

# The Pamlico News

Wednesday, July 8, 2026

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## SECU's Statewide Network of 275 Branches to Serve as Collection Sites for Governor's School Supply Drive

– More than 19,000 school supply items were collected at SECU branches in 2025 –

RALEIGH, N.C. – State Employees' Credit Union (SECU) is pleased to announce its support for the 2026 Governor's School Supply Drive, accepting donations at its state-wide network of 275 branches now through July 31.

Last year, more than 19,000 school supply items were collected at SECU branches, helping save North Carolina teachers and families an estimated \$59,000 in classroom expenses.



SECU representatives helped kick off the Governor's School Supply Drive in Raleigh (pictured left to right): Chief Information Technology Officer Lee Chalk, Chief Operating Officer Jennifer Hamrick, Board member Thomas Parrish, youth mascot FAT CAT®, Board member McKinley Wooten, Jr., and President and CEO Leigh Brady.

SECU branches have served as collection sites for the Governor's School Supply Drive for eight years, providing convenient drop-off locations in all of North Carolina's 100 counties. Donations collected at SECU branches will remain in the county where they are collected and will be distributed to local public schools ahead of the new academic year, allowing community members to directly support local teachers and students.

"As a not-for-profit, member-owned cooperative whose core membership includes North Carolina's public school employees and their families, SECU's support for the state's teachers and students is a natural extension of our commitment to the people and communities we serve," said President and CEO Leigh Brady. "Our branch presence in all 100 counties makes us uniquely positioned to serve as collection sites for this important initiative and help connect local donations with local classrooms. We welcome everyone – not just members – to stop by any of our branches to drop off their donated items."

While all new school supply drive donations are appreciated, most-needed items include paper of all types, pencils and pens, markers and crayons, dry-erase markers, spiral notebooks, sanitizing wipes, and tissues.

To find an SECU branch near you, visit: [locations.ncsecu.org/search](https://locations.ncsecu.org/search).



## The 2026 Croaker Festival

by: Hiram Lupton

The 46th Annual Croaker Festival kicked off last weekend and it proved to be the biggest and best Croaker Festival ever. That was fitting since it celebrated our nation's 250th Birthday with the theme "Liberty Thru History." There were plenty of all things that make small town festival celebrations great; food, vendors, pageants, great live music, a parade, and fireworks. Since this was Oriental, there was of course a sailing regatta. In addition to

being the biggest and the best, it may very well have also been the hottest, with temperatures in the 90's on both days. Thankfully there were plenty of cool drinks available and an afternoon river breeze by the end of each day. Congratulations to the Town of Oriental and all those who volunteered and worked hard to make this a very special Croaker festival and especially to the Head Croaker in Charge, Candy Bohmert. Great job everyone.



Grand Marshal Mrs. Edna Whorton

## For Whom the Ferry Tolls

by: Hiram Lupton

"For Whom the Bell Tolls" is a novel written by Ernest Hemingway that was later made into an Academy Award winning movie. Change the word "Bell" to "Ferry" and you no longer have a work of fiction, but fact, that is if you currently use one of the four free ferry routes in the North Carolina Ferry System including the Neuse River Ferry. The answer, as of January 1, 2027, will be "It tolls for thee." Senate Bill 257, which as of this Monday was sitting on the Governor's desk awaiting his signature, was passed by the NC General assembly on June 2nd as is the 2026-27 budget for the state. The 634 page, \$34 Billion budget contains a provision near the end, Section 43.15. (b) which states that "the Board of Transportation, in consultation with the Ferry Division shall establish tolls on all ferry routes." It goes on to say that, "the toll amounts shall be set and adjusted in a manner that funds the costs of passenger vessel replacement, in accordance with a specified replacement schedule developed by the Ferry Division." The four currently free ferries, Knotts Island to Currituck, Hatteras to Ocracoke, the Pamlico River, and the Neuse River will now have a toll beginning January 1st of 2027. I say "free," but your tax dollars already go to fund these ferries, so they are not real-



ly currently free. Opponents of the tolls have long stated that these ferries are an extension of the highways they connect and their use is primarily by local commuters for work, appointments, and commerce. The tolls would just be another tax placed on those who use the ferry for those reasons. Although the fee amount is yet to be set, the bill already contains a provision for a resident and active-duty military pass, with a cost of \$150 annually. The bill defines "resident" as an individual that permanently resides in a "coastal area." These passes are valid for one vehicle, for one year. There is also a provision exempting school buses from the toll. Arapahoe Charter School currently uses the Neuse River Ferry to serve its students who live on the Craven County side of the river. The school bus exemption would presumably also apply to activity buses operated by Pamlico County Schools crossing for field trips or athletic events. The fee amount is yet to be determined and, if set up like similar fees, will have provisions for vehicles, vehicles with trailers, tractor trailers, and so

forth. Whether the \$150 pass is a "good deal" will depend on what the toll is set at and how often a person uses the ferry. Anyone that commutes regularly using the ferry to reach their place of employment, or for any commerce, will now have to pay a fee, whether it is a yearly pass or a daily expenditure. Another group that will feel the added expense will be Veterans using the ferry for medical appointments. According to Larry Summers, one of Pamlico County's strongest Veterans advocates, this will be one more burden placed on Veterans. "A new Veterans clinic opened at Cherry Point in 2025 which provides primary care for Veterans as well as mental health care. Many Vets from Pamlico County have begun to use this facility and for some, taking the ferry is the quickest, most economical route." He adds, "The VA (Veterans Administration) gives Veterans something, and the state finds a way to take it away." The bill states that funds from the tolls will go into a capital account to be used for ferry replacement. A construction contract in the amount of \$22.85 million was awarded in 2018 for two "River Class" ferries. These ferries, the M/V Avon and the M/V Salvo were put into service in September 2024 serving the Neuse River route.

■ Continued on Page A3

## Vandermere Celebrates Independence Day at Squidderfest

by: Hiram Lupton



Signature Blend performing at Squidderfest.



Guitarist Gary Mayo

The Vandemere Waterfront Park was alive last Saturday as the town hosted Squidderfest, celebrating freedom and the fourth of July. There were vendors, a kid's park, and plenty of food along with some great music from Signature Blend. The evening wrapped up with a DJ and fireworks over Vandemere Creek.

## Pamlico County Shows It's Colors for the 4th

Photos by: Hiram Lupton



### The Red, White, and Blue

If one asks me the meaning of our flag, I say to him: It means all that the Constitution of our people, organizing for justice, for liberty, and for happiness, meant. Our flag carries American ideas, American history and American feelings. This American flag was the safeguard of liberty. It was an ordinance of liberty by the people, for the people. That it meant, that it means, and, by the blessing of God, that it shall mean to the end of time!

–Henry Ward Beecher

### LIKELY WEATHER OVER THE WEEKEND



Saturday, July 11th **95°Hi** Thunderstorms developing in the afternoon.



Sunday, July 12th **91°Hi** Thunderstorms. throughout the day



# Embracing Local Journalism

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# COMMUNITY

## OBITUARIES

### Steve Martin Ross December 23, 1946 – July 5, 2026



**Steve Martin Ross, 79, of Lowland** peacefully passed away on July 5, 2026, at CarolinaEast Medical Center.

A proud U.S. Army veteran, Steve went on to dedicate 40+ years of faithful service to Civil Service at Cherry Point before retiring.

