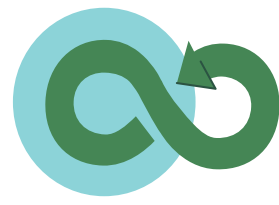




# EARTH DAY



Vol. 58 No.17, 12 Pages

# The Pamlico News

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

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## Oriental Celebrates Arbor Day 2026

by: Hiram Lupton

The Town of Oriental celebrated National Arbor Day last Saturday in one of the best ways possible, planting a tree. Members of the Oriental Tree Board, residents, and representatives from the North Carolina Forrest Service gathered at 309 High Street and planted the second of two Crepe Myrtles. There was also another reason



to celebrate. For the 31st consecutive year, Oriental was selected as a Tree City USA community. Established in 1976, the Tree City USA program is a cooperative partnership between the Arbor Day Foundation, the USDA Forest Service, and the National Association of State Foresters that promote and recognize communities that meet their standards of having a viable tree management program. The NC Forrest Service Representatives read a proclamation designating this status upon Oriental. Congratulations Oriental and the Tree Board for this honor. The birds, and squirrels, and residents of the Town thank you.



## Community Celebration Event

### FIRE & EMS FAMILY FAIR & EXPO

On Saturday May 9, 2026 from 11AM - 2PM at Station 25 - Florence-Whortonsville Fire & EMS located at 5208 Florence Road, Merritt there will be a community event and expo. Come & Enjoy Interactive Fire & EMS Demos.

- Meet Your Local First Responders
- CPR & Wellness Information
- Family-Friendly Activities
- Food & Refreshments

And join us to celebrate the arrival of our new LIFEPAK 15!



## Two-day AI Fest brings nearly 200 to Pamlico Community College

By Sandy Wall



During Day 1 of Pamlico Community College's two-day AI Fest, high school students and others were asked to view a series of images projected on screens and to judge which ones were real and which ones were generated by AI. PCC President Zac Schnell, standing at left, leads the exercise. Contributed photo

Area residents of all ages had the opportunity to see how Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools can improve their work, help them express themselves and innovate, and enhance their daily lives at Pamlico Community College's inaugural two-day AI Fest last Wednesday and Thursday (April 15-16) on campus.

The event, which brought nearly 200 visitors to the college, was the brainchild of PCC President Zac Schnell, who is a vocal proponent of AI and its ever-increasing abilities to improve people's lives.

"There are so many capabilities coming our way, which is why we wanted to put on this AI Fest," he

said, adding that the college plans similar public events in the near future.

Day 1 of AI Fest focused on high schoolers. About 100 students from Pamlico County High School and Pamlico Christian Academy used AI tools Wednesday to create art and music, try their hands at welding, assess the conditions of their skin and hair, and learn how ever-advancing technology can help them shape their futures.

Students went from station to station to explore AI's capabilities. They also enjoyed a catered lunch and some outdoor games and dancing before heading back to school.

Continued on Page A02

## Board of Commissions Grapple with Budget, Tax Rate

by: Hiram Lupton



The not so simple struggle of what is coming in versus what is going out, otherwise known as a budget, is in full swing for the Pamlico County Board of Commissioners as they met last Wednesday afternoon for a budget workshop. In addition to hearing a presentation from Sheriff Chris Davis on what his department will likely seek in the next fiscal year, the Commissioners heard reports from the County Manager Mark Brewington and Chief Finance Officer Alex Showalter on current budget projections as well as funding requests from county partners. Partners are entities that are not County Departments, but that receive funding from the county as a part of their budget. The Pamlico County Library requested \$377,252, up \$7,252 from the previous year's budget of \$370,000. Pamlico County Schools have requested \$4,814,800, which is actually a decrease of \$45,200 from last year. The school system also submitted a Local Capital Outlay request of \$350,000 which reflected an increase of \$20,000 from Fiscal year 2026. As reported in last week's issue of The Pamlico News, The Pamlico County Rescue Squad presented the Board with three options of funding in their request. The amount to maintain the current level of staffing and service was \$1,850,000. Pamlico Community College is seeking a 6% increase in their budget from last year to \$1,661,000 and in addition to that are

asking for a School Resource Officer (SRO) for the college to be provided through the Sheriff's Department. Their request included \$750,000 for capital outlay which contained \$500,000 as part of a 3-year implementation of security improvements at the college. The North Carolina Forrest Service has requested an increase from the county of \$28,968 for a total contribution from the county of \$153,761. In addition to this there are the funding requests from the individual County Departments that range from new shelving to a new Courthouse HVAC system. Also add in the unavoidable increases in insurance costs as well as a cost of living pay increase for employees. All of this adds up to what's going out, a figure of a little over \$30 million. This is of course the starting amount before strike throughs and erasures. The big question that is yet to be determined is what's coming in. County Manager Brewington stated to the Board that until they, the Commissioners, set a property tax rate for the next fiscal year, a budget could only be speculated on. County Finance Director Showalter gave the Board three possible scenarios that included rates of .475, .50, and .525 per \$100 value of property. Which one the Commissioners choose will determine just how sharp the pencils in the finance office have to be, or if they need add an extra box of erasers to their budget request.



## Critical Staff Shortage at the Pamlico Detention Center

by: Hiram Lupton

At the Pamlico County Board of Commissioners budget workshop last Wednesday, Sheriff Chris Davis gave to the Commissioners an outline of what his budget requests would include for the upcoming fiscal year. In his presentation, he highlighted one item that may need attention from the Board before the new fiscal year begins July 1, a critical staff shortage at the Pamlico County Detention Center, otherwise known as the county jail. "We currently have eight vacant positions at the detention center," explained Davis. "Often times we have 2 to 3 vacancies, but the number we now have has forced us to often use deputies or investigators to make up the shortfall in staff." He further explained that a full staff would consist of sixteen jailers, enough to have four on each shift. "Historically we have often had a high turnover rate within the jail staff, but some unexpected departures along with trouble hiring new staff has led to this shortage." The root cause is salary. "We have people come to work for us to begin their career and often once they get some experience and certifications, they leave for either similar positions in neighboring counties or at the prison where they can get better pay." There is also a problem in the time it takes to hire replacements. "For these positions there are extensive background checks that often take up to a month to complete," says Davis. "If they pass that, we then have to begin training which also takes time." The current starting salary for an entry level position is \$39,565 per year. Raising that beginning pay would be a good start, but a career path where employees get raises for time on the job, and attaining certifications is crucial. "Employee retention is the key," stated Davis. "We know it is hard for a county of our size to compete with the resources that Craven and Carteret have, or just up the road at the prison, but we need to try and bridge the gap. It takes a special kind of person to work in the detention center, so we have a limited pool of prospective employees to begin with. Keeping them once they are hired and trained is the goal." The lack of staff also affects income to the county. The jail was constructed at a size that would allow the housing of prisoners from neighboring counties as well as federal prisoners. Renting this space for outside inmates can bring in well over a million dollars annually. The Sheriff has currently paused federal prisoner intake due to this personnel shortage. The Board asked that Davis, County Manager Mark Brewington, and Finance Officer Alex Showalter meet and come up with what actual dollars it would take to address this problem, and how soon a plan could be put into motion to address the issue. In the meantime, Sheriff Davis urges anyone looking for employment to contact his office. "The jail is where I started my law enforcement career. It is a tough job, but it can be a rewarding one. You can have a positive impact on individuals and your community. Come by and see us or give us a call at 252-745-3101.

**UPDATE:** At their regular Monday meeting, The Pamlico County Board of Commissioners voted to allocate \$137,000 for pay adjustments to the hiring rate for jailers in hopes of attracting applicants for vacant positions. The starting pay for a new jailer will now be \$46,000 per year. This pay increase creates salary inequities within the sheriff's department that the Commissioners agreed to address in the next budget. The next budget workshop is scheduled for May 6th at 1 PM.

### LIKELY WEATHER OVER THE WEEKEND

Saturday, April 25th **87°Hi** Sunshine and clouds mixed

Sunday, April 26th **67°Hi** Partly cloudy followed by showers



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# Pamlico Community College

Continued from page A1

## Two-day AI Fest brings nearly 200 to Pamlico Community College

Day 2 focused on the community at large, with more than 80 area residents learning how AI can enhance their teaching, their gardens, their businesses, and their lives.

Experts in AI's uses and capabilities led Thursday's nine workshops and staffed display booths. Event participants also got to review human-directed, AI-generated artwork, music, stories, and innovations created by local high school students and others.

College instructors were on hand to promote their programs and the high-tech equipment used by their students, including a welding simulator, a 3D printer, and a computer-controlled, human-like "patient" named Alex.

Two food trucks were on site, and a DJ kept the music going. A panel discussion on the future of AI and an awards ceremony for the winning high school projects rounded out the busy day.

Day 2 attracted several educators from other community colleges, including Cleveland, Pitt, Robeson, Wake Tech, and College of the Albemarle. Representatives of East Carolina University also were on hand, as was one participant who drove in from Hampton, Va., just for the day's activities.

