

The Pamlico News

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

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Florence-Whortonsville VFD Family Fair & Expo

by: Hiram Lupton

The whole community turned out last Saturday at the Florence-Whortonsville Volunteer Fire Department's Fire and EMS Family Fair and Expo held at Station 25. There was lots of fun and informational demonstrations and vendors there, all with a message of community involvement along with fire safety and prevention. There was also plenty of food and refreshments and Smokey the Bear paid a visit.



Mobile Planetarium with NC Museum of Natural Sciences

Take a trip to outer space, across the rings of Saturn and into the stars! We are so excited to be hosting this special mobile planetarium experience with the NC Museum of Natural Sciences!

Thursday, May 21, 4:00 pm
Pamlico County Library



Pamlico Community College to host 2026 Commencement this Friday on campus

By Sandy Wall



Pamlico Community College graduates turn their tassels at the conclusion of last year's Commencement ceremony. One hundred twenty-three men and women in the college's curriculum and Continuing Education programs have qualified for recognition at this year's graduation ceremony. Contributed photo

Goals will be accomplished and new adventures will begin when Pamlico Community College hosts its 2026 Commencement Exercises this Friday, May 15, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Ned Everett Delamar Center on the college's Grantsboro campus.

One hundred twenty-three men and women in the college's curriculum and Continuing Education programs have qualified for recognition over the last year.

Those students have earned a combined 201 academic and Continuing Education credentials, including 35 associate degrees, 13 diplomas, 75 certificates and 78 Continuing Education recognitions.

Six high school students will be receiving associate degrees.

The Class of 2026's youngest graduate is 17, and its oldest graduate is 68. In addition to Pamlico, seven other N.C. counties are represented in this year's class. There also are honorees from Virginia, Georgia and



Dr. Robert Ian Bruck, a distinguished professor emeritus at N.C. State University, will give Friday's Commencement address. Contributed photo

South Carolina.

"We are very excited about the upcoming Commencement Exercises," said PCC President Zac Schnell, who will preside over his second graduation ceremony as the college's top administrator. "It's a time to celebrate our students and their achievements. The ceremony will center on students. It's their day, and we want the focus to be on them. It's their time to share their magic with the community."

Dr. Robert Ian Bruck, a distinguished professor emeritus at N.C. State University and a leader in plant pathology and crop disease management, will give the Commencement address.

In addition to his well-earned reputation as a leader in science and agriculture, Bruck showed a strong commitment to undergraduate teaching and student success while at NCSU.

He has held several executive positions in the private sector. Bruck also is a recipient of the North Carolina Award for Science.

During the ceremony, the college's Academic Excellence Award/Student of the Year winner will be announced. PCC also will honor its Alumnus of the Year.

A reception with refreshments will follow the ceremony.

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

3 Rivers Outdoor Company

Keeping it in the Family, Keeping it in the County

by: Hiram Lupton

When you have been involved in a family business for well over 50 years, you have a right to be a little particular on who you sell it to, after all, you have been a part of building a legacy. "I was about ready to retire and so was Wanda," said Chuck Forrest, the owner along with his wife Wanda of Forrest Farm Supply in Bayboro.



Chris Davis, Sarah Twichell Davis, Peyton Davis and Michael Twichell

Chuck's father and mother, Ralph and Joyce Forrest purchased the business, then known as Lee's Farm Supply in late 1969. It became Forrest Farm Supply in September of 1970 and has been a huge part of Chuck's life ever since. He worked there as a teenager and young adult before eventually taking over the business completely. It was going to be hard to step away from the business that bore his family's name, and particularly hard if he didn't turn it over to someone he trusted. "I really wanted to sell it to someone in the family or at least someone local if I could. Both of my daughters have careers of their own and weren't interested in taking it over, so I approached my nephew to see if he would be interested." That nephew, Pamlico County Sheriff

Chris Davis, was definitely interested, but the timing wasn't right. "Three years ago, when Chuck first approached us about buying the business, we definitely had interest, but my wife Sarah and I had full time jobs that we love, and we knew we would need someone to run things day-to-day." Last year things began to fall in place. "My sister Peyton was office manager at a business that was about to close due to the owner's retirement, and she would be looking for employment. Around the same time, Sarah's brother Michael, a teacher and football coach, mentioned that he would like to try something new. Right there we had our office manager and floor manager. I told Chuck if he was still interested, we were ready and we finalized the sale earlier this year." There have been a few changes. First the name. Forrest Farm Supply is now 3 Rivers Outdoor Company. "We are still a dealer for Bobcat mowers as well as Stihl power products and importantly we service what we sell," says Chris. "We also have all

Continued on Page A6



Thousands of Visitors Will Be Attending The 2026 North Carolina Fossil Festival

Aurora, North Carolina: Thousands of visitors from across North Carolina and the country will attend one of the largest fossil and natural history events on the East Coast. The annual North Carolina Fossil Festival, hosted by the Aurora Fossil Museum, will be held May 23 and 24, 2026, in Aurora, Beaufort County, N.C.

The festival, with free admission and parking, will highlight the legacy of "the ancient ocean just under our feet" and the North Carolina state fossil, the Megalodon Shark tooth.

Over 70 vendors will be on site providing a wide variety of food items, fossils, jewelry, rocks and minerals, natural history collectibles, and crafts. Weekend activities include Dinosaur shows, live music, fossil displays, mining equipment displays, Teen Science Café, and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics) exhibits and hands-on activities. Attendees can also enjoy activities for children, fossil digging, a Silent Auction, a Brew Zone, a Jurassic Classic Bike Ride, and a 5K Fossil Run. The sure-to-sell-out official N.C. Fossil Festival t-shirt featuring newly created artwork will be on sale to benefit the nonprofit Aurora Fossil Museum.

To view the festival schedule of events and activities, please see www.ncfossilfest.com

The Aurora Fossil Museum exhibits and Gift Shop will be open during the festival. Proceeds from the North Carolina Fossil Festival support the nonprofit museum's mission to provide educational and scientific outreach throughout North Carolina.

Julie Jacobson of Whittier is Pamlico Community College's Adjunct Faculty of the Year. She teaches Art.

Contributed photo



LIKELY WEATHER OVER THE WEEKEND

Saturday, May 15th **86°Hi** Mostly sunny and very warm

Sunday, May 16th **89°Hi** Mostly sunny and very warm



CarolinaEast Medical Center Achieves Elite National Status as a 'Straight A' Hospital for Patient Safety

Six consecutive 'A' safety grades have been awarded by The Leapfrog Group



Pamlico Community College celebrates successes, honors top employees for 2025-26

By Sandy Wall

Pamlico Community College colleagues gathered for an End-of-Year Employee Luncheon on campus last Friday to celebrate successes, to honor the college's top employees for 2025-26, and to enjoy a delicious potluck meal.

Nearly 50 people were on hand for the luncheon, which marked the unofficial end of the Spring semester and the academic year.

The event provided faculty members and staffers an opportunity to socialize and to look back on a busy and eventful year.

"We've got some momentum building here," said PCC President Zac Schnell, who thanked employees for their hard work. "It's been a good year."

As in recent years, the presentation of the annual awards was the centerpiece of the event.

The day's first award – Adjunct Faculty of the Year – went to part-time Art Instructor Julie Jacobson, who lives in Whittier.

The Pamlico Correctional Institution Faculty of the Year honor went to Victoria Milbank, who teaches in the college's innovative Human Services Technology program at the Bayboro prison.

Next up was the on-campus Faculty of the Year Award, which went to Criminal Justice Technology Instructor Derek Godwin, who also oversees the college's Career & College Promise program and its Bayboro operations. He is a three-time winner of the award.

Vice President of Instructional Services Neil Callahan presented the three teaching awards.

The Staff Person of the Year Award went to Albert Krelie, who works as a custodian and maintenance staffer at the college. Vice President of Financial Services Lee Tillman presented the award.

Each honoree received a certificate and a monetary award provided by the PCC Foundation. The three teaching-related awards are voted on by students. The staff award recipient is chosen by a vote of nominees' peers.

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



Pamlico Community College Criminal Justice Technology Instructor Derek Godwin, left, accepts the Faculty of the Year Award from Vice President of Instructional Services Neil Callahan. Contributed photo



Victoria Milbank is the Pamlico Correctional Institution Faculty of the Year for 2025-26. She teaches in the college's Human Services Technology program. Contributed photo



Pamlico Community College Vice President of Financial Services Lee Tillman, left, presents the Staff Person of the Year Award to Albert Krelie. Contributed photo



**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 am sending a note to let you know that it was a pleasure working with Susan Adams of your agency. Susan was professional, responsive, organized and very kind. She made the selling of our property very easy!
Terry, DE



NEW BERN – Fairwinds 2BR/2BA Condo in Fairfield Harbor. Open floor plan, screened deck and open deck, roof replaced last year. Community boat dock, pool, golf course, and restaurant.
OFFERED AT \$202,000



ARAPAHOE – Prime Commercial Opportunity, 12,000 sf on 1.43 acres near Arlington Place, Minnesott Beach and the Arapahoe Charter School. Not in a flood zone. Expansive paved parking, large loading bay door on side.
OFFERED AT \$235,000



ARAPAHOE – Unobstructed lakeview and golf course frontage, 3BR/2BA not in a flood zone, no HOA dues. Lifetime metal roof w/ gutters & leaf guards, Anderson double-hung windows & patio door. One-car finished garage w/ attached golf cart garage. Detached workshop and detached storage building.
OFFERED AT \$345,000



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 – Waterfront 3BR/2BA w/private dock on .55 acre lot in Buccaneer Bay subdivision. Back deck, ideal for outdoor dining, entertaining, or simply enjoying the coastal breeze and scenic surroundings.
OFFERED AT \$510,000



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



CarolinaEast Medical Center Achieves Elite National Status as a 'Straight A' Hospital for Patient Safety

Six consecutive 'A' safety grades have been awarded by The Leapfrog Group

(New Bern, NC) – CarolinaEast Medical Center was awarded an "A" Hospital Safety Grade for the sixth consecutive grading round by The Leapfrog Group, an independent national nonprofit watchdog focused on patient safety. This designates CarolinaEast as a "Straight A" hospital, defined as hospitals that have an A for Spring 2026 and have sustained that grade for the last five or more grading rounds. This select group represents 15% of all eligible hospitals.

