

Memorial Day

★ May 25, 2026 ★

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The Pamlico News

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Your County News Source Since 1968

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UNearth A Story
SUMMER READING CHALLENGE
Registration is Open NOW!
Visit mycprl.org/src

The Summer Reading Challenge Starts NOW!!!

Dinosaurs have officially taken over the library! Get ready to Unearth a Story this summer with RAWR-some books, science, art and more! It's open for ALL ages (even adults!), with prizes and events tailored to every age group.

Registration is now open for the reading challenge! Simply visit your local library or click here to register online. Free goodie bag with every registration!

Online Registrations: After registering, you will be directed to a page to download and print your reading logs (please note there are two sides!) Online registrations must still stop by the library in order to receive your goodie bag. Reading logs can also be picked up at the library if you do not want to print them at home.

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.

SUMMER READING KICKOFF
with Dana Hill Magic Show

Pamlico County Library
Friday, June 5, 10:30 am
13896 NC-55, Alliance

ACS
2026 Graduates

Pamlico Community College celebrates joyful 2026 Commencement

Pamlico Community College graduates make their way from the Johnson Building to the Delamar Center before last Friday's Commencement ceremony. One hundred twenty-four students in the college's curriculum and Continuing Education programs qualified for recognition this year. Contributed photo

Continued on Page A2



PCHS Seniors Commit to the Military

by: Hiram Lupton



(L to R): Marian Aguilera, Isaiah Rodriguez, Jacob Sawyer, Donny Campbell, Raul Saucedo, Elijah Pauley, Dominic Davis, Zrya Squires, and Krista Balance take the oath of service from Captain Jesse Rodriguez, USMC-Ret.

It was a special day last Wednesday at Pamlico County High School as nine young men and women who will be graduating later this month, signed a commitment to serve our country in the military. Whether it is serving as a military policeman, a heavy equipment mechanic, a nuclear specialist, a cyber security analyst or any one of several jobs, these students will be doing their duty in defense of our coun-

try. Krista Balance, Zrya Squires, and Dominic Davis will Be All They Can Be in the United States Army. Marian Aguilera and Isaiah Rodriguez will be joining The Few, The Proud, the United States Marine Corps. Donny Campbell, Elijah Pauley, Raul Saucedo, and Jacob Sawyer will be Forged by the Sea in America's Navy. These nine were joined by their service

recruiters, family, friends, teachers, and their NJROTC instructors Captain Jesse Rodriguez and Master Chief Petty Officer Dave Matthews for their ceremony. In addition to signing their enlistment papers, they were given the oath of service by Captain Rodriguez. Congratulations to these outstanding young men and women and thank you for choosing to serve our country and protect our freedoms.

AMERICA 250 NC The Edenton Tea Party

by: Hiram Lupton

If you have studied history, and in particular American History concerning the Revolution. You have no doubt heard of the Boston Tea Party which occurred in December of 1773. A large group of patriots, many disguised as Native Americans, boarded a ship in Boston harbor that was loaded with English tea and unceremoniously dumped it into the harbor. This was in response to the passage by the English Parliament of the "Tea Act" which imposed a tax on many British products imported into the colonies. This could be likened in a way to a tariff. Patriots viewed this as taxation without representation since they had no say in the workings and legislation of the British Parliament or the King of England. This was of course an important precursor to the American Revolution which would begin less than two years later. There was also another important protest against the Tea Act, which was initiated



right here in North Carolina, and while it was perhaps not as dramatic as vandalizing a ship load of cargo, it was another very important event leading up to the revolution. In October of 1774, a group of 51 women met in Edenton, North Carolina to make their voice heard in protest.

The group organized by Penelope Baker, pledged their support for the decision made by the North Carolina Provincial Congress to boycott British goods, including tea. Since the women of the colonies were often the primary purchasers of such items as tea and fabric, their support for a boycott would be crucial. The historical significance of what would become known as "The Edenton Tea Party" is that it was the first instance in the colonies of women taking an active role in protesting and defying British rule. This tea party differed from the Boston Tea Party in that it was nonviolent along with the fact that these women did not try to hide their identities but freely signed their own names to the document. Many women across the colonies saw inspiration in the action and joined in boycott by finding substitutes for tea and learning to spin their own cloth. An important event that demonstrated that women had a voice in the American Revolution.



Pamlico Coaches Paul Delamar III and April Rose.

Track & Field State Championships

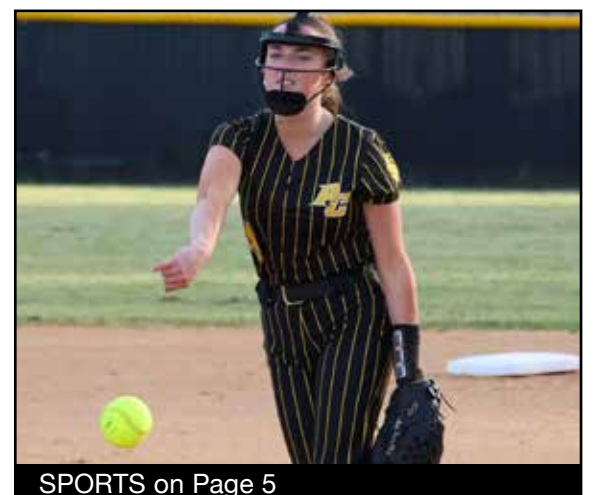
by: Hiram Lupton

The North Carolina High School Athletic Association held their Track & Field State Championships last week at North Carolina A & T State University in Greensboro and Wednesday was 2A day which meant the day for the Hurricanes to compete. The Pamlico ladies finished a very respectable 7th place overall. The Hurricanes managed to snag two top four finishes. The 4X200 meter relay squad finished fourth in their event while Junior Sydney Whitley-Reese captured a silver medal in the triple jump with a school record of 36'-3.5" leap. The boys team sent a small contingent to Greensboro, and their highest finisher was Edgar Muro in the 3200-meter run, while the 4X800 meter relay team finished 9th. At first glance maybe not so noteworthy but considering that the team, which includes Muro, consists entirely of Freshmen and Sophomores, the future looks bright for distance running.

HONOR * REMEMBER * NEVER FORGET
PAMLICO COUNTY MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY
A DAY OF HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE
MONDAY MAY 25, 2026
LOCATION: PAMLICO COUNTY COURTHOUSE
TIME: 10:00 AM
GUEST SPEAKER: COLONEL DOUG DELANCEY, U.S. ARMY RETIRED
ALL ARE WELCOME * COME HONOR OUR HEROES

Memorial Day Ceremony

On Monday, May 25, at 10am, there will be a Memorial Day Ceremony at the Pamlico County Courthouse. The guest speaker will be Colonel Doug DeLancey, U.S. Army Retired. Join us as we Honor and Remember the men and women who made the Ultimate Sacrifice for our freedom. All are Welcome to Honor our Heroes.



SPORTS on Page 5

LIKELY WEATHER OVER THE WEEKEND

Saturday, May 23rd 82° Hi cloudy with scattered showers

Sunday, May 24th 80° Hi cloudy with scattered showers



MAY 27th ISSUE WILL FEATURE THE 2026 GRADUATES



Pamlico Community College

Continued from page A1

Pamlico Community College celebrates joyful 2026 Commencement

By Sandy Wall

Academic goals were accomplished and new adventures were started last Friday evening at Pamlico Community College's 2026 Commencement ceremony at the Delamar Center.

Fifty-six of the 124 students in the college's curriculum and Continuing Education programs who qualified for recognition during the academic year participated in the lively, uplifting ceremony.

"It's a Friday evening, and we're here to do some celebrating," said President Zac Schnell, who was presiding over his second graduation ceremony as the college's top administrator.

Nearly every seat in the Delamar Center's risers was filled with supportive family members and friends, and the graduates appeared to have a great time during the hour-long ceremony.

In all, this year's class earned a combined 202 academic and Continuing Education credentials, including 36 associate degrees, 13 diplomas, 75 certificates and 78 Continuing Education recognitions.

Six high school students received associate degrees.

Pamlico's 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 South Carolina.

In his opening remarks, Schnell compared graduates to trees that survive a hurricane and emerge stronger and more resilient because they develop stress wood and deeper roots.

"They've all been through a storm to be here," he said. "Those things didn't break you. They built you."

Commencement speaker Dr. Robert Ian Bruck, a Distinguished Professor Emeritus from N.C. State University, echoed that theme, saying the graduates should be proud of themselves because only about 50 percent of people who begin academic pursuits complete them.

"That makes you a winner, right from the start," he said.

Bruck, a leader in plant pathology and crop disease management, said community colleges were becoming the backbone of America's higher education system because they teach students valuable skills that the economy needs.

He also told the graduates not to fear the growth of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and to ignore the dire predictions about its potential effects on society.

"Don't be afraid of it. Utilize it," Bruck said, encouraging the attendees to never stop learning.

He went on to urge the graduates to support their communities in their future pursuits, saying, "Make Pamlico Community College proud of what you've accomplished."

Following Bruck's remarks, Vice President of Student Services Jamie D. Gibbs formally presented DeLante' Grant of Bayboro with the college's Academic Excellence Award and its Student of the Year honor.

Grant, who graduated with a certificate in Cosmetology, received a plaque, a medallion and a congratulatory letter

from the state Community College System president.