In the AI Fest competition, Pamlico County High School edged out Pamlico Christian Academy to win the AI Fest's grand prize.

Honorees in individual categories included:

\* Writing & Storytelling – First place went to Ava Buck and Jada Kersey; second place went to Alina Ramirez-Ortega; and third place went to Alyssa Anderson.

\* Artistic & Design – First place went to Johan Gonzalez-Garcia; second place went to Jaylen Wright; and third place went to Ava Buck and Jada Kersey.

\* Innovation & Practical Impact – Leigha Wilson, Grace Gibson and Naomi Coursey took first place; Ryder Hoenig took second; and Eliza Miller took third.

\* Video – First place went to Trinity Whitehurst; second place went to Kevin Gomez and Jaylen Gardner; and third place went to Audri Leon.

\* Music & Audio – Isaiah Rodriguez took first place; Aubrey Rice and Tania Jones took second place; and Brian Brothers took third place.

The People's Choice Award went to Leigha Wilson, Grace Gibson and Naomi Coursey. Carmen Kludy won the PCC employee-only AI image contest, beating out 17 colleagues.

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



High school students use AI to create a song on Day 1 of Pamlico Community College's AI Fest. Contributed photo



Pamlico Community College President Zac Schnell, a vocal proponent of AI and its uses, speaks to a group of educators during a workshop on Day 2 of AI Fest. Educators from Cleveland CC, Pitt CC, Robeson CC, Wake Tech CC, College of the Albemarle, and East Carolina University took part in the event. Contributed photo



A visitor checks Alex's heartbeat after the computer-controlled mannequin complained of chest pains. Alex is used to train students in several Pamlico Community College health care courses. Contributed photo



Dr. Justin Rose, standing, of Pitt Community College, leads a workshop for small business owners during Day 2 of AI Fest. Contributed photo



## FARM SCHOOL ON WHEELS

Powered by Granit Training Group

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## Saturday, April 25, 10am - 2:30 pm

Pamlico Small Business Center  
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- ~ Maximizing Your Land  
a smart approach to farming
- ~ Farm Financing 101  
funding & planning for growth
- ~ Agritourism 101  
turning your land into a destination
- ~ Future-Proof Your Farm  
planning for success



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**Gregory Green**  
Broker-

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*Dave & Lorraine, Arapahoe*



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



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



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



**ORIENTAL** – Spacious 3BR/2BA on 1.62 acres (fenced back yard) in Sail/Loft community. Gas fireplace w/slate surround and built-in shelving and cabinetry. Updated kitchen w/granite countertops, soft-close cabinets & drawers, new SS appliances, double sink, central Butler's Pantry with icemaker & wine cooler and walk-in pantry. Glassed sunroom. Attached 2-car garage. Detached 2-car garage-workshop, with a 16'3 x 23'4 finished and climate-controlled storage/hobby center above. New 20 KW whole-house Kohler generator & whole-house softening system.  
**OFFERED AT \$445,000**



**ORIENTAL** – 3BR/2BA 1,894 sf open floor plan, deeded boat slip on 1 acre lot. Screened outdoor entertainment area & fire pit. Bright, open spaces indoors and inviting outdoor areas surrounded by mature trees and natural beauty. Being sold as-is.  
**OFFERED AT \$545,000**



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

by: Hiram Lupton

- April 22nd – Today is National Administrative Professionals Day.
- April 23rd – Today is National Lover's Day.
- April 24th – Happy Arbor Day. Go plant a tree.
- April 25th – Today is World Penguin Day.
- April 26th – Today is National Pretzel Day.
- April 27th – Today is National Prime Rib Day.
- April 28th – Today is International Astronomy Day, Great Poetry Reading Day and Kiss Your Mate Day. A good day to take your honey out, look at the stars, read a poem, and steal a kiss.

## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

April 22nd – 1937, Actor John Joseph Nicholson (Jack Nicholson)  
 April 22nd – 1957, N.C. State Women's Basketball Coach Wes Moore  
 April 25th – 1917, Singer Ella Fitzgerald  
 April 25th – 19??, Pamlico Christian Academy Athletic Director Hope Koontz  
 April 26th – 19??, PCHS NJROTC Leader Jesse Rodriguez  
 April 28th – 19??, Teacher and Coach Donnie Richards  
 April 28th – 1941, Actress and singer Ann-Margret Olsson (Ann Margret)  
 April 28th – 1974, Actress Penelope Cruz





## SUMMER SNACK PROGRAM

Sign ups are now open and will close May 20th

Please contact **252-617-1202** or [info@soundofsalvationministries.com](mailto:info@soundofsalvationministries.com)

## OBITUARIES



**Birdie Mae Clifton Potter, 87**, of Bayboro, NC, passed away peacefully at her home on Sunday, April 19, 2026, surrounded by her loving family.

Born on November 5, 1938, in Deep Lake, Florida, she was the daughter of the late Edith and Clyde Clifton. Birdie was a woman whose life was marked by unwavering kindness, a sharp wit, and a deep and abiding love for the Lord and Savior.

During her high school years at Everglades City High School, Birdie was well known for her accomplishments on the basketball court and her success in spelling bees. Soon after graduation, she married the love of her life, Carol Potter, beginning a beautiful journey together that spanned 69 devoted years.

Birdie's life was a testament to hard work, determination, and love for her family. She began her career at Everglades City Bank during the summer of her tenth-grade year, laying the foundation for a lifetime of dedication in business. Alongside her husband, she owned and operated several successful ventures, including Birdie's Fashions in Alliance, a fleet of scallop boats, Lowland Seafood, RE Mayo Seafood, Potter Insurance, and Carquest in Alliance. She later retired from Wachovia Bank in Bayboro after many years of faithful service.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Birdie's greatest joy was her family. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who poured her heart into supporting her children and grandchildren in every aspect of their lives—from church activities to sports events, dance recitals, music lessons, and wrestling tournaments. She was often the loudest and proudest voice in the stands.

Birdie had a gift for making others feel loved. She never met a stranger and was known for her warm smile, her compassion, and her ability to love without judgment. She was an avid coin collector, a passionate volunteer with Relay for Life, and a dedicated supporter of the North Carolina

Fisheries Association, always advocating for the commercial fishing community she held dear.

At home, Birdie found joy in cooking for her family, decorating for the holidays, and creating lasting memories. Her legendary chocolate fudge and banana pudding were cherished by all who knew her. She was also known for her wisdom, her vibrant personality, and her collection of flamboyant hats—each one as unique and memorable as she was. Birdie truly wore many hats in life, always striving to make the world around her better.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her oldest son, Mike Potter; her oldest granddaughter, Tamara Alane Potter; her brothers, Alton Clifton and wife, Katherine and Clyde "Buster" Clifton; and her sister, Juanita Weldon.

Left to cherish her memory are her devoted husband, Carol Potter; son, Clyde Potter, daughter, Jane Potter; grandchildren, McKenzie Lewis (Ryan), Zac Whitley, and Jake Whitley; great grandson, Dawson Blaze Chenault; sister, Betty Jo Brown of Alabama; brother-in-law, Eric Weldon of Everglades City, Florida; sisters-in-law, Faye Potter Mason (Jackie) of Oriental and Jean Clifton of Florida; along with many nieces, nephews, and extended family members.

Friends are welcome to visit with the family from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on Friday, April 24th at Daniels-Sadler Funeral Home with the funeral service to follow at 7:00 p.m. Interment will be held at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 25th at Lowland Community Cemetery.

Flowers are appreciated, or memorial contributions may be made to Alliance Pentecostal Holiness Church c/o Glenda Paul, 116 Paul Farm Rd., Grantsboro, NC 28529.

Birdie will be remembered as one of a kind – unforgettable in spirit, rich in love, and a light in the lives of all who knew her. Her legacy of kindness, strength, and devotion will live on for generations to come.

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

*"When we choose to wonder about people we don't know, when we imagine their lives and listen for their stories, we begin to expand the circle of those we see as part of us."*

— V. Kaur

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

COMMUNITY  
OBITUARIES

**Ruth Muse Midyette, 92**, of Bayboro, passed away peacefully at her son's home in Reelsboro, surrounded by the love of her family.

Ruth was a devoted and faithful member of New Hope Christian Church, where she worshipped for many years and built lasting friendships rooted in her strong faith. When not involved in a church related project, she found comfort and joy in her daily routines. Ruth enjoyed life's simple pleasures—playing bingo, making her regular Sunday visits to Charlie's, and faithfully watching her favorite game shows, Jeopardy! and Wheel of Fortune.

More than anything she cherished her family. She found great happiness in attending the ball games of her great-grandchildren, always showing up with love, pride, and encouragement. Those moments meant the world to her, and her presence will be deeply missed on the sidelines.

Our beloved mother, **Helen Williamson Sommerkamp Inman** passed away on April 8, 2026. She was born in Wilson, NC in 1932 to Bertha Batts Williamson and Zeldia Williamson.