Steve enjoyed simple pleasures in life, such as old Western movies and classic car restoration programs. Countless hours were spent in his outdoor living space, where many cherished family memories were made. In his younger years, Steve loved boating, hunting, and fishing. He also had a special place in his heart for his feline companions, Charlie, Oreo, and many others throughout the years. Above all, Steve loved his family and treasured every moment spent with them.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 38 years, Stella Hopkins Ross, and by his parents, Carol and Beulah Ross.

Those left to cherish his memory include his sons, Chad Ross (April) and Jeffrey Hopkins (Hope); his granddaughters, Charlee Ross and Meagan Hopkins; his sister, Pattie Leary (Steven); his nieces, Ashley Sawyer (Cliff) and Autumn Hardison (Travis); his great-nephew and great-niece, River and Banx Hardison; his special friends, Karen Ireland and Aimee Rowe; and his devoted caregivers, Sherry Sawyer and Lisa Santimaw.

A graveside service with military honors will be held at Watson Cemetery in Lowland on Wednesday, July 8th, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. The service will be officiated by Blaney Rowe. The family will receive friends immediately following the service at the home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to a charity of your choice or to PAWS of Pamlico, P.O. Box 888, Oriental, NC 28571.

Arrangements by Daniels-Sadler Funeral Home.



## Applications for 2026 Shellfish Lease Program due Aug. 1

MOREHEAD CITY – The NC Department of Environmental Quality’s Division of Marine Fisheries is reminding individuals interested in leasing public coastal waters to cultivate shellfish that the 2026 Shellfish Lease & Aquaculture Program application period closes Aug. 1, 2026.

Applicants are encouraged to submit complete application materials as soon as possible rather than waiting until the deadline so that denied applications can be revised and resubmitted in time. Applications that are incomplete, submitted incorrectly or that propose ineligible lease sites will be denied. Applications denied after Aug. 1 cannot be resubmitted until 2027. All application fees are nonrefundable and nontransferable.

All new applications must include a comprehensive Storm Preparation and Gear Management Plan, detailed in Section 5 of the application and Appendix VII. This plan is mandatory and must be fully completed.

The Division accepts bottom lease and water column applications annually from

March 1 through Aug. 1. Shellfish lease site investigations are conducted April 1 through Oct. 1 to align with submerged aquatic vegetation growing seasons.

Applicants are encouraged to review application materials, siting requirements and program guidance before submitting. Applicants and members of the public may also track the status and location of active, pending and terminated shellfish leases using the Division’s interactive Shellfish Aquaculture Tool, which is updated weekly.

Application materials and program details are available at [deq.nc.gov/shellfish-lease](http://deq.nc.gov/shellfish-lease).

Shellfish aquaculture supports North Carolina’s working waterfronts and contributes important economic and environmental benefits to coastal communities. The Division provides guidance and technical support to help applicants meet state requirements and plan effective, sustainable operations.

For more information, contact the Shellfish Lease & Aquaculture Program at 252-515-5600 or [SLAP@deq.nc.gov](mailto:SLAP@deq.nc.gov).

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

by: Hiram Lupton

- July 8th – 1969, a patent was issued for the game “Twister.”
- July 9th – Today is National Sugar Cookie Day.
- July 10th – Today is National Pina Colada Day.
- July 11th – 1804, the Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, was killed in a duel by Vice President Aaron Burr.
- July 12th – Today is National Pecan Pie Day.
- July 13th – 1585, A group of 108 English colonists landed on Roanoke Island in present day North Carolina.
- July 14th – A lot happening today. It is Cow Appreciation Day, National Mac and Cheese Day, and National Nude Day. I’m gonna be busy.

### BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

- July 9th – 1956, Actor and producer Tom Hanks
- July 12th – 19??, Outstanding Pamlico Citizen Lorraine Yaeger
- July 12th – 1951, Actress Cheryl Ladd
- July 12th – 19??, Singer Jill Harris
- July 13th – 1942, Actor Harrison Ford
- July 13th – 1946, Actor, comedian, and writer Richard Marin (Cheech Marin)
- July 13th – 19??, N.C. State Basketball Star David Thompson
- July 13th – 19??, the Mayor of Oriental Sally Belangia



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Citizens of Oriental:

Just to answer any questions you all might have, our decision to resign from the Tourism Board was made after thoughtful consideration. While each of us has our own personal reasons, we share the belief that the Board is moving in a direction that no longer aligns with the vision we have worked to support over many years of service.

Collectively, we devoted countless hours to promoting Oriental, welcoming visitors, supporting local businesses, and highlighting the unique qualities that make our town a special destination. We are proud of what we accomplished and grateful for the opportunity to have served our community.

As the Board's priorities and direction evolved, we felt it was appropriate to step aside and allow others to carry that vision forward. We believe this is the right decision for both ourselves and the Board.

We sincerely thank the Town, our fellow volunteers, and the many community partners who supported tourism efforts over the years. We wish the Tourism Board and the Town continued success in promoting Oriental and all that makes it a wonderful place to live, work, and visit.

Marsha Paplham  
Suzanne Gwaltney  
Linda Hoff  
Vicki Rasmussen

*“Every time I see the flag, I think of the soldiers who fought for it and the families who supported them. The flag symbolizes their sacrifice and our freedom.”*

– Unknown

## Horoscopes



**ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20**  
There is nothing that you cannot handle this week, Aries. Expect to juggle a lot at the same time, but somehow you make it look easy. A calm demeanor is a big asset.



**TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21**  
This week will be fairly quiet for you, Taurus. You are likely to connect with a task and dig down deep until it is completed. If someone tries to persuade you to take a break, you likely won't.



**GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21**  
Many forces are working together to provide insight, Gemini. Take a step back and consider all of the variables in play. The solution may be simpler than you can imagine.



**CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22**  
Cancer, there is no time for daydreaming right now. You will be tasked with managing multiple projects in the days ahead. Remain focused.



**LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23**  
Are you getting pummeled by obstacles, Leo? It could be that you need to set aside more time to yourself to complete the tasks expected of you. You also may need to ask for help.



**VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22**  
Virgo, an ability to communicate clearly is among your most notable assets. If you have thoughts about explaining your ideas to others, keep reinforcing your goals.



**LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23**  
Libra, your projects will take some time to set up. A patient approach will pay off as results begin to materialize. Your ability to multi-task will drive you forward.



**SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22**  
Life isn't an individual sport, Scorpio. You don't have to do everything alone. Interact with others as much as you can this week.



**SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21**  
Sagittarius, when a person has found his or her path, naturally the desire is to start walking down it. You are eager to get started on something that has been on your mind.



**CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20**  
Capricorn, keep an open mind so you can discover new experiences. You don't have to completely reinvent yourself, but make a concerted effort to be open to new ideas.



**AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18**  
The horizon is clear and you have all of the information you need to navigate what life is throwing at you right now, Aquarius. Keep the faith that you are on the right path.



**PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20**  
Pisces, share your experiences and feelings with someone close to you. Let your feelings out and express your gratitude to the person who lends a listening ear.