"Every day, our 3,200 employees and more than 300 volunteers demonstrate an extraordinary level of dedication and compassion to keep our patients safe," said Michael Smith, President and CEO of CarolinaEast Health System. "Earning six consecutive 'A' safety grades from one of the nation's leading healthcare ratings organizations is a testament to their commitment to excellence in patient care."

The Leapfrog Group assigns an "A", "B", "C", "D" or "F" grade to all general hospitals across the country using evidence-based measures of errors, accidents, injuries and infections as well as the systems hospitals have in place to prevent them.



"CarolinaEast deserves recognition for its unwavering focus on protecting patients and delivering safe care, earning an 'A' Hospital Safety Grade for six consecutive cycles," said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. "Sustaining this level of excellence over time shows a true, organization-wide commitment to making patient safety a top priority every single day."

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is the only hospital ratings program focused exclusively on preventable medical errors, injuries and infections that can lead to harm or even death. The grading system is peer-reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public. Grades are updated twice annually, in the fall and spring.

Additionally, North Carolina is ranked #8 in the state rankings. To see CarolinaEast's full grade details and to access patient tips for staying safe in the hospital, visit HospitalSafetyGrade.org.

About CarolinaEast Health System
CarolinaEast Health System has been serving the growing needs of the coastal North Carolina community since 1963. In addition to the system's flagship, 350 bed CarolinaEast Medical Center, CarolinaEast includes a rehabilitation hospital, free-standing surgery center, the SECU Comprehensive Cancer Center, and numerous CarolinaEast Physician practices providing primary and specialty care for all phases of life from offices in four counties.

kids vitamins

Modern children may not be getting all of the vitamins and minerals they need to be healthy. According to the National Library of Medicine, nutrient deficiencies of iron, vitamin A, folic acid, and zinc are prevalent worldwide, especially in children from low income areas. Many modern kids do not consume sufficient amounts of nutrients that are vital for growth. For example, CNBC reports that kids are not getting enough fiber and potassium. But the No. 1 nutrient that kids, particularly those in the United States,

aren't getting enough of is vitamin D. Fifty percent of children between the ages of one and five and 70 percent of those ages six to 11 have a vitamin D deficiency. Vitamin D is largely produced through exposure to the sun, and sedentary kids may not be getting enough time outdoors. Kidsville Pediatrics also says modern kids are deficient in vitamins A, C, B12, and E. Parents can talk to their children's pediatricians about how best to address nutrient deficiencies, particularly among children who may be picky eaters.



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

by: Hiram Lupton

- May 13th – Today is National Frog Jumping Day.
- May 14th – Today is National Dance Like a Chicken Day.
- May 15th – Today is Police Officer's Memorial Day.
- May 16th – Today is National Armed Forces Day.
- May 17th – Today is National Baking Day.
- May 18th – 1980, Mt. St. Helens erupted in Washington state.
- May 19th – 1974, Erno Rubik invented a puzzle that would become known as Rubik's Cube.

Birthdays This Week

- May 13th – 1914, Heavyweight Boxing Champion Joseph Barrow (Joe Louis)
- May 13th – 1966, Musician Darius Rucker
- May 15th – 1977, Superintendent of Pamlico County Schools Dr. Jeremy Johnson
- May 16th – 1937, Actress Yvonne Craig
- May 18th – 1952, Singer George Strait
- May 18th – 1977, Outstanding Pamlico Citizen Maurice King
- May 19th – 1946, Professional wrestler and actor Andre Roussimoff (Andre the Giant)
- May 19th – 1992, Singer Lainey Wilson



Consumer Alert: Beware of DMV Text Scams

RALEIGH – Attorney General Jeff Jackson is warning North Carolinians about a recurring text message scam impersonating the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles (NCDMV).

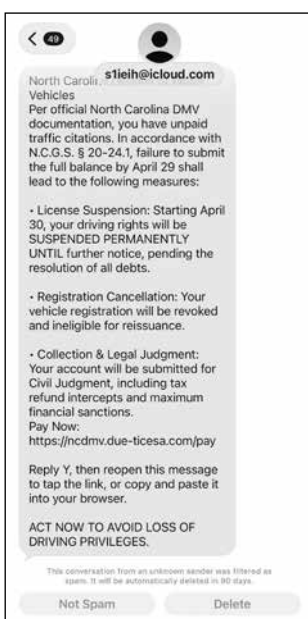
“This scam is not new, and we’re seeing criminals continue to use it to take advantage of North Carolinians,” said Attorney General Jeff Jackson. “If you get this text, delete it and block the sender. State agencies will never text you and demand payment.”

Scammers are sending fake text messages claiming you have an unpaid traffic citation and demanding payment. They may threaten that your driver's license will be suspended or your vehicle registration will be canceled if you do not pay right away. These messages are fake and designed to pressure you into acting quickly.

- If you receive this scam text:
- Don't click on any links.
- Block the number and delete the message.

Report it to the Federal Trade Commission at www.reportfraud.ftc.gov and the North Carolina Department of Justice at www.ncdoj.gov/complaint. When you report scam texts to our office, it gives us helpful information to investigate the source of these texts.

If you are unsure whether you have an unpaid traffic citation, contact the NCDMV directly at 919-715-7000.



COMMUNITY

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Readers:

As I drove through Grantsboro the other day regular unleaded gas was \$3.99 a gallon. Two days later it was \$4.29. I don't drive through Grantsboro every day, so I would not be surprised to learn I missed a few ups and downs in the price of gasoline. The war in Iran is not helping us with prices. How much longer will it be before we see \$5 gas? If you live in Pamlico County and drive to work you probably put 15-20 miles on your odometer in the morning and the same thing in the afternoon. If gas prices go above \$5 a gallon your daily cost of having a job will increase \$4-5 each day. And that is just to get to your job and home again.

At the same time the Piglet and Food Lion and Walmart and Dollar General are getting resupplied by big trucks burning diesel. Diesel is already over \$5 and headed for \$7. Eggs at \$6 a dozen might not be too far off in our future. And it won't just be eggs.

I know people are frustrated about the price increases we're seeing every day. When prices spiked during and after COVID we blamed Biden and it cost him dearly. Now we have a President who actually caused the price of fuel to increase. And those increases will make everything more expensive.

So, are we doomed to suffer through another round of inflation and stubborn high prices? In the short term, maybe yes. The war in Iran is not likely to be settled quickly and the global oil supply chain has lost 15% of its supply. Even if the war ended this month it would take months or years for the price of gas to return to something we were used to when Trump was elected.

No matter how you feel about Trump versus a Democratic Party alternative, we have a problem that is certain to get worse. But, we can do something. Support candidates for public office who will help county residents' financial lives return to a sustainable path. The richest households in the county may be able to weather this storm, but most of us will be at or near a crisis point if the US continues on this downward spiral. Doing nothing, or hoping someone else will do something, is a fool's choice.

Doug Sligh
Oriental, NC

Dear Readers,

I was struck by the quote in last week's issue, from Fred Rogers:

"We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say, 'It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.' Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes."

Let's engage in the conversation about what our shared responsibilities are as citizens at all levels - federal, state, local. Who are WE as people if we are not caring for the basic needs of our fellow citizens? The preamble to the Constitution includes "promote the general welfare" or the public well being. This should foster the well being of the nation as a whole insuring peace, safety and health. That being said, I would like to think that we can agree that nutrition, healthcare and education are fundamental needs of our citizens. Let's see how we are doing...

Food Insecurity (linked with Poverty) is a significant public health issue. Simply stated by Feeding America on their website feedingamerica.org :

"It's when people don't have enough to eat and don't know where their next meal will come from...in the US 48 million people, including 14 million children, experience food insecurity annually." The causes vary, but it can happen to anyone. Here in Pamlico County the food insecurity rate was 15.2 % in 2024 (above the national rate) and continues to climb. Nationally, 1 in 5 children are affected. One child going hungry is too many. Surely, funding should be directed to this need - programs like SNAP and WIC are critical but losing funding. Are we caring for the basic needs of our citizens?

Healthcare is another area that is challenging. We are the only developed, high income country without a universal health care system. Other countries guarantee coverage to all residents. Our system leaves millions underinsured or uninsured. Medicaid covers about 1 in 5 Americans, including low income children, adults, seniors and people with disabilities. Medicare and Medicaid address the healthcare of our most vulnerable populations and yet federal funding is in peril for both. Are we caring for the basic needs of our citizens?

The US Department of Education was established to promote student achievement, ensure equal access to education and prepare students for global competitiveness. Some key functions are distributing federal financial aid, enforcing civil rights laws in schools and supporting programs for disadvantaged and disabled students. Not sure why the current administration is intending to dismantle and eliminate the department. In North Carolina, educators' salaries and the amount of funds directed per pupil are some of the lowest in the country. Are we caring for the basic needs of our citizens?

It appears we have some work to do. We see those who are in need and we can respond. Educate ourselves around those needs. Challenge our political representatives regarding funding allocations using our tax dollars. Engage in the hard conversations. We don't need to be heroes, just good citizens.

Sherry Owens, Minnesott Beach

The Pamlico News Editorials and Opinions section features opinion articles, newspaper editorials and letters to the editor on the issues of the day.

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

BAY RIVER MSD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 - 2027

The proposed fiscal year 2026-2027 budget for Bay River Metropolitan Sewerage District has been presented to the Board of Directors and is available for public inspection in the office at 101 North Fourth Street, Bayboro from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm weekdays.

Bay River MSD will hold a final public hearing on the proposed budget on June 4, 2026 at 7:00 PM at the office for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed budget. Persons wishing to be heard are invited to make written or oral comments.

For any questions, please contact Bay River MSD at (252)745-4812.

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

Horoscopes



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, you soon find yourself pushing forward with great determination. Your drive is unstoppable, but tread carefully and respectfully in the pursuit of greatness.



TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Introspection is paramount right now, Taurus. You may find yourself reflecting on your values, goals and personal growth. This week there are chances to change.



GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, right now is a good time to collaborate with others, whether at work or in personal projects. Use any time this week to your advantage to attend social events.



CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
Put your long-term goals in focus this week, Cancer. Start thinking about where you would like your career to go. You'll certainly feel driven to make progress.



LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
Adventure is the name of the game for you right now, Leo. Whether it is travel, higher learning or other new experiences, you just may soon break free of your routine.



VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
This is a week when practicality and organization will be your friends, Virgo. You will likely feel a need to get things in order. If you have any outstanding debts, tackle them now.



LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, the spotlight is on you for the time being. You are feeling more confident and ready to take charge of your destiny. Personal growth may come by way of a job promotion.



SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, you may be drawn to more quiet, intimate moments with your partner this week. This is a great time for reflection and connection for the both of you.



SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, expect to meet new people or form bonds with others who share similar interests and goals this week. Community-based projects may draw your attention.



CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
This week the focus will be on your career, Capricorn. You'll feel more motivated than ever to achieve your goals, but it will take a lot of hard work to get there.



AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, you might feel more connected to your spiritual side right now and want to seek knowledge or inspiration in areas like philosophy. Take every opportunity to learn and grow.



PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, now is a good time to focus on your financial situation and make some changes for your security and personal growth. Your intuition will guide you.

TAURUS Traits & Overview

Taurus, the second sign of the zodiac and the ruler of the second house, is all about reward. Unlike the Aries love of the game, the typical Taurus personality loves the rewards of the game. Think physical pleasures and material goods, for those born under this sign revel in delicious excess. This zodiac sign is also tactile, enjoying a tender, even sensual, touch.

Taurus zodiac sign adores comfort and likes being surrounded by pleasing, soothing things. Along these lines, they also favor a good meal and a fine wine. The good life in all its guises, whether it's the arts or art of their own making (yes, these folks are artistic as well), is heaven on Earth to the Taurus-born.

FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY

FINANCIAL FOCUS

Saving for Retirement: Are You Guessing or Planning?



Dan M. Roberts

Let's say you dream of spending your retirement mornings on a warm beach, coffee in hand, waves rolling in. To get there, you had a simple plan: save \$1 million and buy the beach house you always wanted.

But when retirement arrives, reality hits. After accounting for keeping your current home, everyday expenses and health care, \$1 million doesn't stretch as far as you thought, and the beach house remains a dream. The problem wasn't your discipline – it was that your number was never really your number. It was arbitrary, not anchored to what your ideal retirement would actually cost.

How can you make sure your retirement number is right for you?

A solid savings goal starts with a clear picture of the retirement you want. Think through where you plan to live, whether you'll keep your current home or downsize, how much you plan to travel, if you'll help children and grandchildren financially and what

health care might cost you later in life. Build a realistic monthly budget, then multiply by 12 months to find your annual need. Adjust this amount for inflation until the first year of retirement.

Then, multiply that figure by 25 to get a sense of how much may be needed to save. It's a formula based on the idea of withdrawing 4% annually from your savings, assuming you retire in your mid-60s. If you need \$60,000 a year, your target is around \$1.5 million. You may need more or less depending on your lifestyle, health, unexpected expenses, Social Security benefits and other income. No single rate or strategy will work for everyone. A financial advisor can help you determine your number and strategy.

Once you know your target, the path forward becomes clearer. Here are a few tips for next steps:

Start early. The sooner you begin saving, the more time compound interest has to work in your favor. Small amounts set aside automatically each paycheck have the opportunity to grow significantly over decades.

Live below your means. Spending less than you earn is one of the most powerful wealth-building habits. When your income rises, save and invest the difference instead of upgrading your lifestyle.

Keep your debt under control. Since credit cards and other high-interest debt can slow your progress, pay off balances monthly when possible.

Invest consistently. If your employer offers a 401(k), aim to contribute at least 10%-15% of your salary, and increase your contributions after every raise. If you max out your 401(k), a traditional IRA or Roth IRA may offer additional tax-advantaged growth (eligibility and contribution limits apply).

Boost your income when you can. Develop new skills, ask for a raise or explore a side income. Every extra dollar saved moves you closer to your goal.

The difference between a retirement you love and one full of compromises often comes down to the planning you do today. Know your real number, build a solid plan and get the right help along the way.

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

Irises—A Garden Classic with Endless Variety

This article was written by Angela Mason Foster, NC State Extension Master Gardener • Volunteer –Beaufort County.

Few plants manage to feel both timeless and endlessly surprising, but irises do exactly that. With sculptural foliage, intricate blooms, and a dazzling range of colors, irises have earned their place in gardens for centuries. They appear in ancient mythology, medieval art, Southern cottage gardens, and modern landscapes alike—proof of a plant that adapts easily to changing climates, styles, and gardeners.

For Eastern North Carolina gardeners, irises offer a particularly appealing combination: show-stopping spring color paired with durability. While their flowers may look delicate, many irises are tough plants that tolerate heat, bounce back from drought once established, and are usually ignored by deer.

A Flower Rooted in History and Meaning

The name iris comes from the Greek word for “rainbow,” reflecting the incredible spectrum of colors found within the genus. In mythology, Iris was the messenger of the gods, traveling between heaven and earth—a fitting symbol for a flower often associated with hope, renewal, and communication.

Irises have long been valued not only for their beauty but also for their structure. Even when not in bloom, their upright, sword-like foliage adds strong lines and texture to garden beds, making them reliable design plants from early spring through summer.

The Many Faces of Irises

One reason irises continue to captivate gardeners is their remarkable diversity. There truly is an iris for nearly every growing condition.

Bearded irises are the most familiar type, known for the soft “beards” on their falls (the downward-facing petals). They prefer full sun and excellent drainage, making them ideal for raised beds and well-amended soils common in our region.

Louisiana irises are Southern standouts, bred from species native to wetlands and bayous. These irises thrive in hot, humid climates and tolerate heavier soils and seasonal moisture far better than many other types. Their blooms are broad, luminous, and often glow when backlit by spring sunshine.

Siberian irises offer a finer texture, with narrow foliage that blends gracefully into mixed perennial beds. While they prefer consistent moisture, many perform well in Eastern North Carolina when given good care and afternoon sun protection.

Dutch irises (*Iris x hollandica*) are familiar to many gardeners through spring bouquets and florist displays. Grown from bulbs, they produce elegant, narrow-petaled blooms in shades of blue, purple, white, and yellow. In Eastern North Carolina, Dutch irises are best treated as short-term spring accents rather than permanent landscape plants. They perform best in well-drained soil, full sun, and locations protected from excessive summer moisture. While they may not reliably return year after year, they are excellent choices for gardeners who enjoy seasonal color or cutting gardens.

Together, these types allow gardeners to layer irises throughout the landscape—from formal beds to naturalized areas near water.

Why Irises Endure in Southern Gardens

Irises are not high-maintenance plants. Once established, they require little more than sunlight, appropriate soil conditions, and occasional division. They are long-lived,



easy to propagate, and resistant to many common pests.

Another major advantage is their natural deer resistance. All irises contain compounds that are toxic if ingested, making them unpalatable to deer and rabbits. While no plant is entirely deer-proof, irises are among the most consistently avoided.

For gardeners frustrated by browsing wildlife, that alone makes irises worth celebrating.

Planting and Care Basics

Success with irises depends on understanding their differences.

Bearded irises need full sun—at least six hours daily—and excellent drainage. Their rhizomes should be planted shallowly, with the tops partially exposed to sunlight. Burying them too deeply is one of the most common causes of poor bloom.

Louisiana irises prefer their roots covered and appreciate consistent moisture. They tolerate heavier soils and can even thrive near ponds or in rain gardens.

All irises benefit from division every three to four years. Crowded clumps bloom less and are more prone to disease. Dividing rejuvenates plants and provides an easy way to share irises with friends and neighbors—one of gardening's oldest traditions.

Iris Cultivar Quick Reference

(Well-suited to Eastern North Carolina)

Bearded Irises (*Iris germanica*)

‘Immortality’ – white, lightly fragrant, reblooming
 ‘Beverly Sills’ – coral-pink, strong stems
 ‘Clarence’ – lavender-blue, vigorous grower
 ‘Dusky Challenger’ – deep purple, dramatic form

Louisiana Irises

‘Black Gamecock’ – velvety deep purple
 ‘Ann Chowning’ – rich blue, reliable bloomer
 ‘Cajun Sunrise’ – warm yellow tones

Common Iris Pests and Diseases

Even tough plants like irises can experience occasional problems, particularly in warm, humid climates like Eastern North Carolina. Fortunately, most issues are preventable with good cultural practices.

Iris borer is the most serious insect pest affecting bearded irises. The larvae tunnel into leaves and rhizomes, causing yellowing, soft rot, and eventual collapse of the plant. Damage often begins in early spring. Removing and destroying old foliage in late fall and keeping beds clean can significantly reduce infestations. Healthy, well-spaced plants are less attractive to borers.

Leaf spot, a fungal disease, appears as brown or reddish spots on iris leaves and is more common during wet, humid weather. While unsightly, it is rarely fatal. Good air circulation, full sun, and avoiding overhead watering help limit its spread. Removing affected foliage at the end of the season is usually sufficient for control.

Rhizome rot is typically caused by poor drainage or overly wet soil. Affected rhizomes become soft, mushy, and foul-smelling. At the first sign of rot, dig up the plant, cut away damaged tissue, and replant healthy sections in well-drained soil. For bearded irises, keeping rhizomes slightly exposed to sunlight is key to prevention.

Most iris problems stem from excess moisture, overcrowding, or poor airflow. With the proper growing location and routine cleanup, irises remain among the most reliable perennials in the Southern garden.

A Plant Worth Glorifying

Irises are not instant-gratification plants, but they are generous ones. With a bit of patience and proper placement, they reward gardeners with years—often decades—of dependable beauty. In a gardening world full of fleeting trends, irises remain steadfast, bridging old gardens and new, ornamental beauty and practical resilience.

For Eastern North Carolina gardeners seeking plants with history, variety, and backbone, irises deserve their moment in the spotlight.

For more information on growing irises and other plants, visit the NC State Extension Plant Toolbox at <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/>, or contact Extension Agent Daniel Simpson at 252-745-4121 or Daniel_simpson@ncsu.edu.

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Public Notice

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA-Part B, Public Law 108.446) Project is presently being amended. The Project describes the special education programs that Pamlico County Schools proposes for Federal funding for the 2026-2027 School Year. Interested persons are encouraged to review amendments to the Project and make comments concerning the implementation of special education under this Federal Program. All comments will be considered prior to submission of the amended Project to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction in Raleigh, North Carolina. The IDEA-Part B Project is open to the public for review and comments during the week of May 21-May 28, 2026 in the office of Bettie Davis, Director of EC Programs, located at Pamlico County Schools, 507 Anderson Drive, Bayboro, NC, 28515.



