Middle School Athletics

Boys Basketball Earns Regular Season Championship

Boys Head Coach Aaron Caroon

SPORTS on Page 9

Vol. 58 No.05, 12 Pages

The Pamlico News

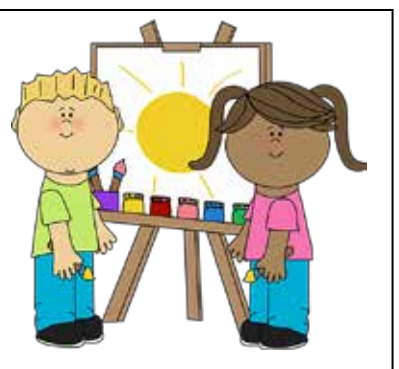
Wednesday, January 28, 2026 Your County News Source Since 1968 www.thepamliconews.com | 50 Cents

The Old Theater

****RESCHEDULED****

Annual Membership Meeting

The Old Theater invites all its members to an Annual Membership Meeting and Reception on Sunday, February 15, at 3:00 pm at The Old Theater. Past members and those who are interested in joining the theater are also invited and will have an opportunity to join before and after the meeting. There will be social time with refreshments by Mariposa before it all begins. The Board of Directors will present a review of 2025 events/finances and share their vision going forward in 2026. A question/answer session will follow the business meeting giving members an opportunity to provide input and ask questions. Entertainment afterward is provided by popular local talent, the Notta Band with Tom (Mac) McWilliams, George Bailey and Dave Holt.



RESCHEDULED!
Oriental Woman's Club
Presents
Pamlico County Students' Art
Open House Festival
Where: 1007 Gilgo St.,
Oriental, NC
When: Sunday, February 1
1:00-3:00 pm
Public invited ~ Cost: **Free!**
Light refreshments available

PAMLICO COUNTY POLAR PLUNGE

Are you ready to make waves for Special Olympics?

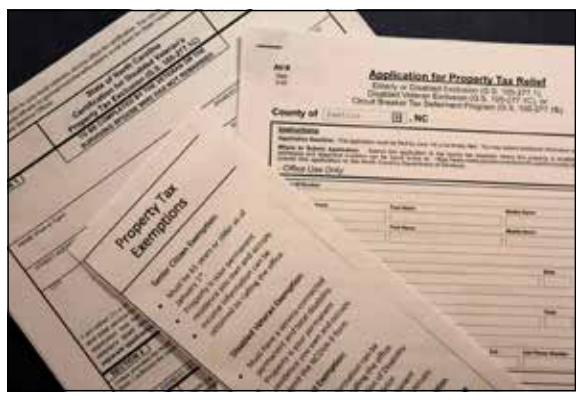
Join us on Saturday, January 31 for the 2026 Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Pamlico County beginning at noon at John Bond Town Beach on Neuse Road in Oriental! When you go Freezin' for a Reason, you help athletes across Pamlico county get off the sidelines and into the game.

Special Olympics athletes are never asked to pay a fee, so your support helps us provide all they need to experience the joy of sports! That means helping to provide sports training, equipment, facilities, uniforms and so much more.

All it takes is $50 and a bit of nerve to participate. Go to https://sonc.net/ and click the link on 2026 Polar Plunge NC Season to sign up to make a splash this Polar Plunge season!

Property Tax Exemptions Possible for Seniors, Disabled, and Disabled Veterans

by: Hiram Lupton



As Benjamin Franklin once said, "In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes." Indeed, paying taxes is a certainty in this day and age, but there may be a way to help reduce the amount of property tax you pay if you qualify thanks to the Elderly or Disabled Homestead Exclusion. In order to claim this reduction, a taxpayer has to meet certain requirements. They must be age 65 or older, permanently disabled, or a disabled Veteran as well as be a North Carolina resident. The property must be your permanent residence which you own and occupy. There is also a minimum household income requirement of less than $38,800 for 2026. This includes all sources of income an applicant may have, including social security, pensions, and earned wages. If the property owners are a married couple, only one must meet the age requirement, but the income requirement includes both occupants of the property. It should be noted that if a taxpayer is applying due to permanent disability, they can be under age 65 but must have their medical provider fill out a form. Also, for a military service-connected permanent disability through the VA, there is no age or minimum income requirement. The other stipulation is that you must apply to get a reduction by filling out the proper forms and submitting them to the county tax office. "We want to make sure that anyone who qualifies for a reduced rate on their property taxes gets it," says Pamlico County Tax Administrator Kathy Wall. "The staff here at the tax office have all the proper forms and will be happy to answer your questions and assist you in filling out the paperwork to see if you qualify." So, how much could your tax reduction be? The reduction is based on excluding some of the value of your property from being taxable and would be the greater of $25,000 or 50% of the appraised value of the residence and would include up to one acre of land on which it sits. If you have any questions about the possible exemptions you may qualify for, just stop by the Pamlico County Tax Office located in the courthouse, or give them a call at (252) 745-3105.

Senior wrestlers and their families.

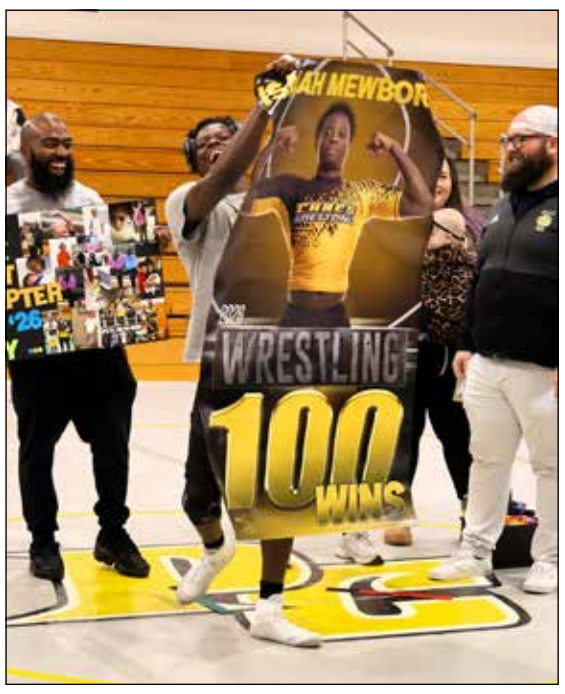
Hurricanes on the Mat

Pamlico finishes Out Regular Season

by: Hiram Lupton

Tristan Hamby takes down his South Lenoir opponent.

The Pamlico County High School wrestling team finished out their regular season at home in a good way last Wednesday evening by pinning a team loss on South Lenoir. This was the Hurricanes final tune up before Friday evening's Coastal Plains Conference individual championships at East Carteret High School. In addition to the matches on Wednesday, it was Senior night for the wrestling team and six great competitors were recognized for their contributions to the program. Senior wrestlers Isaiah Mewborn, Raul Saucedo, Jordan Pratt, Lillibeth Parker, Jacob Sawyer, Syler Hall, and Donny Campbell, along with their families were honored. In addition, Isaiah Mewborn, a four-year wrestler with the Hurricanes, was recognized for his 100th career victory which he attained earlier this season.



Isaiah Mewborn was honored for his 100th career win

Addy Kay Nunley gains the advantage on her opponent on her way to a win by pin.

Senior Syler Hall with a win by pinfall.

Swiftwater Training

Training to Serve You Better

North Carolina Emergency Management, in conjunction with Pamlico County Emergency Management, recently hosted the All Hazards Incident Management Academy from January 20–23, 2026, at the NC Justice Academy in Salemburg.

As part of this academy, swift water rescue teams were deployed to Fayetteville Technical College's indoor swiftwater training facility. On Wednesday, January 21, the Pamlico County Swiftwater Team partnered with the Harrisburg Fire Swiftwater Team to form a Type I Swiftwater Team for a full day of hands-on training.

A total of 26 personnel from both teams participated in multiple skill-building evolutions designed to strengthen coordination, response capabilities, and readiness ahead of the upcoming storm season.

Pamlico County Emergency Management also hosts a Type II State Deployable Swiftwater Team, made up of dedicated personnel from Pamlico County Fire Departments, Emergency Management, and the Pamlico County Sheriff's Office.

This training ensures our agencies are prepared to respond quickly and effectively when our community needs us most.

