, of any denomination, to come and join us. We provide "cheat sheets" so you can follow along easily and would be pleased with a larger public presence. Lou mac park provides shade and a very peaceful venue by the water for our quiet prayers. Please come join us if you feel so moved.

Food of the Month:
Canned Green Beans

PCFLO is selecting a Food of the Month for each month during 2026, and our selection for July is canned green beans. Help provide PCFLO clients with nutritious staples by bringing green beans to your church during any Sunday this month. You can also bring your donations to the PCFLO collection box at the Food Pantry at 108 Straight Road in Oriental or collection boxes at First Citizens Bank, Village Health and Fitness, Piggly Wiggly and Brantley’s in Oriental, First Citizens Bank and Sweet Annie’s in Bayboro, and Minnesott Golf and Country Club in Arapahoe.

Looking ahead to August, the Food of the Month will be healthy cereal. Thanks for your support!!

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

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COMMUNITY

Red Cross issues advice to stay
safe during extreme heat

Heat can be dangerous for anyone. Stay hydrated,
stay cool and stay connected.



CHARLOTTE (June 30, 2026) — Experts are warning that dangerously high temperatures are headed to North Carolina this week. The American Red Cross of North Carolina urges everyone to take three critical actions to stay safe:

- 1.Stay hydrated by drinking a cup of water every 20 minutes, even if you don't feel thirsty. Avoid sugary, caffeinated and alcoholic drinks.
- 2.Stay cool by spending time in air-conditioned places. If your home is too hot, go to a mall, library or cooling center.
- 3.Stay connected by checking on others and asking for help if you need it. Make sure pets have access to fresh water and shade.

“Knowing what to do to protect yourself and loved ones from extreme heat can save lives,” said Regional Disaster Officer, James Jarvis. “We’re asking everyone to check on friends and neighbors, especially older adults, people with chronic conditions, outdoor workers and athletes. You could make all the difference by sending a text, making a call or knocking on their door.”

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO Remind everyone to drink water, even if they don't feel thirsty. Aim for a cup of water every hour and encourage people to avoid sugary, caffeinated or alcoholic drinks. Babies should be breast-fed or bottle-fed often. Fewer wet diapers or darker urine can be signs of dehydration.

Encourage athletes and outdoor workers to take breaks in the shade. They should drink a cup of water — or a sports drink — every 20 minutes.

Help those without air conditioning find a safe place to go like a mall, library or cooling center. They can also take cool showers or baths to help cool off. Remind people to wear lightweight, loose-fitting clothes in light colors.

Never leave a child or pet alone inside a parked car, and make sure pets have access to fresh water and shade.

HEAT ILLNESS SIGNS Anyone can become ill during extreme heat if their body can't cool down properly. It's critical to act fast as some types of heat illness can be deadly.

Heat cramps are signaled by heavy sweating and muscle pain. Take action by stopping what you're doing, resting in a cool place and drinking a cup of water — or a sports drink — every 20 minutes. If you feel sick to your stomach, pause drinking. Get medical help if cramps last more than two hours or you have heart problems.

Heat exhaustion is signaled by heavy sweating, weakness, cool and clammy skin, muscle cramps, dizziness, fainting, nausea or vomiting. Take action by stopping what you're doing, resting in a cool place and drinking a cup of water — or a sports drink — every 20 minutes. Loosen your clothes and place a cool



wet cloth on your body. Get medical help if you're vomiting, don't feel better in an hour, or if you have heart or kidney problems.

Heat stroke is a deadly condition signaled by high body temperature, rapid heartbeat, confusion, headache, dizziness, fainting, nausea or vomiting. Call 911. Move to a cooler place, remove extra clothing and use a wet cloth or a cool bath to cool down. If possible, sip a sports drink or water.

IF THE POWER GOES OUT When a heat wave and a power outage happen at the same time, it can be even more dangerous. Stay in air conditioning either at home or at a mall, library or cooling center. Keep an ice-filled cooler stocked with food, water and medicine, so that they don't spoil. More information is available here.

Finally, download the free Red Cross First Aid app so you'll know what to do if emergency help is delayed and the free Emergency app for real-time weather alerts and heat safety information. Content is available in English and Spanish with an easy-to-find language selector. Find both apps in smartphone app stores by searching for the American Red Cross or going to redcross.org/apps.

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or CruzRojAmerica.org, or follow us on social media.

Horoscopes



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, you are a powerhouse this week. Your energy levels will remain steady as the days go on, and people will notice your drive. Channel this energy into something positive.



TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
It's your week right now, Taurus, and the stars want to indulge. Indulge in something luxurious and enjoy yourself. You have earned the right to some pampering.



GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
Use your gift of gab to mend a relationship issue that stemmed from a misunderstanding, Gemini. Expect some invitations to come your way and a surprise text mid-week.



CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
You are feeling extra sensitive to others' energy right now, Cancer. It is alright to decline social invitations to protect your peace of mind. A creative breakthrough may emerge while alone.



LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
Don't shy away from the microphone or the spotlight, Leo. Whether it is at work or in your personal life, your charisma will be your greatest asset this week. You will be the star of the show.



VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Decluttering can go a long way to making you feel better, Virgo. Clear your desk to clear your mind. Once the physical chaos is gone, you may find the answer to the problem you have.



LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, the scales start to tip toward your personal life instead of your professional one this week. Focus on your spouse or special someone and make time for extra moments together.



SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Let go of a habit or a resentment that no longer serves you, Scorpio. Just like a snake sheds an old skin, you'll feel lighter and ready to tackle anything.



SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
You might be ready for a trip, Sagittarius. Even if you can't take a flight right now, explore a new neighborhood or try a different restaurant you've been meaning to check out.



CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
A small adjustment to your budget now may lead to a big payoff later on, Capricorn. Your financial discipline is a superpower this week, so stick to the plan.



AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Others are finally catching up to all of your big ideas, Aquarius. Pitch that unconventional plan you have been holding back and you'll likely have some fans.



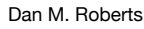
PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Pay attention to any coincidences that pop up during the next several days, Pisces. The universe is trying to tell you something about your next move.

CANCER Traits & Overview

Emotional, intuitive, and practically psychic; ruled by the moon and characterized by the crab, Cancer has so much going on in its watery depths. Cancer signs may seem prickly and standoffish at first meeting, once they make the decision to become friends with someone, that person has a friend for life. Most Cancer signs have been called psychic at some point, and with good reason—Cancer can often intuit relationships, ideas, and motivations before anyone has actually spoken. That can make for challenging interactions with this sign—Cancer hates small talk, especially when it contains white lies (like saying, "How nice to see you!" when it's clear that both parties would rather avoid each other). That's why social gatherings can be overwhelming for Cancers. They'd much rather spend time in small groups where everyone is on the same page. Finally, Cancer is incredibly loyal, sometimes to a fault. Cancers will go to the ends of the earth and even against their own beliefs to help someone they love. Learning how to step up for what they believe in—even if it means turning down or against a friend—is a lifelong lesson for Cancer. As the emotional heart of the Zodiac, this sign teaches everyone else that, while there's so much in life that we may not be able to see, we should still pay attention to the unseen because it does exist—and we do need it!

FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY

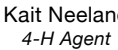
Small habits help shape a stronger financial future



3. **Don't let your lifestyle outpace your income.** When you get a raise or bonus, it's tempting to upgrade your apartment, car

Your financial future likely won't be shaped by one big decision. Instead, it will probably be built by small choices you make every day. And the best time to start making good choices is now.

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



After weeks of dedicated work—researching, writing, memorizing, developing slides, and practicing—Laura, Sophia, Aaron, Cecely, and Gideon proudly represented Pamlico County. Laura delivered an engaging and informative talk on Barbie: Her History, Her Purpose, and Her Influence, earning a silver medal in her category. Sophia impressed judges with her well-researched and dynamic presentation on Animating: The Wonders of Technology, taking home the gold. Aaron presented on his favorite spider the Black Widow, earning

You can find registration and in for on our website. You will also need to register in 4-H online to complete your registration for any program. You can access the link on our website. If you have any questions about accessing 4-H Online or the enrollment process please give us a call and we will be happy to walk you through it. You can also sign up for our Pamlico 4-H Email list. To learn more about all 4-H programs in Pamlico County contact Kait Neeland at (252) 745-4121, or kait_neeland@ncsu.edu, or check us out online at pamlico.ces.ncsu.edu. Don't FORGET to REGISTER, spaces will fill up!!



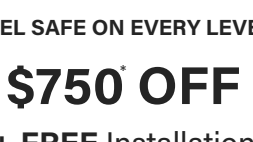


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Pamlico Vistas

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



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Take a Look at How Pamlico County Honored the Bicentennial in 1976 Through a Newspaper Column

Posted on June 26, 2026 by Lauren Vargo

During the 250-year history of our country, American newspapers have celebrated the anniversaries of American independence. These newspapers have often included special articles for major anniversaries, such as 50, 100, and 150 years after 1776. However, one newspaper, The Pamlico News (Bayboro, N.C.), went above and beyond for the 200th anniversary of American independence. Formerly known as The Pamlico County News (Bayboro, N.C.), the newspaper published a specific column named the “Bicentennial News” from January 22, 1976, to May 26, 1977.

To celebrate 200 years of independence, the Pamlico County Historical Association appointed Dorothy Avent as the county’s Bicentennial Coordinator. Dorothy was originally from Wayne County, educated in Raleigh, and had impressive previous work experience before taking this position. She had moved to Bayboro, N.C. with her family just two and a half years before the bicentennial, and her whole family quickly became proud members of the community. In this new coordinator position, Dorothy, or Dot for short, assisted county partners with developing plans for celebrating the bicentennial and was the author behind the weekly editions of the “Bicentennial News” column. In her column, she wrote about events and other celebrations leading up to July 4, 1976. Following the 4th, she wrote about highlights of Pamlico County’s local history and requested residents provide any information about historical events until this column finished in May of 1977. However, Dot was able to continue writing, but under a new column heading: “Pamlico County: Past, Present, Future.”

Thanks to dedicated and passionate people like Dot Avent, previous celebrations of our country’s birthday have been a success. As the country gears up to celebrate 250 years of American history, it is important to highlight the individuals who take the time and the effort to bring together their communities to celebrate.

These issues of The Pamlico News (Bayboro, N.C.) were provided by New Bern-Craven County Public Library. You can visit their contributing institution page at <https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/new-bern-craven-county-public-library/>

You can view more issues with the Bicentennial News column in the Pamlico County News (Bayboro, N.C.) here at <https://newspapers.digitalnc.org/search/pages/results/?proxtext=&proxdistance=&ortext=&andtext=&phrasetxt=Bicentennial+News&county=&date1=&date2=&page=1&sort=date>

To view other newspaper articles published in North Carolina, you can visit our Newspaper Collection here at <https://www.digitalnc.org/newspapers/>



Picture of Dorothy “Dot” Avent printed in the January 22, 1976, issue of The Pamlico County News (Bayboro, N.C.)

