

The Pamlico News

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

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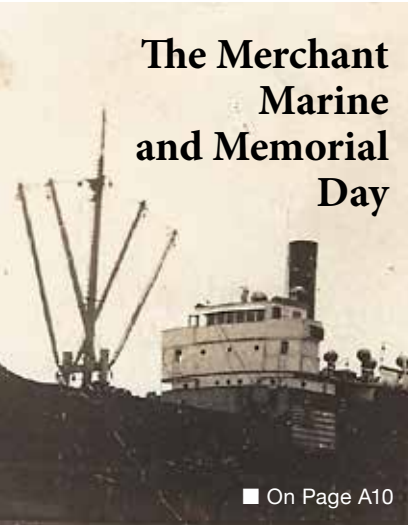
The Pamlico County Chapter of the NAACP is partnering with Pamlico County Schools to sponsor a reading and math camp for 4th and 5th graders during the week of June 16-27. Our organization has agreed to pay the teacher salaries for this event, due to lack of school funding to support this much needed effort.

We are having a fundraiser Fish Fry on May 30, 2025 to support this cause. If you have further questions, please contact Darrell Gibbs at 301-873-7360.



Ol' Front Porch Music Festival announces our new 2025 T-shirt design at a reveal event at the New Village Brewery on Friday, May 23rd 3:30-7:30

ORIENTAL, NC - May 23rd, 2025. New Village Brewery will be hosting the reveal of the Ol' Front Porch Music Festival 2025 T-Shirt. The T-Shirts will be available for sale at the event along with the new 2025 buttons. Both of these were designed by Marguerite Garrett, who will be present. The event will take place on Friday, May 23rd from 3:30 to 7:30 in the Beer Garden and include a 50-50 raffle. There will be a food truck, La Cocina del Coqui, and live music from Hoff 'n' Finch from 4:00 to 7:00. The lifelong musical experiences of Mark Hoff and Scott Finch have brought them together to perform a unique selection of songs not often heard at live venues. Hoff 'n' Finch effortlessly jump from one genre to the next with songs that span generations. From ragtime to '70s to pop, they never cease to delight listeners of all ages. Participants can enjoy the vibrant atmosphere, friendly service, and delectable flavors of Puerto Rico and Cuba at La Cocina Del Coqui Food Truck. The New Village Brewery is a welcoming place in the heart of Oriental village that offers many different beers for you to enjoy.



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Pamlico Community College celebrates joyous 2025 Commencement

By Sandy Wall



Pamlico Community College graduates turn their tassels at the conclusion of last Friday's Commencement ceremony. Approximately 125 men and women in the college's curriculum and Continuing Education programs qualified for recognition this academic year. Contributed photo

Tassels were turned, goals were accomplished, and bright futures were launched last Friday evening at Pamlico Community College's 2025 Commencement ceremony at the Delamar Center.

Fifty-one of the approximately 125 men and women in the college's curriculum and Continuing Education programs who qualified for recognition over the last academic year participated in the ceremony.

Nearly every seat on the Delamar Center's risers was filled with enthusiastic family members and friends, and the weather outside, while warm and muggy, was great for the prospective graduates' customary walk from the Johnson Building to the auditorium.

President Zac Schnell, who was presiding over his first graduation ceremony as the college's top administrator, led the audience in a brief moment of silence to honor the memory of Vice President of Instruction Michelle Willis-Krauss, who was serving as Pamlico's interim president at the time of her death in November 2024.

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Non-Profits Working Together to Feed Pamlico

by: Hiram Lupton

Pamlico County has some great nonprofit organizations doing some great work for its citizens. Two of these organizations, whose missions are similar, are supporting one another in attaining their objective of helping to feed Pamlico County residents. Love Thy Neighbor (LTN) and Sound of Salvation Ministries share the common goal of serving those who face food insecurities. Vickie Moseley-Jones of Love Thy Neighbor and Steven West of Sound of Salvation Ministries met when they both attended a seminar for nonprofits several years ago and struck up a friendship which has blossomed into collaboration and support for both organizations. Ms. Moseley-Jones started Love Thy Neighbor back in 2018 to support needy neighbors she saw in her community with the first being food insecure children. "I realized that there were 52% of kids in our school system who received free or reduced lunches. What were these children doing for nutrition during the summer?" said Miss Vickie. "This was the beginning of what has become a very successful summer lunch program that we are continuing this summer." This year's program begins on June 16 and will run through August 15 and will distribute free bag lunches to children and their families on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at various locations in the county. "We just want to make sure the word is out about this program so that all in our community who need help can take advantage of it." LTN is also involved with support of those battling Sickle Cell Disease and their families as well as supporting "random acts of kindness," through fundraisers that support the mission of other



Steven West of Sound of Salvation Ministries and Vickie Moseley-Jones of Love Thy Neighbor

nonprofits in Pamlico County. One of those other nonprofits is Sound of Salvation Ministries based in Reelsboro. Pastor Steven West of Sound of Salvation says their group offers a direct-to-client food pantry and targets several groups including senior citizens and veterans. "This summer we are also doing a summer snack distribution, the first of which will be on June 21, from 9 AM – 1 PM at the Hope Clinic located at 13808 NC Hwy 55, Bayboro," says Steven. "Any family with children from birth to 16 that resides in Pamlico or southeast Beaufort Counties are eligible. We want to be able to have monthly and quarterly food distributions to those who need it." West is also a certified counselor and sees the food distribution as often a way to build a relationship with clients who are in need of counseling and mentoring. The relationship between Sounds of Salvation and Love Thy Neighbor has been a beneficial one for both groups. "We share ideas to better serve those in need," says Moseley-Jones and Pastor West adds, "We also refer clients to each other's organization to try to reach as many in need as possible." Both of these groups do great work, but they are always in search of two things. They need to know who needs the help in order to reach them, and they need donations and volunteers to help make everything work. Love Thy Neighbor can be reached through their website at www.lovetheynighborprogram.org, or directly at 252-675-5277. The Sounds of Salvation Ministries website is www.soundofsalvationministries.com, where you can find an email contact link. Doing great things for the citizens of Pamlico County.

Oriental Meets on Budget

by: Hiram Lupton



Spring is here. The birds are singing, the bees are buzzing, and government entities are discussing their budgets for the next fiscal year that begins July 1. The town of Oriental is no exception and just like many other towns, counties, and school districts, there never seems to be enough dollars to go around. The town Board, along with Mayor Sally Belangia and Town Manager Diane Miller met last Wednesday for the second time to crunch numbers for the town. Most of the discussion centered on how to supply the town with the services it needs and expects without dipping into the town's fund balance, which as of May 1 sits at \$859,000. The members of the board debated the need for a new, full-time position in the public works department versus just having a part-time employee. While it seemed to be advantageous to make the position full-time, particularly based on the information supplied by public works supervisor Daniel Early, the question remained, where will the money come from to do it. "Residents are paying taxes to have the town looked after. That's what we were elected for," stated Board member Charlie Overcash. "It is important and we need to find the money." Not every Board member was even in agreement that a full-time position was needed. When asked by Bonnie Crosser, "Are we in agreement that we need a full-time position?" Frank Roe replied, "Absolutely not." He went on to reemphasize his position of not touching any of the fund balance. "I am really afraid that the County and FEMA will not support us in the event of a bad storm this fall. We need to be prepared if they don't." Despite the negativity, some commissioners went to work, searching for a dollar here and a dollar there to fund the position. "I think if we work at it, we can find the money," said Brenna Litzenberger. Nothing was finalized, but they got closer. As the discussions moved forward, the topic shifted to revenue. Residents can expect a small rate hike in their water bill at the lowest tier and also an increase in late fees and reconnection fees. Finding a way to reduce paid overtime was also discussed. In the end, real progress was made and the Board did agree on one thing, to meet again on May 22nd to continue discussions.

Family Fun Day

by: Hiram Lupton



In what has become Pamlico County's most anticipated and best attended outdoor spring event, Family Fun Day went off without a hitch last Saturday. The Pamlico Partnership for Children puts together this extravaganza of Fun annually to the enjoyment of kids and adults alike. It was hard to think of a non-profit or service-oriented entity in our county that did not have an information booth set up on the Pamlico County High School football field. It was more than info distribution however, as most had games and activities for the young and young at heart. The dunking booth, or as I like to call it, a mobile baptismal pool, was back giving you a chance to give your favorite local

■ Continued on Page A3

WEEKEND WEATHER



Saturday, May 24th **71 °Hi** Clear throughout the day




Sunday, May 25th **76 °Hi** Clear throughout the day

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United Sisterhood, Incorporated

"Inspire, Empower, Serve"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Free Sports Physical Event for Local Athletes Hosted in New Bern

New Bern, NC – United Sisterhood Inc., in collaboration with Craven Jaguars AYFL and MedFirst of James City, is proud to host a **Free Athlete Sports Physical Event** on **Saturday, June 14, 2025, from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM** at **Stanley White Recreation Center, 1308 Neuse Blvd, New Bern, NC.**

Accessing affordable and timely sports physicals can be challenging for many families in smaller communities. This event aims to remove that barrier and help ensure that student-athletes across Craven County and surrounding areas can stay in compliance and ready to play.