Pamlico Wrestlers Win Conference Gold

by: Hiram Lupton

The Coastal Plains Conference individual wrestling championships were held last Friday at East Carteret high school and six Hurricane grapplers brought back gold. For the ladies, Addi Nunley, Darci VanZandt, and Kimberly Duran are conference champions while for the boys, Isiah Mewborn, Syler Hall and Ayden Gomes placed first. In addition, Isaiah Mewborn was named conference wrestler of the year.

LIKELY WEATHER OVER THE WEEKEND

Saturday, January 31st **30°Hi** Rain and snow showers in the morning

Sunday, February 1st **33 °Hi** Freezing rain ...changing to light rain

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Pamlico Community College

14th Annual Great Oyster Roast & Chili Cookoff

Featuring entertainment by Southern Hellcats!

Saturday, Feb. 28, 2026
3 to 5 p.m.
PCC Campus - Grantsboro

Rain or shine!
Proceeds directly support PCC students!

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

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

Door prizes and a 50-50 raffle!

Tickets on sale now at PCC's Bookstore, Nautical Wheelers in Oriental and New Bern, Bayboro Pharmacy, and online at www.pamlicocc.edu.

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

PAMLICO COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Mark your calendars for Feb. 28!

Tickets are on sale now for the Pamlico Community College Foundation's 14th Annual Great Oyster Roast and Chili Cookoff. It's set for Saturday, Feb. 28, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the college's Delamar Center. Proceeds from the event go to support student scholarships. For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit www.pamlicocc.edu on the web. Contributed image

Running in place will get you nowhere fast.

MARINER REALTY, INC.

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 would like you to know what an outstanding job Susan Adams has done with the sale of our property. She stayed in constant communication with us because we are so far away. We entrusted Susan with everything and she came through and did a fantastic job. Thank you Susan and the knowledgeable Mariner Realty staff for all your hard work

Bill, PA

ORIENTAL – Spectacular views of Smith and Green Creeks from this high-demand first floor unit at Oriental West Condominiums located in the Heart of Oriental. Unit B-7, **2BR/2BA**, 5' controlling water depth deeded boat slip. NEW: refinished kitchen countertops with Stone Coat epoxy that is heat resistant for up to 450 degrees; ceiling fans & light fixtures; painted interior walls (except closets); painted kitchen and bathroom cabinets & drawers; painted patio rails; Farmhouse sink & faucets; bathroom sink faucets.
OFFERED AT $339,000

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

ORIENTAL – 4,000 hsf commercial, fully-insulated. Covered porch opens to reception, conference room & 2 offices. Santos Mahogany flooring in admin areas, tiled floor powder room, Kohler toilets, Delta lavatory faucets, full bath features Kohler shower. Carrier 2.5 ton heat pump for office area, 2 5-ton HVAC systems for warehouse. Attic, 208 3-Phase 200 amp elec system. Ingersole Rand 200 PSI air compressor. Fabrication equipment does not convey.
OFFERED AT $ 499,900

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

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

- January 28th – 1915, The United States Coast Guard was officially formed by merging the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service and the U.S. Life Saving Service.
- January 29th – Today is National Corn Chip Day. Open a bag of Fritos.
- January 30th – 1956, Elvis Presley recorded "Blue Suede Shoes."
- January 31st – Today is National Hot Chocolate Day
- February 1st – Today is National Serpent Day. Time to appreciate all the snakes in your life.
- February 2nd – Today is Groundhog Day. Get your weather forecast from a rodent.
- February 3rd – Today is National Women Physicians Day.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

January 28th – 1936, Actor Alan Alda
January 29th - 1945, Actor Tom Selleck
January 29th – 1954, Bazillionaire Oprah Winfrey
January 30th – 1930, Actor Gene Hackman
January 31st – 1919, Baseball Hall-of-Famer Jackie Robinson
February 1st – 1948, Musician James Johnson, Jr. (Rick James)
February 2nd – 1947 Actress Farrah Fawcett
February 2nd – 1954 Supermodel and actress Christie Brinkley

A beginner's guide to cryptocurrency

In recent years, cryptocurrency has transformed from a niche concept to a mainstream topic of conversation and a financial vehicle that merits the attention of consumers and investors alike. One may have heard about the latest advancements in digital finance on the news, but might not know exactly what cryptocurrency means and how it all works.

What is cryptocurrency?
Cryptocurrency is a digital or virtual currency that is secured by cryptography. This makes it nearly impossible to counterfeit or double-spend. The term "crypto" in cryptocurrency refers to the cryptographic techniques used to secure the network and verify any transactions. Charles Schwab says crypto can be used for internet-based electronic payments or as a store of value.

Does crypto have intrinsic value?
The idea of digital cash is nothing new. Credit cards, PayPal, Venmo, and other payment facilitators have been providing easy, traceable electronic transactions for some time. But unlike Venmo and other services offering transactions settled using traditional "fiat" currencies, like the U.S. dollar or euro issued by governments and managed by central banks, cryptocurrency is considered a "non-fiat" medium of exchange.
Crypto has no intrinsic value. They function independently of any government or central bank, instead using unique algorithms to record transactions and determine supply, says Charles Schwab.

How does cryptocurrency pricing work?
Crypto are fungible, meaning the value remains the same when bought, sold or traded. The market capitalization of crypto depends on the number of coins in circulation. Like other things, it is beholden to supply and demand dynamics. Scarcity can influence value.

What is blockchain technology?
Cryptocurrencies are based on blockchain technology, says Coursera. Blockchain is a digital, public and immutable ledger. Every transaction is recorded as a "block" of data. Once a block is filled with transaction data, it's added to the end

of a "chain" of existing blocks, creating a chronological and permanent record. Having a public ledger removes the need for a central authority to confirm the accuracy of a database or to clear transactions.
Blockchains are not only used for payments. They can help create "smart" contracts, which are executed automatically once the agreed upon terms and conditions are fulfilled. They also can manage supply chains and offer financial services.

What is the speed, cost and accessibility of crypto?
Crypto investing and other crypto needs are open to anyone with internet access and a device. Cryptocurrency blockchain transactions cost a few dollars or even just pennies to make. The speed at which transactions can be made is very fast, meaning assets can be moved worldwide just about instantly.

What is bitcoin?
Bitcoin is the first type of cryptocurrency, and perhaps the most well-known. Bitcoin was created in 2009 by an anonymous entity known as Satoshi Nakamoto. It remains the largest cryptocurrency, and is often referred to as "digital gold" due to its role as a store of value. Additional types of crypto include Ethereum, Cardano, USDC, Ripple, Litecoin, Solana, and Tether.
As of mid-2025, it was estimated that there were more than 617 million cryptocurrency users worldwide, representing approximately 4 percent of the global population, according to Demandsage data reporting. This number has grown exponentially, far outpacing the growth of traditional payment methods.

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/

The Pamlico News

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Billing Inquiries
frontdesk@thepamliconews.com
USPS 782-460
Published 51 times a year

801 Broad St., P.O.Box 510
Oriental, NC 28571
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The views and opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of The Pamlico News. Any content provided by authors are of their opinion, and are not intended to malign any religion, ethnic group, club, organization, company, individual or anyone or anything.

COMMUNITY

OBITUARIES

Joseph A. Pigeon, 79, from Merritt, NC, formerly of Key West, Florida passed away Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at home surrounded by his sisters.
Born in Bay Shore, NY on October 18, 1946, to Nellie and Alphonse Pigeon. He is brother of James, Elizabeth, Thomas, and Mary; beloved uncle of many nieces and nephews; good friend to Joan Weaver; and dear friend to Jean Mogey.
A U.S. Army veteran, he retired from the Pamlico County Correctional Facility, formerly owned and operated an exotic bird shop in Key West as well as a frame shop in Key West.
He also leaves behind his beloved parrots, Sweeney and Jesse.
Arrangements by Daniels-Sadler Funeral Home & Crematory, Alliance.

Symantha Ann Nobles Lowery, 51, of Grantsboro, left her earthly body on January 19, 2026.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Frederick Earl Nobles and Terry Elizabeth Cuthrell Nobles; her baby brother, Fred Jason Nobles "Teddy Bear"; her younger cousin, Sampson Bruce Cuthrell; and her beloved husband, William Loahford Lowery.

Symantha leaves behind her older brother, Ervin Jessie Nobles "E.J. or J-Bird" and wife, Serina Nobles; two nieces, Savannah and Terry Alexis "Lexi" Burke; grandnieces and grandnephews, Baylee, Nolon, Chase, Swannie, Waylon, Lettie, Lahin, and LaRailee; and her only son who doubled as her "twin" and best friend, Jonathon Tyler Lowery.