### CANCER Traits & Overview

*Emotional, intuitive, and practically psychic; ruled by the moon and characterized by the crab, Cancer has so much going on in its watery depths. Cancer signs may seem prickly and standoffish at first meeting, once they make the decision to become friends with someone, that person has a friend for life.*

*Most Cancer signs have been called psychic at some point, and with good reason—Cancer can often intuit relationships, ideas, and motivations before anyone has actually spoken. That can make for challenging interactions with this sign—Cancer hates small talk, especially when it contains white lies (like saying, "How nice to see you!" when it's clear that both parties would rather avoid each other). That's why social gatherings can be overwhelming for Cancers. They'd much rather spend time in small groups where everyone is on the same page.*

*Finally, Cancer is incredibly loyal, sometimes to a fault. Cancers will go to the ends of the earth and even against their own beliefs to help someone they love. Learning how to step up for what they believe in—even if it means turning down or against a friend—is a lifelong lesson for Cancer. As the emotional heart of the Zodiac, this sign teaches everyone else that, while there's so much in life that we may not be able to see, we should still pay attention to the unseen because it does exist—and we do need it!*

FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY

## 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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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...

Susan Adams did a fabulous job assisting us over the last couple years in finding "the perfect home" for our retirement in Oriental. She made herself available to accommodate our schedules and more importantly, she listened to and understood our wants, needs and "would like to have's". We highly recommend her as an agent. Mariner's standards are honest and above board real estate at its finest. Kudos to Susan and the entire Mariner team.

Kris & Jim, Orienta



**ORIENTAL – 3BR/2BA** 1,152 sf on 1 ac in the Buccaneer Bay West community close to downtown Oriental. Convenient access to marinas, boating, fishing, local restaurants, unique shops, and community events. Built in 1996, open porch, deck, patio areas, multiple storage sheds and a fenced in, above ground swimming pool.  
**OFFERED AT \$399,000**



**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**



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



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



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



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

See all Listings & Visual Tours at  
[www.orientalncwaterfront.com](http://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



Pamlico Community College



PCC's parade entry

Pamlico Community College employees, family members and supporters gather for a photo with the PCC float before heading over to the lineup spot before last Saturday's Croaker Festival Parade in Oriental. Even with the oppressive heat, PCC was proud to join other organizations and businesses in celebrating Independence Day. We hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable Fourth of July! Contributed photo



Notary course

The next edition of Pamlico Community College's popular Notary course is scheduled for this Saturday, July 11, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Mattocks Center in Bayboro. Cost is \$70.55, plus a book. For more information or to register, please call 252-249-1851, ext. 3015, or email [lgiles@pamlicocc.edu](mailto:lgiles@pamlicocc.edu). Contributed photo



Bottom Line  
With Brad  
FREE MONEY

TANSTAAFL.

Have you seen that acronym before? I hadn't when I walked into my fifth-grade science class. Little did I know it would not only teach me about Newton's Third Law of Motion (for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction) but also an important but simple premise of financial literacy:

There Ain't No Such Thing As a Free Lunch. TANSTAAFL.

While it is true that there is nothing completely free – there are some things in your financial life that are close enough to free that you should pay attention and take advantage when possible. Sure, there may be some paperwork to do for any of these suggestions below, but it will certainly be worth it. After a couple of months of heavy material, we wanted to keep it light and straightforward this month!

1. 401(k) Matches

For those of you with access to a 401(k), a 403(b) or a 457-style retirement plan through your work, which is a majority of the workers in the state, you may have a "free" match on your contributions into that plan. That means if you can make an equal level of contribution to what the

employer is willing to match, you maximize this free money and you will be well on your way to a secure retirement.

2. Trump Accounts

These accounts were created under the HRI, or the "One Big Beautiful Bill", to allow young people to start saving and investing, with some government help, from a very early age. They are also known as 530(A) accounts. For those under 2 years old, there could be an initial contribution of \$1,000, and for those between 2-10 it could be \$250. Claim this "free" money today by setting up an account for the young people in your family today ([www.trumpaccounts.gov](http://www.trumpaccounts.gov)) – they go live on July 4th, 2026 and the sooner you sign up, the earlier that money starts working for your kids.

3. Unclaimed Property

Each state has an unclaimed property office – also called Escheats. In North Carolina, we estimate that about one out of every seven people in the state have money sitting with our unclaimed property office, waiting for you to claim it! Make sure you go to [NCCash.gov](http://NCCash.gov) and check to see if we have something that is yours...

and then check the records for other states you have lived in previously.

4. PELL Grants

For those of you who are looking to attend an undergraduate degree program sometime soon, there is a great deal of federal assistance available, perhaps none better than the Pell Grant. If you qualify for the grant based on filling out the FAFSA, the Federal Government will pay about \$7,400 of your tuition as a grant.

5. Other Benefits from your employer

Check your benefits book carefully. Many employers offer tuition assistance, health savings accounts, flexible spending accounts and other benefits to help their employees defray costs. Be sure you are familiar with all that your employer offers and make the most of it... it's (kind of) free money!

I hope everyone has a wonderful Fourth of July and America 250 celebration! We are all so blessed to live in this country. Even if there is no such thing as a truly free lunch.

Continued from page A1

For Whom the Ferry Tolls



A 2024 Vessel Replacement Study conducted by the NCDOT determined that future replacement costs for one of these ferries will be \$20 million each. The Ferry Division currently operates 11 ferries of this class serving several routes as well as 6 vessels of the "Hatteras Class" as well as 5 vessels of the "Sound Class." Hatteras Class vessels also have an estimated replacement cost of \$20 million each while the Sound Class is estimated at \$35 million each. The Avon and Salvo are the newest ferries in the fleet and feature a new type of Diesel-electric propulsion system which seems to be a bit problematic, with the Neuse River route often experiencing reduced service due to "mechanical issues." One frequent rider we talked to said that the "constant schedule shifts and reduction in services is a problem that needs to be fixed, now they want to add a tax to unreliable service. If you commute daily, it is a hassle." In the near future, we will take a closer look at the 2024 Vessel Replacement Study and examine ferry funding.

**PAMLICO RESCUE**

**60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
1966-2026

JOIN US FOR OUR  
**PAMLICO COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!**

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF SERVICE,  
COUNTLESS LIVES TOUCHED, ONE COMMUNITY.

**JULY 25, 2026**  
**10AM – 2PM**  
RAIN OR SHINE!

**911 GRACE DANIELS ROAD**  
**BAYBORO, NC 28515**

**DUNK TANK!**

EMERGENCY VEHICLE DISPLAYS  
LIVE DEMONSTRATIONS  
FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES  
COMMUNITY VENDORS  
RAFFLES & GIVEAWAYS

**THANK YOU**  
FOR SUPPORTING THE HEROES  
WHO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY!

# Health & Wellness

## Juvenile Arthritis Patient Education & Resources



Close to 300,000 kids and teens living in the United States live have been diagnosed with juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) or other pediatric rheumatic diseases. These autoimmune diseases can affect not only joints but also skin, eyes and internal organs. Getting a diagnosis can be scary, but effective treatments are available. Juvenile arthritis refers to rheumatic diseases in children aged 16 and younger. These diseases have many distinctions from adult forms of the diseases and are treated differently than in adults. The most common is juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA, previously known as juvenile rheumatoid arthritis). Others include juvenile psoriatic arthritis, pediatric lupus and a number of others.