"Our purpose is to inspire, empower, and serve the children and youth in our communities by providing access to opportunities to help them reach their potential for success," said a representative from United Sisterhood Inc.
"Be who you needed when you were younger" remains our guiding motto.

Event Highlights:

- Free sports physicals for student-athletes
- On-site care provided by **Samantha Carlson, Nurse Practitioner (MedFirst)** and **MyAsia Myshay, Medical Assistant**
- Open to athletes from Craven and surrounding counties
- Pre-registration encouraged** via provided event link:
<https://forms.gle/cxKds8kVnJ4EvPCC7>

This initiative aligns with United Sisterhood Inc.'s HEART initiatives—Health, Education, Arts, Reading, and Technology—designed to uplift youth through fun, high-quality community-based programming.

Media are welcome to attend. Organizers and healthcare professionals will be available for interviews and questions.

Register today and help spread the word. Let's keep our youth in the game!

For more information or to register, contact:
Yolanda Ledon-Neel at 773-742-5648 or united.sisterhoodinc@gmail.com
Follow updates on [United Sisterhood Inc. Facebook page](#)

3702 Colony Drive New Bern, North Carolina 28562

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Pamlico News Readers this is a letter I sent to Senator Budd and Representative Murphy, Due Process is an important part of our justice system. So is obedience to court orders. Needless to say, we expect our elected officials to honor and obey the Constitution.

The President seems to think he is above the law. He and his administration constantly seek ways to deny people their due process rights and the President is openly defying a court order. And he has a history of doing so.

His unconstitutional actions are now the subject of numerous court proceedings. Many preliminary injunctions have been entered against him and his administration by judges, many who were appointed by Republicans and some by Trump himself.

Preliminary injunctions are not final judgments but they do mean that the plaintiffs have a likelihood of success at trial and irreparable harm would be done if they were not granted.

In most cases the President is acting alone in an unconstitutional manner or by himself when the matter should be done by Congress.

By all accounts you support the President. Therefore, you must support his acting unlawfully. Because you didn't take action this shows you support his violations of the Constitution.

I'm disappointed in your silence and inaction. You took an oath to honor, protect and defend the Constitution. Do your duty.

Retired Judge Jimmy Ragan
Member of Pamlico Partners for Democracy
PP4D - We are a nonpartisan group that believes in a democratic republic where the rule of law and the constitution guide our citizenry.

NOTE

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

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


Horoscopes




ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, the universe is giving you a chance to get in some rest and relaxation before you have to tackle your very long list of tasks. Soak it all up while the break lasts.




TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, you value comfort and security, which is probably why you will want to revisit some of your investments over the next few days to figure out if you are maximizing your money.




GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
You excel at seeing both sides of a situation, Gemini. Follow your intuition as you try to navigate a tricky situation at work that requires you to make a firm decision.




CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
This is a great week to work behind the scenes, Cancer. Consider stepping back from any projects you had planned and let someone else take the lead for a little bit.




LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
Don't try to cram too many experiences into this particular week, Leo. You may be disappointed by the results if you take on too much. It's best to spread everything out.




VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, aim for balance right now. Everything may seem like it is up in the air, so if you focus on two or three important things in your life you can tackle them successfully.




LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
It isn't the job of someone else to make you happy, Libra. You have to figure out how to do that on your own. A bit of conflict over miscommunication may arise this week.




SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Exercise caution if you are thinking of changing things up, Scorpio. People are used to routine and too much change at once can lead to a lot of floundering and lack of effort.




SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Touch base with your dearest friends, Sagittarius, especially if they haven't heard from you in a long while. This might be the week to make some plans and reconnect.



CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, spring cleaning has long passed, but you might want to revisit some organizing and decluttering projects at home. Get rid of as much as you can.



AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, slowing down and taking stock of your situation is a good idea this week. Not everything needs to be done in a day, so pace yourself and make a good plan of action.



PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Try turning off all the excess noise in your life right now, Pisces. Focus on your own thoughts and feelings this week, rather than what others want from you.

GEMINI Traits & Overview

Smart, passionate, and dynamic, Gemini is characterized by the Twins, Castor and Pollux, and is known for having two different sides they can display to the world. Expert communicators, Gemini is the chameleon of the Zodiac, adept at blending into different groups based on the vibe and energy they perceive. While they're also amazing at showcasing surface traits, the Gemini well runs deep, which is why the Twins are one of the Zodiac's most emotionally intelligent signs.

Energetic and quick-witted, Gemini never gets stuck in the past and doesn't ruminate on what might have been. Instead, they move forward with glass-half-full optimism and an ability to always look on the bright side—and land on their feet—in nearly any situation. With a mind that's constantly racing, even when they're just quietly hanging out, the Twins never get bored. In fact, Gemini are happy keeping their own company, and can often turn their solitary daydreams into reality.

FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

by: Hiram Lupton

- May 21st – 1881, The American Red Cross is formed.
- May 22nd – Today is National Maritime Day. Celebrate the men who go down to the sea in ships.
- May 23rd – Today National is Lucky Penny Day. If your name is Penny, you'll have good luck today.
- May 24th – 1830, The nursery rhyme Mary had a Little Lamb was written by Mary Hale
- May 25th – Today is National Wine Day. Break out the Boone's Farm.
- May 26th – Today is Memorial Day. Remember those who gave the last full measure for our Country and your freedom.
- May 27th – Today is National Cellophane Tape Day. This could get sticky.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

May 22nd – 19??, Pamlico County School Board Member Jaclyn Cowell Jones

May 22nd – 19?? Pamlico County Schools Music Teacher Mitch Meador

May 23rd – 1974, Singer Juel Kilcher (Jewel)

May 24th – 1941, Singer/Songwriter Robert Zimmerman (Bob Dylan)

May 26th – 1907, Actor Marion Morrison (John Wayne)

May 26th – 1948, Singer/Songwriter Stephanie Lynn Nicks (Stevie Nicks)


May 26th – 19?? Pamlico County Animal Control Officer Berkley Hill

May 26th –1951, Astronaut Sally Ride



"I was so much older then, I'm younger than that now"

Agricultural technology, often referred to as “AgTech,” is playing an increasingly bigger role on modern farms, and that role is evident when examining AgTech startups’ growing access to venture capital. Data from PitchBook and the National Venture Capital Association’s PitchBook-NVCA Venture Monitor, a quarterly report on venture capital activity in the entrepreneurial ecosystem, indicates that AgTech startups received \$6.1 billion in VC investments in 2020. That reflects a nearly 60 percent increase in investment over 2019. Weaknesses in the agricultural and food supply chain revealed during the pandemic undoubtedly drove some of that investment. Widespread recognition of a need for improvements within the agricultural sector so it can meet the demands of a global population that the United Nations estimates will increase by two billion people by 2050 also likely contributed to the considerable rise in VC investment in AgTech startups.



BAY RIVER MSD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 - 2026

The proposed fiscal year 2025-2026 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 5, 2025 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 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/>

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Land/Home Sales
Property Management
Appraisals Development



Agent of the Week

Linda Hoff
Broker

Here's what one of Linda's customers had to say...

Linda is an experienced realtor who knows the area well and guided us through the process of selling our land seamlessly. Based on her expertise we priced our property fairly and she marketed it well with extensive and beautifully taken pictures and assisting us with obtaining a septic permit which helped to set our land apart from other available properties. Living out of state it is imperative to have an experienced realtor. Linda checked all the boxes!

Robert & Margaret, NJ



BAYBORO – 1.45-acre private lakefront land, picturesque, serene setting. Nestled in tranquil environment. Central location, easy commute to major employment, walking distance to bakery/coffee shop, parks, shopping & schools.

OFFERED AT \$35,000



MERRITT – Newly-renovated, 2,100 sf **3BR/2BA**, on 1 acre unrestricted lot, no HOA. Home is on an engineered permanent foundation with a HUD Compliant Foundation Engineering Certification letter; qualifies for Conventional, VA, FHA and USDA financing. Roof & HVAC installed 2021.

OFFERED AT \$279,500



ORIENTAL – Spectacular waterfront views of Smith & Green Creeks from first floor unit at Oriental West Condos in the Heart of Oriental. Building B, Unit 7 is a **2BR/2BA** condo with a 40' x 16' deeded boat slip with 5' controlling water depth.

OFFERED AT \$350,000



ORIENTAL – **3BR/2.5BA** home offers comfortable living. 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 building on 0.92 acres of unrestricted land, not in flood zone, +/-3 miles north of Town of Oriental. Fully-insulated I-beam construction, 6" concrete floor. Reception area, conference room & 2 offices. Carrier 2.5 ton heat pump for 1,080 hsf office area & two 5.0 ton HVAC systems for 2,920 hsf warehouse. Walk-up attic storage, fenced side yard, 208 3-Phase electrical system with 200 amps service. Ingersoll Rand 200 PSI air compressor system for warehouse with work benches & shelving. Metal fabrication equipment does not convey.

OFFERED AT \$ 599,500



MERRITT – Waterfront **3BR/2.5BA** with dock and boat lift on Moores Creek. Great water views. Oversized garage with workshop, garden shed, whole house generator, whole house 400 AMP service. Screened deck, open deck, close to ICW on 1 acre in the Bay Shores Estate community.