Symantha, more commonly known as Sam, was well known across Pamlico County from her younger years after graduating PCHS in the class of 1992, to her many years of providing service and smiles to the customers of Pinedale Food Mart. Later in life she worked at the Pamlico Pharmacy, followed by the last five years of working at the Pamlico County Water Department. Symantha was a shining beam of positivity and happiness in the lives of everyone she met.

A Celebration of Life will be held for her at Faith Free Will Baptist Church on Sandhill Rd. in Olympia on February 3, 2026. There will be a small potluck style lunch for family and close friends beginning at 11 a.m. followed by a public visitation from noon to 1:00 p.m., with the Celebration of Life beginning at 1 p.m. If she in any way brightened your life, both her and I (her son Johnny) would be honored to see you there.

I personally would like to thank all those who have shared their condolences with me and the family. As for my beautiful mother Symantha, I believe if she had one last thing to say to you all it would be that she loved everyone in this county and "for y'all to make sure you pay that water bill on time." Johnny

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

The Reverend Penny Elizabeth Dollar Farmer, age 72, was called home to be with the Lord early in the morning on Saturday, January 24, 2026. Penny was born to James Pasley Dollar, Jr. and Ruby Kimrey Dollar on July 14, 1953, in Alamance County, NC. She was preceded in death by her parents; her brothers, David Kimrey Dollar and James Pasley Dollar III (Jimmy); and her granddaughter, Lillian Grace Tillman.
Though Penny was born and raised in Burlington, NC, she lived the latter forty years of her life in Pamlico County with her husband, the Rev. John A. Farmer. Penny and John were married on November 16, 1985. Penny is survived by her husband; her daughters, Elizabeth Kimrey Farmer Tillman (Chris) and Grace Farmer Nanney (Phillip); grandchildren, Paisley Tillman, Grayson Nanney, and Audrey Nanney; brothers, Nelson Dollar (Lorrie) and Daniel Dollar (Ellen); close cousins, Sandra Bass (Tom) and Barbara Deal; as well as several nieces and nephews.
Penny grew up at Davis Street United Methodist Church in Burlington, NC and graduated from Williams High School. In her youth, Penny enjoyed working at her dad's service station, Phillips 66 at the Huffman Mill Road/Elon College exit — a time she recalled fondly throughout her life. She went on to graduate from UNC - Charlotte with her Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology. While attending UNCC, she was a charter member of the campus's chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority. At that time, she was an active member of the Order of the Eastern Star. After undergrad, Penny heard God's call to ministry and served in Dillion, SC as a youth pastor, eventually earning her Master in Divinity from Duke University. While attending Duke she interned along the Outer Banks including churches in Manteo and Hatteras. A few years later Penny became an Ordained Elder of the United Methodist Church and was appointed as the associate pastor of Garber UMC in New Bern, followed by Trinity UMC in Jacksonville. Penny followed God's direction to Pamlico County, where she served as a pastor for the eight-church Pamlico Parish, eventually becoming the senior pastor of two-point charge of Alliance and Arapahoe United Methodist Churches. Reaching beyond her local church ministry, Penny served as president of the NC Conference Parish Fellowship, which supports churches of small membership. She furthered her ministry by serving on the Governing Board of the NC Council of Churches, and was a delegate to the General Conference of the United Methodist Church, which allowed her to help shape ministry efforts throughout the country, as well as travel abroad to meet with religious leaders from around the world, including an extended conference with leaders in Moscow.
Ms. Penny, as she was fondly called, passionately served God in the Pamlico County community. While there were many important ministries she enjoyed, being a youth pastor stands out among the most memorable. In thirty years of youth group (or MYF), Ms. Penny created countless memories with the youth of Pamlico, including driving vans full of teenagers on annual ski trips, going on adventures to Busch Gardens, and even tackling a youth group trip to Disney World! Ms. Penny remained a treasured mentor and friend to many of those youth as they grew up, officiating their marriages, baptizing their children, and offering counsel through life's struggles.
Penny also had a unique and impactful role in the ministry of Camp Don Lee, where her husband, John, served as director for 38 years. Penny was dedicated to supporting campers in their walk with God and helping them strengthen their faith through Bible studies and experiences such as "Day Apart" for the Leaders-in-Training program each summer.
A loving mother and grandmother, Penny was the center of her family's life in Pamlico County. Penny loved her family out loud, calling each one on birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays with a celebratory song. She was always ready with a hug, a snuggle, or a back scratch. As "Moo Moo" to her beloved grandchildren, she welcomed them into her home and heart with a sense of fun and unconditional love. Penny's family understood that they shared her with an entire community — it was impossible to go anywhere with Penny without running into people who knew and loved her — and they also knew that they were always her first priority.
While it's hard to capture the extensive roles, accolades, and accomplishments Penny had throughout her life, one thing is clear: She had a passionate love for God and for His people. Whether it was finding four-leaf clovers for others without a drop of effort (each was given with a small sermon of course) or recognizing someone by their voice in a crowded room after her eye-sight failed, she had an innate ability to connect with others. Being a daily example of God's love for others continued into her retirement years and as she battled health challenges. The communities she served and loved, along with her family and friends, will miss her immensely. Her bright smile and infectious laugh will live in their memories. They will aim to carry her love for God's people forward in the world, as she would have encouraged them to.
Penny's family will greet friends Friday, January 30th from 6-8pm at Daniels-Sadler Funeral Home in Alliance. A service of life and resurrection will be held on Saturday, January 31st at 11:00 am at Centenary United Methodist Church in New Bern with the Rev. Ben Williams officiating.
In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Methodist Home for Children, 1041 Washington St. Raleigh, NC 27605-1259.

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

FINANCIAL FOCUS

Why Social Security matters more for women

Dan M. Roberts

When planning for retirement, Social Security isn't just another item on your financial checklist. For women especially, it's often the cornerstone of a secure retirement. The Social Security Administration reports that nearly 55% of Social Security benefit recipients are women, and for many, it's their primary source of retirement income.

Unlike investments that can lose value when the market drops, Social Security provides guaranteed income that adjusts for inflation and generally lasts as long as you live. That reliability makes it valuable for helping to address two major retirement risks: rising costs and the possibility of outliving your savings.

Life expectancy. On average, women live about five years longer than men (CDC 2023 Life Expectancy measure. That means they rely on Social Security for a longer period, making the decision of when to start benefits especially important.

Taking Social Security early reduces your monthly benefit. You can claim benefits as early as age 62, but every year you wait increases your monthly payments by two-thirds of 1%, or 8% per year, maxing out at age 70. Given women's longer life expectancy, that patience can pay off.

Building your benefit. Your Social Security benefit depends on your 35 highest-earning years. If you have years with zero or very low earnings in that calculation, it can reduce what you receive in retirement. Many women step away from work or reduce their hours to care for family members, and that trend is increasing. A 2025 University of Kansas analysis found that the share of mothers with children under age 5 leaving the workforce fell more in early 2025 than at any point in the past 40 years. The study also noted that rising return-to-office policies may continue to impact working mothers.

While staying in the workforce builds a stronger earnings history and better benefits, that isn't realistic for everyone. Those who can't may need to plan and fund alternative sources for retirement income

Protection for married women. Marriage can provide additional Social Security options. A lower-earning spouse may receive up to 50% of their partner's full retirement-age benefit.

If your spouse dies, you can receive the higher of your own benefit or up to 100% of your deceased spouse's benefit. However, if you remarry before age 60 (age 50 for disabled widows), you lose eligibility for survivor benefits from your late spouse while the new marriage lasts.

Women divorced after at least 10 years of marriage may qualify for benefits based on an ex-spouse's record. If you remarry, you forfeit spousal benefits while the new marriage continues.

A word of wisdom: Report any name changes following marriage or divorce to the Social Security Administration to ensure your earnings and benefits are correctly credited.

Navigate carefully. Given the complexity of Social Security rules, the unique retirement challenges women face and the lasting impact of claiming decisions, working with a qualified financial advisor can be invaluable. An advisor can help you navigate questions about timing, spousal benefits and how Social Security fits into your overall retirement plan.

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

NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION Pamlico County

Chopped! Food and Culture!