Gibbs said Grant had demonstrated perseverance and determination to accomplish his goal. He also said Grant reduced his work hours to focus on his studies and overcame several obstacles along the way.

Director of Beauty Arts Programs Shanna Lewis was honored as the college's Alumnus of the Year. Lewis, who is a Virginia native and longtime Esthetics instructor at the college, earned her Cosmetology diploma from Pamlico in 2007.

She assumed her current role following the retirement of former Director/Instructor Debi Fulcher, who led the college's Cosmetology and Esthetics programs for many years. Vice President of Financial Services Lee Tillman presented the award.

Following the award presentations, the graduates were called across the stage one-by-one to receive their credentials and to pose for a photo with Schnell.

PCC Vice President of Instructional Services Neil Callahan announced the names. When all the graduates in attendance had received their respective credentials, Callahan pronounced them graduated and instructed them to turn the tassels on their caps as the audience cheered.

PCC Trustee Ken Heath gave the welcome message at the ceremony, and pianist Paula Murray provided the music.

An outdoor reception with refreshments followed the ceremony.

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



N.C. State University Distinguished Professor Emeritus Dr. Robert Ian Bruck, standing at podium, addresses the graduates and others at Pamlico Community College's Commencement ceremony last Friday. Contributed photo



DeLante' Grant of Bayboro is this year's recipient of the college's Academic Excellence Award and its Student of the Year honor. Contributed photo



Ashli Bryant, left, shows off her dress featuring the handprints of her preschool students. Bryant earned an associate degree and diploma in Early Childhood Education: Birth to Kindergarten. She is joined in the photo by her mother, PCC Registrar LaTanya Bryant. Contributed photo



Hunter Martin, left, of Olympia, poses with Pamlico Community College Electrical Systems Technology Instructor Larry Monk before last Friday's Commencement ceremony. Martin earned an associate degree and diploma in Electrical Systems Technology. Contributed photo

Did you know?

According to the Department of Defense (DOD), the United States Armed Forces had 1.33 million people identified as active troops as of 2025. The DOD reported that an additional 770,118 people were serving in the National Guard or as reserves as of 2025. Active-duty Armed Forces personnel in the United States are spread across six main service branches: the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marine Corps, the Coast Guard, and the Space Force. As of December 2025, the Army had more active-duty troops (447,455) than any other branch of the American military. The Navy (339,602) had the second most active-duty troops, while the Air Force (315,317) was the third largest branch in terms of active-duty troops.





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



Agent of the Week
Gregory Green
Broker
Here's what one of Gregory's customers had to say...

I am writing to say how pleased I was with Gregory. I am so impressed by his performance listing multiple lots and achieving two sales in quick order. His enthusiasm is contagious and is so appreciated by me that I would not hesitate to recommend Gregory to my friends and associates. Gregory – you are a welcome addition to Mariner Realty's staff.

Susan, NJ



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 – 4,000 hsf commercial, fully-insulated. Covered porch opens to reception, conference room & 2 offices. Carrier 2.5 ton heat pump for office area, 2 5-ton HVAC systems for warehouse. Attic, 208 3-Phase 200 amp elec system. Ingersole Rand 200 PSI air compressor. Fabrication equipment does not convey.
OFFERED AT \$ 499,900



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



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



MERRITT – Waterfront **3BR/2BA** with deep water deeded boat slip on Ball Creek. Wide water views, 2.27 acres, 1,919 sf, metal roof, zoned HVAC, & LP Smartside exterior for rot-resistant long-life durability. Gas log fireplace in living room, & Widow's Walk with views of the Pamlico Sound.
OFFERED AT \$ 625,000

See all Listings & Visual Tours at
www.orientalncwaterfront.com
1-800-347-8246 • 252-249-1014
Or contact Allen Propst
252-671-4644
704 Broad St, PO Box 750, Oriental, NC 28571



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

by: Hiram Lupton

- May 20th – Today is National Be a Millionaire Day. A million ain't what it used to be. You can barely get a tank of gas for that.
- May 21st – Today is National Waitstaff Day. Leave a tip
- May 22nd – Today is National Maritime Day.
- May 23rd – Today is Lucky Penny Day. If your name is Penny, I guess this is your day to get lucky.
- May 24th – 1738, The Methodist Church was established.
- May 25th – Today is Memorial Day. Remember those who gave all for their country.
- May 26th – 1959, The word Frisbee became a registered trademark.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

- May 20th – 1946, Singer and Actress Cherilyn LaPierre (Cher)
- May 22nd – 19??, Board of Education member Jaclyn Cowell Jones
- May 23rd – 1958, Comedian and game show host Drew Carey
- May 24th – 1941, Singer/Songwriter Robert Zimmerman (Bob Dylan)
- May 26th – 1907, Actor Marion Morrison (John Wayne)
- May 26th – 1948, Singer/Songwriter Stephanie Nicks (Stevie Nicks)
- May 26th – 19?? Pamlico County Animal Services Officer Berkley Hill
- May 26th – 19??, Teacher and coach, Dwayne "DJ" Lewis



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

For our Founding Fathers freedom of religion was important but they wanted more, they wanted a separation between religion and the government; they wanted not only the freedom to worship as one chooses but to not be obligated financially to support a religion that they didn't believe in nor to have the government affiliated with any particular religion. George Washington felt so strongly about this he was opposed to any religiously affiliated federal holidays, such as Christmas. Christmas only became a federal holiday in 1870, nearly 100 years after our founding.

Today we no longer have this separation that they believed was so important. Today public dollars, tax dollars, are being used to fund religious institutions under the guise of school vouchers. Last year \$675 million dollars of North Carolina tax payer money was funneled to private schools, two thirds of which are religious. Public money is supporting Islamic, Christian and Jewish based education. Often we hear the argument that to be fair, if one gets it, then everyone should, when what separation means is that no one should be getting it.

Public money should be going only to public schools. More than half of North Carolina teachers don't even earn a living wage because of the wage structure for educators. North Carolina ranks 46th in the nation for teacher pay. It would take a raise of 21% just to bring them to the same level as Georgia teachers. We can't put more mandates on public schools than private ones, siphon off millions of dollars, under pay teachers and then complain about the quality of public education. Public education is a public good. Let's restore it by returning to our founding values and restoring separation of church and state.

Melanie Fluharty
Arapahoe, NC

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES



Robert "Bob" Harold Yates, 79, passed away on May 12, 2026, at his home surrounded by his family and faithful companion.

Bob was born in New Bern, NC on July 13, 1946, to the late Harold and Jane Yates and grew up in Beaufort, NC.

He is preceded in death by both parents and younger brother, Charles "Chuck" Yates.

Bob is survived by his wife of 60 years, Sybil Yates of the home; daughter, Dee Lupton (Hiram) of Arapahoe; son, Sean Yates (DoriJo) of New Bern; grandson, Buddy Yates of Wilmington; and granddaughter, Cheyenne Lupton of Carboro. He is also survived by Gretchen, his loyal Dachshund who was his protector and guardian, that will now be lost without him.

As a youth, Bob worked at The Fish Meal Company in Beaufort, NC and Louisiana, shoveling menhaden out of the holds of fishing boats. When he got older, Bob was an attendant at Buster Brite's Gas Station in New Bern, NC. It was during this time he met Sybil. After graduation from New Bern High School in 1964, Bob and Sybil married in 1966. He served our nation in the US Air Force where he was stationed in West Germany, California, and Arkansas. While stationed in Arkansas, he learned how to ride horses in the Ozarks and competed in numerous rodeos on his beloved horse Whiskey. After his service ended, Bob moved the family back to New Bern where he worked at Cherry Point, for over 27 years, until he retired. While working at Cherry Point, Bob heard the Lord's calling to the ministry that led him to become the pastor at Vanceboro First FWB Church. Then he took over the pastoral duties at Mt Zion Original FWB church in Vandemere and became an ordained minister through Mount Olive College. He served the congregation and community for 17 years. His quiet steady presence brought many lifelong friends to know the Lord. His actions always spoke louder than his words. He performed numerous wedding ceremonies as well as funerals for friends and church members. He ministered to the sick as well as celebrated births. Even after his retirement from the ministry, he was often asked to perform many of these services and always said yes until his health no longer allowed. After retiring from Cherry Point, Bob found enjoyment working at Roy's Marine Supply in Alliance where he helped boaters and commercial fishermen find whatever supplies were needed. After Roy's closed, he began work at NAPA in Alliance delivering lawn mowers and helping customers find their way. He enjoyed help-

ing and talking with people from all over the County.

Bob loved piddling in his shop or in a friend's shop just tinkering. In addition to owning several original classic cars such as a 66 Ford Mustang GT, Chevrolet Camaro, and Pontiac GTO, to name a few, he restored a 66 Ford Fairlane 500 with help from many friends. For years, he was a fixture at car shows where he shared his passion for cars with other enthusiasts. Bob was a quiet man who loved to be out on the water, whether it was boating, shrimping, or fishing in the occasional king mackerel tournament. Many Sunday afternoons were spent with friends and family on the Bay River and Vandemere Creek enjoying each other's company and just relaxing.

Bob was proud of his children and grandchildren's many accomplishments. He attended many of their sports activities, band concerts, dance recitals, graduations, and the occasional tea party.