COUNTY OF PAMLICO NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE is hereby given that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Pamlico, North Carolina has scheduled a Public Hearing as follows:

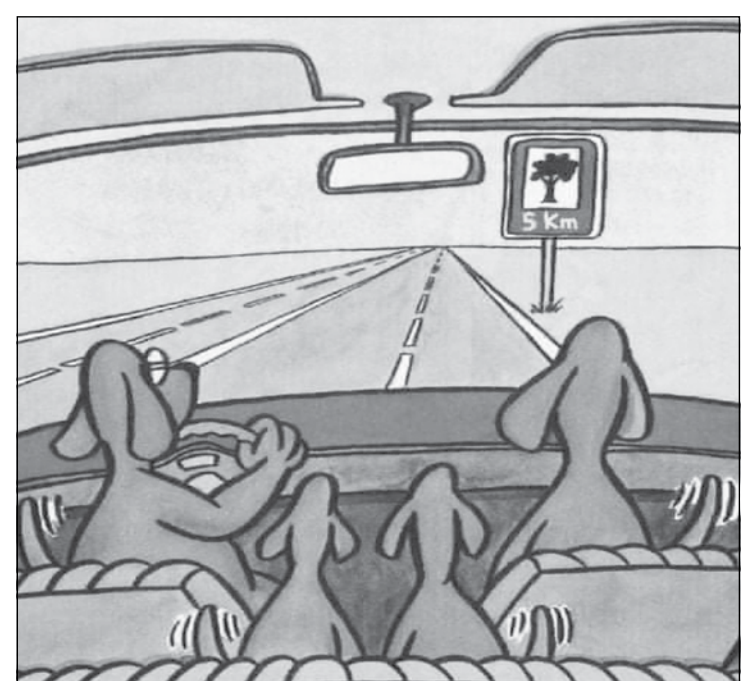
DATE: June 1, 2026
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: County Commissioner Meeting Room
202 Main Street
Bayboro, NC 28515

The purpose of this Public Hearing is to receive comments from the public on the following proposed amendment:

Pamlico County Ordinance Regulating Campgrounds and Tiny Home/Parks Model Parks

Please note the following:

During regular business hours, the full text of the following proposed amendments can be obtained from the Clerk to the Board at the County Manager's Office located at 302 Main Street, Bayboro, NC (Phone Number: 252-745-3133, Email: tracy.boyd@pamlicocounty.org)



PC Schools Makes Budget Request to BOC

by: Hiram Lupton



Dr. Jeremy Johnson, Superintendent of Pamlico County Schools addresses the Pamlico County Board of Commissioners.

Superintendent of Pamlico County Schools, Dr. Jeremy Johnson along with Pamlico County Schools Finance Officer Denise Altman made their official budget request to the Pamlico County Board of Commissioners at the BOC regular monthly meeting on May 4th. After an introduction where he stressed the continued good relationship between the schools and the Board of Commissioners, one that was built on “Partnership, truth, and transparency,” he gave the floor to

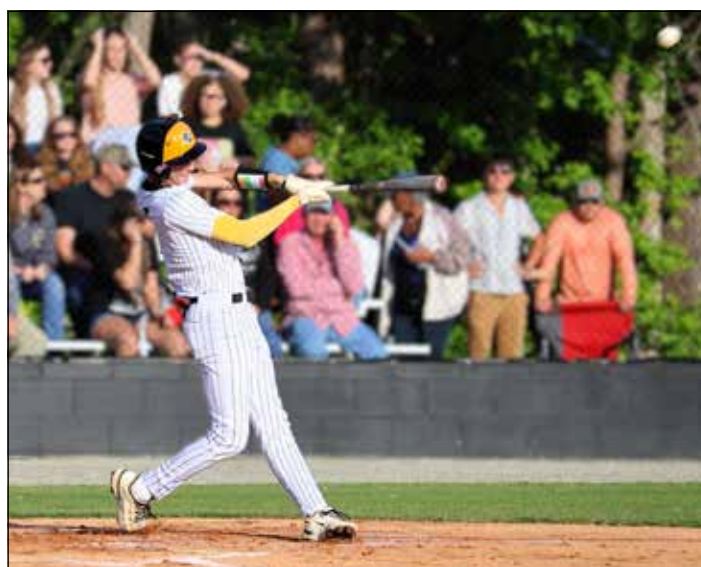
Mrs. Altman who presented a few numbers to the Board. A local funding request from the county in the amount of \$4,814,800 was presented, which is actually a reduction of \$45,200 from last year. In addition, a separate capital request of \$350,000 was made, which reflected an increase of \$20,000 from Fiscal year 2026. The schools, much like many other agencies as well as the county, have been grappling to formulate a budget without knowing what the state budget will be. The North Carolina General Assembly has yet to pass a full budget for the last fiscal year, much less the upcoming one.

Hurricane Baseball

Pamlico Bows Out in 2nd Round

by: Hiram Lupton

The North Carolina High School Athletic Association’s state baseball playoffs got underway last week, and the Hurricanes of Pamlico County High School drew a #12 seed and hosted a 1st round game on Tuesday against #21 Roxboro Community School. This turned into an exceptionally well played game by both teams. Pamlico struck first in their half of the opening inning. Cam Daniels singled and came home when Ross McLamb tripled to the base of the fence. McLamb then scored on a wild pitch and just like that it was 2-0. Roxboro got one of those runs back in the very next inning, to make it 2-1. The Hurricanes answered with a run in the bottom half of the third when Reid Carey drove home McLamb with his second run of the game to give Pamlico a 3-1 edge. That would be all the scoring as pitching for both teams held the other in check. Starter Ayden Broughton went 4.2 innings to get the win before giving way to Jeremiah Mitchell who blanked the Bulldogs for the final 2 innings to earn the save and preserve the 3-1 win. With the win, Pamlico got the privilege to hit the road on Friday and take on the #5 seeded Perquimans Pirates in a battle of black and gold. The Pirates set the tone by scoring in the first inning and never looked back, breaking the game open in the fourth inning by tacking on six runs. The Pamlico offense could never get going against Perquimans starter Mason Roberts who only allowed 2 hits and a single walk in the Pirates 10-0 win. Pamlico finishes the season with a winning record at 14-11 and a second-place finish in the Coastal Plains Conference with a 7-3 record. A good season Hurricanes and with only two seniors leaving, there is much to look forward to.



Ross McLamb slams a triple driving in a run against Roxboro.



Catcher Brady Caccavaro

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Pamlico Softball

Hurricanes Get Playoff Road Win

by: Hiram Lupton

The state high school softball playoffs are in full swing and last week, the Lady ‘Canes of Pamlico County High School were in action. Pamlico received a #10 seed and a first-round bye. Somewhat ironically, they did not get to host a game, instead traveling to #6 Warren County for a second-round matchup on Friday. When you are a lower seeded team on the road, you must take advantage of every opportunity and Pamlico did just that. Eagles pitching issued nine walks and also hit a batter. Add in Warren County defense committing seven errors and it all equaled out to a second round upset win for Pamlico, 10-2. Next up for the Lady ‘Canes is a visit to Perquimans to take on the #3 seeded Pirates this Tuesday.



Catcher Sarah Scott



Coach Donnie Richards

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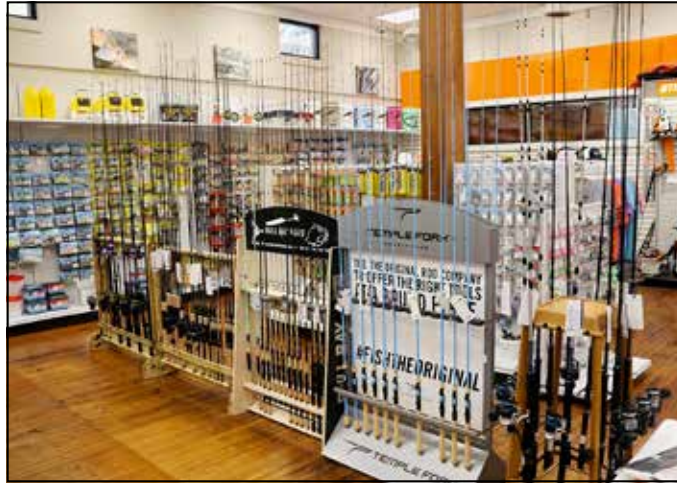
Continued from page A1

3 Rivers Outdoor Company Keeping it in the Family, Keeping it in the County



Wanda and Chuck Forrest

the same things that made Forrest Farm Supply a 'Farm Supply,' from seed to fertilizer. What we have added is a full line of recreational fishing supplies and gear from rods and reels to tackle as well as live bait. We felt that it was something that was lacking in the area." As far as competing with big box stores that carry similar items, Chris said customer service is the key. "We have people here that know fishing and can give advice on the right tackle and the best places to go depending on what you are hoping to catch. We can also hook you up with some of the best guide services in our area." Davis also mentioned that many of the items you used to see on the sales floor may still be available. "Just ask, we may have it in the back or can order it." While the new name is on the sign and new items are already on the sales floor, 3 Rivers Outdoor Company did not have a grand opening. They will be taking care of that this Saturday, May 16th. There will be plenty of specials and giveaways as well as promotional pricing on Bobcat mowers. Stop by and check them out. As far as Chuck goes, he is staying busy in retirement. "I'm enjoying my grandkids. Between ballgames and ball practice, I'm busier now than when I was at the store full time."