Mrs. Avent is available for speaking to groups of people, private or clubs and organizations. “I certainly hope that these organizations will invite me to meet with them to discuss Bicentennial plans and to hear from the people their ideas concerning the celebration of our country’s 200th Birthday. After all,” she said, “the only way to have a successful and memorable Bicentennial is to have the full support and involvement of the people.”

Quote by Dot Avent in the January 22, 1976, issue of The Pamlico County News (Bayboro, N.C.)

Dot Avent
A Great Job!

One of the guiding factors behind the successful observance of Bicentennial Year here in Pamlico County, is Dot Avent, the Bicentennial Coordinator. She has worked tirelessly and furiously at times, to plan and coordinate all phases of the observance. Dot and the Pamlico County Commissioners who made her employment in this capacity possible, deserve a strong word of appreciation from everyone.

Article in the July 1, 1976, issue of The Pamlico County News (Bayboro, N.C.)

Bicentennial News

A Chinese proverb tells us “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” The “single step” for commemorating this nation’s two hundredth birthday in Pamlico County was made when the County Commissioners and the Pamlico County Historical Association applied for county designation as a Bicentennial County. Added steps are now being formed. A Bicentennial Steering Committee of interested citizens from various county communities has been formed with Dorothy Avent, the County Bicentennial Coordinator as chairman; Emma Beal, secretary; and Barbara Rowe, treasurer. Suggestions and recommendations for community participation as well as individual interest in projects following themes of Heritage, Festivals, and Horizons are being solicited by the Committee. Contact your community officials, club officers, Historical Association mem-

bers, Mrs. Avent at the Pamlico County News office, Mrs. Beal at the Pamlico County Library (2 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.), or Miss Rowe at the Bayboro office of First Citizens Bank with your ideas and indicate your willingness to be a part of SOMETHING GREAT—The Pamlico County Bicentennial Celebration.

Plan an evening out and relive some entertainment history. Louisburg College Bicentennial Committee is sponsoring a Festival of American Cinema Art through April 20th. Showings are nightly from 8 to 10 p.m. in the East Campus Auditorium. It is a history of American Cinema 1898 to present and includes silent and first sound, first color, first Academy Awards. There is no admission charge but due to limited seating, reservations are required. Contact: Allen De Hart, Director, Louisburg College, Louisburg, North Carolina 27549, phone (919) 496-4101.

First issue of The Pamlico County News (Bayboro, N.C.) that includes the Bicentennial News column, which was published on January 22, 1976

Last issue of The Pamlico County News (Bayboro, N.C.) that includes the Bicentennial News column, which was published on May 26, 1977

BICENTENNIAL NEWS by Dot Avent

These United States of America are now well into their two hundred and first year. A Centennial and a Bicentennial have been acknowledged and celebrated. We are progressing onward to a Tricentennial. Considering these facts, it seems that the caption for this column is no longer appropriate, therefore beginning next week we will have a new headline: Pamlico County - Past, Present, Future. The logo of the Bicentennial will be retained as a reminder of our historical past and as a symbol of our continuing progress with preservation in the future. This change will not affect the projects now underway to preserve our past for the future but is done to reflect the theme of the column. Nominations of old homes has been good over the past week. Your efforts are appreciated. Information about local cemeteries continues to be

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Schedule of Events

Friday July 3rd

- 7:00 am: South Ave. becomes one way
- 8:00 am: Vendor set up starts
- 9:00 am: Vendors open their booths as soon as they are set up
- 12:00 noon: South Street Closes at the Festival grounds
- 2:00 pm: Croaker Festival Information Booth opens
- 3:00–4:30 pm: Baking Contest drop-off behind Croaker Booth
- 4:00 pm: 46th Annual Croaker Festival Opening Ceremonies – Lou Mac Park
- 4:30 pm: The Pamlico Chorale followed by The Pamlico Community Band
- 4:45 pm: Judging for the Baking Contest begins
- 5:30 pm: Mini & Miss Minnow Pageants followed by Croaker Queen Pageant
- 7:00 pm: Baking Contest winners announced
- 7:30 pm: Street Dance: Southern Hellcats

Saturday July 4th

- 8:15 am: South Street Closes at the Festival grounds
- 8:30 am: Vendor Booths open
- 8:30 am: Check-in for Bow to Stern Croakerfest Regatta
- 9:00 am: Captains Meeting for Bow to Stern Croakerfest Regatta
- 9:00 am: Parade Line-up at Ragan Road
- 10:00 am: The Parade! Theme – “Liberty Thru History”
- 11:00 am: First Gun for Bow to Stern Croakerfest Regatta
- 11:00 am: Kid’s Park Opens on Mildred Street
- 11:00 am: 2DMAW Marine Corps Band (*Unable to Attend*)
- 11:30 am: Reading of the Declaration of Independance (**Alternative Time*)
- 12:00 noon: Parade Winners announced – Main Stage
- 12:00 pm: Music by Hoff & Finch – Main Stage
- 1:00 pm: Reading of the Declaration of Independance (**Standard Time*)
- 1:30 pm: Music by Moores Creek Bluegrass – Main Stage
- 2:00 pm: Coloring Contest Pages Due at Croaker Booth
- 3:00 pm: Kid’s Park Closes
- 3:00 pm: Announcement of Coloring Contest Winners
- 3:00 pm: Music by Smokehouse – Main Stage
- 3:00 pm: Bridge closes for Fireworks
- 5:00 pm: Music by Idlewild South – Main Stage
- 6:00 pm: Vendor Booths Close
- 7:00–9:00 pm: Street Dance – Featured Artist: Unknown Tongues
- 9:15 pm (Approx.): Fireworks over the Harbor!!
- 10:00 pm: Streets Open