Bob and Sybil enjoyed retirement traveling the country with friends on their Honda Goldwing, including one epic trip to Yellowstone and back. Bob even had several Iron Butt rides to his credit. They were active members of the Palace City Goldwings motorcycle club of New Bern. He served as Chapter Director as well as the Team Captain of their Precision Drill Team as they performed and competed throughout the Southeast. Along with Sybil, they were named Couple of Year representing the chapter at multiple rallies and events. Eventually, they slowed down and got a permanent campsite in Fancy Gap, VA. They spent most of the summers sitting around a campfire, visiting with other couples, enjoying nature, and allowing Bob to get in the occasional afternoon nap on the deck of the camper.

A small service was held at Daniels-Sadler Funeral home in Alliance on Friday, May 15, 2026.

Family received visitors one hour prior to the service.

The family greatly appreciates all the visits, phone calls, and cards over the last few months. We would also like to thank Dr Cho and Dr Miller with the SECU Cancer Center in New Bern, that oversaw his treatment the last few years. We want to express our eternal gratitude to the nursing aides of Trinity Adult & Senior Services of Bayboro and to the nurses and aides of Hospice of Pamlico County for their compassionate care.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests a donation be made to Hospice of Pamlico, PO Box 6, Bayboro, NC 28515 or a charity of your choice.

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

**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/>

TEA has been enjoyed as a beverage for thousands of years and has featured prominently in many cultures during that time. The cultural practice of drinking tea is believed to have originated in ancient China. Although there are many different types of tea, the World Tea Council says black tea is the most consumed tea across the globe, comprising around 75 percent of total tea consumption. The most popular type of black tea is Assam tea, which is grown in India. The second-most widely consumed tea is green tea, which accounts for approximately 20 percent of total tea consumption.



Bibles for Pamlico County Graduates

Thank you for your contribution making bibles available for graduating students of Pamlico County in 2026. Bibles will be distributed to graduates at Arapahoe Charter School, Pamlico Christian Academy, and Pamlico County High School. We are thankful that you believe that the Word of God needs to be in the hands of our graduates, and your contribution has made that possible. Again, we want to say Thank You.
The PCB committee.

- Arapahoe FWB Church (in memory of Robert & Evelyn Miller)
- Bayboro Baptist Church
- Bethel FWB Church
- Carnell Barrow
- Concord Christian Church
- Dublin Grove FWB Church
- First Baptist Church Oriental
- Hobucken Community Church
- Lowland Pentecostal Holiness Church
- Motion Church
- Mt. Zion FWB Church
- Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church
- New Bethlehem FWB Church
- New Life Praise and Worship Ministries
- New Vision Pentecostal Holiness Church
- Oriental FWB Church
- Reelsboro Christian Church
- Reelsboro Pentecostal Holiness Church
- Reverend Betty J. Rodgers
- Rock of Zion FWB Church
- Small's Chapel Christian Church
- St. Marks AME Zion Church
- Stonewall Methodist Church
- Word Fellowship Church

The Pamlico News

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Press Releases, Events, News
editor@thepamliconews.com
Photographer Reporter
hiram@thepamliconews.com
Advertising
frontdesk@thepamliconews.com
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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.

FINANCIAL FOCUS

Help your graduate use credit and debit cards wisely



Dan M. Roberts

As your new graduate prepares to step into the next chapter of life – whether that's more education or starting a career – one of the best things you can do is help them understand how to use credit cards, debit cards and prepaid cards wisely. They can be powerful financial tools, but without some basic knowledge, they can also lead to trouble.

Here are a few things for graduates, whether from high school or graduate school, should know.

Credit cards have benefits — and risks. About 69% of Americans ages 18-29 have at least one credit card, according to the Federal Reserve. They can borrow money up to a set limit, pay it back and borrow again – a cycle known as revolving credit. Used responsibly, credit cards can help build their credit history, cover unexpected expenses and even earn rewards like cash back or travel discounts.

On the cautionary side, if your child or grandchild doesn't pay the full balance each month, interest charges can accumulate quickly. Carrying a high balance relative to the credit limit can hurt their credit score. Perhaps most importantly, it's easy to fall into a debt cycle in which they charge more than they can pay, interest can add up to more than the original purchases cost, and they might even open new cards to cover old ones. It creates a hole that's hard to climb out of.

The key message is simple: pay off the balance monthly, pay on time and treat the card as a convenience, not a lifeline.

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

Debit cards can be a good option. Since debit cards draw directly from a bank account, they naturally limit overspending. But they aren't risk-free. Overdrawing the account can trigger fees, and debit cards generally offer fewer fraud protections than credit cards. Additionally, since you're spending your own money rather than borrowing, debit cards don't help build a credit score. Still, for a young person just starting out, a debit card can be a practical way to manage day-to-day spending.

Prepaid cards can help teach the basics. Money is loaded onto the card before use, and your young adult can only spend what's already on the card. Because of this, there's no risk of debt, no credit history needed and no bills to pay.

Prepaid cards come in several forms. General purpose reloadable cards can be used anywhere cards are accepted. Payroll cards are sometimes used by employers to distribute wages. Gift cards are another option.

The downside is that prepaid cards typically don't help build a credit history, since transactions usually aren't reported to credit bureaus. Some also come with fees for activation, reloading or transactions. These fees can add up, so it pays to read the fine print.

Teaching your graduate the difference between these tools, and how to develop good habits for each, can help them build financial confidence for decades to come.

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.

PUBLIC NOTICE – NOTICE OF INTENT TO DEMOLISH

Notice is hereby given that demolition of Pamlico County High School located at 601 Main Street, Bayboro, NC 28515, will begin on June 8, 2026, until complete.

Demolition by:
Trifecta Services
4501 Preslyn Drive, Raleigh, NC, 27616 (919-985-9257)

Disposal by:
Coastal Environmental Partnership
7400 Old US Hwy. 70 W.
New Bern, NC 28562

State Department Permit: NC38271
NESHAP #: 74791

Questions or Comments May be Addressed to:
Ray Bennett
Pamlico County Building Inspections
252-745-3861
ray.bennett@pamlicocounty.org

"I'm not afraid of death; I just don't want to be there when it happens." – Woody Allen

NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION Pamlico County

An Eggcellent Time at the Coastal Plains Chicken Show



Kait Neeland
4-H Agent

Whoo hooo! The Coastal Plains 4-H Chicken Show has gone on without a hitch! The Coastal Plains what? You might be asking. The Coastal Plains 4-H Chicken Show which is the grand finale of the 4-H Chicken Project (Our Pamlico County FFA Members also participate). Now you might be asking what on earth is a chicken show or a chicken project. A eggcellent time that's what. All puns and silliness aside, the 4-H Chicken Project and the Coastal Plains Chicken show are a month's long program where children learn about chickens, personal responsibility, dedication, communication skills, and record keeping.



Serenity Williams

It starts in the beginning of February when their county 4-H Agent delivers their chicks. The chicks are about a week old and at that time just tiny loud balls of fluff. Our 4-Hers and FFA kids jump straight into caring for their chicks. Chicks that age have to be kept warm, they have to have their feed and water in specific containers to ensure they neither drown or gorge themselves. They also have to be cleaned up after. This is also when kids start working with their birds to get them comfortable around being close to people, held and handled.

Once we had our show moves down it was time to practice for the show. Show day is a lot different than practice. There are a lot of people watching, other kids walking back and forth, and judges we've never met before. Our County Director and Agriculture Agent came in to do a mock show and serve as our judge.

After all our practice it was time to head for the show. Our Pamlico County 4-Hers Serenity Williams, Lilly Gardner-Gody, and Samson Mills!



Lilly Gardner-Gody



Samson Mills

We've had such a great time during this chicken project! I am so proud of all the hard work our 4-Hers have put into their project. Supported by their parents. With out all of their hard work this opportunity would not be available to many of our students! Very much looking forward to next year!

The Coastal Plains Chicken Project and Show is an annual 4-H Event. Registration opens in November. If you would like to sign up for notifications about the 2027 Coastal Plains Chicken Show and other upcoming 4-H Programs check out our Link Tree!

We are very excited for these programs. But we are also looking forward to 4-H Summer Fun! Registration for our 4-H Photography Camp: Destination Bear Island is now open. You can find registration and in for on our website. You will also need to register in 4-H online to complete your registration for any program. You can access the link on our

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

3 challenges facing the agricultural sector

Since the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic in early 2020, businesses big and small have faced significant challenges. Though the pandemic has ended, many sectors, including the agricultural industry, are facing familiar and unfamiliar challenges.

The agricultural sector is crucial to the survival and health of billions of people across the globe. Though it's obvious that modern agriculture is vital to feeding a global population that was greater than eight billion people at the dawn of 2024, the United Nations notes that agriculture also boosts prosperity and economies by providing jobs. That reality only underscores the notion that the challenges facing the agricultural sector are facing everyone, even those whose livelihoods are not directly linked to the industry. According to Earth.org, an organization that offers environmental news, data analysis, research, and policy solutions, the following are three sizable challenges facing modern agriculture.

1. Climate change: Perhaps no challenge is greater for humanity in the twenty-first century than climate change, and the agricultural sector is no exception. Climate change has caused shifting weather patterns marked by unpredictability and potentially disastrous developments like prolonged drought. Estimates from NASA indicate corn yields may decrease by 24 percent by the end of this century, a potentially dangerous development linked to a host of factors, including a shifting climate and elevated surface carbon dioxide concentrations that can be traced to human-caused greenhouse gas emissions.