Storytime at the Stables

by: Hiram Lupton

There was a great turnout last Saturday at the Horses of Pamlico, etc. (HOPE), Storytime at the Stables event. Visitors got to meet some of the horses currently living at the HOPE ranch on Moore's Swamp Road in Reelsboro and were treated to an original story about some of HOPE's equine residents read by Miss Elizabeth. There were also plenty of other fun activities for young and old alike along with food and refreshments. HOPE is a non-profit animal rescue organization based right here in Pamlico County. As their name implies, horses may be an emphasis, but they strive to rescue and rehabilitate any animal in need. The goal is always to have these animals adopted into a loving caring home, but many become permanent residents due to age and health. HOPE is always seeking animal loving volunteers to help out at the stables. As you may guess, caring for these animals can be an expensive undertaking so donations are always welcomed. They are located at 135 Moore's Swamp Road, New Bern, NC. You can contact them by email at horsesofpamlico@outlook.com or by phone at 252-474-7838. Check out their Facebook page or website, horsesofpamlico.com for more information. This is a great time to remind everyone that on Saturday, June 6th, HOPE will be hosting a horse fun show at the Pamlico County Horseman's Association's riding arena in Arapahoe. There will be lots of fun equine games and all proceeds go to benefit this fine organization. Free for all spectators.



HOPE Volunteer Stephen Crabbe introduces "Big" to some young visitors.



Storytime with HOPE volunteer Miss Elizabeth



"Twisted" loves a chin scratch.



HOPE is always seeking animal loving volunteers to help out at the stables.

Pamlico Athletes Headed to State Championships

by: Hiram Lupton

The North Carolina High School 2A Eastern Regional Track and Field Championships were held in Bayboro last Saturday and Pamlico County High School was 1 of 19 schools competing. A top four finish would earn an athlete an invitation to the state championships to be held on Wednesday in Greensboro and the Hurricanes will be well represented. For the boys, Pamlico is sending six athletes with four of them making up the first place 4X800 relay team. The relay team is made up of two sophomores and two freshmen and broke their own school record, running an 8:44.87.

- 3200-Meter Run – Edgar Muro – 3rd
- Shot Put – Jordan Pratt – 3rd
- 4X800-Meter Relay Team (Edgar Muro, Tucker Carey, Mason Foreman, Kavion Jones) – 1st
- The girls team will be sending a strong contingent to Greensboro.
- 300-Meter Hurdles – Nya Clark – 1st
- Long Jump – Shaiera Jones – 1st
- Triple Jump – Sydney Whitley-Reese – 1st
- Discus – Aniyah King – 1st
- Shot Put – Aniyah King – 2nd
- Discus – Madison Anderson – 2nd
- High Jump – Gia Daye – 2nd
- 400-Meter Dash – Bella-Ann Schulz – 3rd
- 100-Meter Dash – Sydney Whitley-Reese – 4th
- 200-Meter Dash – Alex Duran – 4th
- Shot Put – Donovanica Dawson – 4th
- 4X200-Meter Relay (Bella-Ann Schulz, Shaiera Jones, Alex Duran, Nya Clark) – 1st
- 4X100-Meter Relay (Sydney Whitley-Reese, Alex Duran, Shaiera Jones, Nya Clark) – 2nd
- 4X400-Meter Relay (Sydney Whitley-Reese, Shaiera Jones, Bella-Ann Schulz, Nya Clark) – 2nd
- 4X800-Meter Relay (Bella-Ann Schulz, Gia Daye, Jessica Pichardo, Ruby Rohrman) – 3rd
- Overall, the team amassed enough points to earn the Eastern Regional Runner-up Trophy. Also, the 4X800-Meter relay team now holds the school record as they ran 11:14.03. Congratulations to all and best of luck at the State Championships.



Both the boys and girls 4X800-Meter relay teams now hold the school record in the event.

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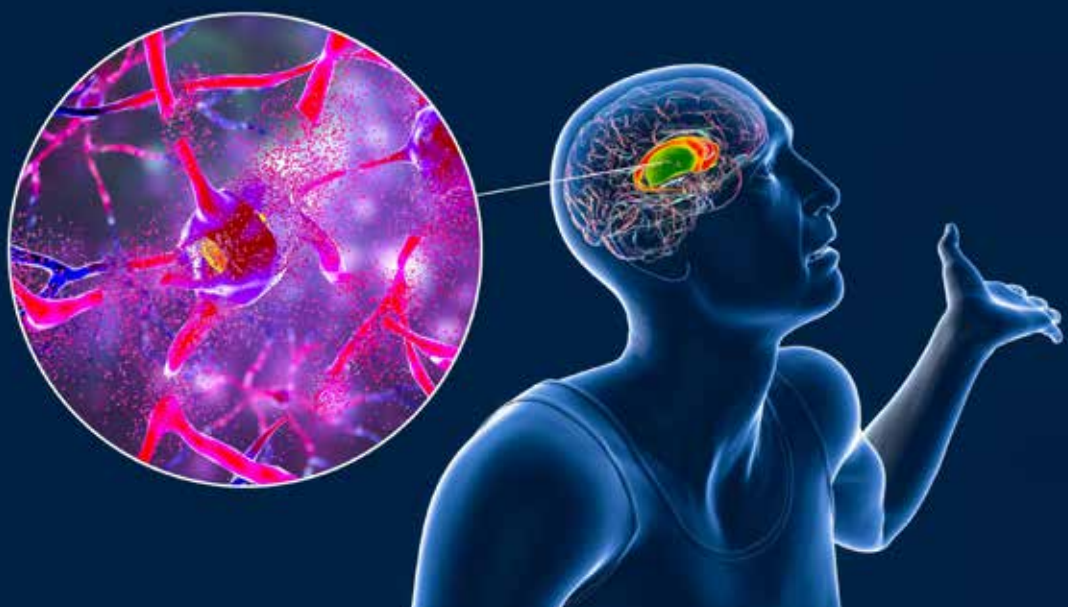
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Health & Wellness

HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE Awareness Month – May 2026



Huntington Disease Awareness Month is celebrated in May every year. Huntington’s disease (H.D.) is a genetic disorder that has no cure. It causes a progressive breakdown of nerve cells in the brain leading to the deterioration of a person’s physical, mental, and emotional abilities. Every month is an important time to raise awareness about Huntington’s disease but each May, there is a focus and concentrated effort to educate people, break down stigma, support and bring hope to people with H.D. and their families. During May, buildings, monuments, and statues are usually lit up in blue and purple, blue to raise awareness of Huntington’s disease, and purple for juvenile Huntington’s. Patients, caregivers, families, and friends nationwide are organizing fundraisers, planting virtual flowers, lighting landmarks blue and purple, taking hikes, flooding social media, and sharing stories about H.D. It is all intended to heighten awareness among the general public and draw the attention of policymakers, public authorities, scientists, health professionals, and industry representatives.

History of Huntington's Disease Awareness Month

Huntington Disease Awareness Month in May is sponsored by the Huntington’s Disease Society of America. It is a nonprofit organization and the world’s leader in improving the lives of people living with H.D. Through community services, education, advocacy, and research, they provide help and bring hope to people with H.D. and their families. Initiated by the Huntington’s Society of Canada, over the years, May has become an international Huntington’s Disease Awareness Month. Huntington’s disease is a rare, progressive, inherited brain disorder that causes uncontrolled movements like jerking or twitching, emotional problems, and loss of thinking ability (cognition). The disease causes brain cells called neurons to die in various areas of the brain, including those that help to control voluntary and intentional movement. The disease is named after George Huntington, who described it among residents of East Hampton, Long Island in 1872. In 1993, a collaborative group of investigators discovered the gene that causes H.D. With this discovery, it is now possible to diagnose H.D. with blood or tissue samples. While some people are born with the mutated gene for H.D., in most cases, they will not develop the symptoms until later in life. Therefore, someone can be without H.D. or pre-symptomatic for several years. The initial signs of this disorder may be subtle. It is characterized by a movement disorder, dementia and psychiatric disturbances, personality changes, weight loss, difficulty swallowing and hard-to-understand speech are additional characteristics of H.D. One of the initial ways to raise awareness for Huntington’s Disease was the #LightItUp4HD Campaign, where landmarks and monuments across Canada were lit in blue and purple. Blue for H.D. and purple for Juvenile H.D. Huntington Disease Awareness Month is a time to raise awareness of Huntington’s with the wider public.

FACTS ABOUT HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE

- It is a very rare disorder
- Huntington’s disease affects three to seven per every 100,000 people of European ancestry.
- It is hereditary
- Every child of a parent with H.D. has a 50/50 chance of carrying the faulty gene.

Types of arthritis and what’s behind each

Arthritis affects people all over the world. Approximately 53.2 million adults in the United States have doctor-diagnosed arthritis, says the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. But many more suffer in undiagnosed silence. Globally, nearly 300 million people may live with arthritis.



Arthritis can range from mild to debilitating and stem from a variety of causes. Understanding what’s behind arthritis can help people get the treatment they need. Here are the major types of arthritis and their causes.

- **Osteoarthritis:** Osteoarthritis is the most common form of arthritis, says the Cleveland Clinic. It forms as the result of wear-and-tear on cartilage, which breaks down over time. Aging, repetitive movements or previous joint injuries can cause osteoarthritis.
 - **Gout:** Gout is a metabolic condition caused by the buildup of uric acid crystals in the joints. The Mayo Clinic says the buildup occurs when the kidneys cannot filter the uric acid effectively or when the body produces too much. Pain, swelling and tenderness can occur in the joints, often in the big toe.
 - **Autoimmune:** Some forms of arthritis are autoimmune in nature, meaning that the immune system mistakenly attacks the joints. This occurs with rheumatoid arthritis and psoriatic arthritis, according to Penn Medicine.
 - **Infection/injury:** Sometimes viral or bacterial infections or acute joint injuries can trigger arthritis, says the Cleveland Clinic.
- Certain risk factors elevate the chances of developing arthritis. Risk elevates as joints age and wear down, so older adults are more likely to experience arthritis. Carrying extra weight puts pressure on joints like the knees, so those who are overweight are more likely to get arthritis. Genetics can make a person more vulnerable to diseases like rheumatoid arthritis, and women are more likely to develop it.
- There are various treatments for arthritis, and anyone in pain can work with a doctor to make lifestyle changes that can alleviate symptoms and help them live fuller lives.

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to capture the spirit of North Carolina through your lens.

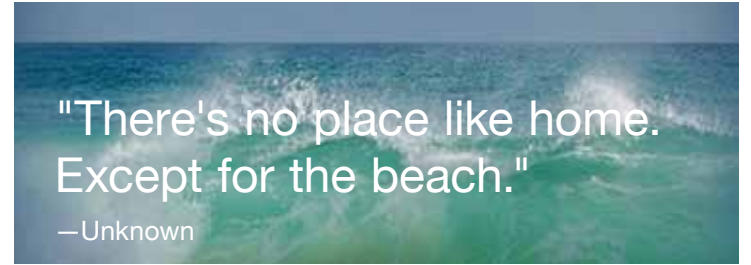
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Pamlico County Library – Alliance, NC

Get your camera ready and submit your best work. Register now and be part of this exciting statewide exhibition.