### Juvenile Arthritis (JA)

Juvenile arthritis affects hundreds of thousands of kids and teens in the United States. Juvenile arthritis (JA), also known as pediatric rheumatic disease, isn't a specific disease. It's an umbrella term to describe the inflammatory and rheumatic diseases that develop in children under the age of 16. These conditions affect hundreds of thousands of kids and teens in the United States. Most kinds of JA are autoimmune or autoinflammatory diseases. That means the immune system, which is supposed to fight against foreign invaders like viruses and germs, instead releases inflammatory chemicals that attack healthy cells and tissue. In most JA cases this causes joint inflammation, swelling, pain and tenderness, but some types of JA have few or no joint symptoms or only affect the skin and internal organs. The exact causes of JA are unknown, but researchers believe that certain genes may cause JA when activated by a virus, bacteria or other external factors. There is no evidence that foods, toxins, allergies or lack of vitamins cause the disease.

### JA Health Effects

Here are some of the symptoms and health effects of JA:

- **Joints:** May cause joints to look red or swollen and feel stiff, painful, tender and warm. This can cause difficulty moving or completing everyday tasks. Joint symptoms may worsen after waking up or staying in one position too long.
- **Skin:** Skin symptoms may include a scaly red rash (psoriatic), light spotted pink rash (systemic), butterfly shaped rash across the bridge of the nose and cheeks (lupus) or thick, hardened patches of skin (scleroderma).
- **Eyes:** Dryness, pain, redness, sensitivity to light and trouble seeing properly caused by uveitis (chronic eye inflammation).
- **Internal organs:** Can affect internal organs such as the digestive tract (diarrhea and bloating), lungs (shortness of breath) and heart.
- **Other symptoms:** Include fatigue (feeling extremely tired or rundown), appetite loss and high spiking fever.

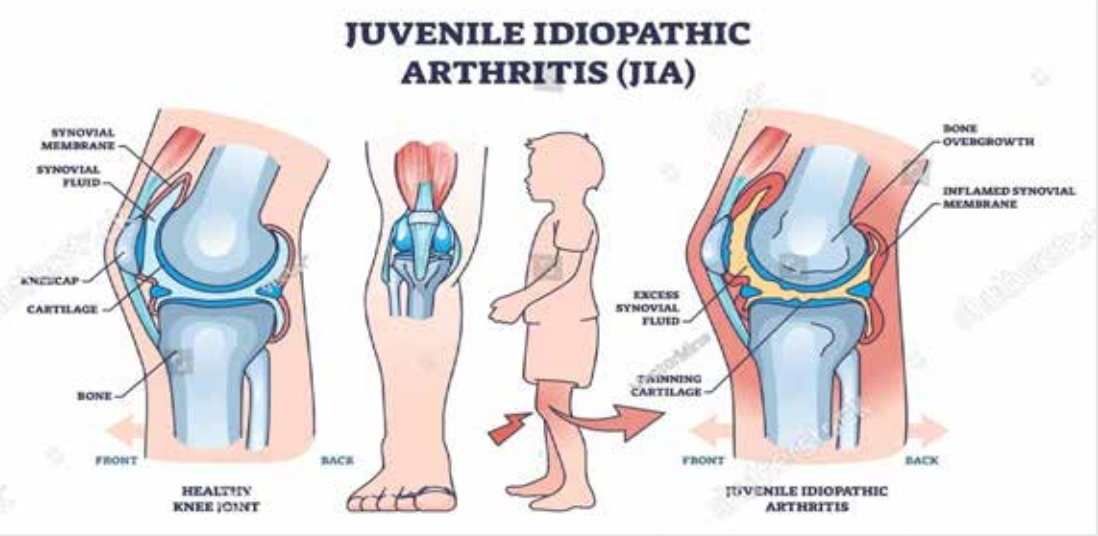
### Diagnosis

A pediatrician may start to determine what's causing symptoms, but parents may be referred to a rheumatologist, a doctor with specialized training in treating arthritis. Some rheumatologists treat only children, while others treat only adults, and others treat both. The doctor will ask questions about the child's medical history, when symptoms started, how long they have lasted and about the child's family history. He or she will also perform a physical exam to look for signs of JA, like limited range of motion, rash, eye symptoms and joint swelling, tenderness and pain. Diagnostic tests include laboratory tests that look for inflammatory markers and imaging (X-rays, CT scans, MRIs) to look for signs of joint damage and help rule out other causes, like trauma or infection.

### Types of JA

The most common types of JA include:

- **Juvenile idiopathic arthritis.** Juvenile idiopathic arthritis is the most common form of juvenile arthritis and includes six types: oligoarthritis, polyarthritis, systemic, enthesitis-related, juvenile psoriatic arthritis and undifferentiated.
- **Juvenile myositis.** An inflammatory disease that causes muscle weakness. There are two types: Juvenile polymyositis and juvenile dermatomyositis, which also causes rash on the eyelids and knuckles.
- **Juvenile lupus.** An autoimmune disease that can affect the joints, skin, internal organs (i.e. heart, kidneys, lungs) and other areas of the body. The most common form is systemic lupus erythematosus, or SLE.
- **Juvenile scleroderma.** Scleroderma, which literally means "hard skin," describes a group of conditions that causes the skin to tighten and harden.
- **Vasculitis.** This type of disease causes inflammation of the blood-vessels, which can lead to heart complications. Kawasaki disease and Henoch-Schonlein purpura (HCP) are the most common kinds in kids and teens.
- **Fibromyalgia.** Fibromyalgia is a chronic pain syndrome that can cause widespread muscle pain and stiffness, along with fatigue, disrupted sleep and other symptoms. It is more common in girls but rarely diagnosed before puberty.



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# Croaker Festival Pageants

by: Hiram Lupton

One of the big highlights of the Croaker Festival is no doubt the Friday evening pageants which crown three deserving young ladies in three age groups. The distinguished panel of judges, all former queens themselves, had the opportunity to talk with and get to know all the contestants earlier in the week, but Friday was the culminating event, when all the girls took the stage for final questions and judging. Each group had a most spirited and most photogenic awards as well as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd runner-ups. The final pageant also had a special \$1000 academic scholarship that was awarded to Moriah Phillips. From eleven contestants, Miss Estelle Dearing of Oriental was crowned Miss Mini Minnow. Of five young ladies, Miss Everly Leonard of Oriental was selected as Miss Minnow. There were thirteen highly worthy candidates for the final crown of the evening, and the judges had the unenviable task of selecting only one to swim away with the crown. The 2026 Croaker Queen is Miss Catherine Lackey of Hobucken. Congratulations to Catherine and all the other contestants and great job by all the organizers, judges, sponsors, and helpers and of course your hostess for the event, Dana Meadows Bender.



The Croaker Queen Contestants



The Hostess with the mostest, Dana Meadows Bender



The distinguished panel of judges, Shelly Draughon, Adyson Foreman, and Layne Buck.



Miss Mini Minnow, Estelle Jaye Dearing



Miss Minnow, Everly Leonard



Academic Scholarship Winner, Miss Moriah Phillips



Your 2026 Croaker Queen, Miss Catherine Lackey



Three Queens

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-John Adams

*Founding Father and the second president of the United States from 1797 to 1801.*





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# FINANCIAL FOCUS

## Debunking five common Social Security myths



Dan M. Roberts

Social Security is often one of the most important income sources in retirement. Yet widespread myths about how it works can lead to confusion, unnecessary worry and poor planning decisions. Here's the truth behind five of the most common misconceptions.