OFFERED AT \$ 675,000

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



Pamlico Community College

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Pamlico Community College celebrates joyous 2025 Commencement

He then focused his remarks on the members of the Class of 2025. Schnell compared the prospective graduates' often-challenging academic journeys to the durian, which is an Asian fruit that, when first cut, has a disgusting smell, but also features delicious, custard-like flesh inside.

"You took a leap of faith," Schnell said, telling the graduates they had many "smelly moments" of struggle and adversity along the way to completing their goals. "That struggling part is when we are learning the most. The reward, just like that durian fruit, is just on the other side."

The president then introduced Monica R. Gibbs, a 2002 PCC graduate who is the founder of Gibbs Consulting LLC, which provides advocacy and media relations services to community-based projects and grassroots organizations. She also has worked with candidates for political office and lobbied state-level elected officials.

"This place gave me so much," Gibbs said, recalling how she had planned to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to study broadcast journalism, but had been diverted by an unexpected pregnancy shortly after graduating from Pamlico County High School in 1997.

Gibbs enrolled at Pamlico in January 1999 with the goal of earning an associate degree and then transferring to UNC.

"I knew that I needed to start somewhere," she said. "It was a perfect setup for me because I needed to focus."

Through hard work and study, Gibbs excelled. She took on volunteer opportunities and spent lots of time in the college's library researching information on the then-new internet.

Knowing it was a long shot, she applied to transfer to UNC. Gibbs was accepted and soon headed off the Chapel Hill to study journalism.

Attending Pamlico was key to that success, she said, urging graduates to appreciate how hard they have worked to get where they are.

"Community college takes intention and strength," Gibbs said. "Don't let anyone say you didn't work hard. I'm proud to tell people I got my start at the smallest community college in the state."

Following Gibbs' remarks, Vice President of Student Services Jamie D. Gibbs – no relation to Monica R. Gibbs – presented Rochelle Meadows of Aurora with the college's Academic Excellence Award and Student of the Year honor.

Meadows, who graduated with an associate degree and a diploma in the Early Childhood Education Career Track, plus multiple certificates, received a plaque, a medallion and a congratulatory letter from the state Community College System president.

Both Commencement speaker Monica R. Gibbs and local salon owner Amber Bailey Smith were honored as the college's Alumni of the Year. The college generally honors one Alumnus of the Year, but the PCC Foundation Board of Directors, which chooses the honoree, was unable to decide between the two women because of their impressive achievements, so it honored both of them.

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 Chair of Continuing Education and Technical Programs Lori Giles announced the names. When the graduates had received their respective credentials, Vice President of Instructional Services Neil Callahan pronounced them graduated and instructed them to turn the tassels on their caps as the audience cheered.

PCC Trustee Debra "Debbie" Harrison gave the welcome message at the ceremony, and pianist Paula Murray provided the music.

An outdoor reception with refreshments followed the ceremony. A video of the event is available at <https://youtu.be/YS1p9QFj-NM>.

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



Prospective graduates make their way from the Johnson Building to the Delamar Center for last Friday's Commencement ceremony. Contributed photo



Vice President of Student Services Jamie D. Gibbs, left, presents the Academic Excellence Award and the Student of the Year honor to Rochelle Meadows, center, of Aurora. Vice President of Instructional Services Neil Callahan, at right, who was Meadows's advisor, looks on. Contributed photo



Commencement speaker Monica R. Gibbs, left, and local salon owner Amber Bailey Smith received Alumni of the Year awards. Contributed photo



Pamlico Community College President Zac Schnell, left, presents graduate Sarah Martin of New Bern with her Esthetics Technology certificate. Schnell, a longtime faculty member, was presiding over his first Commencement as the college's president. Contributed photo

Family Fun Day

personality a bath. There was blow up slides of all sizes, face painting, cotton candy, a safe-for-kids axe-throwing game, and so much more. Thanks to the Pamlico Arts Council, the Cirque De Vol aerial acrobats were there to perform some gravity defying stunts as well as give some young acrobats some pointers of their own. The Pamlico Partnership for Children would like to thank all their sponsors, the volunteers who helped setup, direct traffic, cook and serve food, all the vendors, and especially all those who attended. Together they made this another Great Family Fun Day.



FINANCIAL FOCUS

Three stops on the road to financial stability



Dan M. Roberts

Achieving financial stability doesn't happen overnight — it takes a journey. And, as with every journey, you'll need to make some stops along the way. These stops, or milestones, can tell you how far you've gone — and where you need to go next.

Milestone 1: Build a foundation

When you're first starting on your financial journey — typically, when you are beginning your career — you'll want to build a foundation by acting on key issues, such as saving, paying down debts and investing for the future. Here are some suggestions:

- *Start your emergency fund.* Eventually, you'd like to have several months' worth of living expenses kept in a liquid, low-risk account to deal with unexpected costs, such as large medical bills or a major car repair. For now, though, at least try to put away a few hundred dollars or a month's worth of expenses. To make it easier, have some money moved automatically each month from a checking or savings account into your emergency fund.
- *Take your employer's match.* Contribute enough to your 401(k) and health savings account (HSA) to earn your employer's matching contribution, if one is offered.
- *Pay down your higher-rate debt.* Try to pay down as much high-interest, non-deductible debt as you can afford. If possible, refinance debt at lower interest rates.

Milestone 2: Gain a better foothold

Once you've got your financial foundation in place, and you're established in your career, consider these steps to gain an even better foothold:

- *Continue building your emergency fund.* Try to get at least a couple of months' expenses in this fund.

- *Put away more into your retirement accounts.* If you can, try to put anywhere from 10% to 15% of your gross income into your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan.
- *Check your debt-to-income ratio.* Divide your monthly debt payments by your monthly gross income to calculate your debt-to-income ratio. If you're paying a mortgage, try to keep this ratio to 35% or less. Without a mortgage, try for 20% or less.

Milestone 3: Keep moving forward

As you move into your middle years — and beyond — it's time to further solidify your financial situation and keep making progress toward a comfortable retirement. These moves can help:

- *Maintain your emergency fund.* By now, you should be able to keep up to six months' worth of expenses in your emergency fund. A sizable emergency fund can help you if you need to switch jobs, and enable you to meet larger expenses without dipping into your long-term investments.
- *Review your retirement goals.* At this stage of your life, you should review your retirement goals regularly to determine whether you're still on track toward meeting them. If you aren't, you may need to adjust your investment strategies. Of course, your goals may have changed over time, and this, too, may require adjustments on your part. You may want to work with a financial professional who can suggest appropriate moves to help you on your way.

Reaching all these milestones will take diligence and commitment — but it will be worth the effort in helping you on your journey toward financial stability.

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

NC

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Pamlico County

It's Electric 4-H Fun



Kate Neeland
4-H Agent

STEM, or Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, has been a buzzword in youth development for decades—so prevalent in the conversation that sometimes we don't even hear it. Is STEM education really still so important? Yes. As a hard skill, STEM education is very important.

“The progression of learning occurs with each science and engineering experience and is magnified by frequency and intentionality.” – National Science Teaching Association

Opportunities for our youth to have hands-on, experiential learning in STEM are important—not only for their academic success and continued growth, but also in opening doors for further study and future careers. Early exposure can guide youth toward careers they might not have considered, and give them experiences that will help them reach their academic and professional goals later in life.

In 4-H, we offer several programs that allow youth to explore, learn, and develop skills in STEM. One of our major programs in Pamlico is It's Electric. We started last summer with the It's Electric Day Camp, which served as an introduction to learning and exploring the world of electricity. We learned about insulators versus conductors and gained basic skills in soldering.

Our It's Electric program continued through the fall and spring with monthly sessions. We built mini Tesla coils and started working on photo-sensing model cars. A mini Tesla coil is a smaller version of the original Tesla coil, often designed for educational use, entertainment, or as a fun science project. It uses electromagnetic induction to generate a high-voltage, high-frequency electromagnetic field. This field can create arcs, light up neon lights, or even wirelessly power certain devices.

Five of our youth completed project record books and earned the opportunity to attend 4-H Electric Congress this summer!

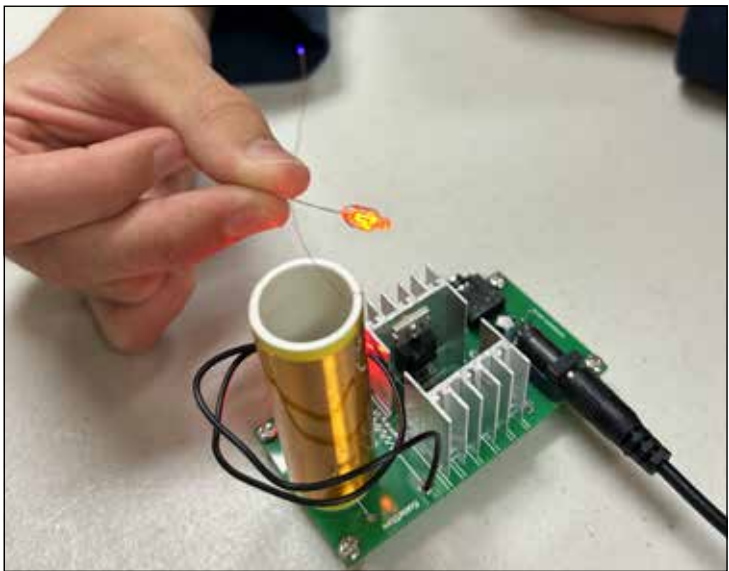
While STEM education is an important and fun part of our 4-H program, it isn't the only youth programming we've offered this fall and spring. We also had:

- Sew Much Fun
- Down East Dairy Project
- Ag 101
- School Embryology
- Chopped! International!