For full rules, categories, and registration:

www.pamlicoarts.org/focusnc



How to beat the travel crowds this Memorial Day weekend



Summer travel figures to pick up as the world returns to relative normalcy after two-plus years of living under the cloud of COVID-19. Memorial Day weekend marks the unofficial beginning of summer, and this year the roads figure to be as busy as ever.

Data from AAA Travel indicated that more than 37 million people expected to travel 50 miles or more over Memorial Day weekend in 2021. That figure is likely to grow in 2022 as millions more individuals, including young children, are now eligible to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

Travelers concerned about the prospect of sitting in traffic jams this Memorial Day weekend can heed these tips to ensure their weekends are more fun than frustrating.

- Avoid peak travel times. The easiest way to find yourself stuck in Memorial Day traffic is to hit the road during peak travel times. Many people have embraced the "leave early" trend to holiday weekend travel, so the roads may be busier than drivers would expect on Thursday afternoon and evening. If it's possible,

drivers can hit the road prior to 3 p.m. Thursday. If work and kids' school schedules make that impossible, delay your departure until late Thursday night or before the sun rises on Friday morning. Late at night or very early in the morning might not make for the most accommodating travel time, but roads tend to be the least congested at these times.

- Expect the trip to take longer than planned. Delays are possible, if unlikely, even if you travel during off-peak hours. Recognition of that can make traffic jams or flight delays a little easier to manage. Parents can prepare kids for delays by letting them know in advance that some setbacks are possible. Build expected delays into your itinerary so you aren't stressing out about missing anything. If travelers luck out and experience no delays, then the weekend begins that much sooner.

- Do your part. If you're traveling by air, confirm everything you'll need to get through security and onto the plane as quickly as possible. Make sure passports and other forms of identification are current. Pack bags wisely so there are no surprises at check-in time. The more details you tend to in advance of your departure, the less stressful your travel day will be.

- Consider a local destination. Another way to beat the crowds is to avoid joining them. The National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration estimates that roughly 40 percent of the American population lives in coastal communities. That means more than 120 million Americans can drive to coastal areas without having to traverse potentially congested highways and interstates. Stay local for busy travel weekends like Memorial Day and reserve longer trips for other times of the year when fewer people are on the road.

Memorial Day travel is historically heavy. Savvy vacationers can employ various strategies to avoid the crowds this year.

Historical Society Presents Harriet Marks & John R. and Alice Land Taylor Scholarships to New Bern High School Senior

Sega Bagayoko-Diawara Receives Four Year Scholarships

NEW BERN, N.C. The New Bern Historical Society is pleased to announce the Harriett Marks & John R. and Alice Land Taylor Scholarships for 2026 have been awarded to New Bern High School senior Sega Bagayoko-Diawara. Sega was selected from among a group of highly talented and deserving applicants. He is the son of Fatou Diop and Abdoulaye Bagayoko.

Sega demonstrated academic and athletic excellence throughout his high school career. He achieved the Principal's List & Honor Roll, was a member of the National Honor Society, and served as Junior and Senior Class President of the Student Government Association. Sega also played for the Varsity Soccer Team for four years, serving as team Captain, and was awarded a Conference Medal for Indoor Track Triple Jump event. Sega plans to attend North Carolina State University in the fall to begin working towards a major in International Studies.

The Marks Scholarship was established in a trust for the estate of Miss Harriett Marks. It was created in 1968 under the terms of the will of Miss Marks as a memorial to the O. Marks family. The Taylor Scholarship, although a separate entity, is designed




New Bern Historical Society Executive Director Anthony Giardino along with Scholarship recipient Sega Bagayoko-Diawara

to complement and supplement the Marks Scholarship. It was created in 2015 and is administered by the North Carolina Community Foundation and sponsored by their grandson to honor the memory of his grandparents. These scholarships are awarded annually based on both scholarship and financial need. The combined funds generated by these scholarships will provide greater financial assistance for the worthy recipient. Both scholarships designate that they be awarded to a senior graduating from New Bern High School and that they contribute to the tuition, board or lodging for the purpose of obtaining higher education at an accredited college, university, or other institution of higher learning. They are renewable for three succeeding years if academic standards are maintained.

The Marks and Taylor Scholarships further the Historical Society's mission "to celebrate and share the history of New Bern and surrounding areas 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 to www.NewBernHistorical.org or www.facebook.com/NewBernHistoricalSociety.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Beginning Wednesday April 22, 2026 through May 20, 2026 The Town Of Oriental Water Department will NOT be using ammonia as part of the disinfection process in its drinking water. The change is required by the federal and state regulations governing the Towns water system.

Using ammonia in the treatment process helps reduce the amount of Trihalomethanes, a disinfection by-product that is formed when water is disinfected with chlorine. The one-month return to chlorine-only disinfecting is not expected to cause significant increase in Trihalomethanes.

The Town of Oriental will also conduct flushing of the distribution system in order to expedite this event. Customers should be aware that there may be a slight discoloration and/or slight chlorine odor of their drinking water.

Please plan to take the steps necessary to ensure that our month long change to chlorine only disinfection during this period does not detrimentally affect your use of the water we provide. We regret any inconvenience or problem this may cause.

Please visit our website, WWW.TOWNOFORIENTAL.COM for more information. If you have any questions or concerns please contact The Town of Oriental, 252-249-0555.

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

INCIDENTS

- April 25, NC Hwy 55, New Bern, misdemeanor crime of domestic violence
- April 25, Bayleaf Rd., New Bern, resisting public officer
- April 26, Keel Rd., Alliance, driving while license revoked, not impaired revoked
- April 27, NC Hwy 55, Grantsboro, stalking
- April 27, Main St., Bayboro, stalking
- April 28, NC Hwy 306 N., Grantsboro, damage to property
- April 28, Neuse Blvd., New Bern, missing person
- April 28, Janiero Rd., Oriental, driving while impaired, possess/consume alcohol passenger of motor vehicle
- April 29, Teaches Cove Rd., Oriental, larceny of property or goods value > \$1,000, larceny of motor vehicle, obtain property by false pretenses
- April 29, NC Hwy 55, New Bern, driving while license revoked not impaired revoked, fictitious plates
- April 29, NC Hwy 306 N., Grantsboro, simple assault
- April 30, Main St., Bayboro, school attendance law violation
- April 30, Chinchilla Dr., Bayboro, misdemeanor crime of domestic violence, lost/stolen medication
- April 30, NC Hwy 306 S., Grantsboro, financial card fraud - misdemeanor
- April 30, Main St., Bayboro, school attendance law violation
- April 30 NC Hwy 55, Grantsboro, larceny of property or goods <= \$1,000
- April 30, Alligator Loop Rd., Stonewall, driving while license revoked not impaired revoked
- May 1, Deep Run Dr., New Bern, speeding, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz.
- May 1, Neuse Dr., Oriental, obtain property by false pretenses
- May 1, Silverbrook Rd., Oriental, injury utility wires/fixture
- May 1, NC Hwy 306 S., Grantsboro, second degree trespass, larceny of property or goods <= \$1,000
- May 3, NC Hwy 55, Grantsboro, found property
- May 3, NC Hwy 55, New Bern, larceny of firearm, financial card theft - take/withhold/use without person's consent, larceny of property or goods <= \$1,000, (2)
- May 3, Sawyer Rd., Alliance, break and enter
- May 3, Florence St., New Bern, exposing a child to a controlled substance
- May 4, New Ditch Farm Rd., Grantsboro, trespass with ATV on private property/waterway
- May 4, Foxwood Trail Rd., New Bern, dangerous animal
- May 4, Main St., Bayboro, disorderly

MERRITT, NC 28556

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Christine Edwards Cahoon, late of Pamlico County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said Estate to present them to the undersigned, whose mailing address is c/o Michael A. Colombo, Colombo Kitchin Attorneys, 1698 E. Arlington Blvd, Greenville, NC 27858 on or before the 29th day of July, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

REPORTS

- conduct
- May 5, NC Hwy 306 N., Grantsboro, simple assault
- May 5, Neuse River Dr., Arapahoe, communicating threats
- May 6, Main St., Bayboro, misdemeanor probation violation (2)

INSPECTIONS

- April 17, Vincent Perry, Oriental, new garage, \$682
- April 20, Beth Frazer, Oriental, remodel, \$467.10; Rod Lee, Bayboro, mechanical, \$50; Shirley Riggs Allen, New Bern, new singlewide, \$235; Mark Geyer, Oriental, new, \$771.44; Valley Ice, Bayboro, mechanical, \$50; Riley Green, New Bern, mechanical, \$200
- April 21, Clifton Paul, Grantsboro, electrical, \$200; Farm Bureau Alliance, Bayboro, elect. transfer switch, \$50; Learn as We Grow, Alliance, fire inspection, \$75; Treweek Construction, Oriental, new residential, \$1,421.46; Eric & Renee Adams, Oriental, CAMA, \$187.84; Valley Ice, Bayboro, electrical 1600 amp service, \$800; Ralph Winkelvoss, New Bern, electrical 200 amp, \$150
- April 22, Susan Henry, Merritt, new house, \$1,914.80
- April 23, Joseph Beasley, Oriental, handicap ramp, \$0; David Blythe, Merritt, piling and deck, \$336.24
- April 24, Brian Baechtle, Oriental, CAMA Minor, \$119; Kenny Riggs, Bayboro, building, \$343.28; Jenny & Becky Fitzgerald, Oriental, mechanical, \$50; Jenine & Daniel King, Grantsboro, steel building, \$165.20; Scott Hansen, Arapahoe, plumbing, \$50; James Tyson/Rivers Edge Campground, Bayboro, electrical, \$600; Hugh Avera, Arapahoe, electrical, \$50
- April 27, David Wellington, Oriental, new residential, \$1,724.32; Alan M. Morisi, Minnesott Beach, detached garage, \$387; Bette M. Hagan Living Trust, Minnesott Beach, new residential, \$2,779.76; Marantha Baptist Church, Grantsboro, addition, \$976.12; Helen Sublette, Oriental, plumbing, \$50; William Hemminger, Merritt, garage, \$424; Jamie Banks, Grantsboro, duct work, \$179.60
- April 28, Compass Rose NC, LLC, Oriental, addition to deck and two ramps, \$191.20; Doug Cross, Arapahoe, new residential, \$1677; Pamlico Consortium, Arapahoe, electrical, \$50; Christopher Howard, Oriental, mechanical, \$100; Carol Baker, Oriental, mechan-

This the 29th day of April, 2026.