**Myth 1: Social Security is going broke.** You've probably heard this one, but the full picture is more nuanced. According to the 2026 Social Security Board of Trustees Report, if Congress does nothing, the program would need to reduce benefits starting in 2032, paying roughly 78 cents for every dollar owed. But that's just one scenario. Congress could raise the combined payroll tax from 12.4% to 16.65%, which the trustees estimate would secure full benefits through 2100. Other options include eliminating the earnings cap subject to payroll tax or adjusting retirement ages. Lawmakers have tools to address this.

**Myth 2: Social Security will cover all your retirement needs.** Think of Social Security as a financial foundation, not the full building. According to the Social Security Administration, benefits replace only about 40% of pre-retirement income for a median earner. That means you'll likely need to account for most of your retirement income yourself. Building a strong personal savings strategy now can help close that gap.

**Myth 3: You lose benefits permanently if you keep working.** Not true. Social Security does have an "earnings test" that can temporarily reduce benefits for people who claim early and keep working. If your earnings exceed a set annual cap – which changes each year – Social Security will withhold a portion of your benefits. But once you reach full retirement age, the Social Security Administration adjusts your monthly check higher to repay those withheld amounts over time.

**Myth 4: An ex-spouse's benefits come out of your own.** If you were married for at least 10 years and are currently unmarried, your former spouse may be eligible to collect on your earnings record, or you may be able to collect on theirs. Divorced spouse benefits can be up to 50% of the other person's full retirement benefit. But those payments don't affect yours. Your monthly benefit is not reduced by anything paid to an ex-spouse or even a current spouse.

**Myth 5: Social Security benefits are no longer taxed.** Recent legislation caused some confusion here. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act did not eliminate taxes on Social Security benefits. If your combined income exceeds certain thresholds, you'll still owe taxes on a portion of your benefits.

The law also created a temporary deduction (available through 2028) for people 65 and older. Eligible taxpayers can deduct \$6,000 per qualifying filer if their modified adjusted gross income is \$75,000 or less for singles or \$150,000 for couples. The deduction phases out at \$175,000 for singles and \$250,000 for joint filers.

The more you understand Social Security, the more control you have over your retirement outcome. Grounding your decisions in facts rather than assumptions can make a meaningful difference in your long-term financial security.

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



## \$500,000 available for eastern NC organizations through the NC Community Foundation

June 30, 2026 – Charitable organizations in eastern North Carolina supporting education, health and human services can apply for grants from the Louise Oriole Burevitch Endowment beginning July 3.

The endowment, which is a fund of the North Carolina Community Foundation, expects to provide a total of \$500,000 in funding this year. Grants will range from \$25,000 to \$50,000.

"Mrs. Burevitch's love of eastern North Carolina has resulted in a lasting support for communities," said Jennifer Tolle Whiteside, NCCF President & CEO. "We encourage organizations supporting education, health or human services in the region to apply."

2026 marks the endowment's ninth annual application-based cycle, which supports eligible organizations in 41 eastern North Carolina counties: Beaufort, Bertie, Bladen, Brunswick, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Columbus, Craven, Cumberland, Currituck, Dare, Duplin, Edgecombe, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Harnett, Hertford, Hoke, Hyde, Johnston, Jones, Lenoir, Martin, Nash, New Hanover, Northampton, Onslow, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Pender, Perquimans, Pitt, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland, Tyrrell, Washington, Wayne and Wilson.

Starting this year, the Burevitch Endowment will also accept applications from local, state and federal government entities in the 41 counties.

Interested applicants can review full details at [nccommunityfoundation.org/Burevitch](https://nccommunityfoundation.org/Burevitch), including eligibility guidelines and information on how to apply through NCCF's Grant Application Portal.

Grant proposals must focus on education, health, or human services. There will be some preference given to grant proposals that benefit women, children and youth, or older adults, or programs that serve southeastern North Carolina.

Grant applications will be accepted from July 3 until noon on Aug. 4. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

Grants from the endowment are made to organizations through this application-based program and to nonprofits that were designated by Burevitch. In total, the endowment has awarded nearly \$11 million since it was established in 2015. Learn more about previous grant recipients.

"Mrs. B" as Burevitch was known to her friends, was a Wilmington native whose generosity was well-known in southeastern North Carolina and beyond. After Burevitch passed away in September 2014 she left behind a fortune that few knew she possessed. Her charitable giving was motivated by her generous nature and concern for the welfare of people and animals. Learn more about her philanthropy.

About the North Carolina Community Foundation

The North Carolina Community Foundation transforms the collective generosity of our donors into a permanent source of community support, with a focus on the state's rural areas.

NCCF partners with donors and a network of affiliates to sustain over 1,300 endowments totaling over \$600 million in assets. Nearly \$360 million has been awarded as grants to charitable organizations and scholarships to students, creating stronger communities for generations to come.

To learn more about how we turn generosity into impact, visit [nccommunityfoundation.org](https://nccommunityfoundation.org).

# Croaker Festival & America 250!







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AROUND THE COUNTY

Aurora Joy McCracken, Correspondent



Bee Diary:  
On 6/26 the hive increased weight by 10 pounds in four days indicating there was a good source of flow. Would like to see the new supers being used instead of the bottom of the hive. I've registered the hive on Beecheck (this week's photo). Did you know there are different tastes in honey? I recently was able to sample four at one time and it's astonishing the difference one can ascertain. Sourwood is highly prized and often more harvested in the mountains. Folks will actually move their hives to stands of those trees.  
We've gotten much needed rain from a couple events, one being 2.08 on 6/23. With some lightning I found myself counting between the lightning and then the thunder like I use to do before technology. Birds of note in the yard: Thrasher, Yellow-throated Warbler and Eastern Kingbird.  
Gosh, the mosquitoes are so numerous at night you can hear their humming out in the yard. I'll have to worry about the mos-



quito truck affecting the bees.  
I love it when the water is like glass. One can watch a wake of a boat from the other side of the creek make its way here. Saw my first Dolphins in a month on 7/1.

Pamlico Betty Jo Rodgers, Correspondent



Anyone riding down Straight Road has noticed the large garage that is being built near the intersection of Straight Road and Orchard Creek Road. (To us old timers, the intersection of "The Neck" and Straight Road; at least that is what we called it before it was paved.) The builder may regret using black siding in the summertime because that will really heat things up inside; however, I did notice it was insulated. It may make it warmer in the winter though. Regardless, we are always excited to see new growth around the area. And speaking of new growth, the garden planted there is growing beautifully.  
Pamlico has received a little much-needed rain, but we still need more to get out of this drought situation. There have been extremely high temperatures this past weekend, so I hope you used sunscreen and were well hydrated as you celebrated the fourth of July. It's exciting to know that America is celebrating 250 years of freedom.  
Oriental celebrated the 46th Croaker Festival even though it was very hot. There was excitement about the Croaker Festival because it commemorated the birth of the United States of America, 250 years ago. The Chorale and Community Band opened the official ceremonies with patriotic songs to celebrate

the 250th anniversary of our country. It was one of the two events I actually took part in. On Saturday I watched the parade from my automobile, but with the heat issues, I did not take part in any other activities. I really appreciate the fact that people post pictures on Facebook so I can enjoy the festival from the comforts of an air-conditioned home. I especially enjoyed seeing the pictures of people I know who celebrated the 200th anniversary of our country. Thank you Dennis Delamar for posting all of those wonderful pictures..  
Celebrating birthdays in July are Brian Ellenber (7/8), Floyd Peed (7/10), Tal Hudgins (7/13), Charles Stackhouse (7/15), Annette Jones (7/17), Jeannine Russo (7/19), Joanne Gwaltney Ashton (7/22), Mark Norman (7/23), Stephen Carey, Kenneth Dixon, and Karen Keast (7/24), Doug Spain, Chris Spain (7/25), Gladys Wright (7/26), Ed Kelleher (7/29), and Bertha Gilliam (7/31). Celebrating their anniversary in July are Cathy and Brent Fulcher (7/24).