Kait Neeland
4-H Agent

I have so many fun memories of participating in 4-H Programs growing up. Raising sheep, goats, and pigs; building rudimentary circuits; learning to sew, completing service projects, gaining leadership skills, and learning about cooking and nutrition. Many of these learning opportunities were the foundations of life skills I'm still utilizing today. Perhaps none more so than the cooking and nutrition education.

The effects of healthy eating are impactful in so many ways. Good nutrition is tied to supporting and maintaining muscles; boosting immunity; strengthening bones; lowering the risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and some cancers; helps support digestive system function; as well as maintaining a healthy weight. These benefits significantly impact long term health and quality of life.

We are happy for youth to have the opportunity to learn about good nutrition, develop safe food preparation practices, and learn about the world. Chopped! International is a 4-H Spin club meeting the fourth Tuesday of the month. Last year we learned about Russia, Greece, Egypt, Italy, and Breakfasts around the World! Each session we develop our knife skills, food preparation. We also learn about the country whose food we are making. We learn where the country is located, the form of government, the languages, and some of the culture.

While we are all in on learning about nutrition and safe food practices! We are also stoked for 4-H Presentations! 4-H Presentation is a public speaking program that allows youth ages 9 - 18 to develop and perfect their presentations skills by researching, writing, and delivering a speech. Once a speech is prepared there are three stages to 4-H Presentations: County Activity Day, District Activity Day, and North Carolina 4-H Congress. Registration for Pamlico 4-H Presentations is open now!

We are also stoked for the Down East Dairy Project! The 4-H Dairy Project is a wonderful opportunity for youth to connect with animal agriculture. You with have the opportunity to learn the proper care of a dairy cow. They will raise the dairy calf, learn proper nutrition, grooming, and showmanship. They will also have the opportunity to explore milk production systems, and keep project record books.

If you would like more information about our 2026 Spring 4-H programs please give us a call or check out our Pamlico 4-H page. You'll find all the details and registration info on our website: pamlico.ces.ncsu.edu. To complete your registration, you'll also need to enroll in 4-H Online it's required for all NC 4-H programs. Don't worry if you're new to the process, the link is on our website, and if you have any trouble at all, just give us a call. We're happy to walk you through it step-by-step! Want to stay in the loop about future programs and events? Be sure to sign up for our Pamlico 4-H email list so you never miss an update. If you have questions or just want to learn more about what 4-H has to offer here in Pamlico County, reach out to Kait Neeland at (252) 745-4121 or kait_neeland@ncsu.edu

Enjoy a tasty, egg-based hot breakfast

Breakfast is often described as the most important meal of the day. After a period of sleep when nothing is consumed, breakfast does just what its name implies: breaks the fast.

While many people are content to grab something fast from the pantry each morning, every now and again a hot breakfast can really hit the spot. Whether feeding a family or a crowd, this "Egg in a Hole Bagel" recipe can be prepared quickly and assembled on one baking sheet. Try this eggceptional meal, courtesy of The Incredible Egg and the Egg Nutrition Center. It can be enjoyed for breakfast, brunch — or at any time of day.

Egg in a Hole Bagel

8 servings

- 4 whole wheat bagels, halved
- 8 large eggs
- 4 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 1 cup baby spinach, thinly sliced, divided
- Kosher salt and black pepper, to taste
- 1 tablespoon capers, rinsed
- 1/2 cup jarred roasted red peppers, finely chopped
- Chopped parsley (optional garnish)
- Lemon zest (optional garnish)
- Lemon juice (optional garnish)

1. Preheat oven to 375 F and line a large baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. Use a 2- or 21/2-inch round cookie or biscuit cutter to create a larger hole (it should be just big enough for an egg to fit). Spread mayonnaise over cut sides of bagel halves and press firmly, mayo side down, onto the baking sheet.
3. Stuff a little spinach in the bottom of each hole (this will help hold the egg in) then crack an egg into each center. Season with salt and pepper then top each egg with remaining spinach, capers and roasted red peppers. Bake until egg whites are set and yolk is cooked to preferred doneness, about 12 to 15 minutes.
4. For optional garnish: Toss parsley with lemon zest and lemon juice in a small bowl. Use as a garnish just before serving.

Note: Save bagel cutouts and toast to enjoy alongside bagels.

"You can say any fool thing to a dog and the dog will just give you this look that says, '**My GOSH**, you're **RIGHT! I NEVER** would've thought of that!"
– Dave Barry

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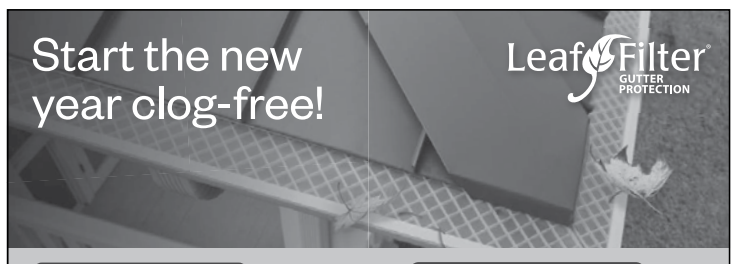
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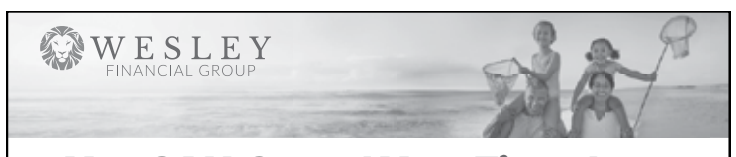
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SPORTS

Hurricane Hoops

Pamlico Battles Beaufort County Foes

by: Hiram Lupton

The Pamlico County High School basketball teams continued with conference play last week with two home game days on tap, both against Beaufort County Schools. The week tipped off on Tuesday with the Hurricanes hosting rival Northside-Pinetown. The Panther ladies came in with only a single loss on the season but after that soon turned into 2 losses as the Lady 'Canes dominated the kittens en route to an 81-49 win. Nya Clark once again led the way with 38 points, shooting an efficient 17 for 28 from the field. Sydney Whitley-Reese chipped in 16 to go along with her 14 rebounds for a double-double night. Kyliyah Barber was also a standout performer for the Hurricanes with a double-double of her own. She had 15 points and an amazing 13 steals as she seemed to be everywhere on defense for Pamlico. In the men's game the script was flipped as the Panthers dug their claws into the turnover prone Hurricanes. By halftime, Northside had built up a 17-point lead and only piled onto that in the second half, winning 73-33 over the Hurricanes. Noah Gibbs led Pamlico with 11 points. On Friday Pamlico closed out the week with another Beaufort County team visiting the eye as the Seahawks flew down from Southside to do battle. The Pamlico Ladies opened strong and never let off the gas as the entire team got substantial playing time. By the time it was over, the Hurricanes had grounded Southside with a 66-20 win. Sydney Whitley-Reese topped Pamlico's scoring with 18 points with Nya Clark putting in 15 and Shaiera Jones also in double figures with 10. While the men's contest was perhaps not the best played game of the season for either team, it was probably the most exciting. At the half, Southside held a 19-17 lead and going into the fourth quarter that had swelled to a 5-point margin at 35-30. That would be the biggest lead either team enjoyed all night. Both teams traded the lead back and forth through the final period and both had opportunities to put the other away. With just under :35 seconds on the clock, Southside held a one point lead a 44-43 they would not relinquish. The Hurricanes had their chances but with missed free throws, open 3-pointers, and errant put backs, could never quite come through. Final score, a 47-45 Seahawk win. There was no lack of effort on the part of the Hurricanes, the shots just wouldn't fall. This week Pamlico hits the road with visits to Lejeune on Tuesday and East Carteret on Friday.

Pamlico's Kyliyah Barber goes strong to the basket.

Hurricane Timmy Taylor rises high for a jump shot.

Middle School Athletics

Boys Basketball Earns Regular Season Championship

by: Hiram Lupton

The Pamlico County Middle School basketball teams finished up their regular season last week and in their home games on Thursday with Tucker Creek, the Hurricanes swept the Mustangs, with the girls getting a close win, 25-20, and the boys cruising away with a dominate 52-22 victory. For the boys, this locked up the regular season championship and coupled with Friday evenings 18-point win over Grover C. Fields, also gives them an undefeated season. The veteran ballclub with 8 eighth graders played well for first year head coach Aaron Caroon all season and will look to put some icing on the cake this week in the conference tournament. They will be at home on Tuesday and provided they win, will be playing for the tournament championship on Thursday, also at home.