2. Population growth: The booming global population is attributable to numerous factors, including longer life expectancies in developed nations due to medical advancements. How to keep the global population fed at a time when the climate is adversely affecting crop yields is a significant challenge facing both humanity and the agricultural sector. As the population grows, so, too, does the demand for water, which also must be used to grow crops. Navigating this challenge will be significant, and how it's managed could affect the economic stability of the agricultural industry in the decades to come.

3. Investment: Perhaps no industry is more vital to human survival than agriculture. Earth.org notes that countries with strong agricultural sectors often boast higher standards of living and health than nations with a less productive agricultural industry. Despite that, Earth.org notes that investment in the agricultural sector is not commensurate with the growing population. Supporting measures to invest more heavily in the agricultural sector could reduce food shortages in the decades to come and ensure the agricultural sector is better positioned to address the many challenges it is already confronting in the twenty-first century.

The challenges facing the agricultural sector affect those who work in the industry but also the global population as a whole. Recognition of that reality may compel more people to support measures designed to ensure the agricultural sector can thrive and help the world to overcome potentially devastating challenges in the decades ahead.

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4	\$ 99,000	\$ 8,250	\$ 2,221
5	\$ 116,040	\$ 9,670	\$ 2,603
6	\$ 133,080	\$ 11,090	\$ 2,986
7	\$ 150,120	\$ 12,510	\$ 3,368
8	\$ 162,450	\$ 13,930	\$ 3,750
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2026 Federal Poverty Level Guidelines

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PCHS Scholarship and Academic Honors Night

by: Hiram Lupton

Last Tuesday evening was a night of honors and celebration at Pamlico County High School as they held their annual Scholarship and Academic Honors Night. A big part of the night's ceremony was honoring and recognizing students who have excelled in each and every class taught at PCHS. There were also formal announcements of students who will be busy attending summer sessions at the North Carolina Governor's School and the North Carolina School of Science and Math along with a presentation of sashes to the outstanding members of the Junior class who will be serving as this year's Graduation Marshals. We also had the biggest reason for many to attend this event, the announcements of scholarship award winners. By biggest, I mean big in number of scholarships, and big in dollars awarded to deserving students. Twenty-two different students earned eight-five different scholarships of various amounts. That total amount totaled over \$3.3 million. That's right, I'll say it again \$3.3MILLION! PCHS students received scholarships from many local organizations based right here in Pamlico County and the surrounding area as well as from State and National entities, including many from the institutions of higher learning they will be attending. The amounts of each scholarship varied, from the hundreds of dollars to the hundreds of thousands of dollars, but there is no such thing as a "small" scholarship. When you are a student or parent attempting to pay for higher education, every dollar counts, and every dollar is appreciated. The Pamlico News will have a complete listing of all the scholarships and the worthy students who earned them in our special Graduation Issue available on May 27th.



Catherine Lackey and Lily McGowan each received Goodnight Scholarships from North Carolina State University.



Graduation Marshals. (L to R); Lila Mehring, Wyatt Johnson, Joseph Grose, Cassidy Blough, Caroline Angelo, Brylea Hardison, and Addison Lupton. (not pictured; Kris Ormond, Paul Natalee, and Cate Bennett).



Jacob Sawyer will be attending Jacksonville University on a NJROTC Navy Preparatory Program Scholarship.



Coralene Ellis received a Questbridge College Match Scholarship and will be attending Princeton University.



Jonah Rose received several scholarships including the George Brinson Memorial Scholarship. He is headed to N. C. State University.



Five deserving Seniors received scholarships from the PCHS Class of 1976. Pictured with representatives of the Class of '76 are Jahniva Davis, Mia Felix-Osuna, Moriah Phillips, Mya Klien, Dakota Schmidt.

Hurricane Softball Pamlico Season Ends in Third Round

by: Hiram Lupton

The North Carolina High School Athletic Association's State Softball playoffs will continue without the Hurricanes as Pamlico fell on the road to #3 seeded Perquimans, 5-2. Pamlico got a strong pitching performance from Senior Avery Cain who only allowed 2 hits and 2 walks in the contest. The Hurricane defense couldn't hold however, committing 9 errors. Cain, Sarah Scott and Kylee Morris each had a pair of hits for Pamlico.



Avery Cain

Craven County Partners In Education Announces Plans for PIE Annual Luncheon

More than 500 educators, business leaders, community members, and elected officials will gather at the Riverfront Convention Center of Craven County on Thursday, May 28, 2026, for the highly anticipated PIE Annual Luncheon. This annual event supports and recognizes the dedicated educators of Craven County School System while raising funds to enhance classroom instruction through teacher grants. Since 2015 PIE has awarded an estimated 3.6 million in grants; raised nearly \$550,000 in event sponsorships; and a total of \$424,150 in In-Kind gifts.

Suzanne Gifford, Executive Director of Partners In Education, announced that this year's keynote speaker will be Maurice "Mo" Green, North Carolina State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Doors will open at 11:30 a.m. for seating, with the program beginning at noon. Tickets are \$35 per person, and the event is open to the public. Lunch will be catered by Strange & Sons. Jason Griffin, Craven County Schools Executive Director of Elementary Education and Federal Programs and the 2025 keynote speaker, will emcee the event alongside Don Brinkley, President of the Board of Directors for Partners In Education. Tickets can be purchased from the PIE Ambassadors or online at CravenPartners.com. Organizers encourage early purchases, as this is expected to be another sold-out event.

Don Brinkley emphasized the importance of the event, stating, "The luncheon is an excellent opportunity for our community to support our public-school educators. The event finances PIE Grants, grants awarded to teachers for creative and innovative projects in Craven County School System classrooms. These grants fund materials for technology, science, music, and art projects, along with supplies and books for our students." Mr. Brinkley also proudly announced that PIE awarded 60 classroom grants valued at \$81,000 and secured more than \$153,000 in grant funding to support school initiatives and programs during the 2025-26 school year.

Brandy Popp, Chair of the Fund-Raising Committee, shared her excitement about this year's PIE Annual Luncheon, stating, "We are honored to welcome Superintendent Green as our keynote speaker and share his vision of Achieving Educational Excellence with our community."

Superintendent Green is committed to ensuring that every student in North Carolina's public schools has access to a high-quality education and to creating a brighter future for students, educators, and communities across the state.



With more than 20 years of experience in North Carolina education, Superintendent Green has served as superintendent of Guilford County Schools, the state's third-largest school district; deputy superintendent of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, the state's second-largest school district; executive director of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation that awards grants supporting public education; and as a school board attorney.

A double graduate at Duke University, Superintendent Green earned a bachelor's degree in political science and economics as well as a law degree. He is married and has two adult children, both of whom graduated from North Carolina public schools.

PIE's Partners for the Luncheon are B/S/H/ Home Appliances Corporation, Brightspeed, CarolinaEast Health System, Century 21 Zaytoun-Raines, Coastal Carolina Health Care, P.A., Craven County ABC Board, Craven Pamlico Regional Library, Edward Jones Investments Financial Advisors: Michael Bass, Georgiana Bowman, Joanna Carr, Robert Knisley, Taylor Paramore, Dan M. Roberts IV, Bill Slack, Jordan Silver, and Mike Sprague, GCF, Howard Stallings Law Firm, Mitchell Hardware, Moen, Morgan's Tavern & Grill, Neuse River Region Association of REALTORS, Inc., Piedmont Natural Gas, Pierce Group Benefits, Southern Bank, The Harold H. Bate Foundation, The Insurance Center, The New Bern Sun Journal, Toyota of New Bern, Trent Cadillac GMC Buick, Truist, Weyerhaeuser, White & Allen, P.A., and WRNS 95.1 & WERO Bob 93.3. Supporting Partners: Craven Community College, Duke Energy, Marine Federal Credit Union, Navy Federal Credit Union, and United Bank.

To learn more about PIE grants and programs, how to be a PIE Partner, and to purchase a ticket, contact Suzanne Gifford, Executive Director, Craven County Partners In Education, at 252-259-5610 or visit <https://cravenpartners.com/>.

Craven County Partners In Education provides grant funding and special programs to classrooms and schools within the Craven County School System. It is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Corporation, Tax ID #56-1335975, and donations are tax-deductible.

Since 1989, PIE has been changing the lives of students and families in our community by providing our educators with financial resources that enhance and reward innovative approaches to educational excellence.

Did you know?

Increasing time spent outdoors enjoying nature can positively affect mood and mental health. Generally speaking, outdoor enthusiasts tend to be happier overall. The American Psychological Association says spending time in nature is linked to both cognitive benefits and improvements in mood, mental health and emotional well-being. Both green spaces and blue (aquatic) spaces benefit overall well-being. Several years ago, the University of Derby in the United Kingdom conducted a study titled, "The 30 Days Wild." The study encouraged people to do something wild once a day for 30 days. Participants shared that their connection to nature and doing things in nature created a significant increase in happiness and health. People who spend more time outside can experience greater self-esteem, less stress, increased memory retention, and more positive body image. Natural environments also lower activity in the rumination area of the brain, decreasing negative, repetitive thoughts. Also, those who are outside more tend to be engaging in physical activities, and exercise directly correlates to better mental health.



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Town of Grantsboro
Notice of Public Hearing
Proposed Budget for 2026-27

The proposed budget for the Town of Grantsboro for fiscal year 2026-27 has been presented to the Town Council and is available for public inspection at the Town Hall. There will be a public hearing on Tuesday, June 2, 2026 at 7:00pm at the Grantsboro Town Hall to discuss the proposed budget, with a Council meeting following for adoption of the budget.