Alfred E. Cahoon, Jr.,
Executor of the Estate of
Christine Edwards Cahoon
c/o Michael A. Colombo
Colombo Kitchin Attorneys
1698 E. Arlington Blvd.
Greenville, NC 27858

MICHAEL A. COLOMBO
COLOMBO, KITCHIN, DUNN,
BALL & PORTER, LLP
Attorneys at Law
1698 E. Arlington Blvd.
Greenville, NC 27858

NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE PAMLICO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF WALTON OSWALD WILLIAMS, JR.

File No.: 26E000082-680

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against deceased, are notified to exhibit them to HELENA MAYO, EXECUTOR on or before AUGUST 11, 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 13TH OF MAY 2026

ESTATE OF WALTON OSWALD WILLIAMS, JR.
C/O HELENA MAYO
921 AIRSTRIP RD
BAYBORO, NC 28515

Publish MAY 13, 20, 27 AND JUNE 3, 2026.

- ical, \$200; Curtis Brock, Merritt, electrical, \$50; Lowell & Cecile Stanley, Oriental, new residential, \$2,534.92; Tom & Denise Lewis, Oriental, new residential, \$2,340.60; Danny Ireland, Lowland, electrical power reconnect, \$50
- April 29, James Banks Sr., Grantsboro, foundation repair, \$50; Harold Nagel, Merritt, CAMA Mult., \$1,511.76; Jane Hanley, Arapahoe, remodel, \$200; DOT Right of Way, Grantsboro, electrical misc., \$50; Norris Willis, Bayboro, plumbing, \$50
- April 30, Samantha Dennis, oriental, metal building, \$755
- May 1, Courtney Morrisey, Vandemere, renovations, \$200; Cutter Bay, LLC, Bayboro, electrical, \$500; Camp Seagull, Arapahoe, plan review, \$250; Leslie A. Mead, Oriental, deck, \$73.20; Lucky 32 LLC, Hobucken, electrical, \$118; Shelby Williford, Merritt, electrical, \$94.80
- May 4, David Crawford, New Bern, demo, \$0; Sunset Shores Dock Owners, Merritt, electrical, \$150; John R. Norton, Grantsboro, electrical, \$200; Arlington Place POA, Minnesott Beach, electrical, \$50; John Snipes, Vandemere, electrical, \$380
- May 5, Tom Lachman, Oriental, electrical 200 amp service, \$150; David Wise, Oriental, CAMA Minor, \$119; Whorton Rentals, Bayboro, change out, \$100; James Brinkley, Merritt, mechanical, \$100
- May 6, Jim Fenton, Arapahoe, mechanical, \$150; Shelley Midgette, New Bern, mechanical, \$200; Ariana Chevez, New Bern, electrical, \$100; Albion Beverage, electrical, \$100; Todd McFadden, Grantsboro, electrical 200 amp, \$242; John & Kaitlyn Spain, Stonewall, new residential, \$1,271.32; Larkin Creech, Arapahoe, electrical, \$50
- May 7, Robert Taylor, Merritt, electrical, 200 amp, \$150; Al Spruill, Oriental, electrical, \$150
- May 8, Brantley's Restaurant, Oriental, mechanical - duct work, \$428; Arapahoe Volunteer Fire Department, Arapahoe, mechanical - change out, \$100

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

- Oct. 30, 24E225; 1/2 AC Lot 3 Gloria C. Fentress Property from Anita Denise Riche, Anita Denise Riche/Admr, James Ashe/EST to Vets Buy Houses NC LLC, \$96
- Oct. 30, Sea Harbour Marina Boat Slip 75 & Und Int Common Areas CB 1/71 from John G. Schwab, Beth A. Schwab to John
- G. Schwab/TR, John Schwab, Beth A. Schwab/TR, Beth Schwab, John and Beth Schwab Revocable Trust, \$0
- Oct. 30, Sea Vista, Pierce Creek Area Lot: 5 Addition V, MB 11/55; Map Attached from Cherie L. Beacham to John Edward Findley, \$152
- Oct. 31, Shine Landing Lot: 56 PCA 133-7, Shine Landing Boat Slip 2 PCA 136-9, PIN H092-6-56 & H092-6-32-2SL from Gokce Capital LLC to Kelly Fish, Jeffrey Fish, \$36
- Oct. 31, PIN L05-62: 0.52 AC, 22,432 Sq Ft Lot Meekins Rd Bayboro, Map Attached from Penney Leigh Lewis to Tranquilo, LLC, \$250
- Oct. 31, Connor Lot: 13 Section 2 Map in DB 356/575 Life Estate from James Adam Tripp, Dianna Tripp to Dianna Tripp, Brianna Hagmaier, \$0
- Oct. 31, Forestshore Estates Lot: 10 PCA 38-4; Map in DB 321/400 PIN K07-6-10 from Louanna O. Heuhsen/TR, Louanna O. Heuhsen Trust, Louanna O. Heuhsen to Brian A. Taylor, Jenny A. Taylor, \$1,350
- Oct. 31, 1/2 AC Lot 3 Gloria C. Fentress Property; Map in DB 221/49 from Vets Buy Houses NC LLC to Lawrence John DiNisio, Jr., Anna Marie DiNisio, \$104
- Oct. 31, 1.45 AC Map DB627/314 from Jackie Farrell Ireland, Jr./TR, Pamela Prescott Ireland/TR, Ireland Living Trust to Carla I. Spencer, \$400
- Nov. 3, Quitclaim Deed; PIN J082-208; 0.123 AC Academy St Oriental Map DB 423/693 from Lisa Marie Blinn, Clayton Stephen Blinn to Clayton Stephen Blinn, Lisa Marie Blinn, \$0
- Nov. 3, 4.31 AC Map DB 315/648 from William D. Harmer, III to Minh Man Le, Hoa Thi Tran, \$170
- Nov. 3, Life Estate; Property in DB 147/353 from Ameesha Jones to Bernadette Armond, \$0
- Nov. 3, 10.16 AC Tract 1A PCB 17-10 from Abbie Jo Hodges, Abbie Hodges to Abbie Jo Hodges, Cole Spain, \$0
- Nov. 4, PIN H031-49; 7/10 AC SE/S Hwy 304; Commissioner's Deed from Mark D. Bardill/COMR, Hilda Brown Smith, Hazel Jones Brown, U.S. Bank National Association/TR, C-Bass Mortgage Loan Asset-Backed Certificates 2006-RP2, Pamlico County to Ahanna N. Garrison, Matthew R. Garrison, \$19
- Nov. 4, Camp Creek Lot: 10 PCA 171-2 from Brown Pelican Construction, LLC to Leslie A. Mead, \$680

HELP WANTED

Laborer needed, pick up and put down. Follow instructions, weed whack. Paying cash daily. Semi-retired, part time ok.
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AROUND THE COUNTY

Whortonsville Reba Tiller, *Correspondent*



Happy Mothers' Day although it is almost over as I sit here writing. Russ came over and cooked breakfast for me. I missed church again because of my bad leg. Our lunch bunch consist of Suzi and Kevin, Maura and Melydia, Dennis and Sarah, Ken and Rhea, Marsha and me. Elizabeth came over and helped me set up yesterday. Couldn't do anything without my great neighbors. Kevin and Suzi, Russ and Jeanna went to the Hope Gala last night at River Dunes and had a ball. I wanted to go but my bad leg kept me from going anywhere. I also missed the Florence-

Whortonsville community activities. Jean Martin received the Firefighters award his year. Jean does it all. She is a Firefighter, EMT, a member of the Board of Directors, and is the Department Secretary and Treasury. Congratulations to the Middle School and High School who received Superior under the direction of James Durham in competition at Busch Gardens in Virginia. This is the eighth time they have won a Superior rating.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK—KEEP REMEMBERING WHAT A WONDERFUL COUNTRY WE LIVE IN

Aurora Joy McCracken, *Correspondent*



Bee Diary:
The first cohort has hatched and traffic is robust coming and going. Something I hadn't planned on has occurred: a male Summer Tanager (which I've never seen, just heard for years in the trees, but have seen the female at the feeder) has discovered the hive and dines on them. He will go to the bee entrance, snatch up someone, take it to the roof of the hive and slam it around until the stinger is dislodged. They are known as 'bee-birds'. In my photo you can see the remains of previous victims. His newfound food mart has made him cheeky where he will now sing after he eats. Supposedly the overall operation of the hive shouldn't be affected.

A Thrasher is back in the yard visiting the birdbath. There's been a resurgence of butterflies after not seeing any for a couple of weeks.

When I was at the Bonner's attending to Yard of the Month I looked across the street and saw Denise opening the library and called out to her "Hey Denise!" She called back. I love living in a town where you can converse with folks like that.

Travis and Tina Manley are now the proud owners of Frank and Shirley's. Their hamburgers are out of this world. And it looks like Wayside is going to reopen again soon. There is new and impressive signage.



Pamlico Betty Jo Rodgers, *Correspondent*



Mother's Day was May 10th, and Stonewall Methodist Church had 67 in attendance, many were mothers who had their children with them. Each woman received a measuring cup full of goodies. Stonewall will celebrate their 232nd Homecoming on May 17th. Everyone is invited to attend.

It rained again in Pamlico this week! We have been in a moderate drought, but it is a little better now. The burn ban has been lifted in 81 counties in the state. The corn on the farm is looking good, but that also means when it is higher, I have to be very careful pulling onto Straight Road from my driveway.

The bald eagles fishing the creek behind our house are beautiful. We see a lot of cardinals and other birds in the yard. Roy even saw a unique hummingbird on his feeder that had an entire dull yellow belly. We seem to have a lot of squirrels this year and still see deer, opossum, and turkeys occasionally. We have our own little wildlife preserve here on the farm.