Nevaeh Peltier (#5)

Kayton Forbes (#23)

Ayden Bell (#3)

Antonio Bell, Jr. (#4)

Pamlico Vistas

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

The Robert Scott Bridge - Oriental

Photo by: Hiram Lupton

Reader's Contributors

"It felt like raindrops - not snow, sleet, nor freezing rain - falling on my trees." –Photo by: Ben Casey

Rotary Club of Oriental Happenings

Rotary Club #6172 | District #7720

By Jim Kellenberger & Beth Obenshain 1-14-26

So, some of you readers of this publication might recall about a month ago (December 15th to be exact) Duke Power found themselves dealing with yet another power outage in our fair Town. That outage started at the NC 55 and Straight Rd intersection and shut down Gretchen's Bistro for most of the afternoon. Coincidentally, this was the same night as The Rotary Club's annual Christmas Dinner. Well never to be deterred, Club president Carol DeMoranville jumped into action and with member input created an alternate date. Without realizing it, she created not only a 2025 Christmas holiday event held in 2026 but began our 75th year as a Rotary Club with a bang. The food, location, and staff of Gretchen's could not have been more comforting and pleasant. Our 40 plus members and guests had a great time as the pictures attest.

President Carol presented Ed and Phyllis Yodlowski the "Major Donor" award from Rotary International.

Gearing up for your next big Spring or Summer event and need tents, chairs, and or tables be sure to contact our "Tent Team" Scheduler Extraordinaire Charles Stackhouse before you call those "other people" in New Bern or wherever. He can be reached 919-920-1355.

Want to see what it is all about, then contact our Membership Chair, Jim Kellenberger at 919-621-0362 or jimkellenberger05@gmail.com and he will help you get involved.

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Though experts may insist that it's never too late to change jobs, data indicates it's increasingly less likely after reaching age 55. According to an analysis from USAFacts — How Long Americans Stay, workers between the ages of 25 and 34 hold positions for a median tenure ranging from 2.7 years to 3.2 years. Among professionals between the ages of 55 and 64, the median tenure increases to 9.6 years. Seniority at a current employer and compensation levels reflecting decades of experience may make workers 55 and older less willing to take a new job. Despite that analysis, the AARP noted in a 2023 report that older workers who have changed jobs, which the organization defines as professionals 45 and older, reported positive outcomes after making the switch. Indeed, 50 percent of such workers said switching jobs had a positive impact on their mental health and 48 percent indicated they earned more as a result of switching employers.

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- **Phlebotomy Technician,** ***Starting Feb. 3!***
- **Microsoft Office,** ***Course starts Feb. 5!***
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- **Notary,** ***One-day course in Bayboro! Feb. 21!***

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Health&Wellness

5 SIGNS YOU MIGHT HAVE A THYROID ISSUE

The human body is vulnerable to a host of health problems. Some issues garner ample attention, while others may slip under the radar. Thyroid issues likely fall into the latter group, though that could change in the years to come.

A report in the journal The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology estimated that roughly 200 million people across the globe are affected by diseases of the thyroid. The same report indicated 40 percent of the world's population are at risk of iodine deficiency. That's significant to note, as iodine is essential for the production of thyroid hormones. Though no one knows what the future holds, it may not prove too great a surprise if thyroid issues garner more attention among the general public in the years ahead. With that in mind, individuals can learn to spot signs that they might be developing a thyroid issue. Various signs may point to thyroid problems, but these five indicators are easy for anyone to spot.

1. Unexplained changes in body weight: The thyroid is a gland in the front of the neck that helps control the body's metabolism. Metabolism can affect body weight, so individuals who are experiencing thyroid issues may gain weight (hypothyroidism) or lose weight (hyperthyroidism) even if they have not made any changes to their diets or fitness routines. WebMD reports that hypothyroidism is much more common than hyperthyroidism.

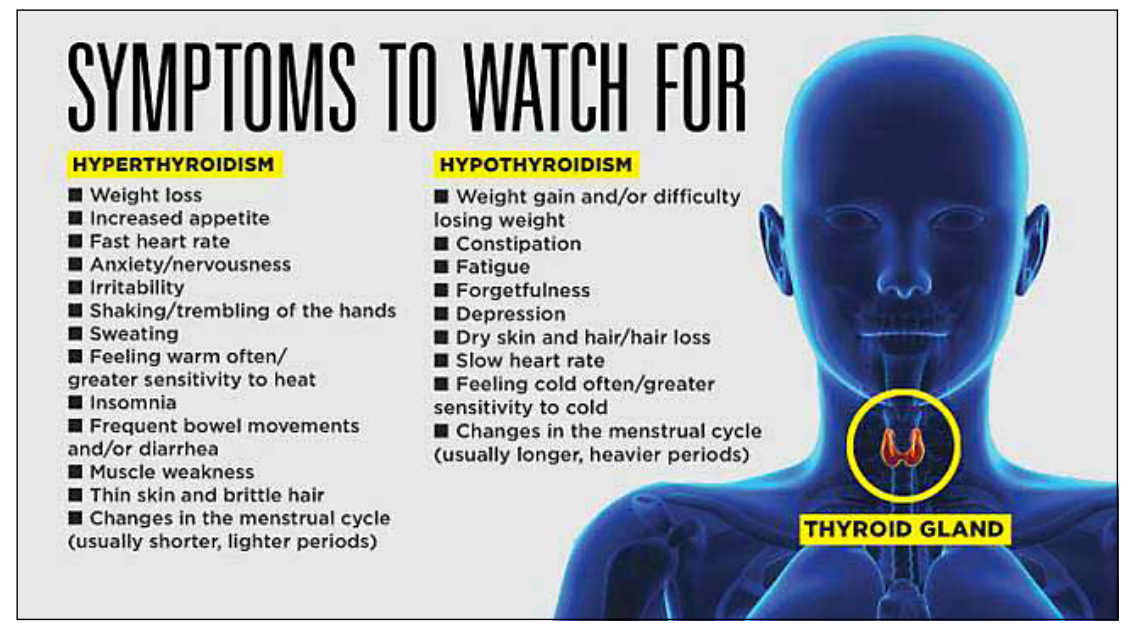
2. Swelling in the neck: WebMD notes that a swelling or enlargement in the neck indicates something might be wrong with your thyroid. Though swelling in the neck does not always indicate a thyroid problem, any swelling or enlargement in this area merits a phone call to a physician.

3. Changes in heart rate: Harvard Medical School reports that excess thyroid hormones cause the heart to beat harder and faster. This change is linked to hyperthyroidism, which also can cause abnormal heart rhythms. But a reduction in heart rate also can indicate a thyroid issue, namely hypothyroidism.

4. Unexplained changes in energy levels: Noticeable changes in energy levels also may indicate the presence of thyroid issues. Hypothyroidism can zap individuals' energy, leaving them feeling tired and sluggish. People with hypothyroidism also may experience depression. WebMD notes that hyperthyroidism can contribute to anxiety, difficulty sleeping, restlessness, and irritability.

5. Hair loss: While hypothyroidism and hyperthyroidism often produce opposite effects (i.e., weight gain or weight loss), each condition can cause people to lose their hair. The British Thyroid Foundation reports that thyroid-associated hair loss affects the entire scalp as opposed to discreet areas.

Thyroid issues could garner greater attention among the general public in the coming years. That's one reason why learning to spot potential warning signs of thyroid issues is so important.



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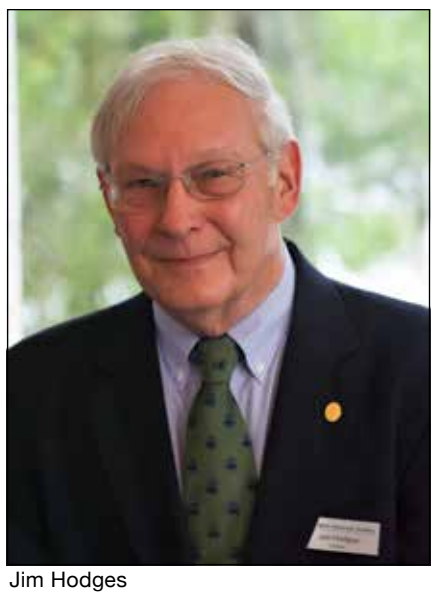
COASTAL LIVING

Historical Society's Sold-Out Presentation Re-Scheduled to Feb. 1

Jim Hodges' Then, Now and Rabbit Holes Pushed Back One Week


Jim Hodges

NEW BERN, NC, Date. Out of concern for safety, in light of the expected inclement weather, the New Bern Historical Society has re-scheduled Jim Hodges' presentation of "Then, Now and Rabbit Holes". Originally scheduled for this Sunday, Jan. 25, it will now be next Sunday, February 1 at 2pm at Orringer Auditorium. If anyone with reservations cannot attend this new scheduled date, they can contact the Historical Society office at 252-638-8558 for either a refund or to generously donate their seat to another person. If there are cancellations, those on the wait list will be contacted.