Each of these 4-H programs combines fun, hands-on activities with leadership, service, and life skills. Our Sew Much Fun youth designed their own skirts and lap quilt patterns, applying math concepts to creative pursuits. Our Ag 101 class learned about different aspects of the agriculture industry, agricultural research, and planted a micro farm at school. Our in-school Embryology program allows Pamlico youth to apply life science concepts by observing duck embryo development. Our Down East Dairy Project has allowed youth to learn about dairy farming, dairy calf care, and how to show a dairy calf.

Our Chopped! International program gave youth the chance to cook dishes from all around the world, learn where those countries are, and even explore how their governments work. We've got one more Chopped session left—and this time, we're keeping things a little closer to home. We'll be cooking the state foods of three different U.S. states and learning some fun facts about each one!

Stay tuned for upcoming summer 4-H Fun Programs! If you would like to be notified via email about all future programs, please fill out our Update email list, or give us a call! You can also get a head start on registration for specific programs by enrolling in Pamlico County 4-H Online. Participation in all NC 4-H Programs requires enrollment in 4-H Online. 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 learn more about 4-H in North Carolina and our programs throughout the year on our website!



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Photo by: Hiram Lupton



Pilgrims Chapel Baptist Church - Oriental

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KITCHEN CHATTER

Do you have a favorite recipe or your own?
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Backyard barbecue season is starting to heat up. Although many people grill all year long, grilling season kicks into high gear in spring and summer.

Burgers will always be quintessential grilling fare. It should come as no surprise that the month of May is National Hamburger Month. That's likely due to Memorial Day weekend — which many view as the unofficial start of summer — being one of the first times of the year people begin grilling burgers. Despite burgers' popularity, it's easy to make mistakes when preparing them. These tips can help anyone build a better burger.

Use freshly ground meat
Buying ready-made ground meat (of any variety) is taking a gamble because you don't know when it was ground, how many animals it came from or how it was handled. By freshly grinding the meat at home you will have greater control over the cut of meat and the fat content. Personally ground meat will be fresher, especially when you get nice cuts of meat directly from your local butcher. Top chefs suggest dicing cold meat into chunks and freezing for about 10 minutes prior to grinding for the best results.

Fat is key
For the most juicy, flavorful burger, you'll want a ratio of 80 percent meat to 20 percent fat. Some people like to eat lean, but with a burger, the fat will be necessary and it's better to select leaner meats for other dishes.

Don't overwork the meat
Handling the burger patties too much can lead to dense, tough burgers. Gently shape the burgers into round, 1-inch thick, flat discs. To prevent the burgers from rounding in the middle during cooking, press a dimple with your thumb in the center of the patty to help it cook evenly. It's a smart idea to weigh each patty to ensure uniformity of size and even cooking.

Don't add salt early on
Salt added to the ground meat before it's shaped can draw the liquid out of the meat, leaving a dry burger behind. Sprinkle salt sparingly while it is cooking for flavoring.

Avoid overcooking
Most health authorities recommend not leaving any pink meat in a burger made from ground meat. According to BBC Good Food, burgers can be cooked for 5 to 6 minutes on each side for medium and 8 to 9 minutes per side for well done. For the best results, use a food thermometer to check internal temperature. The USDA says ground meat, whether it's pork, veal, beef, or lamb, should be cooked to 160 F

Flip as desired
The cooking resource Serious Eats debunked the myth that burgers should only be flipped once. Flipping the burger repeatedly, as often as once every 15 seconds, encourages faster, more even internal cooking and can dramatically reduce cooking time.

Keep the patties separate
Let everyone build their own burgers, as keeping the cooked meat away from the burger buns for as long as possible will reduce the chances of the juices making the buns soggy. Soft, squishy buns tend to make for good burger eating, as they will not overwhelm the meat with too much crusty bread.

The smell of grilling burgers is in the air. Ensure that every burger is a masterpiece by utilizing some important cooking tips.

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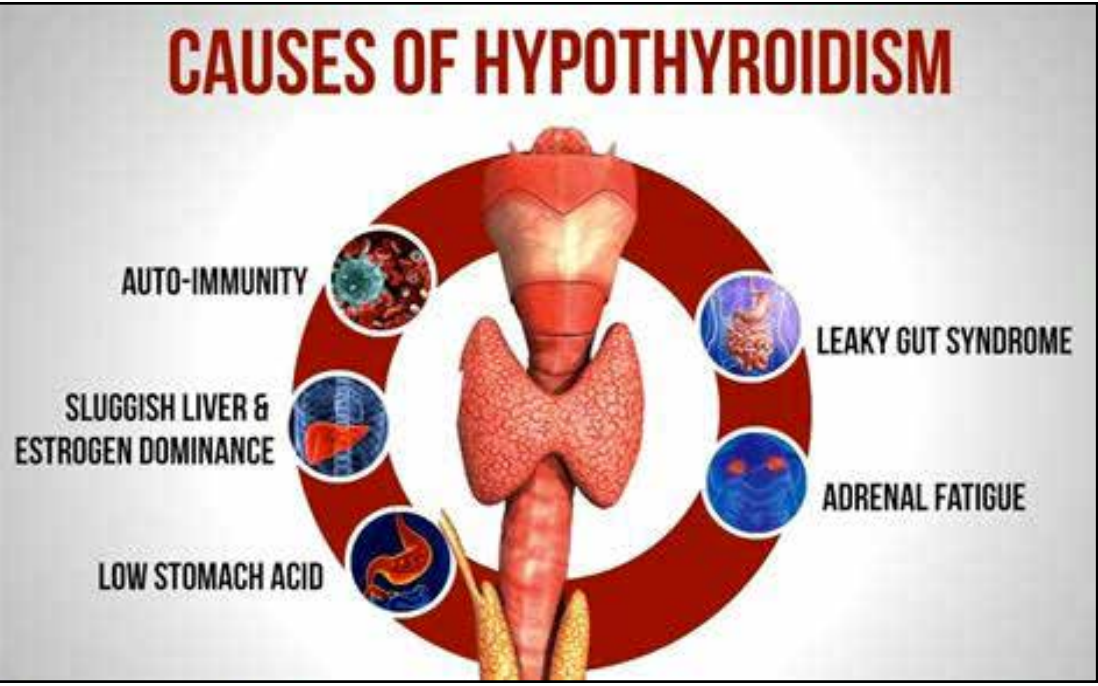


The human body is vulnerable to a host of health problems. Some issues garner ample attention, while others may slip under the radar. Thyroid issues likely fall into the latter group, though that could change in the years to come. A 2013 report in the journal The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology estimated that roughly 200 million people across the globe are affected by diseases of the thyroid.

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

1. Unexplained changes in body weight: The thyroid is a gland in the front of the neck that helps control the body’s metabolism. Metabolism can affect body weight, so individuals who are experiencing thyroid issues may gain weight (hypothyroidism) or lose weight (hyperthyroidism) even if they have not made any changes to their diets or fitness routines. WebMD reports that hypothyroidism is much more common than hyperthyroidism.
2. Swelling in the neck: WebMD notes that a swelling or enlargement in the neck indicates something might be wrong with your thyroid. Though swelling in the neck does not always indicate a thyroid problem, any swelling or enlargement in this area merits a phone call to a physician.
3. Changes in heart rate: Harvard Medical School reports that excess thyroid hormones cause the heart to beat harder and faster. This change is linked to hyperthyroidism, which also can cause abnormal heart rhythms. But a reduction in heart rate also can indicate a thyroid issue, namely hypothyroidism.
4. Unexplained changes in energy levels: Noticeable changes in energy levels also may indicate the presence of thyroid issues. Hypothyroidism can zap individuals’ energy, leaving them feeling tired and sluggish. People with hypothyroidism also may experience depression. WebMD notes that hyperthyroidism can contribute to anxiety, difficulty sleeping, restlessness, and irritability.
5. Hair loss: While hypothyroidism and hyperthyroidism often produce opposite effects (i.e., weight gain or weight loss), each condition can cause people to lose their hair. The British Thyroid Foundation reports that thyroid-associated hair loss affects the entire scalp as opposed to discreet areas.

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



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Advertisements for non-alcoholic beer may never prove as prevalent as commercials for alcoholic beers, but the growing visibility of such promotions likely comes as no surprise to industry analysts familiar with the growing popularity of alcohol-free beer. According to the Beer Institute, the market for non-alcoholic beer tripled in size in the half-decade preceding 2025. Indeed, an economist at the Beer Institute indicates that non-alcoholic beer is the fastest growing segment in the beer industry. In addition, a recent report from the Brewers Association indicated a 30 percent year-over-year increase in non-alcoholic beer sales in 2024, and industry experts estimate the market size for non-alcoholic beer will increase from \$20 billion in 2023 to \$40 billion in 2023.