For questions or further info, please call 252-745-6511.

Ray Lewis, Clerk

Town of Mesic
Public Notice of Budget Hearing/
Regular Monthly Meeting:

The proposed fiscal year 2026/2027 budget for the Town of Mesic has been presented to the Mesic Town Council and is available for public inspection in the office of the clerk at the Town Hall during regular office hours.

The Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on the proposed budget on June 2nd, 2026 at 6:30 P.M. at the Mesic Town Hall, for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed budget. Immediately following the Public Hearing, the Town Council will conduct it's Regular Monthly Meeting at which time it will take action to approve, disapprove, or table the proposal for further consideration.

For any questions, please contact Hazel Smith during regular office hours at (252) 745-2010.

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.

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
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LEGALS

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.

INCIDENTS

May 7, NC Hwy 55, New Bern, EMS assist/animal complaint
May 8, Oriental, all other offenses/lost property
May 8, Jo Jane Rd., Oriental, larceny of property or goods <= \$1,000
May 8, Main St., Bayboro, all other offenses - conditions of release violation (2), misdemeanor crime of domestic violence, injury to personal property
May 9, N. Second St., Bayboro, driving while license revoked not impaired revoked
May 10, NC Hwy 55, Oriental, discharge weapon occupied dwelling/moving vehicle
May 10, Halls Creek Rd., New Bern, order for arrest driving while license revoked not impaired revoked, order for arrest speeding
May 10, Bryant St., Alliance, warrant for arrest misdemeanor crime of domestic violence
May 11, NC Hwy 55, Alliance, order for arrest driving while license revoked
May 12, NC Hwy 306 S., Arapahoe, speeding, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz., possession of marijuana paraphernalia
May 13, Alligator Creek Rd., Stonewall, larceny of property or goods <= \$1,000
May 13, NC Hwy 306 N., Grantsboro, order for arrest child support
May 13, White Farm Rd., Oriental, injury to real property
May 13, Manila Lane, New Bern, order for arrest fail to work after paid, order for arrest misdemeanor probation violation
May 13, Foxwood Trail Rd., New Bern, warrant for arrest - other - free text
May 13, Linwood Lane, New Bern, all other offenses

REPORTS

9, F092-25-1, H09-6; 5 Parcels with Exceptions; Interest from Louise M. Lee to Lee Farm & Ranch, LLC, \$572
Nov. 7, Arlington Place Lot: 31 PH 1, PCA 153-17 from Charles H. Simpson, Jr., Carolyn H. Simpson to Cletus Simpson, \$0
Nov. 7, Arlington Place Lot: 31 PH 1, PCA 153-17 from Cletus H. Simpson, Alice C. Simpson to William Donald Cross, Pamela Cross, \$80
Nov. 7, Indian Lake Lot: 13 MB 12/35 & Map DB 472/344 from Suzanne Mayer, Suzanne Jantzen Mayer to David William Sargent, Terri L. Sargent, \$1,300
Nov. 7, River Dunes Lot: 19B Marina Village Harbor Village III-B, PCB7-17, PCA 148-7, PCA 148-11, PCA 148-13, PCA 148-15 & PCA 148-17 from Holly K. Hollar, Aaron S. Hollar to Henry Webber Ramsey, Angelena Perle Caruso, \$890
Nov. 7, Morris Creek Acres Lot: 11, MB 5/81 from Bayboro Limited Partnership, Susan Sprecker/PTNR to Susan Sprecker, \$0
Nov. 7, Morris Creek Acres Lot: 11 MB 5/81 from Susan Sprecker to Joseph Michael Carter, Audrey Rose Glass Carter, \$44
Nov. 7, Port Vandemere 1/47 Und Int Common Area Marina Phase 1 Dock A, PCA 179-20, Port Vandemere Boat Slip 16 marina Phase I Dock A PCA 179-20 & PCA 183-13, Port Vandemere Lot: 47 PCA 164-8 from Donald T. Janda, Patricia N. Janda to Jonathan W. Olson, Jennifer W. Olson, \$120
Nov. 10, Sea Vista Pierce Creek Area, Lot: 61, Addition VII PCA 66-10, PIN J083-35-61 from Stephen J. Devoe, III, Ellen Devoe, Ellen Hermann-Devoe, Ellen Hermann Devoe, Ellen Hermann Devoe, \$35
Nov. 10, One Tract E/S NC Hwy 306 PCA 78-8 (Edwin and Gladys Cahoon Homeplace) from Ashley Y. Cahoon, Ross Cahoon/AIF to Alicia M. Pinto, Michael D. Pinto, \$350
Nov. 10, PIN C071-1; 10 AC Parcel II Weyerhaeuser Real Estate Company, Portion Pamlico No.4 Tract; PCA 25-2; interest from Karl Hall Koch, Cheryl A. Koch to Georgiana A. Bowman, Jonathan Peck, \$2,900
Nov. 10, Caraway Cove Lot: 15 PCA 164-11 from Richard A. Maher to Michael Schriver, \$36
Nov. 10, Arlington Place Mill creek Lot: 151 Phase I PCA 172-2 from Arlington Place, LLC, LLC, Arlington Place, LLC to Rachel Roberts, \$100
Nov. 10, Caraway Cove Lot: 15 PCA 164-11 Quitclaim Deed from Michael Schriver to Gary L. Butts, Judith A. Butts, \$0
Nov. 10, PIN E04-28-1; E04-28-1-C; 2 Tracts NC Hwy 306 S., Grantsboro from Jennifer Leigh Theocles to Nathanael Alton A. Theocles, \$0
Nov. 10, Fork Point Lot: 2 PCA 18-4 PIN K071-77 from James M. Ayers, II/TR, Tester Land Trust, The Test Land Trust to Brandon O'Neal Tester/TR, Pamlico County Tester Land Trust - Irrevocable Trust, \$0
Nov. 10, Sea Vista Windward Shores Lot: 4 Section 4 Pierce Creek Area MB 4/19, 1.17 AC Lots 5 & 1/2 Lot 6 Map DB 716/777 from Joey B. Kingsland, Melissa J. Stevenson to Kevin Wade, Catherine Paige Wade, \$1,500
Nov. 12, 1/4 AC N/S Hwy 304 from Sabra Ruth Gibbs, Sabra R. Gibbs to Sabra Ruth Gibbs, Danny M. Gibbs, Joyce Ann Gibbs, Lori G. Sawyer, Guion M. Sawyer, Jr., Kevin Gibbs, \$0
Nov. 12, Water's Edge Lot: 23A PCA 118-9 from William M. Speas, Lynn C. Speas to Mark Allen Vaughn, \$4
Nov. 12, Lake Minnesott Estates Lot: 28 Section I MB 5/5 & Map in DB 288/781, Lake Minnesott Estates Lot: 29 Section I MB 5/5 PIN F093-1-29 & F093-1-28; Und Int from Richard Edward Hughes, Richard E. Hughes, Melinda Currie Little Hughes, Melinda L. Hughes to Richard Edward Hughes, Melinda Currie Little Hughes, Sarah Hughes Tiffany, Benjamiin Lee Tiffany, Margaret Lee Hughes, \$5
Nov. 12, Sail Loft Lot: 62 MB6.83; Map DB 586/492 PIN I092-4-62 from Robert B. Smith, Lori F. Smith to Steven F. Kummerfeldt, Bonnie D. Boyarsky, \$1,470
Nov. 12, Otter Creek Lot: 7 PCA 21-7 from Victoria I. Shareck/TR, Donald C. France Revocable Trust, Donald C. France to Stanley Moschler, \$860
Nov. 12, Foxwood at Pinedale Lot: 10 Section I MB 11/98 from Jackie C. Sawyer to Jesus Felipe Chaparro Alvarez, Jesus Felipe Chaparro Alvarez, \$60
Nov. 13, Sea Harbour Marina Boat Slip 1 CB 1/71 from Christopher Peter Behre, Jamie L. Behre, Sea Harbour Condominium Yacht Club, Inc. to Stephen Lewis Holbrook, Angela Shell Holbrook, \$26