Sunday July 5th

- 8:00 am: Deadline for removal of all Vendor Booths and trash



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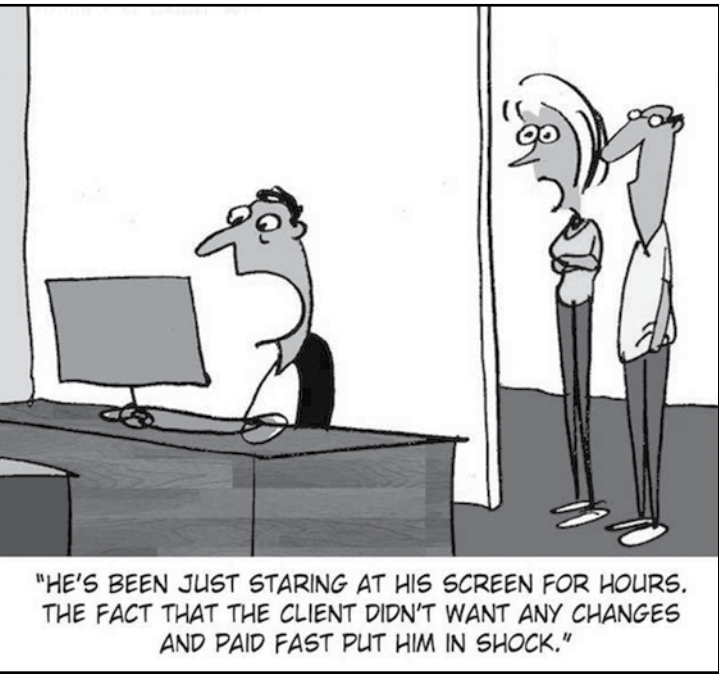
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Notice to Creditors
North Carolina, Pamlico County

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of Alma Victoria Perez-Suarez, deceased, of New Bern, NC, are notified to present the same to the personal representative listed below on or before September 10, 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 10th day of June, 2026.

Maria De Lourdas Suarez De Perez, Administrator of the Estate of Alma Victoria Perez-Suarez
c/o Quay & Associates, P.A.
412 Broad Street
New Bern, NC 28560

PUBLICATION DATES:
06/10/2026, 06/17/2026,
06/24/2026, 07/01/2026

Notice to Creditors
North Carolina, Pamlico County

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of Derek Earl Spain, deceased, of Merritt, NC, are notified to present the same to the personal representative listed below on or before September 10, 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 10th day of June, 2026.

Cindi M. Quay, Administrator of the Estate of Derek Earl Spain
c/o Quay & Associates, P.A.
412 Broad Street
New Bern, NC 28560

PUBLICATION DATES:
06/10/2026, 06/17/2026,
06/24/2026, 07/01/2026

NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE PAMLICO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF CHARLES ASHLEY LANE
File No.: 26E000093-680

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against deceased, are notified to exhibit them to DONNA L. MILLER, EXECUTOR on or before SEPTEMBER 9, 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 10TH OF JUNE 2026

ESTATE OF CHARLES ASHLEY LANE
C/O DONNA L. MILLER
1010 HOLOHOLO STREET

KAILUA, HI 96734

Publish JUNE 10, 17, 24 AND JULY 1, 2026.

NORTH CAROLINA PAMLICO COUNTY NOTICE TO CREDITORS:

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of Oscar A. Krechel, Jr., deceased, of Pamlico County, N.C., are notified to present the same to the personal representative listed below on or before September 11, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All debtors of the said estate are asked to make immediate payment.

This 10th day of June, 2026.

Netta K. Broughton, Executor of the Estate of Oscar A. Krechel, Jr., Deceased,
c/o David B. Baxter, Jr.
416 Pollock Street
P.O. Drawer 889
New Bern, NC 28563

6/10/26; 6/17/26; 6/24/26; and 7/1/26

NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE PAMLICO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF PATRICIA BAYLISS CROSS
File No.: 26E000063-680

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against deceased, are notified to exhibit them to WILLIAM EDWARD CROSS, EXECUTOR, on or before SEPTEMBER 9, 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 10TH OF JUNE 2026

ESTATE OF PATRICIA BAYLISS CROSS
C/O WILLIAM EDWARD CROSS
220 PHILLIPS DRIVE
ARAPAHOE, NC 28510

Publish JUNE 10, 17, 24 AND JULY 1, 2026.

NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE PAMLICO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF DUDLEY ALVIN PAUL, III
File No.: 26E000097-680

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against deceased, are notified to exhibit them to NANCY L. MCKINNEY, ADMINISTRATOR, on or before

SEPTEMBER 15, 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 17TH OF JUNE 2026

ESTATE OF DUDLEY ALVIN PAUL, III
C/O NANCY L. MCKINNEY
300 HIGH ST
APT 4
ORIENTAL, NC 28571

Publish JUNE 17, 24, JULY 1 AND 8, 2026.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of E. Sherrill Styron a/k/a Eston Sherrill Styron, Deceased, of Pamlico County, N.C., are notified to present the same to the Personal Representative listed below on or before September 24, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All debtors of the said Estate are asked to make immediate payment. This 24th day of June, 2026.