INSPECTIONS

March 31, 1st Choice, Bayboro, build, \$130.72; ME Maher Construction, Grantsboro, new, \$1,948.78; Robert Deihlmann, Oriental, build, 4247.80; Wired Tight, Arapahoe, electrical, \$150

April 1, Robert Taylor, Merritt, electrical, \$50; Todd Hardy, Merritt, electrical, \$126.80; Stephen Poole, Arapahoe, flooring, \$50

April 2, River Dunes, Oriental, electrical, \$100; Charles Banks, Arapahoe, build, \$62.80; Raymond Walker, Arapahoe, mechanical, \$100

April 3, Derek Potter, Grantsboro, electrical, \$150; Tim Newman/Sarah Hackney, Arapahoe, ramp; Dave Sergeant, Arapahoe, mechanical, \$100; Bryan Ward, Oriental, build, \$371.60; William Mahaney, Oriental, gas, \$50

April 4, Herbert Willis, Arapahoe, repair, \$50; Pamlico County 6-12 School, Bayboro, new build, \$38,066.66; Deidra Wogaman, Oriental, mechanical, \$100

April 7, Gary Noble, Oriental, plumbing, \$50; Allen Blount, Arapahoe, demo, \$0

April 8, Brendan Kearns, Oriental, build deck, \$145.36; Ed Jakelsky, Arapahoe, electrical, \$100; Hudson, Bayboro, gas, \$50; Roger Rowe, New Bern, mechanical, \$100; Horace McCormick, Merritt, gas, \$50; Mike Lazenby, Oriental, electrical, \$200; Randall & Brittany Patterson, Grantsboro, new, \$1,129.46; Maher, Arapahoe, new, \$1,381.96

April 9, Christie Hudson, Bayboro, mechanical, \$100; Mark Landow, Bayboro, mechanical, \$100; Don & Michelle Dempsey, Arapahoe, addition, \$498.56

April 10, Stewart Armstrong, Grantsboro, singlewide, \$235; Karen Winkelvoss, New Bern, build, \$260; Michael Guderian, Oriental, build, \$860.76; Walmart, Grantsboro, electrical, \$100; John Williams, Oriental, electrical, \$100

April 11, Virgil Potter, Bayboro, electrical, \$100; Streamline, Arapahoe, new, \$1,777.10; Daniel Baker, Grantsboro, electrical, \$50

April 14, Nicholas Frank, Arapahoe, mechanical, \$100; Tony Howell, Oriental, electrical, \$100; Charles McKenna, New Bern, porch, \$76.88; Michael Taylor, Alliance, reconnect, \$50

April 15, Melinda Ray, Oriental, electrical, \$100; Maurice Smith, Arapahoe, \$100; John Kime, Oriental, mechanical, \$100; Daniel Bailey, Grantsboro, mechanical, \$100; Brian Bowen, Merritt, mechanical, \$100; John Williams, Oriental, gas, \$50; Stewart Dunham, New Bern, build,

\$50

April 16, Louis Ostendorf, Oriental, build, \$1,297.16; John Auton, Arapahoe, CAMA dock, \$436.28; John Auton, Arapahoe, CAMA Minor App, \$100

April 17, Dean A. Brown, Oriental, build shed, \$234.40; Michael Logar, Minnesott Beach, new, \$2,201.98; Ulf Banzholzer, Oriental, build, 1558.60; Bay River Capital, Vandemere, new, \$1,434.60; Bay River Capital, electrical, \$100

April 21, Valice Carmen, Bayboro, ramp, \$0; Coffee Creek, Merritt, residential, \$994.76; Tony Howell, Oriental, mechanical, \$100

April 22, Thurmon Price, Lowland, storage building, \$215.20; Justin Scott, New Bern, building, \$1,210; Brinson/Harper, Grantsboro, manufactured house, \$235

April 23, Wilmer Miller, Oriental, electrical, \$100; Andrew Baranosky, Grantsboro, electrical, \$50; Kirby Spencer, Grantsboro, reno, \$50; Dawn B. Gibson, Oriental, mechanical, \$100; Nancy Book/Ken Stearman, Bayboro, build, \$90.32; Camp Vandemere, Vandemere, gas, \$50

April 24, Adam Poole, New Bern, mechanical, \$100; Bruce Vanmeter, Oriental, mechanical, \$100; Sandra Johnson, Merritt, pool, \$150; Christopher Siren, Oriental, elevation, \$864.16; Rebecca Brinson, Grantsboro, electrical, \$50; Chris Daniels, Oriental, sign, \$100

April 25, Streamline, Arapahoe, new, \$1,345.26; Matthew Scales, Arapahoe, CAMA, \$200

April 28, Jones/Don Lee Farms, Arapahoe, singlewide, \$235; Richard Wilder, Bayboro, CAMA, \$100; Bethel FWB Church, Merritt, electrical, \$50; Maher, new, \$2,803.96; Ann Frederick, Oriental, new, \$848.92; John Deaton, Merritt, mechanical, \$100; Tom Thumb Seafood, Oriental, dock, \$183.68; Jackie Ireland, Oriental, bulkhead, \$295; SRJR, Merritt, bulkhead, \$134.50

April 29, Don Meng, Oriental, CAMA, \$232; Jim Ingram, Oriental, CAMA, \$171.84; Maurice Mizhaud, Oriental, CAMA, \$154.08; Patrick Nonnenmacher, Oriental, CAMA, \$211.84; Tom Brna, Oriental, CAMA, \$135.04; Walter/Martha JONES, Oriental, CAMA, \$159.09; PCC, Grantsboro, mechanical, \$100; Loretta Knowles, New Bern, mechanical, \$100; Howard Garfinkle, New Bern, mechanical, \$100; Jarvis Brinson, New Bern, build shed, \$184.40; Kristal Moore, Oriental, CAMA Minor App, \$100

April 30, Spectrum, Grantsboro, electrical, \$50; Robert Nixon, Oriental, electrical, \$200; Hedrik Joubert, Oriental, electrical, \$200; ENC Products,

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of Robert Francis McCotter, Jr., a/k/a Robert F. McCotter, Jr., Deceased, of Pamlico County, N.C., are notified to present the same to the Personal Representative listed below on or before August 14, 2025, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All debtors of the said Estate are asked to make immediate payment. This 14th day of May, 2025.

Debra Muse McCotter
Executor
c/o Gregory T. Peacock
Ward and Smith, P.A.
Attorneys at Law
P.O. Box 867
New Bern, NC 28563-0867

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS
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This 19TH DAY OF MAY 2025

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Publish MAY 21, 28 AND JUNE 4 AND 11, 2025.

REPORTS

Oriental, electrical, \$150; Pamlico County, Bayboro, electrica, \$100

May 1, Nik Arthur-Wong, Oriental, electrical, \$155; David Stevens, Merritt, gas, \$50; Bobby Cahoon, Arapahoe, CAMA, \$125.40

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

April 16, 0.28 Lot 1 & 0.31 AC Lot 2; Map Attached from jennifer Stickrath to Jennifer Stickrath, \$0

April 16, Timber Deed; PIN K031-3-3; 7.9 AC Map Attached from Jewel Smith, Malinda J. Fuller to Buck Timber Company, Inc., \$13

April 16, Murphy Lot: 10, Section 3 PCA 165-9 from Michael L. Heilman, Kathleen M. Heilman to Curtis D. Brock, \$405

April 16, Murphy Lot: 9 Section 3 PCA 165-98 from Jeffrey Byrne, Angela Byrne to Curtis D. Brock, \$608

April 16, Caraway Cove Lot:15 PCA 164-11 PIN E09-17-15 from Richard A. Maher to Helen Rebecca Godfrey, Inho Kim, \$30

April 16, Cutter Bay Lot: 19 5.05 AC PCB 16-5 PIN H042-70-19 from Cutter Bay LLC to Equity Trust Company/Cust, Equity Trust Company AS Custodian FBO of Lloyd B Mack ACCT# 1739686, Lloyd B Mack ACCT # 1739686, Lloyd B. Mack, \$360

April 17, Forestshore Estates Lot: 19 PCA 38-4, Forestshore Estates Boat Slip 8 PCA 39-8 from Robert E. Spillman to Robert Michael Shepard, Rosa Maria Shepard, \$114

April 17, PIN: H094-78; 25E1074; Lot 2; Map in DB 316/565; Part of J.W. Cowell China Grove-Neuse River Development from Judy Corbett Davenport/EST, Laura Ashley Davenport, Laura Ashley Davenport/EXR, Nicole Davenport Coughlan, Nichole Davenport Coughlan, Nichole D. Goughlan, Terence Coughlan to Robert F. Dail, Tracey R. Dail, \$1,280

April 17, PIN H094-20-2; ½ AC Hill St from James Dennis Dunlap, LOuann Dunlap, Hunter Ladd Dunlap, Haley Dunlap, Derek Warren Dunlap, Renee Dunlap to Martin Lewis Privette/ TR, \$120