She was our nurse, our teacher, our inspiration and anchor. We miss her greatly. Her example has guided us in many aspects of our lives, and has helped us to become the children she was proud of.

She returned to school after having three children in order to get a college degree. She graduated with honors, This gave her the confidence to tackle any task, simple or difficult. After teaching school for a few years she married Frank Sommerkamp and they traveled the world for business and pleasure. They traveled Japan, China, Russia, India to all of Europe, as well as northern Africa and central America. They also traveled much of the USA and Canada.

But, her greatest pleasure came from personal accomplishments. She was a writer for several local papers, including the Pamlico News and The Washington Daily News. She helped get a library in Aurora and was an Aurora fossil festival master. She was a member of the Beaufort County Community Board of Directors. She helped estab-

lish a scholarship with Cypress Landing to aid needy students. These are but a few of her accomplishments. She was a member of Mother of Mercy Catholic Church in Washington, North Carolina.

Helen is survived by her brother Jackie Williamson (Nina), children Marie Smith (Danny) and James Phillip, grandchildren Michael Deans (Adrienne), Steven Deans (Ashley), and Alicia Dean, and great grandchildren Kevin, Piper, Kimber and Kingston.

A visitation was held Sunday, April 12, 2026 at Joseph B. Paul Jr. Funeral Service from 4-6pm. The Mass was Monday, April 13, 2026 at The Mother Of Mercy Catholic Church at 11am, we will proceed to Oakdale immediately after for the interment.

Though much appreciated, in lieu of flowers please consider making a donation to the Cypress Landing Scholarship at Beaufort County Community College, or The Service League of Greenville Hospice House, or a charity of your choice.

Joseph B. Paul Jr. Funeral Service is honored to assist the Inman family.



**Lee Andrew Willis, Jr., 84**, of Raleigh, passed away peacefully at UNC Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill on Friday, April 17, 2026.

Born on February 19, 1942, at Saint Luke's Hospital in New Bern, NC to Lee Andrew Willis, Sr., and Ruth Sadler Willis.

Lee was raised in Bayboro and graduated from Pamlico County High School, attended North Carolina State University and graduated from Gaston Technical Institute. He married his high school sweetheart, Caroline Tingle, on July 8, 1961. Upon graduation, Lee served as a quality control and product development engineer for the General Electric Corporation in Lynchburg, VA, where they developed and manufactured televisions and stereo equipment. With a desire to get closer back to his home state of North Carolina and Pamlico County, he later took a similar position at a new facility with the Sylvania Corporation in Smithfield, NC. With an entrepreneurial spirit, Lee and Caroline moved back to Pamlico County in 1971 to become small business owners by opening Lee's TV and Appliances in Alliance. He sold televisions and other electronics as well as performed a variety of repair services. He also installed a large number of radio telecommunications equipment on the commercial fishing fleet of Pamlico County. He later expanded the business to include a Western Auto franchise. The business sold everything from automobile parts and tires to appliances, lawn and garden equipment, bicycles, toys, and sporting goods. It provided one of the only convenient options for the citizens of Pamlico County to shop and to have appliances and electronics serviced. In the early 1990s, Lee and Caroline had the opportunity to sell the Western Auto store. At this point, with new-found time on his hands, he became an instructor at Pamlico Community College where he taught electronics and pre-engineering courses. In addition, he also served as a part-time funeral assistant for the Bryant Funeral Home in Alliance, where he provided comfort and a friendly face to many people of Pamlico County during times of grief.

Lee spent long hours in his business as a merchant serving the citizens of Pamlico County, but he was always available for other pursuits and time with his family. He spent his childhood and later lived on the Bay River in Maribel, where he was most at home enjoying fishing, hunting, sailing, boating, golfing, and water skiing. It was said Lee was the first person to water ski on the Bay River during his teenage years in the early 1950s. He enjoyed teaching his boys and everyone that came to "the river" to learn how to ski, sail, and fish. One of his biggest passions, and where he was most happy, was flying and piloting one of the several small airplanes he owned. He became an instrument-rated pilot in the early 1980s and flew all over the eastern United States. From the 1980s to the mid-1990s, he was an active member of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, where he utilized his piloting skills and his aircraft on many weekends patrolling the coast of North Carolina, including performing search and rescue missions.

Throughout his life, Lee was a deeply spiritual and devout Christian. He taught Sunday School classes throughout his life, where he always utilized visual aids, including maps and timelines, to easily depict the life of Jesus and his disciples. He believed it was vitally important to understand how and where Jesus and his followers lived for a deeper understanding of his mission here on earth. He played the organ for many years at Rock of Zion Freewill Baptist Church, spreading the messages of God through music. Since the early 1990s, Lee was an active member of the Gideons, sharing his witness and bringing others to Christ. He often used this ministry to spread the word of God in the jails and prisons of Pamlico, Craven, and Wake counties. Many individuals decided to follow Christ after talking with Lee.

Later in life, he enjoyed traveling with Caroline with one of their grandchildren often in tow. He was a devoted and loving husband – always caring for and treating Caroline as a true and equal partner in love and marriage. He also served as a loving father and grandfather. He took interest and joy in his children and always pushed them to work hard and to be kind to everyone they came in touch with. He had the same energy and love for each of his four grandchildren, who he relished helping with schoolwork and teaching them how to work hard, being curious about science and solving problems on their own. They learned he could fix anything and was their one and only "Papa".

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sisters and their husbands, Rowena Miller (Austin) and Lena Ruth Hardison (Dalton).

He is survived by his beloved wife of almost 65 years, Caroline Tingle Willis; sons, Lee Andrew Willis, III (Jennifer) of Cary, NC and David Alan Willis (Betsy) of Dallas, TX; as well as four grandchildren, Lee Andrew Willis, IV, Maxwell Yates Willis, Harper Bailey Willis and David Alan Willis, Jr.

Lee, through his family, would like to thank the many nurses and physicians at UNC Health that helped him through his most challenging times over the last few years. In his final days, every physician and nurse could not explain how someone so small in stature could be so strong and resilient for so long. He fought a great fight. These teams were like family to Lee and his family in his final few years of care.

A visitation will be held on Thursday, April 23rd, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Daniels-Sadler Funeral Home in Alliance, NC. A memorial service will be held on Friday, April 24th at 10:00 a.m. the Rock of Zion Original Free Will Baptist Church in Grantsboro, NC. Interment will take place immediately following the memorial service at Hollywood Cemetery in Olympia, NC.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions be made to the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center in memory of Lee Andrew Willis, Jr. Donations may be mailed to UNC Health Foundation, 123 West Franklin Street, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27516, or through the following link, "fund search" for Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center: <https://give.unc.edu/hfdonate?p=LCCGO&s=MEDFOT18QAVU39>

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

*"When we know we are the bridge, we understand just how important we are, and why our impact must never be taken for granted. We are the beneficiaries of those who have come before us, and the custodians of those who will come after we are gone. We are bridges of hope. How can I become a good ancestor?"*

— L. Saad



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## Christian Academy Sports Mariners Pick Up First Win of Season

by: Hiram Lupton



Robin Gaskins in the Circle for PCA    Maggie Gaskins at the plate for the Mariners    Allee Jones

The Lady Mariners of Pamlico Christian Academy hit the field for a pair of games last week. On Monday they hosted the Conquerors of Faith Christian Academy and the Mariners did all the conquering as they picked up their first win of the season in an 8-0 shutout. Robin Gaskins was in the circle and the Sophomore scattered 5 hits and struck out 9 to earn the victory. At the plate, Allee Jones led the way with 3 hits with Jenna Buck and Maggie Gaskins collecting 2 hits each. Thursday, PCA took on Jones Senior and the Trojans sank the Mariners hopes for a win streak by pounding out 16 hits en route to a 14-0 win. The Mariners wrap up their regular season Monday when they host Lejeune at Creekside Park in New Bern.

## Lady 'Canes Fall to Mariners

by: Hiram Lupton

The Pamlico County High School Softball Team took on conference rival East Carteret last week in a home-and-home pair of games and the Mariners weathered the storm and came away with two wins over the Hurricanes. On Tuesday, Pamlico headed to Beaufort and East Carteret jumped out to a 4-0 lead after two innings and never looked back. The Hurricanes scored a run in the fifth and added two in the sixth, but the rally fell short as the Mariners defended their home port, 8-3. On Thursday, Pamlico got another shot as they hosted East Carteret in a return match, but the results were much the same. The Mariners scored a run in the first and were held in check until the fourth when they added another and then broke the game open in the fifth, crossing the plate four times to go on to win in a shutout, 7-0. The Hurricanes managed only a pair of hits, one each by Sarah Scott and Payton Force in the loss. Pamlico will try to get back on track next week as they play a pair of games against Jones Senior, hosting the Trojans on Tuesday and traveling to Trenton on Friday. In between, they will step out of conference and host New Bern on Wednesday.