Phyllis H. Styron
Administrator CTA
c/o TERRI W. SHARP
Ward and Smith, P.A.
Attorneys at Law
Post Office Box 867
New Bern, NC 28563-0867

NORTH CAROLINA PAMLICO COUNTY NOTICE TO CREDITORS:

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of Paul J. Miller, deceased, of Pamlico County, N.C., are notified to present the same to the personal representative listed below on or before September 24, 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 24rd day of June, 2026.

Mary T. Skinner, Executor
For the Estate of Paul J. Miller, deceased
c/o Mary T. Skinner
Attorney for Dunn, Pittman, Skinner & Ashton, PLLC
P. O. Drawer 1389
New Bern, NC 28563

Publish Dates: June 24 & July 1, 8 and 15 2026

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

NICHOLAS ADAM HYDUKE
File No.: 26E000103-680

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against deceased, are notified to exhibit them to NICHOLAS ADAM HYDUKE, EXECUTOR, on or before SEPTEMBER 22, 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 24TH OF JUNE 2026

ESTATE OF NICHOLAS ADAM HYDUKE
C/O CRISTY R. HYDUKE
9219 HORNIGOLD AVE
ORIENTAL, NC 28571

Publish JUNE 24 AND JULY 1, 8, AND 15, 2026.

Notice of Service By Publication
State of North Carolina
County, Pamlico

In the General Court of Justice before the Clerk, Special Proceedings
File No. 265P000027-680.

In the matter of the Partition of Real Property: Daniel Eric Mitchell, Petitioner, vs. Alonzo Farrow, and all persons unknown claiming an interest in the property. Two: Alonzo Farrow, respondent, 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 a Petition for Partition of Real Property to clear title, resolve ownership interests, and potentially force the sale or equitable division of a specific tract of real property situated in Pamlico County, North Carolina. The real property subject to this proceeding is commonly known as 2398 Lee Landing Road, New Bern, NC 28560, and is more particularly described in the deed recorded in Book 269, Page 911 in the Pamlico County Registry. You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than August 9, 2026, said date being 40 days from the first publication of this Notice. Upon your failure to file an Answer or response within the time required, the Petitioner will apply to the Court for the relief sought in the Petition, which may result in a judgement ordering the partition of sale of the Property, terminating your record interest, and distributing proceeds accordingly. This the 1st day of July, 2026.

Petitioner: Daniel Eric Mitchell, 2390 Lee Landing Road, New Bern, NC, 28560, contact number 252-497- 5881

REPORTS

Arapahoe, electrical, \$50; Curtis Salter, Arapahoe, plumbing/mechanical, \$150

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

- Jan. 16, ¾ AC Lot Two N/S NC Hwy 55, Minnie Rawls Estate MB 3/1 from Joseph W. Avery to Michael Darin Mayo, Helena Mayo, \$330
- Jan. 16, Morris Creek Acres Lot: 14 MB 5/81, Morris Creek Acres Lot: 15 MB 5/81, 12.43 AC W/S Silverbrook Rd (NCSR 1360) & N/S Morris Creek Rd PCA 141-20 from Michael N. Ibrahim, Marcia Binder Ibrahim to Steven C. Wilson, \$154
- Jan. 16, Part of PIN K06-1; Pamlico Preserve Tract 9A; 20.50 AC PCB 21-15 PCB 20-16 from OW World, LLC to Spear Fish, LLC, \$82
- Jan. 16, Portion of PIN K06-1; Pamlico Preserve Tract 9A; 20.50 AC PCB 21-15 PCB 20-16 from Spear Fish, LLC to Phillip Steven Wilhelm, Tamera Lee Wilhelm, \$140
- Jan. 16, One AC NW/S Muddy Landing Rd (SR 1108) & E/S Paul Rd; 4.62 AC SR 1108 & Paul Rd from Steven E. Hollowell, Deborah T. Hollowell, Deborah Hollowell to Steven E. Hollowell, Deborah T. Hollowell, \$0
- Jan. 20, PIN G05-75-4; 3.91 AC See Instrument from James B. Glenn, Patricia Walter Glenn to William Shawn Clark, Michelle Lynn Clark, \$50
- Jan. 20, One Tract N/S Scotts Store Rd (NCSR 1108) (Muddy Landing Rd) from Steven E. Hollowell, Deborah T. Hollowell to Bernard B. Hollowell, Jr., \$0
- Jan. 20, Cloisters at Kershaw Creek Lot: 17, Phase 1 PCA 146-8 from Tal Macarthur to Thomas A. Shervinskie, Jr., \$0
- Jan. 21, PIN H08-4; 9.03 AC E/S SR