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

Nov. 4, Quitclaim Deed of Gift; PIN K032-106-1; 24E119; 1.87 AC Homer Credle Heirs (Credle Family Historical Memorial Cemetery) PCB 15-2 from Theodore Credle, Toby Credle, Calvin Lee Credle, Sylvia Credle, Jannette Credle, Vivian Jones, Mark Jones, Patricia M. Toon, Patricia Chadwick, Patricia M. Chadwick, Ely Chadwick, Dorene Credle, Glenwood Earl Credle, Glendwood Earl Credle, James Credle, Janella Credle, Joyce Marie Credle O'Neal, Karl Jones, Martin Johnson, Angela Baker, Jeffrey Baker, Kendall Simmons, Odette McKoy, Laula Allen, Monique Credle, Neva Ruth Credle Branch, Roscine Credle, Sandra Walker, Toni Foster, Tracy McKenzie, Tracey McKenzie, Whitney Tankson, Wilhelmina Vaughn, Ostein Vaughn, Suzanne Fisher-Young, Suzanne Fisher Young, Susanne Young, Paul Young, Rosetta Credle, Christopher Melvin, Leona Melvin, Wanetta Lynn Bradford, Wanetta Bradford, Wannetta Bradford, Micah Williams, Umeko Williams, Harold Credle, Jr., Patricia Chadwick/AIF, Patricia M. Chadwick/AIF to Credle Family Historical Memorial Cemetery Association, Inc., \$0
Nov. 4, Quitclaim Deed; PIN K032-106-1; 24E119; 1.87 AC Homer Credle Heirs (Credle Family Historical Memorial Cemetery) PCB 15-2 from Steven Jackson, Tanya Jackson, Donte Jackson, Roseann Moore, Shante Jackson, Tateona Bryant, Patricia Chadwick/AIF, Patricia M. Chadwick/AIF to Credle Family Historical Memorial Cemetery Association, Inc., \$1
Nov. 5, Dawson Creek Lot: 44 Phase I, PCA 150-10, PIN H094-1-44 from Robert V. Denner to April Pope, \$5
Nov. 5, Shine Landing Lot: 33 PCA 136-9, PIN H092-6-33 from David William Sargent, David William Sargent/AIF, Terri Lee Sargent to Tom Hrbac and Camille Hrbac Revocable Trust, Thomas D. Hrbac/TR, Camille Hrbac/TR, Tom Hrbac, Camille Hrbac, \$2,131
Nov. 6, Fork Point II Lot: 20, PCA 30-7, PIN K071-74-20 from Annette R. Schneider to Annette R. Schneider/TR, Annette R. Schneider, Annette R. Schneider Revocable Trust, \$0
Nov. 6, Kennels Beach Estates Lot: 1 PCA 84-3 from Kennels Beach, Inc. to Sylvia B. Upchurch, Mike D. Upchurch, \$80
Nov. 6, Shine Landing Lot: 55, PCA 133-7, PIN: H-092-6-55 from Michael E. Cyr, Jody A. Cyr to Joseph Williams, Jennifer Williams, \$44
Nov. 6, 1/2 AC Metes & Bounds from Goose Creek Island Lodges, LLC to Lowland Tower Farm, LLC, \$300
Nov. 6, Corrective Deed; 748/487, PIN K06-1 Tract I PCB 21-7 from Spear Fish, LLC to Sabrina Hassan DeGirolamo, Paolo DiGirolamo, II
Nov. 6, PIN I091-5, G09-33, F09-

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Pamlico County Proposed Fiscal Year 2026- '27 Budget

The proposed budget for Pamlico County for fiscal year 2026-2027 was submitted to the governing board by June 1, 2026. The budget document is available for public inspection in the Clerk to the Board's Office located at the Pamlico County Administration Building, 302 Main Street, Bayboro, on weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and on the County's website at www.pamlicocounty.org. The budget was presented to the public on June 1, 2026, 7:00 p.m. during the regular meeting of the Pamlico County Board of Commissioners. A public hearing on the budget will be held on June 15, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard on the agenda. The public hearing will take place in the Commissioners' Meeting Room located in the Pamlico County Courthouse Annex, 202 Main Street, Bayboro. All interested citizens will have the opportunity to give written and oral comments.

Tracy Boyd
Clerk to the Board
June 2, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Town of Oriental will hold a Public Hearing on June 9, 2026 at 6:00PM, or as soon thereafter as can be reached, at the Town of Oriental Town Hall, 507 Church St.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to take comment on the proposed budget for the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year. The proposed budget (General Fund and Water Fund) will have been presented to the Mayor and Commissioners by June 1 and will be available for inspection at Town Hall M-Th, 8AM-5PM, and Friday 8AM-3PM. It can also be viewed at www.TownofOriental.com.

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

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

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AROUND THE COUNTY

Grantsboro Jeff Roberts, *Correspondent*



Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening. Welcome to my little portion of the paper. I am happy that you are here. Come on up to the porch, have a seat, and let's talk a bit.

I hope all of you are doing fine and have been enjoying this amazing weather that we have been blessed with lately. I know my wife and I have certainly enjoyed our days recently.

For Mother's Day I built her a raised garden bed which is square with three tiers. It's amazing just how much you can plant in such a usable little space. I have squash, zucchini, cucumbers, all different types of peppers, and tomatoes, all things we eat quite regularly. If you ever need topsoil I highly recommend Jake Cofer in Bayboro. That was some of the finest dirt I have seen. It was clean, had no roots, and was some rich black soil which is usually a pretty good sign of dang good dirt. So if you need anything like that make sure to give him a call.

Last week and this week there have been a ton of events going on for our upcoming graduates. Sports ceremonies, scholarship awards and numerous others. It is hard to believe that I graduated 36 years ago from Pamlico County High. It feels like just yesterday and a lifetime ago all at the same time.

This year is a little bittersweet as the old school building will soon be torn down to make room for the completion of the new school that has slowly emerged and grown over the last year and something. While I think progress and a new school are very exciting, it is still hard to see pieces of the past slowly disappear. So many memories, friendships, lessons and moments happened inside those walls.

This last part is for the graduates who have already graduated and

for the ones preparing to graduate this week.

This moment marks the beginning of the rest of your lives. A lot of you have wished for this moment for years. To be grown, to be adults and to start building your lives. The thing is, this is where life starts getting interesting. This is where you begin building your legacy, your story and the person you are going to become.

Life is not always easy. There will be struggles, disappointments, heartbreaks and moments where you question yourself and the direction you are heading. That is part of life and part of growing. Do not let those moments harden you.

At the same time, there is also an entire world waiting for you if you simply open your eyes enough to see it. There are sunrises worth waking up early for, roads worth traveling, people worth loving and small moments that will someday become memories you wish you could relive one more time.

Life moves a whole lot faster than you think it will. One day you are sitting in those classrooms wishing to be grown and before you know it years have passed by in what feels like the blink of an eye. So slow down enough to appreciate the little things along the way. The quiet talks with your parents and grandparents, late night drives with friends, ball games, cookouts, hard days, good days and all the little moments in between. Those moments are where life truly happens.

Work hard. Be kind to people. Build something meaningful. Chase your dreams but do not get so busy chasing life that you forget to actually live it.

Until next time my friends, I hope all of you have a wonderful week and as always thank you for stopping by the porch for a little while.

Pamlico Betty Jo Rodgers, *Correspondent*



Homecoming was May 17th at Stonewall Methodist Church with at least 80 in attendance. A few members had traveled long distances to celebrate this 232nd Homecoming. It was a blessed day and the meal and fellowship after were wonderful. Next week, they will celebrate Pentecost as well as their high school graduates.

The weather is beautiful beginning this week but later in the week rain is expected through the weekend. We have been in a drought so many, especially the farmers, are looking forward to a few days of gentle rain. The corn on the farm is looking good, but that also means when it even gets higher, I have to be careful pulling onto Straight Road from my driveway.

Joannis and Walt Summerlin came to visit on Saturday, and they got to see five turkeys in our side yard, and then they got to see them fly across the creek. Yes, turkeys can fly. As a matter of fact, most nights they fly up in the trees to roost for protection. The bald eagles fishing the creek behind our house have been seen in downtown Pamlico. We see cardinals and other birds in the yard. Our yellow-bellied hummingbird has not been back to the feeder, at least we haven't seen him. Squirrels are frolicking everywhere and turtles

are crossing the road probably looking for water.

Someone is clearing land in downtown Pamlico, and it looks like they might just be building on the property where I lived when I was in grades one through three. Back in the day when I could walk to Pamlico Methodist Church every Sunday.

The Pamlico County High School seniors have received thousands of dollars in scholarships, and the Pamlico Community is very proud of their academic performance.

Graduation for Pamlico Christian Academy is at 6:30 on Thursday night, May 21, 2026. PCHS will graduate on May 22, 2026. Arapahoe Charter School will have their graduation at the Delamar Center on May 28, 2026. Congratulations to them all.

Those celebrating birthdays in May include 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 their Anniversary in May, Timothy and Veronica Jones (5/30).

Have a blessed week. Feel Put upon? Take Vitamin P. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled." (John 14:27)

Gifts for new college grads about to enter the workforce

The day a student graduates from college is a momentous occasion. Data from the National Center for Education Statistics indicates that more than two million students earned bachelor's degrees at the conclusion of the 2026 school year.

As another graduation season rounds into form, millions more hard-working college students are about to receive their degrees. Commencement will be a big moment for those students and it will also prove a proud moment for their families, who will want to reward graduates with a gift commensurate with this significant accomplishment. As graduates prepare to trade in campus life for the professional arena, well-wishers can consider these graduation gift ideas.

- Attire: Though many businesses have committed to remote or hybrid working in recent years, college graduates will still need something more than hoodies and sweatpants as they enter the professional arena. Professional attire can include anything from suits to business casual clothing. Developing a professional wardrobe can be costly, so gift givers can take new college grads out shopping for attire that can help them make a strong first impression. If distance or timing makes such an excursion impossible, a gift card worth enough money to help grads begin building an impressive professional wardrobe can make for a great gift.



- Tote bag/messenger bag: Traditional briefcases are still around, but many modern professionals now prefer tote bags and messenger bags. Bags with padded pockets that can accommodate 15-inch laptops can be especially useful and help new graduates set a professional tone during interviews and after landing a job.

- Apartment furnishings: Of course, some newly minted grads will already have a job lined up by

the time they stroll across a graduation stage and receive their degrees. In such instances, they might benefit from a little help furnishing their first apartments. Some new kitchenware, a gift card to a furniture store or some gadgets like a new smart TV or home speaker system can help a new place feel like home that much sooner.