Hayley Shamblin    Alyssia Sinclair

## Middle School Athletics Softball/Baseball Season Winding Down

by: Hiram Lupton

The Pamlico County Middle School diamond teams hit the field a couple of times last week, including Tuesday when they hosted West Craven Middle School. The Girls came away with an 11-5 win over the Wildcats while the Boys held fast for a while before losing 11-3.



Bryson Green    Ashton Heath behind the plate  
Amber Williams    Aubrie Mayo slides into second with a stolen base

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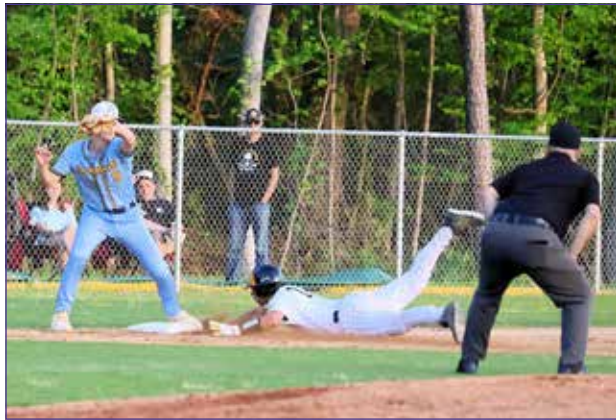
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# Hurricanes Looking for Offense in Two Losses

by: Hiram Lupton

The Pamlico County High School baseball squad took the field twice last week with a pair of games against defending conference champion, and current Coastal Plains leader, East Carteret. Game one on Tuesday was at East Carteret and the Mariners got a strong pitching performance from sophomore pitcher Tanner Wade who 1-hit the Hurricanes with 15 strikeouts in a 5-0 win. Ross McLamb had Pamlico's lone hit. Friday evening was rematch time with the Mariners sailing up to Bayboro. The visitors got off to a good start, scoring a pair of runs in each of the first two innings for a 4-0 lead, and building that to 7-0 by the fifth inning. Just when it looked like the Sheriff's Department was going to have to put out a missing person's report for the Hurricane offense, Pamlico showed a little life at the plate. In their half of the fifth, Ayden Broughton singled for the first of his 2 hits for the evening. He stole second and moved to third on a wild pitch. Brady Caccavaro singled him home for Pamlico's first run of the game. The problem was, East Carteret answered right back with a run of their own. This is how it went for the remainder of the game, finally ending in a 10-2 Mariner victory. This week Pamlico takes on Jones Senior twice, at home on Tuesday and in Trenton on Friday. Sandwiched in between, Pamlico will step out of conference on Wednesday when they host Washington.



Ayden Broughton slides into third ahead of the tag



Brady Caccavaro with an RBI single

I get enough exercise pushing my luck.

# Pamlico Vistas

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



The greening of the spring fields - Alliance

Photo by: Hiram Lupton

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# Health & Wellness

## The health benefits of dairy



A healthy diet is comprised of a mix of nutrient-rich foods and beverages. The United States Department of Agriculture includes dairy as part of its MyPlate program, which recommends foods and serving sizes of those foods from different food groups. For the purposes of the USDA guidelines, dairy includes milk, cheese, yogurt, lactose-free milk, and fortified soy milk and yogurt. However, dairy also may include cream cheese, sour cream, cream, and butter.

Recommendations regarding dairy consumption depend on age, gender, height, weight, and physical activity. Around two to three cups per day may be advised. However, the USDA says about 90 percent of Americans are not getting enough dairy. Dairy plays an important role in personal health. Here's a look at why dairy is a key component of a healthy diet.

- Dairy supports bone health. Calcium comprises the main mineral in the bones of the body. Healthline advises that dairy is often the best source of calcium in the human diet. Evidence indicates that dairy can help improve bone density, reduce the risk of developing osteoporosis, and lower fracture risk in older adults. Dairy, when consumed with calcium-rich leafy greens and legumes, ensures people get enough calcium to affect bone improvements.
- Dairy improves vitamin D levels. About one billion people across the globe have vitamin D deficiency, while 50 percent of the population has vitamin D insufficiency, reports the Cleveland Clinic. Vitamin D is produced in the body through exposure to the sun and also comes from dietary sources. Vitamin D is a nutrient the body needs, along with calcium, to build strong bones and keep them healthy. Dairy products are often fortified with vitamin D to work in conjunction with calcium for good health.
- Dairy helps to sustain energy levels. Dairy provides a source of high-quality protein and essential amino acids. Protein can curb hunger and help a person feel satiated longer. Dairy can help a person maintain fitness performance and may also be used for weight management.
- Dairy promotes gut health. Fermented dairy and foods in the dairy group that contain live cultures can add beneficial bacteria to the digestive tract to foster a healthier microbiota, according to U.S. Dairy. Cheeses, yogurt and kefir are fermented foods. These foods may improve digestion and gut barrier function.
- Boost the immune system. Dairy contains protein, vitamin A, zinc, and selenium, which work together to strengthen the body's immune system. Dairy contains all nine of the essential amino acids that are responsible for supporting the immune system and building and repairing tissue, says Dairy Farmers of America.

Those who want to incorporate more dairy into their diets are urged to choose low- and non-fat versions, which do not contain as much saturated fat as full-fat dairy. Saturated fat can contribute to elevated "bad" cholesterol (LDL) numbers and increase the risk of heart disease. Harvard Health suggests no more than 20 grams of saturated fat per day for the average 2,000-calorie diet, making low-fat dairy options a smarter choice.

Dairy is an important food group for good health that helps to strengthen bones and the immune system.

### Did you know?

Drinking milk is a popular way to consume the amount of dairy recommended for a healthy diet. Milk is a rich source of 13 essential nutrients that can boost the immune system and fuel the body. Milk notably contains vitamin D and calcium, which helps maintain strong bones and can reduce the risk for a bone-thinning disease known as osteoporosis. Milk also contains vitamins A and B as well as potassium and protein. Milk helps keep teeth strong and healthy as well. The United States Department of Agriculture says that each person's recommended intake of dairy depends on his or her age, gender, height, and other factors. Generally speaking, toddlers and children should consume between one and 2.5 cups of milk per day. Adults can benefit from about three cups per day. A cup is equal to 8 ounces. Health experts advise choosing nonfat or low-fat versions of milk and additional dairy products, as they are much more heart-healthy than full-fat options. Too much saturated fat in one's diet can lead to high cholesterol and a greater risk for heart disease. If the idea of downing three glasses of milk is a turn-off, milk can be incorporated into recipes, such as smoothies, where its taste and texture is less prominent. Cheese and yogurt also count. Eight ounces of yogurt or 1 1/2 ounces of hard cheese is equivalent to one cup of milk in terms of nutrition, says a2 Milk®, a company that produces milk that may be easier on digestion. Individuals who have a lactose intolerance can choose milk products that do not contain lactose.



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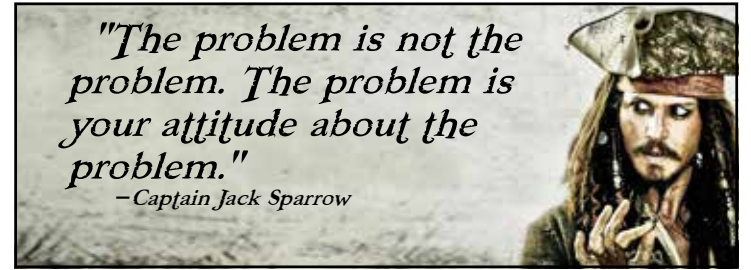
# COASTAL LIVING

## PIRATE HISTORY EXPLORED AT THE HERITAGE CENTER

If pirates are your thing, specifically Blackbeard the pirate, the place to be last Saturday was the Pamlico County Heritage Center as the Pamlico County Historical Association presented pirate expert and author, Robert Jacob. Mr. Jacob has written three books on piracy and his latest, Blackbeard: The Truth Revealed, was showcased in his presentation. Dressed in full pirate regalia, Jacob gave not only an informative lecture, but a thoroughly entertaining one as well. He dove headfirst into what he believes are many myths surrounding the pirate known as Blackbeard and how these myths have been perpetuated over time to be established facts without actual verified documentation to back them up. Separating fact from fiction is a big point of his research, and he presented quite a few documents supporting his findings. He also delved into just who Blackbeard was, and his possible ties to Pamlico County through who Jacob believes could be his sister and the land she owned along Beards Creek. An excellent presentation about a historical figure who played prominently in early local history.



Author Robert Jacob



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## USCG Auxiliary Recreational Boating Classes

1. The USCG Auxiliary in New Bern will be conducting a Navigating Local Waters class on Sunday, 3 May 2026 at the Riverdale UMC at 5195 US-70E from 1300 to 1700 (1:00p.m. - 5:00p.m.). This course provides a great deal of information regarding the marinas, services, hazards, as well as general information of the waters from the inlets up the Neuse and Trent Rivers as well as information around Ocracoke and into the Pamlico.