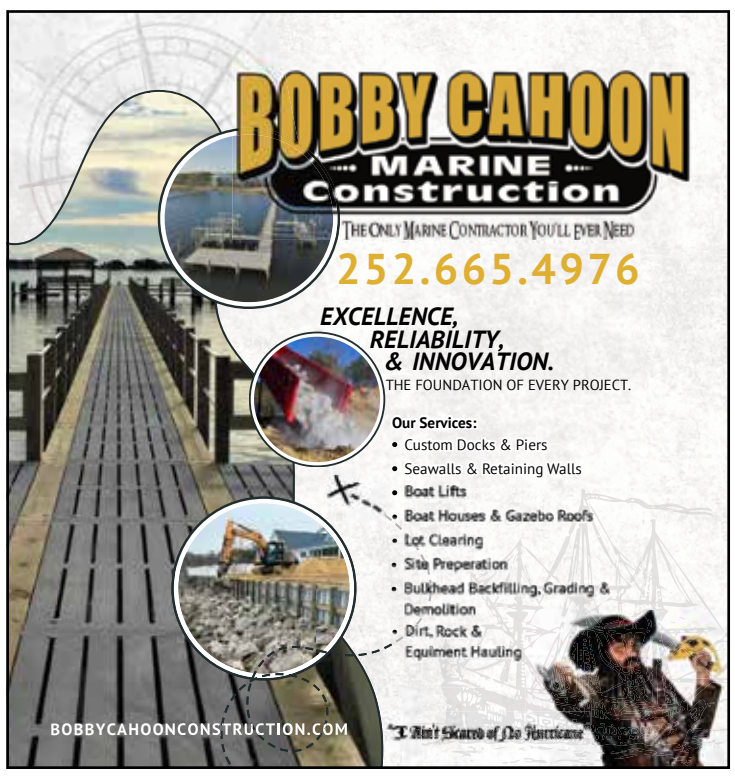
Executive Director Anthony Giardino explains "We are excitedly looking forward to Jim's great presentation. In the face of inclement weather, we just have to wait another week. We want everyone to stay safe and we appreciate your understanding".

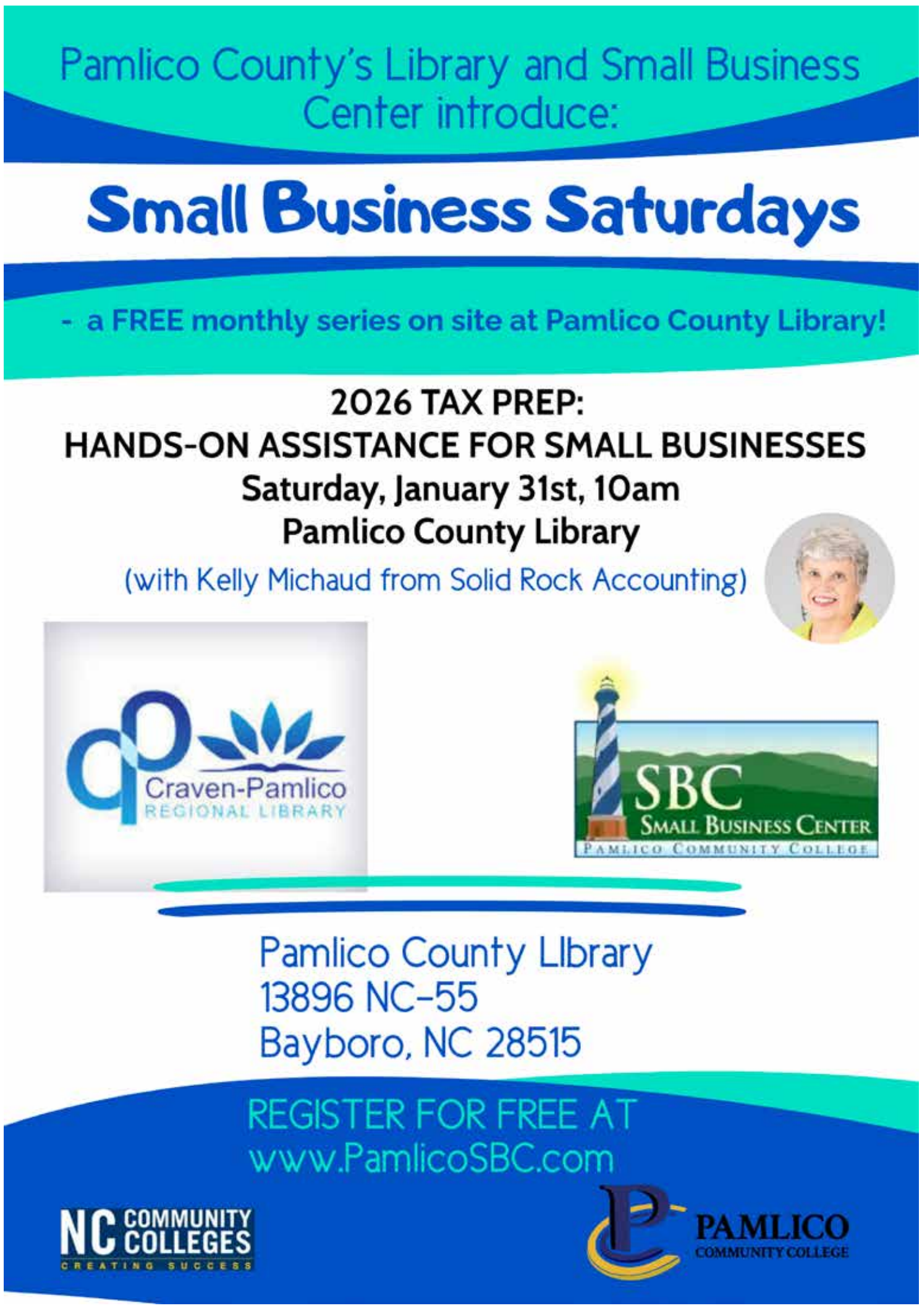
The mission of the New Bern Historical Society is to celebrate and promote New Bern and its heritage through events and education. Offices are located in the historic Attmore- Oliver House at 511 Broad Street in New Bern. For more information, call 252-638-8558 or go www.NewBernHistorical.org or www.facebook.com/NewBernHistoricalSociety.

J.B. Blades House became Hotel Queene Ann

Don't knock the weather; nine-tenths of the people couldn't start a conversation if it didn't change once in a while.

–Kin Hubbard





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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

The Pamlico County Board of Commissioners will hold a Budget Meeting on

Monday, February 2, 2026 at 5:00pm

in the Commissioners' Board Room, located on the second floor of the Pamlico County Courthouse Annex, 202 Main Street, Bayboro, North Carolina 28515.

If you have any questions, you can contact the Pamlico County - Clerk to the Board at 252-745-3133.

LEGALS

Notice to Creditors
North Carolina,
Pamlico County

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of Joyce Grey Cagle, deceased, of Bayboro, NC, are notified to present the same to the personal representative listed below on or before April 7, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All debtors of the said estate are asked to make immediate payment. This the 7th day of January, 2026.

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

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:

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

This 7th day of January 2026.

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

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

NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE PAMLICO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF JAMES A MASON File No.: 25E001231-680

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

This 7TH OF JANUARY, 2026

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

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

NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE PAMLICO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF DAVID ALAN PETERSON File No.: 25E001234-680

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

This 14TH DAY OF JANUARY 2026

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

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

NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE PAMLICO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF PAUL C. BRADY File No.: 25E001201-680

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

This 14TH OF JANUARY, 2026

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

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

Official Election Notice
County of PAMLICO

2026 PRIMARY
Election Date: 03/03/2026

This is an official notice of an election to be conducted in PAMLICO County on 03/03/2026. This notice contains a list of all of the ballot measures and federal, State, and local offices this county expects, as of this date, to be on the ballot on the date of the election. (See Attachment)

An Election Notice will be prepared not later than 100 days before a regularly scheduled election that permits absentee voting, and as soon as practicable in the case of an election or vacancy election not regularly scheduled. For a second primary, an Election Notice will be prepared, no later than the day following the date the appropriate board of elections orders that a second primary be held.