- 1307 from Harry E. Lee, Harry E. Lee, Sr., Betty Lee, Betty G. Lee to Christopher B. Lee, \$0
- Jan. 21, One Lot 125 by 75 feet S/S Bayboro-Vandemere Hwy Maribel from Benjamin Pearsall to Douglas Pearsall, \$0
- Jan. 22, PIN I04-6; 4.781 AC Swan Farm Rd (SR 1213) PCA 181-6 from Anthony B. Cimino, Jr. to 269 Swam Farm Rd LLC, \$1,060
- Jan. 22, PIN L05-35-1; 4.57 AC Tract S/S NCSR 1224 (Meekins Rd) Bayboro Map in DB 130/344 from GTG Properties, LLC to Aaron D. Broderson, Marcy E. Broderson, \$40
- Jan. 22, Tract Four MB 11/42 from Timothy P. Whealton, Rhonda Whealton to Michael Marfizo, Roberta Marfizo, \$150
- Jan. 22, Dolphin Point Lot: 42 PCA 30-6 from Kathy M. Bruce to Lisa Blinn, Clayton S. Blinn, \$0
- Jan. 23, Tract 2 PCB 8-7 from Ronald W. Benfield, Pamela D. Benfield to Pathway Christian Academy, Inc., \$350
- Jan. 23, PIN J031-42-1; 12,302 Sq Ft NC Hwy 307 PCA 131-1 from JJ Diverse Construction LLC to Justin Moorefield, \$410
- Jan. 26, Foxwood at Pinedalw Section One Lot: 7 MB 11/98, Foxwood at Pinedale Section One Lot: 8 MB 11/98 25E01177 from Bradley William Fenner to Bradley William Fenner
- Jan. 26, Lot 2 & Western Half Lot 1 MB 5/28 from Thomas E. Tompkins to David Wellington, \$0
- Jan. 27, Moores Creek Lot: 17 PH 2 Northern Portion of Lot 0.86 AC PCA 100-6 & PCB 21-20 from Jacquelym Schmidt to Michael J. Gilvary, Lisa A. Gilvary, \$12
- Jan. 27, WC Yacht Club 1/82 Und Int

- Exhibit A DB 262/835, WC Yacht Club 1/82 Und Int Piers & Docks PCA 47-9, WC Yacht Club Boat Slip 25; 25E Whittaker Creek Yacht Harbor; PCA 47-9 from John E. Conklin, Valerie Anne Conklin to John E. Conklin/TR, Valerie Anne Conklin/TR, Conklin Joint Revocable Trust, \$0
- Jan. 27, Cloisters at Kershaw Creek Lot: 35 Phase II PCA 173-13 from Chris E. Moffat, Anne O. Moffat to Lindsey's Creek, LLC, \$13
- Jan. 28, Sea Harbour Marina Boat Slip 27 CB 1/71 from Brian H. Barnes, Sea Harbour Condominium Yacht Club, Inc. to Jack L. James, Elizabeth I. James, \$45
- Jan. 28, Brown Creek Development Lot; 3 PCA 75-4 PIN K07-18-3 from Sarah M. Goodnight to Raymond E. Layton, Jr., Rachel B. Layton, \$1,350
- Jan. 29, Quitclaim Deed; PIN I08-6 & I08-7; 12 AC W/S Kershaw Creek & S/S Kershaw Rd; 8 AC W/S Kershaw Creek; DB 142/472 from David H. Harris, Tina Harris to Green Creek Farm, LLC, \$40
- Jan. 29, 0.89 AC Tract PCB 22-2 Correction Deed DB 745/264 from Dorothy J. Wayne to Amanda Marie Rich, \$0
- Jan. 30, PIN G08-77-1; .99 AC Map DB 461/662 from Christopher B. Lee to Christian Lee, \$748
- Jan. 30, Bello Vista Lot: 3 Phase Two PCA 142/5 from Brian Jason Smith, Robin Michelle Smith to OC Partners, LLC, \$1,574
- Jan. 30, Shine Landing Lot: 31 PCA 133-7 Deed of Correction DB 689/58; PIN H092-6-31 from Sarah Tovey Fick/TR, The David and Sheila Tovey Family Trust, David Tovey, Sheila Tovey to Sarah Tovey Fick/TR, The David and Sheila Tovey Family Trust, David Tovey, Sheila Tovey, \$0

AROUND THE COUNTY

Pamlico Betty Jo Rodgers, *Correspondent*

 There was a misprint last week. I wrote, “There are 402 Global Methodist Churches in North Carolina and there were over 100 persons attending this year’s annual conference.” It should have read over 1,000 people attending, not 100.

I am blessed to say that my oldest great grandson, Samuel Wade Rodgers, asked the Lord into his heart last weekend. Sam is now my brother in Christ as well as my great grandson. This is the best news anyone can receive to know that they will spend eternity with their family.

Pamlico has received much-needed rain, but we still need more to get out of this drought situation. We expect some extremely high temperatures this weekend, so be sure to use sunscreen and stay well hydrated as you celebrate the fourth of July. It is exciting to know that America is celebrating 250 years of freedom. Please celebrate safely and responsibly.

Trent OFWB Church in Merritt had a Summer Celebration on June 27 from 10 am to noon. It was a fun-filled morning with crafts, face painting, singing, devotion, water activities, and a hotdog lunch. The theme was “Make ye fishers of men.” Pastor Griffith enjoyed the festivities as much as the children,

This week Oriental will celebrate the 46th Croaker Festival. I lived in Oriental and attended the first one and many more over the years. My sister, Mildred, was one of the members of the Jr. Women’s Club who started the Croaker Festival in 1980. Back then, the Oriental Methodist men actually fried croakers and sold plates beside the parsonage. There is excitement about the Croaker Festival this weekend because it also commemorates the birth of the United States of America 250 years ago.. The Chorale and Community Band will once again open the official ceremonies with patriotic songs to celebrate the 250th anniversary of our country. You can pick up a schedule of events at various businesses around Oriental, and it looks like another good festival has been planned.

Celebrating birthdays in July are Margie Hatcher (7/2), Nancy Harper (7/3), America (7/4), Brian Ellenberg (7/8), Floyd Peed (7/10), Tal Hudgins (7/13), Charles Stackhouse (7/15), Annette Jones (7/17), Jeannine Russo (7/19), Joanne Gwaltney Ashton (7/22), Mark Norman (7/23), Stephen Carey, Kenneth Dixon, and Karen Keast (7/24), Doug Spain, Chris Spain (7/25), Gladys Wright (7/26), Ed Kelleher (7/29), and Bertha Gilliam (7/31). Celebrating their anniversary in July are Cathy and Brent Fulcher (7/24).