2. The USCG Auxiliary in New Bern will be conducting a Boat America basic boating safety course on Sunday 31 May 2026 at the Riverdale UMC at 5195 US-70E from 0900 to 1700. **Persons born in 1988 or later must complete an approved boating education course before operating any vessel propelled by a motor of 10 HP or greater.**

You'll learn the required knowledge to operate a boat. **Topics include: Before getting underway**

- Navigating the waterways
- Operating your vessel safely
- Legal requirements of boating
- Handling boating emergencies.

Additionally, many insurance companies offer discounts on boat insurance for completing this course! This course includes a book and, upon completion, you will receive both a certificate and wallet card for proof of completion. Cost for this course is \$30, but if you are sharing a book with another, the second person is \$10 which covers cost of administration.

These courses are taught by qualified instructors who are volunteers in the USCG Auxiliary. Your support is critical in keeping our waterways safe and making it possible for us to support the general education of our boaters. Persons interested in attending these courses can sign up with me at 252-745-0893, or text to 301-247-0903.

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Some refer to honey as "the nectar of the gods" due to its ties to healing, divinity and culture in ancient times. Honeybees collect nectar from flowers and convert it into honey through an enzymatic process in their specialized bodies. Honey is stored in honeycombs for later consumption. The National Honey Board says a hive can produce about 55 pounds of surplus honey each year that beekeepers harvest from the combs. The extracted honey is strained to remove any particles and excess wax before it is bottled and brought to consumers.

People are drawn to honey, not only for its sweet taste, but because of the health benefits it provides. Here are six unique health benefits of honey.

1. Honey is rich in health-promoting plant compounds known as polyphenols. Healthline says regular consumption of polyphenols is thought to boost digestion and brain health, and protect against certain diseases.
2. Antioxidants found in honey might be associated with a reduced risk of heart disease.
3. The Mayo Clinic says studies suggest that honey might offer antidepressant, anticonvulsant and anti-anxiety benefits.
4. Both the flavonoids and polyphenols in honey have been shown to be anti-inflammatory, which means they can help tame inflammation in the body that comes from illnesses and eating ultra-processed foods. As a natural sweetener, the Cleveland Clinic says honey is a less inflammatory choice than regular sugar.
5. The World Health Organization and the American Academy of Pediatrics both endorse honey as a natural cough remedy. However, honey should not be given to children under the age of one.
6. Manuka honey can be applied topically to treat cuts and sores. This specific type of honey is found to be both antibacterial and antifungal. Raw honey of other types has been used to treat burns and wounds for centuries.

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# LEGALS

**NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE PAMLICO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF TIM D. WALL**  
File No.: 26E000043-680

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against deceased, are notified to exhibit them to ANGELA W. BOATWRIGHT, EXECUTOR on or before JUNE 30, 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 1ST OF APRIL 2026

ESTATE OF TIM D. WALL  
C/O ANGELA W. BOATWRIGHT  
415 STOKLEY COURT  
ATMORE, AL 36502

Publish APRIL 1, 8,15 AND 22, 2026.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA PAMLICO COUNTY**

The undersigned, Laura Alison Miller Stanbrough, having qualified on March 17, 2026, as Administratrix of the Estate of Gary Nelson Stanbrough, late of Pamlico County, does hereby notify all persons having claims against the Estate to present them to the undersigned in care of White & Allen, P.A., 901 College Court, New Bern, North Carolina 28562, on or before July 1, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate are requested to make immediate payment to Laura Alison Miller Stanbrough, Administratrix, in care of White & Allen, P.A., 901 College Court, New Bern, North Carolina 28562.

This the 1st day of April, 2026.

Laura Alison Miller Stanbrough, Administratrix, of the Estate of Gary Nelson Stanbrough  
WHITE & ALLEN, P.A.

## INCIDENTS

- March 26, NC Hwy 306 N., Grantsboro, sit, stand or lying in roadway
- March 26, NC Hwy 55, Grantsboro, larceny by servant or other employee
- March 26, Scotts Store Rd., Grantsboro, communicating threats, second degree trespass
- March 27, Oriental Rd., Oriental, trespass
- March 27, Main St., Bayboro, property found
- March 27, Florence Rd., Merritt, domestic violence
- March 28, NC Hwy 55, New Bern, warrant for arrest misdemeanor larceny, warrant for arrest injury to personal property
- March 29, Trent Rd., Oriental, order for arrest open container after consuming
- March 29, Yardarm Dr., Oriental, misdemeanor crime of domestic violence
- March 29, Sandy Trail Rd., New Bern, unauthorized use of motor vehicle, verbal domestic
- March 30, Upper Neck Rd., Bayboro, urinating on public road
- March 30, Anderson Dr., Bayboro, simple assault
- March 31, Chinchilla Dr., Bayboro, juvenile complaint
- March 31, Main St., Bayboro, order for arrest no liability insurance, order for arrest cancel/revoke/susp. certificate/tag, order for arrest driving while license revoked not impaired revoked, order for arrest expired/no inspection
- March 31, S. Second St., Bayboro, recovered stolen vehicle
- March 31, Harbour Way, Oriental, identity theft
- March 31, Main St., Bayboro, larceny of property or goods <= \$1,000
- April 1, N. Third St., Bayboro, assault inflicting serious bodily injury
- April 1, NC Hwy 55, Alliance, communicating threats

901 College Court  
New Bern, North Carolina 28562

**NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE PAMLICO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF ALTON BRADFORD HOLMES**  
File No.: 26E000005-680

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against deceased, are notified to exhibit them to JOANN HOLMES, EXECUTOR on or before JULY 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 8TH OF APRIL 2026

ESTATE OF ALTON BRADFORD HOLMES  
C/O JOANN HOLMES  
615 BENT TREE RD  
ORIENTAL, NC 28571

Publish APRIL 8,15, 22 AND 29, 2026.

**NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE PAMLICO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF CLIFTON EARL GASKILL**  
File No.: 26E000067-680

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against deceased, are notified to exhibit them to CLIFTON EARL GASKILL, JR., EXECUTOR on or before JULY 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 15TH OF APRIL 2026

ESTATE OF CLIFTON EARL GASKILL  
C/O CLIFTON EARL GASKILL, JR  
8522 NC HWY 306 S  
ARAPAHOE, NC 28510

Publish APRIL 15, 22, 29 AND MAY 6, 2026.

**NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE PAMLICO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF FOREST HOWARD WILLIAMS, JR**  
File No.: 26E000065-680

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against deceased, are notified to exhibit them to WALTON OSWALD WILLIAMS, JR, ADMINISTRATOR on or before JULY 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 ADMINISTRATOR.

This 15TH OF APRIL 2026

ESTATE OF FOREST HOWARD WILLIAMS, JR.  
C/O WALTON OSWALD WILLIAMS, JR  
168 LONGVIEW RD  
BAYBORO, NC 28515

Publish APRIL 15, 22, 29 AND MAY 6, 2026.

**NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE PAMLICO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF MARJORIE ANNE LIMEBURNER**  
File No.: 26E000064-680

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against deceased, are notified to exhibit them to NATHAN LIMEBURNER, EXECUTOR on or before JULY 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 15TH OF APRIL 2026

ESTATE OF MARJORIE ANNE LIMEBURNER  
C/O NATHAN LIMEBURNER  
8071 PRICESSE PATH  
LIVERPOOL, NY 13090

Publish APRIL 15, 22, 29 AND

MAY 6, 2026.

**NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE PAMLICO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF GERARD CHRISTOPHER MAGUIRE**  
File No.: 26E000069-680

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against deceased, are notified to exhibit them to VEXIE ALLEN MAGUIRE, EXECUTOR on or before JULY 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 15TH OF APRIL 2026

ESTATE OF GERARD CHRISTOPHER MAGUIRE  
C/O VEXIE ALLEN MAGUIRE  
323 COWELL RD  
BAYBORO, NC 28515

Publish APRIL 15, 22, 29 AND MAY 6, 2026.

**NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE PAMLICO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF GWYNNE G. YOUNG**  
File No.: 26E000071-680

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against deceased, are notified to exhibit them to PAULINE JOHNSON, ADMINISTRATOR on or before JULY 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 ADMINISTRATOR.

This 22ND OF APRIL 2026

ESTATE OF GWYNNE G. YOUNG  
C/O PAULINE JOHNSON  
143 RIGGS CREEK DRIVE  
MERRITT, NC 28556

Publish APRIL 22, 29 AND MAY 6, 13, 2026.