April 17, Whittaker Harbor Lot: 4 Phase I PCA 153-1 from Debra Nissman Young/TR, Debra Nissman Young, D N Young/TR, Debra Nissman Young Trust to Anthony J. Mineo, Jennifer E. Mineo, \$346

April 17, .74 AC Lot B PCB 15-16 from Katherine Marie Hamlett, Paul Anderson Dickey to Cale Griffin, Sarah Y. Markwell, \$94

April 21, Creek Pointe Lot: 27 Portion; Section II PCA 46-6 from Richard T. Happ, Nancy A. Happ to Lawrence

R. Happ/TR, Lawrence R. Happ, Ann Kelley Happ/TR, Ann Kelley Happ, Lawrence R. Happ and Ann Kelley Happ Living Trust, \$330

April 21, Arlington Place Mill Creek Lot: 101 Phase I PCA 172-2 from Streamline Developers, LLC to Michael L. Plumbtree, Charlene M. Plumbtree, \$1,188

April 21, Cutter Bay Lot: 23, 5.93 AC Cutter Bay Way; PCB 19-5 PIN H042-70-23 from Cutter Bay LLC to Fabian Bailey, Barbara Bailey, \$380

April 21, PIN K051-46; 0.15 AC Rice Ave & SR 1330 Near Florence from Woody A. Sutton, Jr., Melissa H. Sutton to C & J Investments of Kinston, LLC, \$200

April 21, Parcel 81 Main St & 3rd St from Rita Decatur, Lawrence Decatur to Joseph Decatur, \$0

April 21, ¼ AC S/S Maine St & E/S Third St from Rita Decatur, Lawrence Decatur to Cameron Ridgell, Joseph Decatur, Jr., Timothy Decatur, Christian Decatur, \$0

April 21, Caraway Cove Lot: 11 PCA 164-11, Caraway Cove Lot: 12 PCA 164-11, PIN E09-17-11 from Revocable Trust of Herbert Robert Crimp, Michael J. Crimp/TR, Herbert Robert Crimp to Terri L. Welch, Brian A. Barnisky, \$105

April 21, 0.37 AC Neuse Drive; map in DB 698/89 from Leighton R. Stallings, Jr., Stephanie K. Phillips to Timothy Smith, Lisa Smith, \$997

April 22, R.H. Stephenson Lots Lot: 13 MB 2/90 PIN E091-6-13 from Lori L. Stone, Theodore L. Queen, Tonya Lyon Queen to Mick Rivers Revocable Trust, Mick Rivers, \$1,802

April 23, R.H. Stephenson Lots Lot: 4 ¼ AC Portion of lot; MB 2.90, R.H. Stephenson Lots Lot: 27, MB 3/35, PIN E091-6-27 & E09-23 from Gary L. Butts, Judith Ann Butts to Gary L. Butts, Judith A. Butts, \$0

April 23, Cutter Bay Lot: 84 3.07 AC Cutter Bay, South St, Merritt, PCB1508 PIN H042-70-84 from Cutter Bay LLC to Christopher Troy Robinson, Keiara Jantae Parks, \$140

April 24, Pinedale Lot: 53 NE/S Chair Rd; Map in DB 356/9, Trustee's Deed; DT 409/589 from Daniel Thomas Sawyer, Betty Jean Sawyer, Anchor Trustee Services, LLC/TR to Dwelling Properties IV, LLC, \$122

April 24, Cutter Bay Lot: 54 7.15 AC PCB 16-4, PIN H042-70-54 from Cutter Bay LLC to Equity Trust Company/CUST, Frederick L. Barber, Equity Trust Company as Custodian FBO, Frederick L. Barber #1739826, Frederick L. Barber #1739826, \$500

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AROUND THE COUNTY

Grantsboro Jeff Roberts, *Correspondent*

Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening. I sure hope everyone has had an amazing week since we last met. We are on the approach of school letting out for the summer and all the kiddos will be at home. Holiday events and vacations will be happening. The holiday event that starts things off is this weekend. Memorial Day weekend, a lot of folks confuse the meaning of this holiday with Veterans Day, however they are quite different.

Memorial Day honors the many men and women who laid it all on the line. The ones that didn't return. The ones who didn't make it home to the parades or the huge welcome homes. These brave men and women gave the ultimate sacrifice to preserve our freedoms. This day is for us to reflect on their service to this great country that they so diligently protected no matter the cost.

Memorial Day can be dated back as far as 1865 with the end of the Civil War. Communities around the country began having ceremonies remembering all who gave all. The first national observance of Memorial Day, as what was known as Decoration Day, was declared by General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic on May 5, 1868. Memorial Day finally became a National Holiday in 1971. So this weekend bow your heads and thank those that have fallen in defense of this great nation.

There are a few events happening this weekend. Thursday the 22nd at 3pm Carolina Bay Outfitters will host their Grand Opening and Lip Synco de Mayo kicks off at the Red Rooster at 7pm. Friday



the 23rd at 7:30 Footloose on the Neuse with a Journey tribute band happens at Union Point. 6pm will kick off the Memorial Day weekend at Squidders in Vandemere.

Now onto something different. Recently I have read several posts on Facebook about access will no longer be granted to Styrontown Beach via the property adjoining it. This saddens me greatly as I spend a lot of time there with my camera. During my time there I have seen a lot of great things happening. Kite surfing, kids playing in the water, families enjoying the sand and beach. All the things the people in a coastal community should be doing. Unfortunately we now live in a coastal community with very limited access to a beach. As developments and private home owners have bought our coast line our way of life has dramatically changed. No longer can we set up on the beach and enjoy our coastline, no longer walking a net out with our father to catch dinner while we play. No longer standing on the beach as we fly a kite or cast a line. Our beloved county needs to establish public access to beaches for all, not just ones with a boat. We need as a county to rebuild the lost beaches that once lined Minnesott, Dawson's Creek and other areas. These areas need maintaining and monitoring to keep them clean, safe, and enjoyable to all. We need public access, you shouldn't have to be rich to enjoy a day at the beach along our county's coastline. So I urge all of you to speak up, have a voice, and come together with our commissioners for a solution for public access.

Pamlico Betty Jo Rodgers, *Correspondent*

Stonewall Methodist Church celebrated their 231st Homecoming on Sunday May 18, 2025. Old hymns were sung with the musicians to the delight of the congregation. It was a joyful time for everyone including the visitors, but it was most joyful for Benjamin Alexander who was celebrating his birthday. The fellowship meal that followed the service was well attended and yet many had enough food left to take home to feed their families for supper. Like Jesus feeding the 5000, it seemed to multiply and there was more than needed.

Stonewall Methodist will celebrate Memorial Day Sunday with music by Craig Cooper. The County Courthouse will host the Memorial Day service at 10:00am on Monday, May 26, 2025.

The fields in Pamlico have been plowed and are now sprouting corn and soybeans. The corn on Trent Road especially flourished after the small rain we have been receiving. It is so nice to see everything green-up, of course that also means time to mow lawns and work in the gardens outside. Joannis planted a tomato plant on my back porch for me. I always try to have at least one tomato plant each year. I love some home grown 'mater sandwiches made with Duke's mayonnaise. Amazingly, my Mother's Day flowers are still beautiful on my dining room table.

Wildlife is abundant in the Pamlico area. Spring is mating season, and we have seen turkeys, raccoons, opossums, squirrels, and a plethora of species of birds including cardinals, black birds, wrens, and hummingbirds to name a few. I downloaded the Merlin app that Doug Carey told me about so now I can name more birds when I am outside and hear them singing.

Construction continues at the corner of Trent and Straight Road with a new outbuilding on the property next to Kenny and Linda Hill. I also noticed a couple of vehicles for sale that said, "must go, make an offer."

The school year is winding down so be mindful of youngsters being out and about as you are driving around Pamlico County. We want them to have a safe summer.

Celebrating birthdays in May are Zachary Rodgers and Shannon Lee Wing (5/20), Dennis Stokes (5/25), Johnny Bishop, Bailey Smith, and Lakissha H. Smith (5/26), Mike Roach (5/27), Bonnie Kedjerski and Suzie Rodgers (5/30),.

Celebrating their anniversary in May are Timothy and Veronica Jones (5/30).

Have a blessed week. Scared? Take Spiritual Vitamin S. "Abide thou with me, fear not: for he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life: but with me thou shalt be in safeguard." (1 Samuel 22:23)

Whortonsville Reba Tiller, *Correspondent*

We just finished up Mother's Day and now we are headed for another holiday Memorial Day. When you get older they come so much faster than when we were young! Communion was served at church today and there were fifteen attending the service. My yard is beautiful. I have Easter Lillies blooming and yucca with their lovely white blooms. It will be lunch at Bethel

next Sunday. They are having a Low Country Boil. We call it Frogmore which is confusing to people, but it was started in a little country town called Frogmore, S.C. I stopped there so I could get a card that had the name of the little town. Sylvia Nickerson always gets the Yard of the Month here in Whortonsville. She is also talented in crochet work and has been attending Prime Time

at Oriental U. Methodist on Thursday where they have Crochet Classes. My nephew started picking blueberries in Beulahville last week. He and his wife Carol along with my niece Lalon and husband Tom from the Villages in Florida came down and brought fresh blueberries. Richard was here last week working on his house next door. Dave Wickersham sent out e-mails reminding everyone of the Memorial Service at the County Courthouse at 10.00a.m. on Monday. Bethel has Bible Study and Prayer Service on Wednesday evening at 6:00p.m.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK— REMEMBER THIS MEMORIAL DAY OF THE SACRIFICES OF SO MANY LIVES SO WE COULD LIVE IN A FREE WORLD!