Have a blessed week. Wondering what to do? Take Spiritual Vitamin W. "He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" (Micah 6:8)

Grantsboro Jeff Roberts, Correspondent



This week reminded me that life isn't always about the destination. Sometimes the greatest reward is simply paying attention to the road you're already traveling. Everyone's path may be different and that's what is so amazing. Where is your path taking you this week?  
As I get older, I find myself chasing fewer things and appreciating more moments.  
Maybe that's what this season of life is supposed to teach us. Take the back road every now and then. Stop at the old bridge. Talk to the person who's willing to tell you how things

used to be. Watch one more sunrise than you planned to. Those moments have a way of becoming the stories we remember.  
I hope each of you has a chance this week to slow down just enough to notice something you've driven past a hundred times, if you do I'd love to hear about it.  
You might just discover it was worth seeing all along. If you have an old memory you'd like to share, I'd love to hear it. If there's an old place around Pamlico County you've always wondered about, send me a message. You never know where one conversation or one old photograph might lead. Until next week, take the road you've never taken—or even the one you travel every day. They all lead somewhere, if we're willing to pay attention.

Vandemere Sandra Snipes, Correspondent

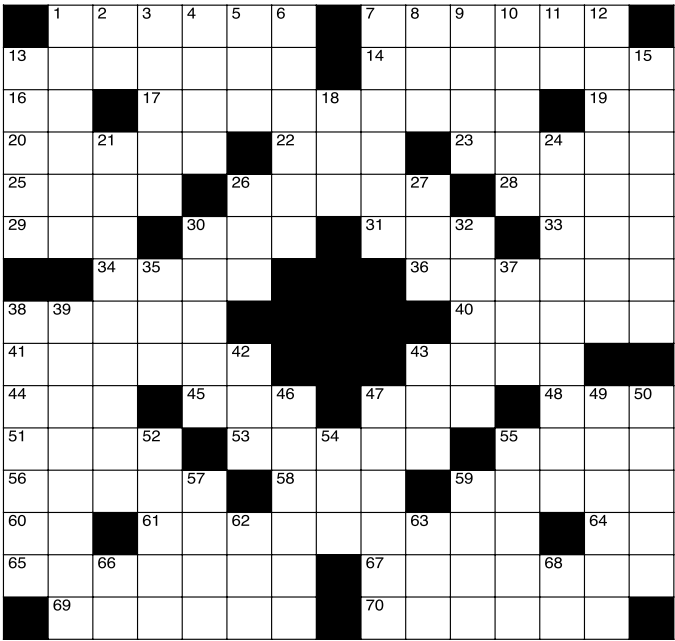


Greetings from Vandemere! It was a super hot weekend; however, it did not keep family and friends, nor people from near and far from celebrating at the 6th Annual Squidder Festival! The day was full of family fun, good food, dancing, and of course... fireworks. Thank you to Anna Simeone and the Squidder Festival Committee, Greg Simeone for the fireworks, Signature Blend for the live music, and Koen VanMeeteren for DJing and keeping the music going! It most certainly takes a Village by the Sea to keep the spirit of community alive!  
What a wonderful milestone to be celebrating our nation's 250th birthday. As a retired Army Veteran, I highly appreciate the ongoing hard work and sacrifice of our military and their families, doing what it takes to protect our nation, our freedoms, and to uphold the constitution.



Our nation's success is built on the work and ingenuity of a diverse people. God bless America and all the people in it, and may we reach another 250 years!  
Check out what Vandemere is all about at [www.vandemerenc.com](http://www.vandemerenc.com)

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Mended  
7. Hymns  
13. Commercial transport of goods  
14. Poked holes in the ground  
16. They precede C  
17. Branch of knowledge concerned with wealth  
19. Larry and Curly's pal  
20. Injured  
22. Popular type of dance  
23. Moon crater  
25. American state  
26. Places to lock valuables  
28. Stalk that supports the capsule  
29. Keyboard key  
30. "\_\_\_ death do us part  
31. A type of cage  
33. A place to sleep  
34. Annual music awards show  
36. Made over  
38. Hard, stony substance
40. Incantations  
41. Long-legged, wading bird  
43. Breathe noisily  
44. Congressman  
45. Rip off  
47. Golf score  
48. Popular pickup truck  
51. Where infants sleep  
53. Music term  
55. Small opening in a surface  
56. Musical term meaning "very"  
58. Soviet Socialist Republic  
59. Treats with powder  
60. Email subject line feature  
61. A British lawyer  
64. Expression of laughter  
65. Farmer's calendar  
67. Seeds used as food  
69. Eurasian shrubs  
70. Periods of inactivity

CLUES DOWN

1. Hard things to kick  
2. Collective of countries  
3. Letter of Hebrew alphabet  
4. One-time Alabama running back  
5. One's sense of self-esteem  
6. Of the teeth  
7. Treat with care  
8. Type of whale  
9. Curved structure  
10. Emits coherent radiation  
11. One of the Gospels (abbr.)  
12. Smallest interval in western music  
13. Netherlands seat of government  
15. Gives to charitably  
18. Lout  
21. Pastas  
24. Release from restrictions  
26. Female sibling  
27. Title of respect  
30. Silver coins
32. Region in India  
35. Partner to cheese  
37. Dark or dusky  
38. Pacific Northwest tree  
39. Exaggerate  
42. Toddler  
43. Touch lightly  
46. Fundamentals  
47. Jeopardies  
49. Curved structures  
50. Isolated, flat-topped hills  
52. Forming the bottom layer  
54. Reciprocal of sine  
55. Genus of Old World birds  
57. New York college  
59. Cloak  
62. Kawhi Leonard's team (abbr.)  
63. Vietnamese offensive  
66. "The Great Lakes State"  
68. "\_\_\_, myself and I"

PUZZLE SOLUTION

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   | H | E | A | L | E | D |   | P | S | A | L | M | S |   |
| H | A | U | L | A | G | E |   | A | E | R | A | T | E | D |
| A | B |   | E | C | O | N | O | M | I | C | S |   | M | O |
| G | I | M | P | Y |   | T | A | P |   | H | E | D | I | N |
| U | T | A | H |   | S | A | F | E | S |   | S | E | T | A |
| E | S | C |   | T | I | L |   | R | I | B |   | C | O | T |
|   |   | A | M | A | S |   |   |   |   | R | E | D | O | N |
| C | O | R | A | L |   |   |   |   |   | R | U | N | E | S |
| A | V | O | C | E | T |   |   |   | P | A | N | T |   |   |
| S | E | N |   | R | O | B |   | P | A | R |   | R | A | M |
| C | R | I | B |   | T | A | C | E | T |   | P | O | R | E |
| A | S | S | A | I |   | S | S | R |   | T | A | L | C | S |
| R | E |   | S | O | L | I | C | I | T | O | R |   | H | A |
| A | L | M | A | N | A | C |   |   | L | E | G | U | M | E |
|   | L | I | L | A | C | S |   |   | S | T | A | S | E | S |

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to retailers.