# REPORTS

- April 2, Neals Creek Rd., Bayboro, school attendance law violation
- April 2, NC Hwy 55, Bayboro, school attendance law violation (2)
- April 2, NC Hwy 55, Alliance, driving while license revoked not impaired revoked, expired registration
- April 2, NC Hwy 306 S., Grantsboro, trespassing
- April 3, NC Hwy 55, New Bern, larceny of property or goods value > \$1,000
- April 3, NC Hwy 55, New Bern, break or enter building (misdemeanor), civil dispute
- April 3, Moonlight Lake Dr., New Bern, indecent exposure by exposing private parts in public place
- April 4, NC Hwy 304, Hobucken, stalking
- April 6, Anderson Dr., Bayboro, school attendance law violation
- April 6, NC Hwy 55, Grantsboro, shoplifting/concealment goods/merchandise
- April 7, Rebecca Rd., Grantsboro, simple assault
- April 7, N. Third St., Bayboro, evidence destruction
- April 7, Lee Landing Rd., New Bern, driving while license revoked not impaired revoked
- April 8, Neuse Village Rd., Arapahoe, wire fraud
- April 8, Meadow Lane, Arapahoe, financial card fraud - felony
- April 9, Main St., Alliance, welfare check, EMS fall
- April 10, NC Hwy 55, Grantsboro, larceny by servant or other employee
- April 10, NC Hwy 306 N., Grantsboro, larceny by employee
- April 11, Main St., Bayboro, simple assault
- April 11, Florence Rd., Merritt, injury to personal property
- April 12, Jones Rd., Vandemere, larceny of property or goods <= \$1,000
- April 13, Norman Circle, Oriental, suspicious activity

## INSPECTIONS

- March 20, Maria Ruggiero, Bayboro, demolition, \$0; Phil Burr, New Bern, building permit - pool, \$150; Billy & Brenda Parsons, Oriental, building, \$630; Jim Hickey, Merritt, gas, \$50; Town of Arapahoe, Arapahoe, electric & plumbing, \$144
- March 23, Thurmond Price, Lowland, building, \$781; SC Investment Property, Oriental, renovation, \$250; Ronald Griffin, Merritt, CAMA Minor, \$119; McDonald Bennett, New Bern, electric meter reconnect from storm, \$50; Anita Riche, Bayboro, mechanical, \$218; Judy Jernigan, Grantsboro, renovations, \$150
- March 24, Jay Brown, Grantsboro, electrical, \$81.36; John Stone, Oriental, building - new garage, \$146; Ernest Glass, Oriental, building - solar panels, \$166; Bobby Moore, Grantsboro, plumbing, \$50; Pamlico Methodist Church, Oriental, building - addition, \$645.40; Oriental Harbor Place, Oriental, renovation/reconstruction, \$150; Oriental Harbor Place, Oriental, renovation/reconstruction, \$150; Oriental Harbor Place, Oriental, renovation/reconstruction, \$150
- March 25, James Wysenski, Oriental, mechanical, \$100; Mary Herrick, Minnesott Beach, mechanical, \$100; Edward Glaser, New Bern, building - deck, \$76.88; Sean

- & Michelle Cooney, Oriental, CAMA Minor, \$119
- March 26, Michael & Robin Bono, Oriental, temp pole, \$100; Dave Dodge, Arapahoe, electrical 200 amp, \$150; Erin Williams, Arapahoe, building - metal building, \$676
- March 27, Kirk & Terri White, Minnesott Beach, residential building, \$1,893.56; Michael Hunt, Arapahoe, plumbing, \$50; Cliff Skinner, Arapahoe, residential building, \$1,432.42; Tyler Grover, Merritt, new shop, \$150; John Michael Harrison, Oriental, 200 amp, \$150; Kris Niebergall, Oriental, new, \$1,275.94; Wayne & Robin Clark, Oriental, renovations, \$150; Pamlico 6-12, Bayboro, air tank inst., \$200; Jim Comette, Oriental, electrical 100 amp, \$100; David Wise, Oriental, power to panel, \$50
- March 30, Ralph Hardy, Oriental, electrical, \$50; Wayne Deborah S., New Bern, cell tower, \$250; Oriental Plantation, Oriental, electrical, \$50; David Blanchard, Merritt, electrical, \$146; Aubrey Fennell, Oriental, t pole, \$100; Guy Ribando, III, Arapahoe, mechanical change out, \$150; Wayne & Jean Johnson, Arapahoe, renovations, \$50; Ann Brinson, Minnesott Beach, renovations, \$50
- March 31, Camp Seagull/Camp Seafarer, Arapahoe, fireworks, \$200 (4); Bill DeMoranville, Minnesott Beach, mechanical/gas line, \$200; Elmo Belangia, Grantsboro, changeout, Grantsboro, \$100; Jim Cornette, Oriental, mechanical, \$100; Michael Harmon, Oriental, CAMA - Dock and Boat lift, \$120.80
- April 1, Thurmond Price, Lowland, elevation, \$638; Jill Ensley, Oriental, electrical, \$50; Amy Salter, Arapahoe, electrical, \$76.88; Jane Crisco, Oriental, insulation, \$254.36; Francis Doucette, Oriental, insulation, \$202.16
- April 2, Thurmond Price, Lowland, electrical, \$50; Geoffrey Hall, Grantsboro, gas line, \$50; Robert Stallings, Merritt, electrical, \$50

# AROUND THE COUNTY

## Whortonsville Reba Tiller, *Correspondent*



This has been a lovely week but some much needed rain is on the way. The azaleas were so beautiful as you drove toward New Bern. They just don't last very long. Church is picking up a little with new folks visiting. It is hard for me to believe that I have been playing for Bethel since Mrs. Winky put me on the piano bench when we moved here in 1984. Music has been my whole life and it has been a blessing playing at the beautiful little church called Bethel because I have met so many friends there. Today there were 14 in the congregation and next week will be their end of the month luncheon. Our neighborhood wanted to start back getting together at my home after church on Sundays,

so today we had ten neighbors for lunch. Everyone pitches in to help with the meal by bringing food. We kind of lost getting together because of covid. I hope that some of our new neighbors will eventually join us because there are so many new people that I don't even know. My grandson Noah celebrated his birthday with friends in Chapel Hill Saturday. Can't believe he is twenty years old! Thanks to Elizabeth Cuthrell who has helped me put the luncheons together. It so great to have our neighborhood back!

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK— HOPE THE CONFLICT WITH IRAN WILL BE OVER SOON!

## Pamlico Betty Jo Rodgers, *Correspondent*



Spring has sprung. Even on the electronic sign at Stonewall Methodist Church. Flowers, trees, and the grass are all blooming and everywhere things are beginning to show green. The corn on our farm is already about 4 inches high. I was disappointed that we did not get any of that rain Sunday. Pamlico is in a moderate drought situation, and the farmers depend on the rain to help their crops grow. The weather is supposed to be dry again this week. I am concerned that this next week of dry weather will not be good for new plants.

Pamlico Christian Academy is reading the entire Bible aloud during this week of April 20-25. PCA respectfully invites you to take part in the Bible reading of all 1,189 chapters of Scripture aloud.

The Word of God is the foundation of all learning. This reading will serve three important purposes:

- To honor God's Word as central to all we do at PCA.
- To unite the body of Christ across our community in a shared spiritual effort.

To prepare our hearts for the dedication of our new campus Following the example of Ezra in Nehemiah 8, we pray that this reading of Scripture will lead to worship, conviction, and joy as God's people hear and respond to His Word.

Reading will take place with the primary location in the PCA chapel. Guests are welcome to come during the afternoon hours after school, check in at the front desk, and receive directions to their assigned reading location. Groups are also welcome to come, and we would be glad to accommodate church groups, small groups, classes, or ministry teams throughout the week. If you would like to participate, register here: Bible Sign up Genius <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4FAAAB2AA3FEC43-63464268-pcabile>

The Charlie's Thursday morning Clergy Breakfast group have been busy preparing to order 149 Bibles for the senior graduates in Pamlico County at ACS, PCA, and PCHS. We are proud of all our seniors and want to aid them as they leave our school system and seek their future: whether it be education, military, going into the workforce, or anything else they pursue. We want them to know God goes with them. Note today's Spiritual Vitamin.

Celebrating birthdays in April are Shannon Ellenberg, Carnell Barrow (4/22), April Dawn Edwards (4/23), Serenity Henries (4/24), Justin Rodgers (4/28), Amy Smith (4/29) and Cynthia Delamar (4/30).

Have a blessed week. Lonely? Take Spiritual Vitamin L. "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matthew 28:20)

## Grantsboro Jeff Roberts, *Correspondent*



Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening. I hope that this finds you well and enjoying this beautiful weather.

There's something about this time of year around here. You can hear it before you even see it, the crack of a bat, the echo of a ball hitting a glove, kids calling out from the field. It's baseball season. Babe Ruth is underway, and just about every evening, those fields come alive.

If you've ever spent any time out there, you know it's more than just a game. It's the kids learning how to be part of something bigger than themselves. It's figuring out teamwork, handling a strikeout, celebrating a hit, and sometimes just learning how to stand out there and try again. There's a lot happening between those baselines that doesn't show up on a scoreboard.

And for a lot of these kids, this is where memories are made. Not the big, flashy kind, but the ones that stick. The ones they'll talk about years from now without even realizing why they remember them so clearly.