- Cooking lessons: Now that the campus dining hall is in the rearview mirror, new grads will have to prepare their own meals. Some might be doing so for the first time, so some cooking lessons with a local chef or instruction offered at a local restaurant can ensure new grads aren't spending the bulk of their earnings on takeout or dining out.

College graduation is an exciting time in a young person's life. Loved ones can consider an assortment of gifts to make this period even more special.

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Pamlico Vistas

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



Goose Creek, The Foot of the Road - Lowland

Photo by: Hiram Lupton

“I used to be indecisive, but now I’m not so sure.”

With gratitude, Hope Clinic wishes to thank our sponsors and attendees for the success of the 2026 Hope Regala, “Growing Hope”...Thank you!



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COASTAL LIVING

5 interesting facts about Memorial Day



Memorial Day is celebrated at the end of May each year to honor those who lost their lives while serving in the Armed Forces. Memorial Day, the origins of which can be traced to the aftermath of the American Civil War, holds deep historical significance, and the following are five interesting facts about the holiday.

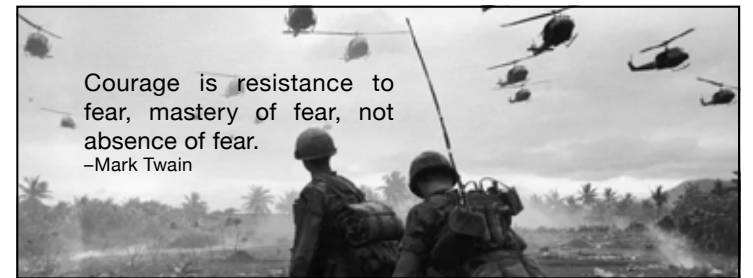
1. The holiday began as Decoration Day. Before the official establishment of Memorial Day, communities began holding spring tributes to fallen soldiers, decorating soldiers' graves with flowers to pay respects. In 1868, General John A. Logan, leader of an organization for northern Civil War veterans, officially proclaimed May 30 as Decoration Day. War.gov says that graves at Arlington National Cemetery continued to be adorned in the same fashion they were back in the 1860s.

2. Memorial Day became an official holiday in 1968. President Lyndon B. Johnson signed Memorial Day into law on June 28, 1968, officially marking Memorial Day as a national holiday. However, two years prior, he signed a proclamation officially declaring Waterloo, New York, as the birthplace of Memorial Day. The town was the first to honor fallen soldiers, and has been featuring a formal, community-wide event since May 5, 1866.

3. Blooming flowers have a place in Memorial Day history. Historians believe that the original choice of May 30 for Decoration Day was not due to any specific battle. Rather, it was a day when no particular conflict had taken place and was the time of year when flowers would be in full bloom. So on May 30 there would be plenty of flowers across the country to decorate soldiers' graves.

4. All fallen veterans were eventually honored on Memorial Day. Many early Memorial Day iterations honored those who died during the American Civil War. After World War I, however, the Memorial Day holiday was expanded to honor all American military personnel who died during any war.

5. The Uniform Monday Holiday Act changed when Memorial Day is commemorated. Memorial Day once was commemorated on May 30 regardless of the day of the week. In 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, moving Memorial Day to the last Monday in May to create a three-day weekend for federal employees. This change went into effect in 1971.



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Memorial Day weekend travel tips



Certain times of year inspire more travel than others. Memorial Day weekend certainly fits that bill. AAA estimates 45 million people will travel at least 50 miles from home during Memorial Day weekend in 2026, and that popularity is at least in part due to the holiday's reputation as the unofficial beginning to summer.

A Memorial Day weekend getaway can be just what people need to get into the summer swing of things. With summer set to kick off, even if only unofficially, travelers can consider these tips to make the most of this popular time to travel.

- **Book early.** Whether Memorial Day weekend travelers are flying or traveling by bus or train, it's important to book reservations as early as possible. Flights on popular travel weekends fill up quickly, so booking early can increase the chances flyers will be able to depart and return at the time of their choosing. The same goes for bus and train travel. Lodging also can fill up quickly, so book hotel reservations

or reserve stays through sites such as Airbnb as early as possible. Booking early can help travelers ensure they aren't shut out of their desired destination, and it also can save money, as rates tend to go up the closer one gets to the travel weekend.

- **Time your travel.** Memorial Day weekend motorists might want to get on the road before the sun rises. Leaving early, when there are fewer cars on the road, reduces the chances of being caught in a traffic jam. If pre-dawn is simply too early, AAA indicates it's best for Thursday and Friday travelers to be on the road prior to 11 a.m. Leaving after 7 p.m. on Thursday or 8 p.m. on Friday is best for those who must travel at night. Travelers taking to the air or the rails might also benefit by leaving on Thursday and/or returning on the Tuesday after Memorial Day to reduce time spent in crowded airports or train stations.

- **Expect delays.** Travel delays can be stressful, but they're nearly inevitable during peak travel periods like Memorial Day weekend. Parents traveling with young children can plan for travel delays by packing extra snacks and downloading extra entertainment onto kids' tablets. Adults traveling without children can build delays into their itineraries and consider them before booking dining or entertainment reservations on the day of their arrival.

- **Limit luggage.** Memorial Day weekend tends to feature ample sunshine and warm weather, which makes it easier to travel light. Air travelers can pack just a carry-on so they don't have to wait at the luggage carousel or worry about potentially lost bags. Car and train travelers also can pack light so they have more room to maneuver.

Memorial Day weekend is a busy time to travel. A handful of strategies can make this year's travels a little more manageable.

Throw a Memorial Day party to remember

Memorial Day weekend is the unofficial kickoff to summer. It's a time for cold beverages and poolside enjoyment, all the while reflecting on the meaning behind the holiday. People across the country will host Memorial Day gatherings over this long weekend. Throwing an event that hits all the right notes and is enjoyed by all comes down to proper planning.

Lean into Americana

When establishing the theme and decor for the party, opting for a strong Americana theme should be a no-brainer. Enhance tablescapes by choosing classic looks. Opt for a navy or red tablecloth with white ceramic plates and then a red or blue napkin. Fill small silver buckets or mason jars with white hydrangeas and red carnations for a timeless feel. Patriotic aluminum stars and country classics can be purchased at nearby hardware centers.

Respect the flag

Any American flags used for decor at the party should be handled with respect. Flags should never touch the ground, be worn as clothing or used as tablecloths.

Elevate the menu

Give a classic grilling menu an upgrade with a few touches that can make the experience more special. Consider a "build-your-own" bar with various gourmet toppings that can add extra flavor to burgers and hot dogs. Swap potato salad and cole slaw sides for lighter, gourmet options that won't spoil in the heat. Watermelon paired with feta or palm hearts paired with cherry tomatoes is light and refreshing. Create a signature drink that offers a nod to the red, white and blue. A batch of lemonade with blueberries and strawberries appeals to all ages. Adults can opt to spike theirs with a favorite spirit.

Classic lawn games

Guests can be treated to some entertainment that goes beyond the pool or sitting beside. Popular lawn games, such as cornhole, Spikeball, bocce, and more encourage guests to get up, move and mingle. Think about having classic activities that can harken back to simpler times. Turn music on and off for a game of "freeze dance." Or



let kids play a friendly game of dodgeball or Red Rover so they stay off of their devices.

Secure the soundtrack

It's important to keep a steady playlist of songs going to maintain the vibe. Tailor the list to feature softer songs when guests are arriving or eating. More upbeat songs can be featured later in the day after people have become comfortable mingling. Use a combination of songs that blend classic summer pop and rock with some patriotic hits.

Write down your task list

Writing down tasks and when to do them can keep a party host on track. With such a popular entertaining day, sending the invitations earlier might be smart. Shop for non-perishable items a week before. Save food shopping for two or three days before Memorial Day and prep make-ahead items the day before. The grill should be lit and preheated about 30 minutes before guests arrive if the plan is to cook immediately; otherwise, let guests stream in and enjoy chips and dips until the bulk of the cooking will begin.

Memorial Day festivities are nearly here, and preparing for this unofficial summer kickoff can lead to a more organized, fun and enjoyable party.