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

Transmitting a Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot:

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

Marking a Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot:

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

Please check the website for the NC State Board of Elections (www.NCSBE.gov) for additional information on militaryoverseas absentee voting.

NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE PAMLICO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF CHARLES M. ALEXANDER File No.: 26E000006-680

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

This 21st OF JANUARY, 2026

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

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

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

NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE PAMLICO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF CAROLYN ANN RICE File No.: 26E000009-680

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

This 21st OF JANUARY, 2026

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

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

NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE PAMLICO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF WILLIAM DAVIS File No.: 25E000009-680

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against deceased, are notified to exhibit them to MAXINE FISHER CO-EXECUTOR or HARTENSE LATHAM CO-EXECUTOR on or before APRIL 28, 2026, at the address listed below or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named CO-EXECUTORS.

This 28TH OF JANUARY 2026

ESTATE OF WILLIAM DAVIS
C/O MAXINE FISHER
2948 MILL POND RD
BAYBORO, NC 28515

ESTATE OF WILLIAM DAVIS
C/O HARTENSE LATHAM
508 BELL LANE
BAYBORO, NC 28515

Publish JANUARY 28 AND FEBRUARY 4, 11 AND 18 2026.

NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE PAMLICO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF HERBERT EMIL FRITZE File No.: 26E000008-680

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against deceased, are notified to exhibit them to LISA RICE, EXECUTOR on or before APRIL 28, 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 28TH OF JANUARY, 2026

ESTATE OF HERBERT EMIL FRITZE
C/O LISA RICE
6711 VALLEY FALLS RD
HOPE MILLS, NC 28348

Publish JANUARY 28 AND FEBRUARY 4, 11 AND 18, 2026.

NORTH CAROLINA
PAMLICO COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of Ernest Lee Riggs, deceased, of Pamlico County, N.C., are notified to present the same to the personal representative listed below on or before April 29, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All debtors of the said estate are asked to make immediate payment.

This 28th day of January, 2026.

Edward Riggs, Jr., Executor of the Estate of
Ernest Lee Riggs, Deceased,
c/o David B. Baxter, Jr.
416 Pollock Street
P.O. Drawer 889
New Bern, NC 28563

1/28/26; 2/4/26; 2/11/26; and 2/18/26

INCIDENTS

Dec. 28, Broad St. Ext., warrant for arrest felony possession Schedule II., possession of drug paraphernalia, warrant for arrest possess stolen goods/property (F), Identity theft (F), obtain property false pretense (F), felony conspiracy

Dec. 29, Boones Lane, Arapahoe, larceny of motor vehicle, possess stolen goods/property (F)

Dec. 29, Orchard Creek Rd., Oriental, civil issue

Dec. 30, Bennett Rd., Arapahoe, suspicious package

Dec. 31, Hobucken School Rd., Hobucken, trespass of real property

Dec. 31, NC Hwy 306 S., Arapahoe, injury to personal property

Dec. 31, Second St., Bayboro, obtain property by false pretenses

Dec. 31, Old Bay River Rd., Grantsboro, warrant for arrest kill animal by starvation (4)

Jan. 1, Halls Creek Rd., New Bern, assault on a female by male at least 18 years of age, injury to personal property

Jan. 1, Mill Quarter Rd., Grantsboro, possession of firearm by convicted felon

AROUND THE COUNTY

Pamlico Betty Jo Rodgers, *Correspondent*

Pamlico did not receive any snow or ice that I could see, but I understand there was a little in Oriental. We missed the big icy freeze that affected much of North Carolina. Pamlico Methodist Church held their regular services Sunday morning.

Even though it was a cold, rainy morning, Stonewall Methodist Church was well attended. The young families with their young children are a delight for everyone. There were 17 children and youth and that is always a blessing. We met in the fellowship hall because we are still waiting for a part for the furnace that heats the sanctuary.

We have much to be thankful for and Stonewall celebrates the fact that Roy Carey walked away from the log truck accident without a scratch and was able to attend church on Sunday. We are also thankful that Danny Lupton is home from his rehab at Bayview. God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good.

Everyone in Pamlico and the entire county were saddened by the passing of Penny $ Farmer this past Saturday. She was a dear friend and my mentor in the ministry. Remember her family in your prayers this week. Visitation will be Friday night at Daniels/Sadler Funeral Home from 6-8 pm. Her memorial service will be at Centenary United Methodist Church in New Bern on Saturday, January 31 at 11:00 am.

Celebrating birthdays in January are Willy Hope (1/28), Nan Gilbert, Becky Sadler (1/30), and Shari Roberts Hale (1/31).

Those celebrating birthdays in February include Mary Willis (2/3), Tony Cowden (2/4), Aiden Smith (2/6), Mattie Cuthrell (2/11), Jean Braswell (2/12), Mildred Harrison, Chris Fulcher & John Farmer (2/14), Willie Banks & Doug Carey (2/15), Sheryl Kaye Sanders, Esther Jane Lupton, & Sharon Rowe (2/20), Tillie Roberts (2/24), 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. Karen and John Deaton will celebrate their wedding anniversary on February 13. Remember February 14 is Valentine's Day, so tell someone you love them and remember, "Jesus Loves You."

Have a blessed week. Zapped? Take Spiritual Vitamin Z. "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." (Titus 2:14)

Whortonsville Reba Tiller, *Correspondent*

Sitting here watching a football game being played in Denver with my son and all of a sudden the snow starts falling there. It has covered the ground in just a matter of minutes and we can barely see the players. We are sitting here in my cozy house feeling sorry for them. We are so blessed that we are on the outer edges of the storm and have seen some rain and cold temperatures but no snow so far. My son Ken and his wife Rhea came down from Durham because they were concerned about power outage up there. Just saw an-e-mail that one of our schoolmates had passed away. I called Sylvia Nickerson to find out how church went today because they were having a brunch lunch. My right leg went out on me so I could not attend. I had to use a walker to get around. I don't have any news except I have to say "thank you" to Melydia for helping me get my news out last week.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK— STAY WARM, MAKE A POT OF SOUP, AND CALL FRIENDS THAT MIGHT LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Grantsboro Jeff Roberts, *Correspondent*

Good morning, good afternoon. and good evening. I hope everyone has stayed very warm during the fluctuation of our weather. I love snow but I am surely glad that we didn't get any and that the ice was at a minimum. This past weekend was definitely one to just stay at home with a good pot of vittles on the stove.

There are months when a community feels the passing of time more heavily than usual. This has been one of those months.

We have said goodbye to several of our elders, men and women whose lives were woven into the fabric of Pamlico County. Some were names we all recognized, others were known quietly through small acts: a wave from a porch, a story told more than once, a lesson passed down without ever calling it one.

When elders leave us, it can feel like the lights dim just a little. They carried the long view. They remembered how things were before the roads changed, before the shoreline shifted, before the world felt so fast. They were our living connection to where we've been.

It's natural, in moments like this, to feel sadness, and even uncertainty. But there is also comfort to be found, if we look closely.

Every elder leaves something behind that does not pass away. It lives in the way we speak, the way we care for one another, the way we show up when it matters. It lives in family traditions, in work ethic, in stories that still get told at kitchen tables and on front porches.

Hope does not mean forgetting those we've lost. Hope means carrying them forward.

In times like these, our community has always known what to do: we lean in. We check on our neighbors. We speak names aloud. We remember. And in remembering, we honor lives that helped shape this place we call home.

To those who are grieving, know that you are not alone. Your sorrow is shared, and so is the gratitude for lives well lived.

Pamlico County has been built, piece by piece, by the hands and hearts of those who came before us. Their voices may grow quiet, but their legacy continues, in us.

And that is something worth holding onto.

Vandemere Sandra Snipes, *Correspondent*

This week's update is a quiet one. A winter storm has been sweeping across the country, bringing ice, snow, road accidents, and power outages to many communities. While Vandemerians prepared for the possibility of icy conditions and outages, our weather has thankfully been mild in comparison to what others across the state and nation have endured. For that, we are truly grateful and count ourselves blessed.