I've been out on the fields recently, camera in hand, watching it all unfold. You start to notice things when you slow down and really pay attention, the quiet moments in the dugout, the glance back toward a coach, the way a kid resets after a tough inning. Those are the parts that don't make headlines, but they matter just the same.

What's easy to overlook, though, is what it takes to make all of this happen. These leagues don't run on their own. They run on volunteers. Coaches giving up their evenings after long workdays. Parents stepping in to help organize, keep score, line fields, or just make sure everything keeps moving. Folks in the background doing the little things that most people never see but without them, none of this exists. It's easy to show up, sit in the stands, and watch. And there's nothing wrong with that. But there's also something to be said for stepping a little closer to the field.

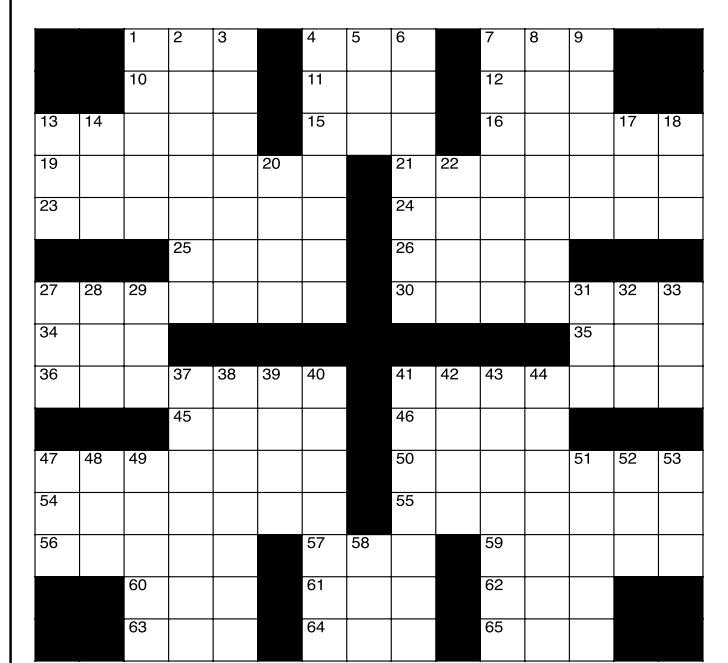
Because the reality is, every year, these programs need help. They need people willing to give a little of their time so these kids can have something that means a lot more than just a few innings of baseball. Not everyone has to coach. Not everyone has to take on a big role. Sometimes it's just being present. Lending a hand. Filling a gap where it's needed.

Out here in Pamlico County, we still have something a lot of places have lost, we have community. But community isn't something that just exists on its own. It's something that's built, maintained, and carried forward by the people willing to be part of it. Babe Ruth baseball is one of those places where you can see that in real time. Kids showing up ready to play. Families showing up to support them. And a handful of people making sure it all comes together. If you've ever thought about getting involved, this is your reminder. It doesn't take much to make a difference.

But it makes a world of difference to them.



# CROSSWORD

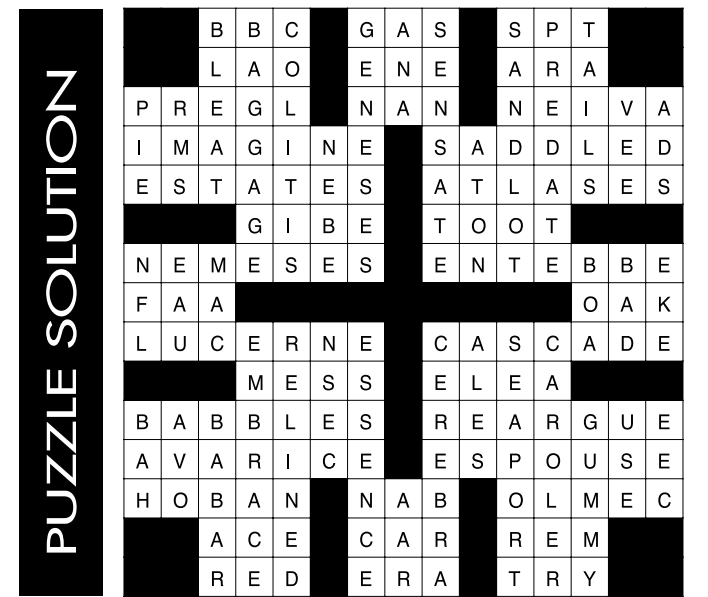


### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. English TV station
- 4. It fuels cars
- 7. Where ships dock (abbr.)
- 10. Indigenous people of Thailand
- 11. Midway between northeast and east
- 12. Small Milky Way constellation
- 13. Fritz \_\_, Austrian chemist
- 15. A Brit's grandmother
- 16. Colombian city
- 19. Visualize
- 21. Charged
- 23. People's assets
- 24. Informative books
- 25. Jeer
- 26. You can do it with your horn
- 27. Agents of your downfall
- 30. Central Uganda city
- 34. Supervises flying
- 35. Type of tree
- 36. Alfalfa
- 41. Dishwasher soap brand
- 45. Hall where military eats
- 46. Ancient Greek City
- 47. Speaks incessantly
- 50. Discuss again
- 54. Extreme greed
- 55. Adopt or support
- 56. Fantasy writer Russell
- 57. Seize
- 59. Early Mesoamerican civilization
- 60. Noted pet detective Ventura
- 61. Automobile
- 62. Georgia rockers
- 63. Color opposite green
- 64. Amount of time
- 65. Attempt

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Sheep sound
- 2. Some can be emotional
- 3. Inflammation of colon lining
- 4. Origins
- 5. Comedienne Gasteyer
- 6. Perceived by the senses
- 7. A place to play ball
- 8. Occur before
- 9. Animal body parts
- 13. Thanksgiving dessert
- 14. Root mean square (abbr.)
- 17. 1960s teen idol Bobby
- 18. Promotional materials
- 20. One point east of northeast
- 22. Piers Anthony protagonist
- 27. Popular sports league
- 28. Cologne
- 29. Partner to cheese
- 31. Constrictor snake
- 32. Not good
- 33. Supplement with difficulty
- 37. Hug with fondness
- 38. Enforced again
- 39. Small amount of time (abbr.)
- 40. Substance
- 41. Anterior parts of the brain
- 42. Brews
- 43. Where ships load cargo
- 44. Holiday season singer
- 47. " \_\_ humbug!"
- 48. Monetary unit of Macao
- 49. Popular children's book elephant
- 51. Glutinous
- 52. Function
- 53. Old world, new
- 58. Swiss river



## Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the proposed FY 2026-27 budget for the Coastal Regional Solid Waste Management Authority has been presented to the Board of Directors for consideration. A copy of the proposed budget is available for public review at the administrative offices of the Authority, located at 7400 Old US 70 West, New Bern, NC during regular office hours, or call 252-633-1564 to make arrangements to receive an email copy.

A public hearing on the proposed budget has been scheduled for May 14, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Room of the Pamlico County Courthouse Annex, Bayboro, NC at which time comments from the public on the proposed budget will be heard.

Bobby C. Darden  
Executive Director

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Town of Vandemere, NC

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Vandemere will hold a Public Hearing on May 11, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall to receive public comment on the proposed adoption of Chapter 6 – Property Maintenance and Environmental Health of the Town's General Code of Ordinances.

The proposed Chapter includes regulations related to minimum housing standards, non-residential building standards, property maintenance, pest and rodent control, sanitation, illegal dumping, junked and abandoned vehicles and boats, and the condemnation and removal of abandoned and dilapidated dwellings.

All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard. A copy of the proposed ordinance is available for public inspection at Town Hall during regular business hours and online at [www.vandemerenc.com](http://www.vandemerenc.com).

## STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS

**Auctions**  
ESTATE AUCTION, Saturday, May 2nd @9am, 12332 Prince Road Norwood, NC. BOST ESTATE (dec). Collection of Hit & Miss Engines, Old Tractors, Antique Farm Memorabilia, Coins, 1949 Willys Jeep, more. [www.ClassicAuctions.com](http://www.ClassicAuctions.com) 704-791-8825 NCAF5479

**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. Get 15% off your entire order. Plus, Military & Seniors get an additional 10% off. Limited time only. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details.

**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**  
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 Vintage Guitar! 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**  
Donate your car today, running or not. Support Patriotic Hearts for our Veterans

and their Families! Free fast pickup. May be tax deductible. Se habla Español. Call now: 877-317-3360

**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**  
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**  
Get a break on your taxes! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-855-869-7055 today!

**Miscellaneous**  
Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material – steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer – up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-855-585-1815

**Miscellaneous**  
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.



#LightItUpBlue for Autism Awareness



Several of our students and staff showed their support for Autism Awareness by participating in #LightItUpBlue. While many more joined in who are not pictured, we are incredibly proud of our school community for embracing kindness, inclusion, and acceptance.