The two houses at the intersection of Trent Road and Straight Road appear to be nearing completion. We also noticed a new

address posted on Trent Road and we may be getting more new neighbors.

The Pamlico County High School Track Team broke their own school record again and will be competing at the state level. Kudos to Pamlico County Primary School for their great improvement in reading.

Those celebrating birthdays in May include Dale Alvin Belvin (5/14), Vanessa Cole May (5/15), Greg Jones (5/16), Karen Moore Horton, Wanda Miller, Chase Carey, and Mackenzie Carey (5/17), Benjamin Alexander and Vance Henries (5/18), Jermaine Smith (5/19), Zachary Rodgers and Shannon Lee Wing (5/20), Dennis Stokes (5/25), Johnny Bishop, Bailey Smith, and Lakisha H. Smith (5/26), Mike Roach (5/27), Bonnie Kedjerski and Suzie Rodgers (5/30).

Celebrating Anniversaries in May are Larry and Sharon Gibbs (5/15), and Timothy and Veronica Jones (5/30).

Have a blessed week. Overwhelmed? Take Spiritual Vitamin O. "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:21).

Grantsboro Jeff Roberts, *Correspondent*



Good morning, good afternoon and good evening. I hope all is well with each and everyone of you that tunes in to my lil section. This past weekend was Mother's day and thought I would share about that today.

Mother's Day looks different depending on the house you walk into. For some, it is crowded tables, laughter, and family gathered together. For others, it is quieter. It may be a phone call, a visit to a grave, or simply sitting with memories of the woman who once held everything together without anyone fully realizing just how much she carried.

Somewhere along the way, many of us started believing holidays had to be grand to matter. Big meals, expensive gifts, packed schedules, and picture-perfect moments became the standard we measured them by. But the older I get, the more I realize the true meaning of Mother's Day has never really been found in the large celebrations.

This year, my wife wanted to spend Mother's Day fishing. No big plans. No crowded restaurant. Just time together beside the water. As the years go by, I find myself appreciating those simple moments more than ever. A quiet conversation, a shared laugh, watching the sunset settle across the water; those are the moments that stay with

us long after the day itself has passed. We enjoyed time together on the water, both of us find a lot of joy in nature.

After church, I stopped by my mom's grave. Her grave sits beside Amity church, and I carried fresh roses that I had cut from the rose bushes at home. My mom loved roses, but she never cared much for bouquets in a vase. Every Mother's Day, she always wanted another rose bush instead. Something she could plant, nurture, and watch bloom year after year. Standing there yesterday, holding those roses in my hand, I realized how much of life continues through the small traditions we carry forward.

This year also marked my daughter Raven's very first Mother's Day with two kids. Watching your child become a parent themselves has a way of changing your perspective. You begin to understand even more clearly how quickly life moves and how important it is to cherish the little things while they are still here a hug, a kind word, time spent together, or simply letting someone know they are loved. I let her know how very proud I am of the mom she has turned out to be.

In the end, Mother's Day is not really about large celebrations at all. It is about presence. It is about appreciating the people who shape our lives in quiet ways every single day. The older I get, the more I realize Mother's Day was never really about large celebrations.

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS

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PAMLICO COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

There's something about senior year traditions that turns an ordinary school year into the school year students remember forever. Long after graduation caps are packed away and hallways change with new faces, it's the traditions that stay with people - the moments that feel like a final chapter and a beginning - or as their senior yearbook theme states, End of an Era, Start of an Age.

At Pamlico County High School, senior traditions have become more than just events on a calendar. They are milestones that connect generations of Hurricanes.

For many seniors, the year begins with one of the most symbolic moments: cap and gown photos. Whether taken on the football field, in front of the school, or standing beneath familiar hallways and brick walls, the photos capture more than a graduation outfit. They freeze a moment in time. This year's senior class, especially, understands the meaning behind those images as one of the final groups to graduate from the historic PCHS building that has stood since 1952.

As the year continues, traditions become a little louder and a little more emotional.



Another tradition that continues to grow in meaning is the Senior Walkthrough. Dressed in caps and gowns, graduating seniors walk the halls of the schools they once attended as younger students. Teachers line the hallways clapping, younger students cheer them on, and families often become emotional watching the moment unfold.

For the younger students watching, it becomes something else entirely: a glimpse of what's possible.

That may be the real purpose behind all these traditions. Yes, they're fun. Yes, they make for good photos and funny stories. But they also create connection. They remind students that high school is more than assignments, tests, and deadlines. It's friendships, memories, and moments that quietly become part of who you are.



Senior Sunset has quickly become a favorite tradition among students. As the sun dips below the horizon, seniors gather together to reflect on friendships, memories, and the reality that their final days of high school are approaching fast. They also celebrate their next steps, as they announce whether June will find them entering the workforce with more intention, joining the military or preparing for higher education. It's one of the rare moments when students slow down long enough to realize they're living through something they'll someday miss.

And at Pamlico County High School, those traditions carry a little extra weight this year. Because while the building itself may eventually change, the traditions - the sunsets, the laughter, the walkthroughs, the photos, the memories - will continue long after these seniors cross the stage.



One Last Walk
PAMLICO COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Join us as we open the doors one final time to the place where generations learned, grew, and became who they are today.

Walk the halls. Share the memories. Say goodbye—together.

Sunday, May 31st
2:00 – 4:00 PM

Pamlico County Schools invites alumni, families, and community members to come together for One Last Walk through PCHS - an opportunity to revisit the halls, share memories, and say thank you to a place that has meant so much to so many.

Join us as we celebrate the moments, the milestones, and the legacy before we close this chapter together.

Sunday, May 31st
2-4pm

We look forward to seeing you and truly appreciate your understanding as we navigate construction and demolition timelines to give our community one last chance to walk these halls. Please share this information so that we may reach as many alumni as possible.

Members of the current yearbook staff will be available on site during the walk through so that you may purchase the 25-26 yearbook - the last yearbook to feature these halls. It will also contain some throwback photos of previous years, the pages of the classes who purchased an ad and a history of Pamlico County High School.

Previous years' yearbooks will also be available for sale.

A later date will be given for a final walk through of the middle school.



Of course, no senior year would feel complete without the legendary senior prank.

While pranks may vary from year to year, the tradition itself has become part of the fun of being a senior. The best pranks are the ones that bring laughter, creativity, and harmless chaos. This year, you may have noticed a group of students "camping out" in the senior parking lot at the high school. They gathered together with tents, sleeping bags and even a grill to add another memory and more laughter to their senior year.



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PCMS SkillsUSA Year End Ceremony

by: Hiram Lupton

SkillsUSA is a national organization that helps students build leadership, teamwork, and career skills through fun activities and competitions as it prepares students for success in their future jobs and communities. In just five years, it has become one of the most popular organizations in Pamlico County Schools, with chapters in both the Middle School and High School. Last Monday, the middle school chapter held their 5th annual year end ceremony where it looked back at the events its members participated in, both locally, regionally, and nationally. This included the Chapter being awarded the Gold Chapter of Distinction. There was also a change in student leadership, with the 2025-26 outgoing officers announcing the new officers for the upcoming 2026-27 school year.



The Prestigious Gold Chapter of Distinction.

The outgoing chapter officers are:

- Ciarrah Carawan – Madam Ambassador
- Taquan Scott, Jr. – President
- Morgan Blaebaum – Vice President
- Mya Hopkins – Secretary
- Antonio Carmon – Treasurer
- Allison Buck – Parliamentarian
- Wyatt Gearey – Lead Reporter

Students who will be assuming leadership roles for 2026-27 are:

- Cadence Williams
- Bailey Benton
- Sophia Golden
- Levi McCullough
- Abigail Hook
- Wyatt Gearey
- Zayah Minor

Congratulations on another outstanding year to all the PCMS members of SkillsUSA and their advisor Mrs. Sheri Hale. At the State SkillsUSA convention in April, Mrs. Hale was recognized as the 2026 Middle School Advisor of the Year. Well done Mrs. Hale.



PCMS SkillsUSA Advisor Mrs. Sheri Hale



PCMS Principal Zanuavia Minor and the SkillsUSA Officers welcome attendees to the ceremony.

Get Ready for a Dino-mite Summer as we Unearth a Story!

Our Summer Reading Challenge is almost here! We're so excited to Unearth a Story with reading prizes and special events all summer long! This program is open to all ages, with rewards for children, teen and adult readers. Each of our library branches will also have programming for all ages as we take a trip back in time, exploring archaeology, geology, genealogy and more!



Mark your calendars for May 18, when you can register for the reading portion of our Summer Reading Challenge and get started on your reading logs. Reading logs can be turned in for prizes any time before July 31.

Special programs will begin June 1, so keep an eye on your emails and follow us on Facebook and Instagram as we roll out announcements for every age and interest!

PCMS FFA Awards Ceremony

by: Hiram Lupton

The Future Farmers of America (FFA) was founded in 1928 with a mission to prepare future generations for the challenges of feeding a growing population. The group now not only prepares students for careers in many facets of farming including science, business and technology. The Pamlico County Schools have had a rich and active history with FFA chapters in both the Middle School and High School with membership open to any student enrolled in agricultural education. To celebrate another successful year, the Pamlico Middle School Chapter of the Organization held their year end recognition ceremony last Wednesday at the Middle School Gym. The event looked back on the year and recognized the students who participated and placed high in various competitions. The Outstanding Member Award was also presented and this year it was awarded to Kinley Small. The final portion of the program

was devoted to honoring the leadership team from 2025-26 and the installation of officers for the upcoming 2026-27 school year.

The outgoing officers are:

- Sentinel - Jaidan Hochteil
- Reporter - Jackson Sadler
- Treasurer - Isabella Donovan
- Secretary - Antonio Carmon
- Vice President - Tayla Truesdale
- President - Hayley Cauley

The new officers who will be presiding over the chapter next year are:

- Sentinel - Isabelle Simon
- Reporter- Bodie Hammond
- Treasurer - Dawson Jones
- Secretary - Cadence Williams
- Vice president- Lilla Morris
- President - Ayden Trull

Congratulations on an outstanding year.



The 2025-26 PCMS FFA Leadership Team along with Teacher/Advisor Mrs. Jodie Grubbs



The Outstanding Member Award Presented to Kinley Small by Mrs. Grubbs



The New Leadership Team for 2026-27



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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!



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