T C I D R E

Answer: Credit

TOWN OF ORIENTAL  
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

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

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS

**Auctions**  
HOME IMPROVEMENT AUCTION, Saturday, July 11th @10am. 201 S. Central Ave. Locust, NC. Cabinet Sets, Doors, Tile, Hardwood, Bath Vanities, Windows, Lighting, Trim, Appliances, Composite Decking, Furniture, New Name Brand Tools.  
[www.ClassicAuctions.com](http://www.ClassicAuctions.com).  
704-507-1449 NCAF5479

**Home Improvement**  
No more cleaning out gutters. Guaranteed! LeafFilter is backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferrable warranty. Call today 1-877-649-1190 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Get 15% off your entire order. Plus, Military & Seniors get an additional 10% off. Limited time only. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details.

**Miscellaneous**  
WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-866-489-0571. Have zip code of service location ready when you call!

**Miscellaneous**  
We Buy Houses for Cash AS-IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Call today for your fair cash offer: 1-919-925-6362.

**Miscellaneous**  
Denied Social Security Disability? Appeal! If you're 50+, filed SSD and denied, our attorneys can help! Win or Pay Nothing! Strong, recent work history needed. 877-553-0252 [Steppacher Law Offices LLC Principal Office: 224 Adams Ave Scranton PA 18503]

**Miscellaneous**  
BEHIND ON YOUR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS? Threatened with foreclosure? Denied a loan modification? Let us help! Call the Homeowner Relief Line to speak with a mortgage specialist 844-492-0883

**Miscellaneous**  
Donate your car today, running or not. Support Patriotic Hearts for our Veterans and their Families! Free fast pickup. May be tax deductible. Se habla Español. Call now: 877-317-3360

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

**Miscellaneous**  
Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material – steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer – up to 50% off installation + Additional

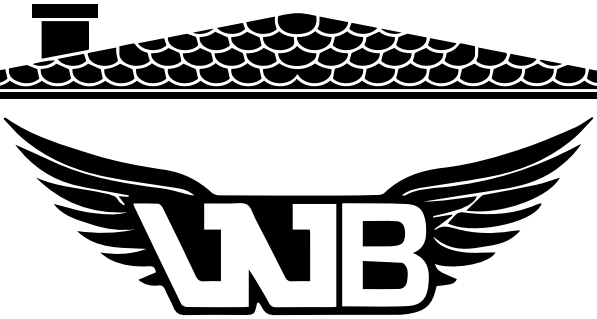
10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-855-585-1815

**Miscellaneous**  
We Buy Vintage Guitar's! Looking for 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg. And Gibson Mandolins / Banjos. These brands only! Call for a quote: 1-866-923-0482

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

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

# CLASSIFIEDS



## WINFREY BUILDERS

252-670-2915



### World Wide Marine Training, LLC

U.S.C.G. Approved Training & Testing

Captains Licenses ★ Master 100 Tons ★ Master 200 Tons ★ AB  
★ STCW 5-day Basic Training ★ Radar Endorsements ★  
Auxiliary Sail and Assistance Towing Endorsements

Call 252-249-2135  
worldwidemarinettraining.com  
22532 NC Hwy 55 East, Oriental, NC 28571

## Pamlico Tree Care, LLC

Servicing New Bern & Surrounding Counties

Owner Jonathan Mitchell



New Omme 90’ Tracklift  
Access through a 4’ wide gate  
Complete Tree Removal  
Stump Grinding

Brush & Branch Chipping  
Cabling & Crown Reduction  
Tree Pruning & Shaping

Fully Insured with Liability and Workmen’s Comp

252-745-7232/252-671-7563  
Pamlicotreecare@aol.com  
www.pamlicotreecare.com

## FOR SALE



**Arapahoe** - Fully renovated, 3BR/2Bath home featuring a new roof, new HVAC and brand-new appliances (refrigerator needed). Enjoy access to the Neuse River from a nearby shared waterfront lot complete with a sandy beach! **\$279,000**

### CENTURY 21

Sail/Loft Realty  
252-249-1787  
www.SailLoftRealty.com

### T.O.P.P. Care For Pets

#### The Oriental Pet Parlour

✦ Full Service Grooming  
✦ Licensed Boarding  
✦ Day Care  
✦ For Dogs, Cats, Birds & Other Pets

**252-249-0243**

315 White Farm Road Oriental, NC 28571  
Hours: M - F 8:30 - 5 ✦ Sat. 9 - 3  
Check out our website at  
[www.TheOrientalPetParlour.com](http://www.TheOrientalPetParlour.com)



### Katherine H. Winfrey

Income Tax Service

801 Broad St.  
Oriental, NC 28571

533 South Creek Rd.  
Aurora, NC 27806  
252-670-7728  
252-675-2828

## HELP WANTED

Laborer needed, pick up and put down, Follow instructions, weed whack. Paying cash daily. Semi-retired, part time ok.  
Capt. Ron Diamond 518-657-1348 in Oriental  
Must have drivers license. Non-smoker preferred.

## FOR SALE



**White Truck Cap**  
Ford F-150 6 1/2 Foot Bed  
Call (252) 675-0354  
**\$150 OBO**



**4'x 7' Utility Trailer**  
Barely used 1 7/8" ball  
Call (252) 675-0354  
**\$450**

Friends of the Pamlico Library

# Bunco Night

JULY 14TH • 4:00 PM

Ideal for adults and young adults;  
Spaces are limited.  
Free tickets available at the front desk until July 11th.

Donations of \$10 per ticket to Friends of the Pamlico Library are encouraged but not required.  
Event date: July 14th at 4pm  
Refreshments will be served

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

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against deceased, are notified to exhibit them to NANCY L. MCKINNEY, ADMINISTRATOR, on or before SEPTEMBER 15, 2026, at the address listed below or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named EXECUTOR.

This 17TH OF JUNE 2026

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

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

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

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

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

**NORTH CAROLINA PAMLICO COUNTY NOTICE TO CREDITORS:**

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of Paul J. Miller, deceased, of Pamlico County, N.C., are notified to present the same to the personal representative listed below on or before September 24, 2026 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All debtors of the said estate are asked to make immediate payment.

This the 24rd day of June, 2026.

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

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

**NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE PAMLICO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF NICHOLAS ADAM HYDUKE**  
File No.: 26E000103-680

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against deceased, are notified to exhibit them to NICHOLAS ADAM HYDUKE, EXECUTOR, on or before SEPTEMBER 22, 2026, at the address listed below or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named EXECUTOR.

This 24TH OF JUNE 2026

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

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

**Notice of Service By**

## LEGALS

**Publication**  
**State of North Carolina**  
**County, Pamlico**

**In the General Court of Justice before the Clerk, Special Proceedings**  
**File No. 26SP000027-680.**

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

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

**NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE PAMLICO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF MARVA FISHER BALDWIN**  
File No.: 26E000112-680

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against deceased, are notified to exhibit it them to MARVA FISHER BALDWIN, EXECUTOR, on or before OCTOBER 6, 2026, at the address listed below or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named EXECUTOR.