Farm to School Week



Farm to School Week concluded with special guest readers from local farms, providing students with a meaningful connection to agriculture and food sources. After a week of enjoying farm-to-table meals, the visit served as a fitting finale, and the school extends its appreciation to the local Farm Bureau for organizing the event.

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PAMLICO COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

A visit to the Museum

“Green” Thumbs



First-grade students recently traveled to Raleigh to visit the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, where their classroom studies came to life through interactive exhibits and real-world exploration. The trip provided a valuable hands-on learning experience that deepened students' understanding of science and discovery.



Students in Mrs. Egan's class are expanding their classroom town through a hands-on plant study. By planting and caring for their own grass “yards,” students are learning about soil, seeds, and the process of plant growth.

Pepsi, Tryon Palace & a Picnic!

Kindergarten students recently explored downtown New Bern and Creekside Park as part of a hands-on field trip experience. During their visit, students toured the birthplace of Pepsi, explored the museum, and learned about local his-

tory, followed by a stop at Tryon Palace to view its historic architecture. The trip also provided opportunities to practice pedestrian safety skills, and the day concluded with a picnic lunch at the park.



Accessibility and Advocacy in Action!



Second-grade students recently connected their studies of disability rights to a real-world experience by exploring a school bus equipped with a wheelchair lift. The activity highlighted the importance of accessibility and the impact of past advocacy on today's transportation and education systems.



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Pamlico Partnership for Children  
Pamlico System of Care Collaborative  
Present  
**FREE PAMLICO FAMILY FUN DAY!**  
Saturday, May 2, 2026  
10:00 am-1:00 pm  
Pamlico County High School Football Field  
Rain Date, May 3, 2026 from 12-3pm  
FREE Event! Food, Games, Dunking Booth, Face Painting, Toddler Zone, Music, Bounce Houses, Community Resources and MORE!  
Waterline, Pamlico Family Eye Care, FARM BUREAU INSURANCE, PAMLICO COMMUNITY COLLEGE, SAFETY POTATOES, Pamlico Parks Co.



## “River, Rhythm and Blues” Concert Brings Music, Food, and Community Spirit to Washington, NC

Mac “Bear” Hodges 2026 Music Festival – April 25, 2026

Washington, NC – The Mac “Bear” Hodges Music Festival Committee invites the community to celebrate at the “River, Rhythm and Blues” concert on Saturday, April 25, 2026, from 3:00 PM to 9:30 PM at the Mac “Bear” Hodges Festival Park in downtown Washington, NC. This free, family-friendly event features an afternoon and evening of live music, food, and festivities on the scenic Washington, NC, waterfront. The event was postponed from October 2025 due to severe weather.

This year’s music lineup includes songwriter/singer Ronny Cottle, plus musical groups Cathed Biscuit, Jason Damico and the New Blue, and the CBR Band featuring Angela Chambers.

“The festival is more than music — it’s about honoring Mayor Mac Hodges’ legacy of service and bringing people together,” said Garleen Woolard, the Chairperson of the Festival

Committee. “We’re excited to welcome back some crowd favorites, introduce new performers, and add new features like a dance floor to make this year’s event unforgettable.”

**What’s New in 2026:**  
A dance floor for those ready to “Bring the Beat to Their Feet”.

Today Creative from Durham will be on-site with roaming videos of the crowds and bands.

Food trucks- Delicious Site Food Truck, LaPotosina Taco Express, GrillVille Food Truck, and Weldon Mills Distillery.

Beer, wine, and beverages are available for purchase.

Guests are kindly requested to bring a chair, enjoy the music, and donate money to support the festival. Personal coolers are not permitted within the festival grounds. The park is accessible to people with disabilities.

**Community Impact**

Admission is free, and donations are welcome. Proceeds and sponsorships directly fund projects enhancing the Mac “Bear” Hodges Festival Park.

All contributions are tax-deductible and stay within the community.

“Mac Hodges loved his family, music, and this community of friends. This festival carries his spirit forward — fun, friendship, and service,” said Garleen Woolard.

**Event Details**

Date: Saturday, April 25, 2026

Time: Gates open at 3:00 PM | Music begins at 3:30 PM through 9:30 PM

Location: Mac “Bear” Hodges Festival Park, 161 Water Street, Washington, NC 27889

Rain Date: Saturday, May 30, 2026

For more details, visit <https://macbearmusicfestival.my.canva.site> or follow on Facebook at [facebook.com/BearMusicFestival](https://facebook.com/BearMusicFestival).

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**HUGE YARD SALE!**  
7 a.m. - 1 p.m. both days  
**Friday, May 1st and Saturday, May 2nd**  
**St. Thomas Episcopal Church**  
402 Freemason St., Oriental  
on the grounds and in Parish Hall

## String Theory Gets Funky: Harris Duo & Next Level Prove the Equation

Gospel, Blues & Rockin’ BBQ, the FREE, day into evening concert on April 25 at the Red Rooster Bar and Stage in Oriental is brought to you by the Pamlico Arts Council. We have been introducing you to the groups who will be performing during the event in the last two issues of Pamlico News and here are the remaining two groups you are sure to enjoy during our celebration of the development of the uniquely American sound.

The husband and wife team of Jill and Shane Harris are the musical sweethearts of Oriental, NC. Their vibrant repertoire explodes with the energy of bluegrass, a uniquely American sound born from the Appalachian mountains, where acoustic strings weave intricate, fast-paced melodies and high-energy vocal harmonies send shivers down your spine, brilliantly blending the heart of Scottish/Irish folk with the soul of blues and jazz. Yet their genius doesn’t stop there; they effortlessly transition into the timeless embrace of folk music, the “music of the people,” where traditional tunes passed down through generations resonate with universal stories and a comforting familiarity. And for a truly moving experience, their deeply personal spiritual songs, infused with their abiding faith, offer moments of profound reflection and connection, touching the very core of their audience. From foot-stomping rhythms that demand you move to heartfelt hymns that stir the soul, Jill and Shane Harris deliver an unforgettable musical journey that truly showcases their extraordinary talent and boundless passion.

The summer of 2024 marked the electrifying genesis of the Next Level, a band formed by carefully selecting members boasting an unparalleled spectrum of talents and musical experience. These aren’t newcomers to the stage; many are household names among eastern NC musicians, celebrated for their captivating performances in various esteemed local bands. Together, these seasoned artists have converged to engineer a music experience that transcends mere listening, promising an indelible imprint on your soul. Their repertoire is a dynamic tapestry woven from the most iconic threads of musical history, designed to ignite every fiber of your being. Prepare to be swept away by the irresistible pulse of Motown, where infectious basslines and soaring harmonies evoke a golden era of sophisticated pop, compelling every foot to tap and every heart to sing along. Feel the visceral thrum of Funk, an undeniable force driven by syncopated grooves and a raw, electrifying energy that makes standing still an impossibility. Delve into the intricate elegance of Jazz, where spontaneous improvisations and sophisticated melodies create a landscape of cool brilliance and unexpected delight. Embrace the profound depths of the Blues, a soulful journey through raw emotion and storytelling guitar riffs that speak directly to the human spirit, resonant with both sorrow and triumph. And finally, surrender to the timeless allure of traditional R&B, a perfect blend of velvety vocals, lush arrangements, and classic grooves that move you with their heartfelt authenticity and undeniable rhythm. This

masterful fusion of genre and talent ensures that every performance by the Next Level is not just a show, but a transcendent journey through the very heart of American music.

Look for the performance times on our website: [pamlicoarts.org](http://pamlicoarts.org) or on [TownDock.net](http://TownDock.net) under What’s Happening.



Jill and Shane Harris



Next Level Band

**2026** New Bern's **Heritage Homes Tour**  
FRI. MAY 1 SAT. MAY 2  
10AM-4PM  
where the past is present...  
See homes that witnessed the birth of our nation!  
Enjoy two delightful days filled with historic homes, musicians & art!  
Car-Cook House ca. 1790 by Jan Francoeur  
AMERICA 250 NC  
NewBernHistorical.org  
252-638-8558

**BRICE POINTE**  
A THRIVEMORE COMMUNITY  
**YOUR RETIREMENT well-lived**  
**Opening in 2030, Brice Pointe will be New Bern’s first Life Plan Community.**  
Set on 70 scenic acres beside Carolina Lake and the Carolina Colours golf course, Brice Pointe will feature maintenance-free homes, fine dining, and an engaging lifestyle, with on-site health services available. It’s the perfect plan for older adults who want to live fully today and secure care for tomorrow.  
**Join us for our upcoming event.**  
**Thursday, May 21 | 12:00 PM**  
**Chef Tasting Experience**  
Be our guest as ThriveMore Executive Chef Eric Nooe presents heart-healthy Mediterranean delicacies, and shares insights, answers your questions and previews the inspired dining coming to Brice Pointe!  
Carolina Colours Pavilion  
3300 Waterscape Way, New Bern, NC 28562  
RSVP  
252-659-4550 or [BricePointe.org/news-events](http://BricePointe.org/news-events)  
Icons: dog, house, wheelchair