2025 North Carolina Fossil Festival Presented by the Aurora Fossil Museum

Thousands of people (over 19,000 in 2024) annually participate in the Award-winning North Carolina Fossil Festival in Aurora, N.C. Participation reflects that fossil hunting has become a popular activity for thousands of individuals and families across the region and nation, and the Aurora Fossil Museum has become a mecca for hunters. The museum provides free fossil hunting and STEM education opportunities for people locally, regionally, and online. In 2024, over 34,000 people visited the Aurora Fossil Museum to Dig the Past with us.

The North Carolina Fossil Festival celebrates the state's natural history and furthers the museum's goal of educating the public regarding natural history in an enjoyable and engaging fashion. The 2025 North Carolina Fossil Festival will occur on May 24 & 25, 2025, and will include wide-ranging, accessible, and fun-filled activities for families and children to do, including:

- Search for ancient shark teeth and fossils in piles delivered by the local phosphate mine.
- Live music on the North Carolina Fossil Festival stage.
- Over 60 vendors, including food, fossil, mineral, craft, business, and community organizations.
- STEAM Zone, featuring nonprofit organizations representing museums and science centers across North Carolina and fun activities
- Paleo Zone, featuring fossils displays by members of the North Carolina Fossil Club, the Smithsonian, and the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences.
- Dino Zone, featuring life-size puppets and exhibits.
- Brew Zone, featuring special edition craft brews created by Mill Whistle Brewing and Brutopia.
- Kid Zone, featuring activities sponsored by Coastal Soft Play and a Sunday FOAM Party by Emerald Owl Productions.
- LOGIC Teen Science Café.

- Mining Zone, featuring mining equipment courtesy of Trader Construction.
- Fossil 5K Run and Flythe's Bike Shop's Jurassic Classic Bike Ride.
- Veterans & First Responders Breakfast to honor those who serve.
- Silent auction featuring fossils and natural history items.

The North Carolina Fossil Festival proceeds and sponsorships benefit the 501(c)(3) nonprofit Aurora Fossil Museum Foundation, Inc. (Tax ID: 56-2181393), which allows for public educational and scientific outreach regarding the unique fossil record "right under our feet."



North Carolina Fossil Festival
400 Main Street, Aurora, NC 27806
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https://ncfossilfest.com/
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Now back in 1927 an American socialist, Norman Thomas, six times candidate for president on the Socialist Party ticket, said the American people would never vote for socialism. But he said under the name of liberalism the American people will adopt every fragment of the socialist program.

–Ronald Reagan

Town of Grantsboro

Notice of Public Hearing

Proposed Budget for 2025-26

The proposed budget for the Town of Grantsboro for fiscal year 2025-26 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 3, 2025 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

The American Veterinary Medical Association notes that the Lyme disease vaccine is not right for every dog. The AVMA notes that between 5 and 10 percent of dogs infected with Lyme disease develop signs of illness, but thousands of cases are still reported each year. Many dogs are sufficiently protected against Lyme disease by tick-prevention products recommended by veterinarians, who can help dog owners pick the right products for their pets. During these discussions, pet owners can inquire about the Lyme disease vaccine. The AVMA notes that veterinarians consider a range of variables before recommending the vaccine or suggesting a pet does not need it. Such factors include location, as dogs that live and spend time outdoors in areas with high tick populations may be prime candidates for vaccination. The pet's lifestyle, including how much time it spends outdoors in grassy areas, and overall health will also be considered as veterinarians attempt to determine if the dog needs a Lyme disease vaccination.






Memorial Day Ceremony

REMEMBER AND HONOR

Monday May 26, 2025 at 10 am

Pamlico County Courthouse

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MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER AND HONOR

MAY 26, 2025

PAMLICO COUNTY
REPUBLICAN PARTY

PCMS Spring Band Concert

by: Hiram Lupton



The Sixth Grade Band

It is end of school year band concert time and last week, the talented musicians of Pamlico County Middle School kicked off the week with a Tuesday night performance. First on stage was the sixth-grade band who performed three selections. These young students have shown remarkable improvement throughout the year and their hard work in mastering these pieces was evident. Next up was the eighth-grade group who received a little showcase on their own with their rendering of The Simpsons Theme. They were then joined by the seventh graders for a three-song finale. As Director of Pamlico School Bands, Mr. James Durham said, “I’m excited to see what these young musicians can accomplish. The future is bright for music in Pamlico County Schools.”




The Combined Seventh and Eighth Grade Bands

Music is the movement of sound to reach the soul for the education of its virtue. –Plato

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Memorial Day Boating: 5 Must-Know Safety Tips

Memorial Day weekend is around the corner, and if you’re planning on boating, now’s the time to prepare for this unofficial kickoff to summer.

In this article, you'll find a list of Memorial Day boating tips to help you and your crew enjoy a safe and fun weekend. Before your Memorial Day boat ride, it's crucial to brush up on these must-know safety tips.

How to Boat Safely During Memorial Day Weekend

1. Plan Ahead for the Holiday Weekend
Before you hop onboard, be sure to spend some time mapping out the upcoming day(s) of boating ahead.

- Invite only the number of people who will safely fit aboard. Boating with more than the maximum capacity of the vessel is unsafe and illegal.
- Get a weather report and a forecast for the day. Monitor changing conditions and have an exit strategy if necessary.
- File a float plan—whether formally with a marina or informally with friends or family. Share your route and return time, and don't forget to check in afterward.
- Celebrate safely by designating a Sober Skipper and establishing clear guidelines for responsible alcohol use while onboard. Most importantly, the captain should never operate the boat under the influence.

2. Prep Your Boat (and Trailer) in Advance

Inspect your boat—whether it's a bowrider, center console, fishing boat, PWC, motoryacht or sailboat—and be sure it's ready to go out.

- Bilge pumps, running lights, engines, and all critical onboard systems should work.
- If you have a trailer, inspect your brake lights, tire pressure, wheel bearings, and tie-down equipment.
- Carry and display current registration decals, boating or fishing licenses, safety course certificates, and any required Coast Guard documents.
- Bring extra fuel if you'll be towing a lot for watersports, or if you're planning on going on an extended coastal passage.
- And of course, don't forget the drain plug before launching!

3. Use a Pre-Departure Checklist

Required boating safety equipment differs by size and type of vessel—at a minimum, start with these "must-have" items:

- U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets for everyone aboard.
- Fire extinguisher(s).
- Emergency medical kit
- Visual and sound signaling devices
- VHF radio



4. Get Your Crew Involved

Educate your crew about some of the basic expectations and tasks they can expect during a day of boating. By involving them, you'll also help to expand their boating skills for future on-water adventures.

- When guests come aboard, show them where life jackets are stowed and how to put them on.
- Show them where fire extinguishers are and how to use them (pull the pin and aim at the base of the flames).
- Demonstrate the proper use of a VHF radio when calling for help.
- Provide a quick safety briefing, including instructions on managing docking lines and fenders.
- Discuss the possibility of seasickness and what to do if anyone feels unwell.

5. Navigate Crowds with Courtesy and Caution

Memorial Day is one of the busiest boating weekends of the year. Before heading out, here are some tips to keep in mind while out on the water:



- Review the rules of the road for boating before pushing off the dock.
- Expect crowds at the launch ramp, which can get chaotic with moving boats, trailers, and even people in the water.
- Maintain a safe speed and familiarize yourself with local boating speed zones.
- Always keep a proper lookout.
- Be courteous and responsible on the water. Don't rely on others to know the rules and always control your wake around swimmers and small vessels.

Enjoy a Fun (and Safe) Memorial Day Boat Trip

Before you know it, you'll be cruising into a fun-filled three-day weekend. Follow these safety tips to help ensure your boating adventure is safe, smooth, and memorable.

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The Merchant Marine and Memorial Day

by: Hiram Lupton

This week there are two important holidays on the calendar, one well known and one you may not be aware of. Monday, May 26, is Memorial Day, a day we honor those in our armed forces who gave the last full measure protecting our Country and our freedoms. Also, next week, on May 22, we celebrate National Maritime Day. This day honors the mariners, sailors, and seafarers for their contributions and sacrifices for our country. Pamlico County has a long history of men “going to sea,” whether as merchant seaman, fishermen, or in the Navy or Coast Guard. This day also recognizes the ship-building industry and those who built the boats and ships big and small that plied waterways locally and worldwide. During World War II, Merchant Mariners sailed into danger, delivering needed war supplies to our allies and our own troops. Roughly 7,000 lost their lives in the service of their country in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters of war. In 1988, after many appeals to the U.S. Department of Defense, Merchant Mariners who served during World War II were granted Veterans status. Four of the 7,000 Merchant Mariners who were lost were from Pamlico County and their names are located on the Veterans Memorial in front of the Pamlico County Courthouse.