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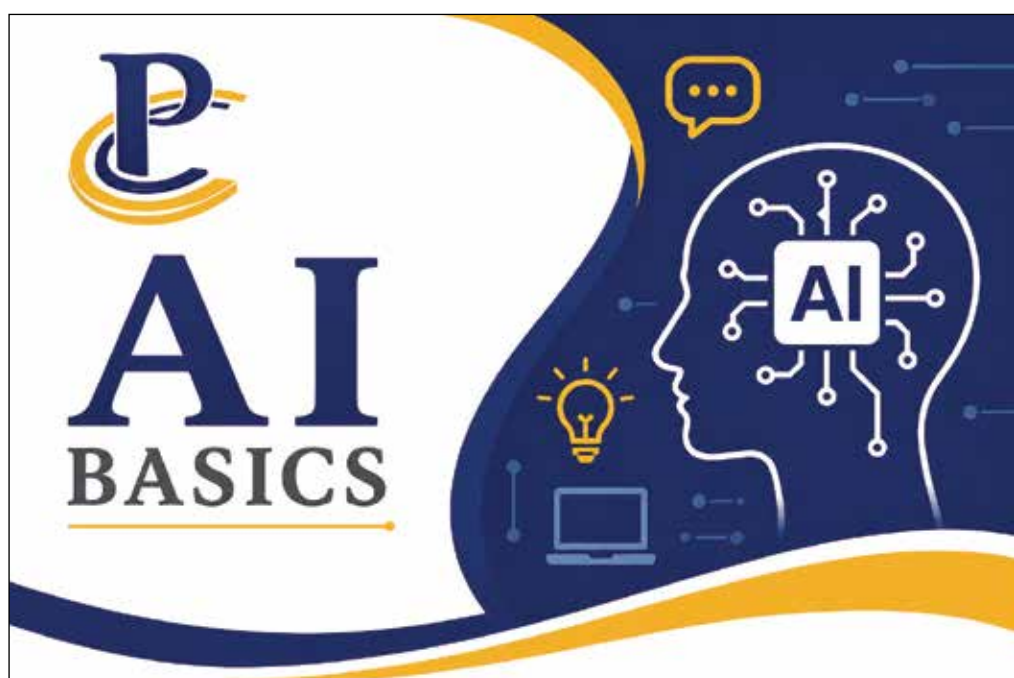
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- * **Nurse Aide II Refresher, One-day! May 28!**
- * **ServSafe, One-day course on June 1!**
- * **Nurse Aide I, Daytime course starts June 15!**
- * **Notary, One-day course in Bayboro June 20!**



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

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Health & Wellness

National Water Safety Month reminds families: Drowning is preventable – but often silent



As Summer approaches, the Red Cross urges constant supervision and simple safety steps to save lives

CHARLOTTE, N.C., May 15, 2026 — May is National Water Safety Month, a time to remind families that drowning is preventable, yet it remains one of the leading causes of death for young children and people under 30.



Drowning rarely looks the way it does in the movies. Most people expect splashing or yelling—but drowning is often silent and can happen in less than a minute, even in just a few inches of water.

Bystanders are often the first line of defense. Research shows drowning victims are most often rescued by people nearby, not trained professionals, simply because they are closest to the incident. More than 60% of bystander rescues happen before help arrives.

“Everyone near water has a role in keeping others safe,” said Sharonne Hayes, Regional Communications Manager, North Carolina Region. “Whether it’s a child, a friend or a stranger, you could be the only one who recognizes those signs of distress—and the only one who can act in time.”

The American Red Cross urges families to stay actively engaged around water. Don’t just swim—watch. Close, constant supervision can make the difference between life and death.

WATER SAFETY TIPS

Nobody should ever swim alone – adults and teens as well as children. Never leave a young child unattended near water, and do not trust a child’s life to another child.

Always designate a “water watcher” who will keep a close eye and constant attention on children and weaker swimmers in, on and around water until the next water watcher takes over.

Have young children or inexperienced swimmers wear properly fitted U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets around water, but do not rely on life jackets alone.

Reach or throw, don’t go! In the event of an emergency, reach or throw an object to the person in trouble and tell them to grab on. Don’t go in! You could be in danger of drowning yourself.

WHALE TALES FOR CHILDREN – NOW AVAILABLE IN SPANISH The Red Cross recently revamped its Longfellow’s WHALE Tales Water Safety for Children program and has now added the program in Spanish, completely translated and localized. The no-cost program helps children, from all backgrounds in kindergarten through 5th grade, learn vital water safety behaviors without having to be in or near the water.

Educators, swim instructors, parents, caregivers and others can teach critical water safety lessons to children before the swim season kicks off and throughout the summer. WHALE Tales are short, engaging and age-appropriate lessons that cover important water safety topics in different environments such as pools, waterparks, oceans, lakes and rivers. The free downloadable resources include lesson plans, course presentations and engaging materials such as videos and activity sheets and can be accessed at redcross.org/WHALETales. If you’re a parent or caregiver teaching your own children, visit redcross.org.watersafetyforkids.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS Our Aquatics Centennial Campaign, launched in 2014 to recognize 100 years of Red Cross leadership in swimming and water safety, is active in more than 100 communities across the country. The program works to reduce drowning rates in locations where numbers are above the national average alongside valued community partners.

To date, the campaign has delivered nearly 159,000 sets of swim lessons and certified 6,560 junior lifeguards, lifeguards and Water Safety Instructors®. We’ve also armed nearly 24,000 parents and caregivers with water safety knowledge and/or CPR skills. Learn more at redcross.org/centennialswim.

GET STARTED TODAY Go to redcross.org/watersafety for swim program information and a variety of resources. The Red Cross Swim app can help children and adults learn with kid-friendly video and activities on mobile devices. Do your part. Be “water smart.”

About the American Red Cross:

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



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Pamlico Partnership for Children receives grant from The Duke Endowment for new Partnership Pathways. Strengthening Families Program + Success Coach.



Bayboro: Pamlico Partnership for Children (PPFC) has been awarded a multiyear grant from The Duke Endowment to launch Partnership Pathways, a new initiative designed to produce positive outcomes for children and stronger families.

Building on the success of the organization’s long-running Strengthening Families Program (SFP), Partnership Pathways expands support for parents and caregivers by connecting families with coaching, resources, and community partnerships that strengthen families and foster resilient thriving children. The Endowment grant will help families build confidence, resiliency, and self-sufficiency by adding a Success Coach Services model. Partnership Pathways creates a continuum of care that bridges the skills learned in Strengthening Families with longer-term, individualized guidance.

Established in 1994, PPFC is a nonprofit and part of the Smart Start network, a statewide system of local partnerships serving all 100 NC counties. The organization focuses on advancing early childhood education, strengthening family support, and convening community partners to improve outcomes for children and families.

“We are incredibly grateful for The Duke Endowment’s ongoing support over many years, which has allowed us to strengthen families leading to improved outcomes for children in our community,” said Susan Bridgman, Executive Director. “We’ve seen firsthand through our Strengthening Families Program how positive changes within families lead to brighter futures for children. As we begin developing Partnership Pathways, we are excited to build on that success and deepen our work, supporting families through coaching, goal-setting, and ongoing encouragement.”

One Pamlico County father shared how the Strengthening Families Program helped him rebuild his role as a parent after a



difficult chapter in his life. After being incarcerated, he wanted to be a better parent and make better choices for his three young children. Through the program, he learned how to communicate more effectively, listen to his children, and become a stronger co-parent.

He said the ongoing support from staff made a lasting difference and noted that in a small rural community with limited resources, PPFC is a place where families can find trusted care and support. He believes the program has been life-changing for his family and hopes he can be a part of the new program.

“The Duke Endowment is proud to support Pamlico Partnership for Children as they expand family supports through the new Partnership Pathways program,” said Phil Redmond, director of the Endowment’s Child & Family Well-Being program area. “By enhancing the Strengthening Families Program with the Success Coach model, we are hopeful that families will have an opportunity to build greater stability, confidence and long-term success.”

Based in Charlotte and established in 1924 by industrialist and philanthropist James B. Duke, The Duke Endowment is a private foundation that strengthens communities in North Carolina and South Carolina by nurturing children, promoting health, educating minds and enriching spirits. Since its founding, it has distributed more than \$5 billion in grants. The Endowment shares a name with Duke University and Duke Energy, but all are separate organizations.

To prepare for the launch in the development of Partnership Pathways, staff from PPFC recently completed a three-day intensive training, facilitated by the Catawba County Department of Social Services. Held at the Pamlico County Public Library, the training marked the first official step in bringing the program to life in our community.

Because Partnership Pathways is rooted in strong relationships and collaboration, participation extended beyond staff to include a member of the PPFC Board, representatives from Pamlico County DSS, and other community partners. Their involvement reflects the shared commitment that will be essential to the program’s success.

PPFC is grateful for this opportunity, made possible through funding, to provide more individualized and meaningful support to families in our small community, benefiting children, strengthening families, and enriching the community of Pamlico County.

For more information on Pamlico Partnership for Children, or how you can support this community effort, please contact Ashley Burroughs, Family Support Specialist at ashley@pamlicopartnership.org, call 252-745-7850 or visit www.pamlicopartnership.org.

cost of becoming a doctor

The road to becoming a doctor is paved with many challenges, not the least of which is the cost of the education necessary to earn a medical degree. According to the Education Data Initiative, the average cost of a four-year undergraduate degree as well as a four-year medical school in the United States totals more than \$360,000. This cost will vary depending on whether one attends public or private schools. Since the process is similar to becoming a doctor in Canada, Canadian students can expect similar costs for medical study. Comparatively speaking, becoming a doctor

in the United Kingdom is a shorter process, wherein medical school is started immediately after secondary education in lieu of an undergraduate education. As a result, the cost to become a doctor in the U.K. is around \$150,000 USD.

The silver lining is the return on investment is generally quite high for doctors, who have the potential to earn very good salaries across various areas of specialty. In fact, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that 19 of the 20 top highest paying occupations are in the health care field. Glassdoor says the average salary for a doctor can range

from \$180,000 to \$340,000 per year. However, certain medical specialties earn even higher salaries. Forbes lists these five top-paying specializations and their average annual salaries in the U.S. Generally speaking, U.S. doctors earn more than doctors across the globe.

1. Plastic surgery: \$576,000
2. Orthopedics: \$557,000
3. Cardiology: \$490,000
4. Otolaryngology: \$469,000
5. Urology: \$461,000



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