Have a blessed week. Vexed? Take Spiritual Vitamin V. "There also came a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed everyone." (Acts 5:16)



Grantsboro Jeff Roberts, *Correspondent*



Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening. Come on up to the porch for a minute and let's talk about "The Stories Beneath Dawson Creek."

One of the things I have come to appreciate over the years is that history rarely introduces itself with a headline. More often, it begins with a simple conversation.

Last week a reader reached out asking about an old dam site on the upper end of Dawson Creek near Kershaw Road. Like many local stories, there were more questions than answers. Was there really a mill there? Who owned it? What happened to it?

As I started asking around, the story slowly began to unfold.

According to local accounts, the site was once home to a gristmill, not a sawmill as some had believed. Local farmers brought their grain there to be ground, making the mill an important part of everyday life in the community. During that same period, another industry was taking place along the creek. Teams of oxen hauled logs through the woods to Dawson Creek, where they were dumped into the water, tied together into rafts, and floated downstream to the Neuse River. From there, boats carried the timber to New Bern where it was sold for processing rather than being milled locally.

One name that continues to surface is Lemuel Hardison, who was reportedly one of the owners of the gristmill during its operation. That is one of several pieces of the puzzle I hope to document further as this research continues.

Perhaps the most fascinating story surrounds the Civil War.

As local residents tell it, when the war reached eastern North Carolina, the decision was made to stop the mill from falling into Union hands. The massive millstone was removed and deliberately sunk into the waters of Dawson Creek, where it remained hidden for many years.

For decades, it was little more than a story passed from one generation to the next.

Then came Elbert Vendrick.

After moving back home and remembering the stories he had heard, he decided to see if they were true. Armed with little more than a pole and determination, he searched the creek until he located the buried millstone. It was recovered from the water and today rests in his yard, surrounded by flowers, a quiet reminder of a piece of Pamlico County's past that refused to stay lost.

What strikes me most about this story isn't just the mill or the stone. It's how history survives. Sometimes it isn't preserved in museums or libraries. Sometimes it survives because someone remembers, someone tells the story, and someone else cares enough to go looking.

Like many local histories, this one is still being written.

If you have photographs, documents, family stories, or information about the Dawson Creek gristmill, Lemuel Hardison, or the timber rafting operation that once took place there, I would love to hear from you. Every conversation adds another piece to the puzzle, and together we can ensure that these stories are not lost to time.

“Don’t let negative thoughts of the past or the future ruin your today.” –

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Did you know?

According to the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission, more than 13,000 people were treated for fireworks injuries in emergency rooms in 2025. Forty-four percent of those injuries were burns, 30 percent involved the hands and fingers and 22 percent affected the head, face and ears. USCPSC data also indicated that 15 percent of injuries affected the eyes. The majority of injuries (66 percent) occurred around the July 4th holiday, but it's important that individuals exercise caution whenever they celebrate with fireworks. And those precautionary measures should remain in place when using sparklers, which the USCPSC indicates caused 1,300 injuries in 2025.

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Fridays @ 10am



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All CPRL branches will be closed on Friday, July 3 and Saturday, July 4.

Happy 250th birthday, America!







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TOWN OF ORIENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Town of Oriental will hold a Public Hearing on July 14, 2026 at 6:00PM, or as soon thereafter as can be reached, at the Town of Oriental Town Hall, 507 Church St.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to take comment on the proposed FY budget for the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year. The proposed budget (General Fund and Water Fund) will have been presented to the Mayor and Commissioners and will be available for inspection at Town Hall M-Th, 8AM-5PM, and Friday 8AM-3PM. It can also be viewed at www.TownofOriental.com.

Substantial Changes may be made to the proposed budget following the Public Hearing.

Diane H. Miller, MPA, ICMA-CM
Manager and Clerk to the Board

“The human body is the best picture of the human soul.” – Tony Robbins



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Stay safe when around fireworks

Fireworks have been integral components of celebrations for centuries. These pyrotechnics originated in ancient China, with their earliest forms thought to be made from bamboo stalks thrown into a fire. Fireworks ultimately evolved into gunpowder-filled paper tubes. Modern fireworks still largely use traditional gunpowder as well as additional ingredients like aluminum and iron to create flashes, bangs and sparks. Additional elements are blended to create the colors that make for vivid fireworks displays.

Fireworks can be a wonder to behold, but there is no denying that shooting them off can be dangerous business. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reports that eight deaths and an estimated 9,700 injuries involving fireworks occurred in 2023. Of the eight deaths, five were associated with misuse of fireworks and two with a device malfunction. Fireworks injuries increased between 2008 and 2023, which underscores the importance of fireworks safety.

To celebrate safely, the CPSC urges consumers to follow these tips:

- Make sure fireworks are legal where you live and only purchase and set off those that are labeled for consumer use. Never purchase fireworks that are designed for professionals.
- Children should not be allowed to play with or ignite fireworks. This includes sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures that can reach or exceed 2,000 F, which is hot enough to melt some metals.
- Stay sober when using fireworks. Alcohol or drug impairment can cause people to act recklessly and make mistakes when handling fireworks.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose nearby in case of fire or another mishap.
- Only light one firework at a time, then move away from it quickly.
- Soak malfunctioning fireworks in water. Do not try to relight them.
- Never place any part of your body directly over a firework when lighting the fuse.
- Never point or throw fireworks at anyone.
- Douse spent fireworks with water before tossing them in the trash.