Names appearing on Pamlico County's Veterans Memorial.



SS Frances Salman



The Merchant Marine Mariner's Medal awarded to U.S. seamen, or their families, who were killed or wounded as a direct result of conflict against an opposing force.

Floyd T. Ireland of Lowland, was sailing on the SS Oakmar as the 1st Engineer when it was shelled and sunk by the German submarine U-71 on March 20, 1942. It was about 300 miles east of Cape Hatteras and was en route to Boston Massachusetts from Trinidad. Six out of a crew of 36 were lost including Ireland.

Bruce C. Lupton was sailing as an Ordinary Seaman on the Cargo ship SS Frances Salman when it was torpedoed by the German submarine U-552 off the coast of St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada on January 18, 1942. The ship reportedly sank in 8 minutes. Of a crew of 28, there were no survivors. Lupton, from Lowland, was only 17 years old.

Sherman Lupton, also from Lowland, was a 3rd Mate sailing on the tanker SS Pan New York when it was torpedoed

by the German submarine U-624 in the North Atlantic Ocean about 550 miles west of Northern Ireland on October 29, 1942. There were 39 crew members of the crew and 17 members of the naval armed guard aboard. Of these, 26 crew and 16 Navy men were lost.

Murray C. Mason of Oriental was sailing as an Able-Bodied Seaman on the Liberty Ship, SS Jeremiah Van Rennselaer, when it was torpedoed by the German submarine U-456 on February 2, 1943 in the North Atlantic Ocean. She had a crew of 42 men and 28 Navy armed guard aboard. Of these, 35 crew and 11 navy gunners were lost.

These four natives of Pamlico County gave their lives for their country and are now honored and remembered on Memorial Day.

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ELIJAH WRIGHT

As you step into new chapters of your lives, may the Lord's guidance, protection, and love be with you every step of the way.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

CLASS OF 2025


This year's senior class reflects the mission of Pamlico Christian Academy—students of character, academic excellence, and Kingdom purpose.

All students completed college-level courses through the NC Career & College Promise Program, with our Valedictorian, Ellie Spencer, earning a certificate marking her halfway to an associate degree. Lily Mathews was named **Mariner of the Year**. Lily, along with Katherine, Auburn, and Ellie, were members of the Beta Club.

Many seniors also earned spots on the **Honor Roll** or **Director's List**, while others were recognized for athletic and leadership achievements.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
— Jeremiah 29:11

'2025 PCA PROMOTIONS'



Kenneth Roberts, Richard Dali, Jakoby Roberson, Preston Dixon, Elijah Spencer, Ryder Perry, Chase Henthorn, Jaden De Palo, Lillie Grace Hudson, Bryson Ettore, Addilyn Haines, Sydney Hoopengartner, Vivian Mercer, Alana Haywood, Olivia Anderson, Makena Shaffer (not shown)

Our 8th grade class is completing a meaningful chapter and stepping into high school with confidence and preparation. Many earned recognition on the **Honor Roll** or **Director's List**, while others stood out through leadership and character—core values of the PCA family. As they enter this next season, students will have opportunities to flourish through the college partnership program, athletics, and leadership roles.

We're proud of all they've accomplished and excited for what lies ahead.

“Great works are performed not by strength, but perseverance.”


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Hurricane Baseball Exits in Third Round

by: Hiram Lupton

For the second year in a row, the Pamlico County High School Baseball team's season ends with a 1-run loss to the top seeded team in the eastern region in the third round of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's state playoffs. Both games were eerily similar. In 2024, Pamlico traveled to #1 seeded Bear Grass Charter School, scored first, watch the game settle into a tight pitcher's duel, only to lose in the late stages of the game by one run, 4-3. This year, the Hurricanes traveled to Durham for their third-round matchup to take on Voyager Academy, also the #1 seed in the east, and also a Charter/Prep/Academy school. Pamlico notched a run in the first inning as freshman Cam Daniels reached base and came around to score giving the Hurricanes an early 1-0 lead. It would stay that way through the fifth inning as Pamlico starter Ross McLamb held the Vikings in check. But Voyager wasn't the #1 seed for nothing and they tied things up with a run in their half of the fifth. Pamlico quickly answered as Brady Caccavaro scored to put Pamlico back on top, but it was short lived. The Vikings sailed home with a run in both the sixth to tie, and the bottom of the seventh to walk off the win, 3-2. A disappointing loss for sure, but at the end of a season, only one team will not have a disappointing loss. The Hurricanes have much to be proud of for what they accomplished this season and much to look forward to for next year.



Hurricane Head Coach Chris Davis



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PCHS Spring Band Concert

by: Hiram Lupton

The Pamlico County High School Band has often been described as small but mighty, as in small in number, but mighty in their sound. They proved that once again last Thursday evening at their Spring Band Concert. The show was divided into three sections with the PCHS Symphonic Band performing at the beginning and the end, with The Pamlico Sound Jazz Ensemble taking the stage in the middle. The Symphonic band featured a special treat, with a different student conductor for each piece that they chose themselves. Z'rya Squires, Jonah Rose, Isaiah Rodriguez, Hunter Harrison, Lily McGowan, Brianna Young, and David Mewborn each took a turn with the baton, showing that they have talent leading the band as well as playing in it. The Pamlico Sound Jazz Ensemble is made up of five high schoolers and a pair of talented 8th graders, and they showcased their improvisation skills in a great 3-song set. An excellent evening of music proving once again that the arts are alive in Pamlico County Schools. Great job students and Director of Bands, Mr. James Durham.



The Pamlico Sound Jazz Ensemble



The Pamlico County High School Symphonic Band

I said to the Gym instructor “Can you teach me to do the splits?” He said, “How flexible are you?” I said, “I can’t make Tuesdays.”

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Karen earned her Fine Arts degree at the University of Maryland, and her master's degree in Instructional Design at Virginia Tech.



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NORTH CAROLINA FOSSIL FESTIVAL, AURORA
2025 Schedule of Events

Saturday, May 24

9:00 am-11:00 am	Jurassic Classic Bike Ride	N. Fifth Street
11:00 am-5:00 pm	STEAM & History Activities	STEAM Zone
11:00 am-5:00 pm	Fossil Displays	Aurora Community Center
11:00 am-6:00 pm	Mining Equipment Displays	Mining Zone
11:00 am-7:00 pm	Arts & Crafts Vendors	Festival Grounds
11:00 am-8:00 pm	Fossil & Mineral Vendors	Festival Grounds
11:00 am-8:00 pm	Food & Drink Vendors	Festival Grounds
11:30 am-5:30 pm	VIP Experience Open	VIP Zone
12:00 pm-1:30 pm	Music: PS Productions	Main Stage
12:00 pm-6:00 pm	Aurora Fossil Museum Open	Aurora Fossil Museum
12:00 pm-6:00 pm	Silent Auction Open	AFM Learning Center
12:00 pm-7:00 pm	Kid Activities	Kid Zone
12:00 pm-8:00 pm	Brew Zone Open	Brew Zone
12:00 pm-8:00 pm	Fossil Pits & Piles Open	Festival Grounds
1:00 pm-4:00 pm	Dinosaur & Magic Shows	Dino Zone
1:30 pm-3:30 pm	Live Music: Michael Schott Band	Main Stage
4:30 pm-8:00 pm	Live Music: The I-42 Band	Main Stage
6:00 pm-9:00 pm	VIP Twilight Dig	VIP Zone
8:00 pm-9:00 pm	Music: PS Productions	Main Stage

Sunday, May 25

8:00 am-9:00 am	5K Fossil Run	Main Street
9:00 am-10:00 am	Veterans/1 st Responders Breakfast	Aurora Community Center
10:00 am-5:00 pm	Arts & Crafts Vendors	Festival Grounds
10:00 am-5:00 pm	Fossil & Mineral Vendors	Festival Grounds
10:00 am-5:00 pm	Food & Drink Vendors	Festival Grounds
10:00 am-5:00 pm	Kid Activities	Kid Zone
10:00 am-5:00 pm	Mining Equipment Displays	Mining Zone
10:00 am-5:00 pm	Silent Auction Open	AFM Learning Center
10:00 am-5:00 pm	Aurora Fossil Museum Open	Aurora Fossil Museum
10:00 am-5:00 pm	Fossil Pits & Piles Open	Festival Grounds
11:00 am-4:00 pm	Dinosaur Shows	Dino Zone
11:00 am-4:00 pm	STEAM Activities	STEAM Zone
11:00 am-5:00 pm	VIP Experience Open	VIP Zone
12:00 pm-4:00 pm	FOAM Party!	Kid Zone
12:00 pm-5:00 pm	Brew Zone Open	Brew Zone
12:00 am-5:00 pm	DJ Music: PS Productions	Main Stage
1:00 pm-3:00 pm	LOGIC: Teen Café	Aurora Community Center



Presented by the Aurora Fossil Museum 400 Main Street, Aurora, NC 252-322-4238 <https://ncfossilfest.com/>