This 8TH OF JULY 2026

ESTATE OF MARVA FISHER BALDWIN  
C/O SPENCER L. BALDWIN  
511 LAKE TYLER DR  
NEW BERN, NC 28560

Publish JULY 8,15, 22 AND 29 2026.

**NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE PAMLICO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF SUE G. IRELAND**  
File No.: 26E000114-680

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against deceased, are notified to exhibit them to SUE G. IRELAND, EXECUTOR, on or before OCTOBER 6, 2026, at the address listed below or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named EXECUTOR.

This 8TH OF JULY 2026

ESTATE OF SUE G. IRELAND  
C/O JACKIE F. IRELAND, JR.  
636 DAWSON CREEK BLVD  
ORIENTAL, NC 28571

Publish JULY 8,15, 22 AND 29 2026.

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

**JAMES EDWARD COX, JR.**  
**File No.: 26E000115-680**

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against deceased, are notified to exhibit it them to JAMES EDWARD COX, JR., EXECUTOR, on or before OCTOBER 6, 2026, at the address listed below or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named EXECUTOR.

This 8TH OF JULY 2026

ESTATE OF JAMES EDWARD COX, JR.  
C/O MICKEY WILSON  
361 CHAPEL CREEK DR  
BAYBORO, NC 28515

Publish JULY 8,15, 22 AND 29 2026.

**NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE PAMLICO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF MARYANN C. BRINSON**  
File No.: 25E001230-680

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against deceased, are notified to exhibit them to MARYANN C. BRINSON, EXECUTOR, on or before OCTOBER 6, 2026, at the address listed below or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named EXECUTOR.

This 8TH OF JULY 2026

ESTATE OF MARYANN C. BRINSON  
C/O GARY L. BRINSON  
8626 NEUSE RD  
GRANTSBORO, NC 28529

Publish JULY 8,15, 22 AND 29 2026.

**NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE PAMLICO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF JAMES EDWARD COX, JR.**  
File No.: 26E000115-680

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against deceased, are notified to exhibit them to JAMES EDWARD COX, JR., EXECUTOR, on or before OCTOBER 6, 2026, at the address listed below or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named EXECUTOR.

This 8TH OF JULY 2026

ESTATE OF JAMES EDWARD COX, JR.  
C/O MICKEY WILSON  
361 CHAPEL CREEK DR  
BAYBORO, NC 28515

Publish JULY 8,15, 22 AND 29 2026.

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF PAMLICO IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION**  
**26CV000108-680**

JAMES DOWE JR., et al.,  
Plaintiffs,  
v.  
ZACHARY HAWKINS, et al.,  
Defendants.

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION**

TO: OAKRIE JUNIOR JORDAN  
a/k/a OAKRIE JORDAN, JR.

TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows:

1. Plaintiffs seek a declaratory judgment to quiet title to that certain real property more particularly described below and currently assigned PIN 642847474000 by the Pamlico County Tax Office, North Carolina:

TRACT I:  
Beginning at Quince Ganes N.E. corner and runs with the cart road to a lightwood stump thence with W. F. Buck's line Goose Creek, thence with said creek to Quince Ganes line, thence with said Ganes line to the beginning, containing 20 acres more or less.

TRACT II:  
One tract. Beginning at the place where J. W. Pipkins line crosses the Wesel Landing road & runs with the old wood Landing road to near the corner of the aforesaid Daws old field to an agreed croner [sic], thence with a straight line to the run of a branch that heads near the corner of Daws old field, thence down the run of said branch to the main swamp, thence with the run of said swamp to James Alexanders line thence with said Alexanders line which runs along the edge of the Muse old field to a pine in Alexanders line, thence to Alexanders corner at the edge of the Sand hill, thence nearly with Alexanders to J. W. Pipkins line & with said line to the beginning, containing 20 acres. The other tract. Beginning at the Peter Allen corner, on west side of Wood landing road & runs with said road to an agreed corner opposite branch head, thence with run of said branch to the marsh thence on to Goose Creek, thence up said creek to Peter Allens line & with said line to the beginning containing fifteen acres more or less.

TRACT III:  
Lying in number one township on the West side of Brig Point road. Beginning at a stake in the mouth of a ditch by the side of the tram road running thence Northwardly course with the said ditch to the fence thence on a straight line to the (Bennett) now the Adolphus Tripp heirs line, thence with the said Tripp line Southwestwardly to a lightwood stake by the side of a small marked pine supposed to be the Miller North west corner thence with the Miller & Daw line Southwestwardly to a ditch on the North side of the tram road thence with said ditch to the beginning containing two acres more or less.

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than the 17th day of August, 2026, said date being forty (40) days from the first publication of this notice; and upon your failure to do so Plaintiffs will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This the 8th day of July, 2026.

Chad A. Archer  
North Carolina Bar No. 49051  
Attorney for Plaintiffs

OF COUNSEL:

BLANCO TACKABERY & MATAMOROS, P.A.  
POST OFFICE DRAWER 25008  
WINSTON-SALEM, NC 27114-5008  
TELEPHONE: 336-293-9000  
FACSIMILE: 336-293-9030

**NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE PAMLICO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF BARBARA ANN BENTON**  
File No.: 25E001131-680

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against deceased, are notified to exhibit it them to BARBARA ANN BENTON, EXECUTOR, on or before OCTOBER 6, 2026, at the address listed below or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named EXECUTOR.

This 8TH OF JULY 2026

ESTATE OF BARBARA ANN BENTON  
C/O MICHELLE ANNE LUZAR  
10657 NEUSE RD  
ARAPAHOE, NC 28510

Publish JULY 8,15, 22 AND 29 2026.

# Pamlico Vistas

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



Early morning on the Hobucken Canal - Hobucken

“Fries or salad?” Sums up every adult decision you’ll ever have to make.



**Aurora’s July Yard of the Month** goes to Mrs. Jackie Thompson for her lush and wondrous landscaping. She has a large array of hibiscus (including saucer) and ferns. There are several places to invite porch and patio sitting, a special covered place to birdwatch her numerous feeders and her beloved cardinals. Every part of her yard is dedicated to various plantings of ornamental shrubs and flowers. Neighbors say it’s a treat to walk about her yard.

AURORA

250

Small Town,  
Big Celebration

CELEBRATING AMERICA'S

250<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY!

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2026

★ 9:00 A.M. – 9:00 P.M. ★

★ DOWNTOWN AURORA, NC ★

PARADE

CARNIVAL RIDES

KIDS' ACTIVITIES

FOOD VENDORS

MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT

HISTORICAL TALKS

DISPLAYS & DEMONSTRATIONS

PATRIOTIC DRONE PERFORMANCE FINALE

Our History. ★ Our Community. ★ Our Future.

★ ONE NATION. 250 YEARS. ★



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Brice Pointe is New Bern’s first-ever Life Plan Community, offering upscale independent living with a plan for on-site care.

Now is the time to place a **fully refundable \$1,000 Priority List deposit**.

Deposit today to secure introductory pricing, priority home selection and the confidence of planning ahead — all at a community designed for a well-lived retirement.

To secure your future at Brice Pointe,  
call 252-659-4550 today.



**BRICE POINTE**  
A THRIVEMORE COMMUNITY  
BricePointe.org

**Brice Pointe Sales Center**  
503 W. Thurman Rd.,  
New Bern, NC, 28560