Spectators should remain at a distance from any fireworks being ignited. Fireworks should be lit away from buildings or trees. Many times it is safer to let professionals handle the fireworks since they are trained in the proper safety precautions.



American Red Cross

Join the celebration: Donors needed now to keep nation's blood supply stable this summer

Red Cross and Warner Bros. Discovery team up and bring the Looney Tunes to help save lives as seasonal challenges grow

CHARLOTTE, N.C., June 23, 2026 — The American Red Cross is making an urgent call for blood and platelet donors to book an appointment to give now to ensure hospitals stay ready to help patients without delay.

As people get ready for summer adventures and big national festivities, the Red Cross and Warner Bros. Discovery Global Consumer Products are partnering to remind everyone of something important: the need for blood never goes on vacation. Individuals can join our squad to honor the country's 250th anniversary and America's spirit of service by giving blood: All who come to give June 29-July 12 will receive a classic Red Cross x Looney Tunes T-shirt, while supplies last.

See RedCrossBlood.org/LooneyTunes for details.

Celebrate stars, stripes and saving lives. Book a time to donate blood or platelets now by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, or calling 1-800-RED CROSS.

Summer pressures rise

This Independence Day, along with the Looney Tunes characters, we're inspiring a new generation of heroes - with a cartoon twist - at a time when every donation is critical to keeping the blood supply strong amid growing hurdles. Aside from summer travel and packed calendars, severe summer weather can also rapidly impact the ability to collect lifesaving blood products. **Additionally, scheduled donations, which account for 90% of all Red Cross blood donations, have continued to drop sharply in recent weeks, highlighting just how essential it is to make and keep donation appointments all summer long.**

How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or CruzRojaAmericana.org, or follow us on social media.

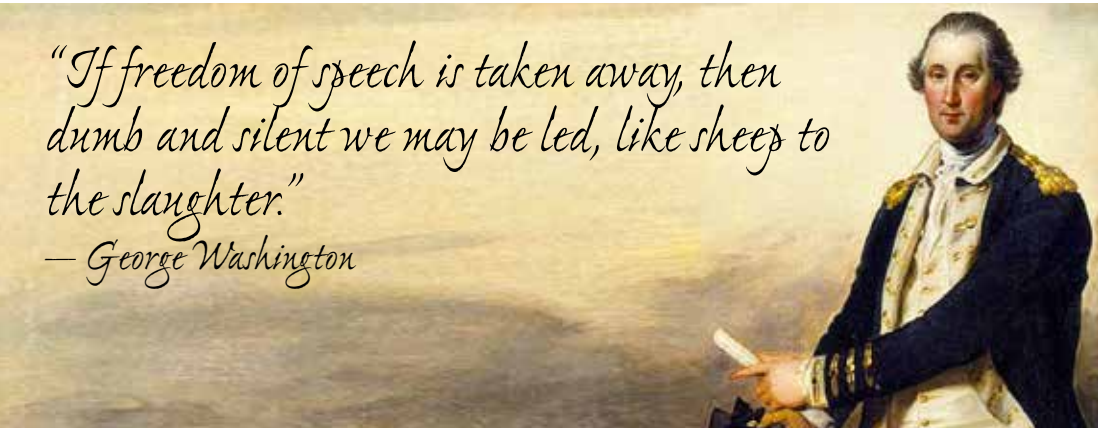
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The Declaration of Independence – Part 2, The Signers

Last week we took a look at the important dates surrounding the Declaration of Independence and this week we examine those men who stuck out their necks for independence. Literally. By placing their signature at the bottom of this now historical document, they were committing treason in the eyes of the British and the penalty for treason is hanging. Benjamin Franklin was quoted after he signed that, “We must, indeed, all hang together, or most assuredly we shall all hang separately.” This encourages the signers to stay united in their quest, but also the realization that if the revolution were to fail, they would likely face the hangman’s noose. Who were these 56 men who signed the declaration. Much like today’s national and state governing bodies, many were lawyers. For better or worse, 25 signers had an occupation as an attorney. They were also merchants, farmers, ministers, doctors, and scientists. There was at least one who was a surveyor. Two of the signers, Thomas Lynch, Jr. and Edward Rutledge, both from South Carolina, ranked as the youngest in age at 26. The oldest, and perhaps the most famous American at the time, was Benjamin Franklin who was 70. Two of the signers went on to become President of the United States, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. Both, along with Franklin, were members of the “committee of five” who were tasked with writing the document. The other two members were Roger Sherman of Connecticut and Robert Livingston of New York. Interesting, Livingston never signed the document. Although he contributed to its creation, he believed it was too soon to officially declare independence and abstained from signing. Although none of the signers were executed for treason by the British, five were captured and held as prisoners of war. At least 17 had their homes and



property looted, burned, or confiscated by the British or those loyal to the British crown. Eight of the 56 were born in Europe. The earliest signer to die was John Morton of Pennsylvania who passed away in 1777 of tuberculosis at the age of 52. Charles Carrol of Maryland lived the longest. He died in 1832 at the age of 95 and was the last surviving signer. The most prominent name in size on the document belongs to John Hancock who was the President of the Continental Congress. He was the first to sign. The last to add their signature was Thomas McKean of Delaware who signed in January of 1777. One person who did not sign the declaration was the man often referred to as the father of our country, George Washington. By the time the declaration was drafted and signed, he was General George Washington and was leading the Continental Army in New York.



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