Town business will be picking back up soon as the Board of Commissioners meetings resume in February. A work session to review ordinances will be held on February 2nd, followed by the regular Board of Commissioners meeting and a joint work session with the Planning Board on February 9th. Both meetings will take place at Town Hall at 6:30 PM. The next Planning Board meeting will be on February 19th at 9:00 am at the Town Hall.

We look forward to seeing everyone there and, as always, appreciate your continued involvement in our community. Stay safe and warm!

Encouraging children to be physically active can be an important step in helping them to be healthier later in life. The Physical Rehabilitation Network (PRN) says active kids are more likely to become healthy adults. Studies have shown that being physically active and making smart food choices while young can lead to a reduced risk of developing many serious health conditions later in life, which can include diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity, heart disease, and even certain cancers. What's more, Better Health Victoria in Australia says evidence suggests that physically active children also are more likely to mature into physically active adults. Developing fitness skills early in life is a wise choice. However, one in six kids between the ages of 2 and 19 in the United States are obese, and just one in three are physically active each day, reports the PRN. Families can work together to help kids get on paths to better health and to become more active. This may involve putting limits on screen time and encouraging outdoor play and group active activities like sports or dance.

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS

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
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
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

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
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

Sale
Get DISH Satellite TV + Internet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To $600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-877-920-7405

Time Share
Wesley Financial Group, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts. Over $50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 844-213-6711

SUDOKU

			9		5			
	3							
9				7	2			
		7			4		5	
		3		6				
	6		5				7	
		9				2		6
		4	7	3			1	5
			1			8		

Level: Advanced

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

ANSWER:

6	7	2	9	4	5	3	8	1
4	3	5	6	8	1	7	2	9
9	8	1	3	7	2	5	6	4
2	9	7	8	1	4	6	5	3
5	4	3	2	6	7	1	9	8
1	6	8	5	9	3	4	7	2
7	1	9	4	5	8	2	3	6
8	2	4	7	3	6	9	1	5
3	5	6	1	2	9	8	4	7

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to canned food.

O D G O S

Answer: Goods

"If you've never met the devil in the road of life, it's because you're both heading in the same direction."
–Anonymous

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

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

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

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

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

General Contractor's license is required.

With request for Bidding Documents please supply the following information:

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

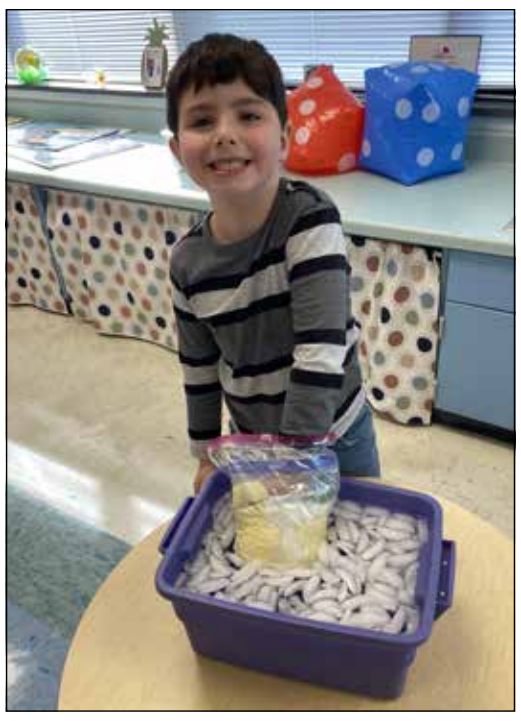
Also please indicate if firm will be a bidder, supplier, or subcontractor.

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

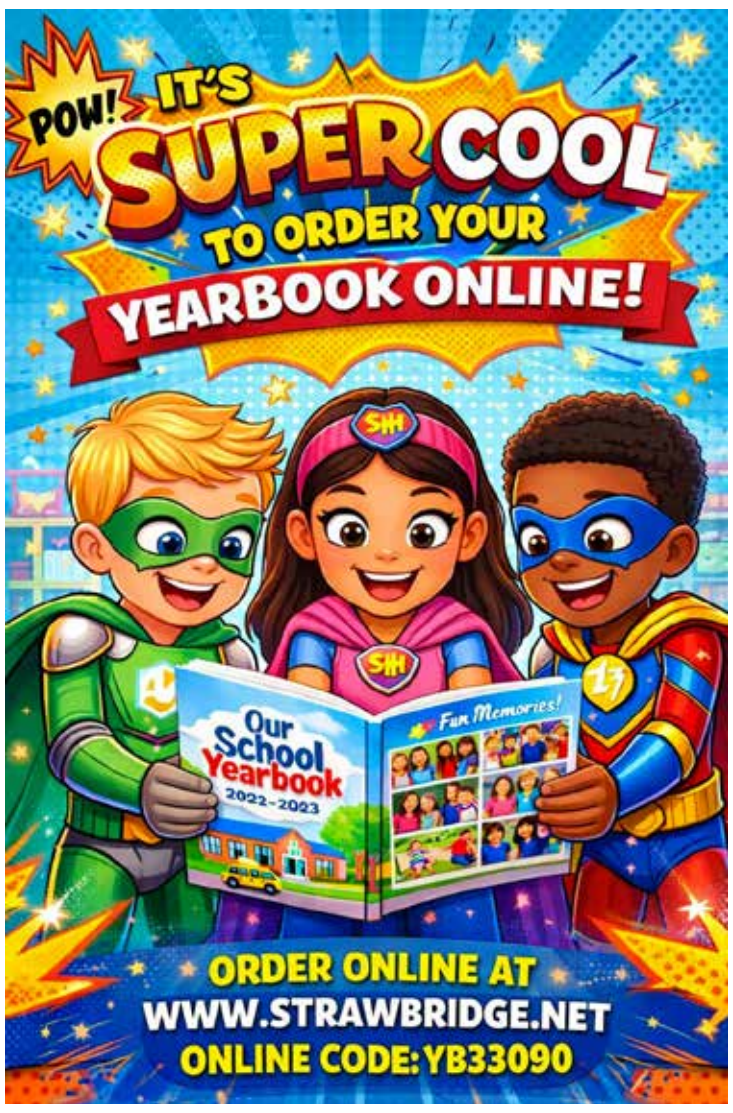
A non-mandatory Pre-Bid meeting will be held at 2:00pm Wednesday February 4, 2026 at 507 Church St, Oriental, NC 28571.

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

PAMLICO PRIMARY SCHOOL SCIENCE OF KEEPING WARM!



Mrs. King's kindergarten class tried a blubber experiment by putting our hand in bags of lard—just like animals that stay warm in cold water! It was squishy, silly, and SO much fun learning how blubber helps keep them cozy!



MAGIC SHOW

Thanks to the generosity of our PTO, primary students enjoyed an exciting and engaging magic show. The performance inspired students to dream big and believe that they can achieve anything they set their minds to.

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A School Bus Tracking App for Parents

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RIGHT STOP.
RIGHT TIME.

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3. Enter school code 76413 and click "Next" followed by "Confirm"
4. Complete the "User Profile" box
5. Under "My Students," click "Add." Enter your child's last name and student ID number
6. Once you confirm your information, you're ready to begin

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Real People, Real Power.
We believe in the power of education.

PAMLICO PRIMARY SCHOOL

Kindergarten students are excited to kick off Club Friday, a special weekly time dedicated to fun, exploration, and learning through play. Each Friday, students will enjoy engaging activities that help build social skills, creativity, and a love of school.

"Pictured are just a few of our wonderful substitute teachers, whose support makes all the difference."

YOUR RETIREMENT

well-lived.

Welcome to Brice Pointe, New Bern's first Life Plan Community. Nestled on 70 picturesque acres along Carolina Lake, every detail is designed to support the life you've imagined.

JOIN US FOR ONE OR BOTH EVENTS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM
Boost Your Wellness

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM
Life Plan 101

Carolina Colours Pavilion

3300 Waterscape Way | New Bern, NC 28562

RSVP by calling 252-659-4550 or emailing hquinones@thrivemoreinc.org

Space is limited.

BRICE POINTE
A THRIVEMORE COMMUNITY

503 WEST THURMAN ROAD
NEW BERN, NC 28562

BRICEPOINTE.ORG