



The Pamlico News

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

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Are you ready to make waves for Special Olympics?

Join us Jan 31 for the 2026 Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Pamlico County at John Bond Town Beach!

When you go freezin' for a reason, you help athletes across Pamlico county get off the sidelines and into the game.

Special Olympics athletes are never asked to pay a fee, so your support helps us provide all they need to experience the joy of sports! That means helping to provide sports training, equipment, facilities, uniforms and so much more.

All it takes is \$50 and a bit of nerve to participate. Sign up to make a splash this Polar Plunge season!



SCAM ALERT: FDIC impersonation scheme reported in Pamlico County

by News 12 Staff

The Pamlico County Sheriff's Office is warning residents about a new phone scam targeting local community members. Several residents have reported receiving calls from individuals falsely claiming to represent the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) regarding supposed "fraudulent charges" on their bank accounts.

According to authorities, one of the major red flags is that the callers do not mention the name of the resident's bank — a common tactic used to cast a wide net and pressure victims into sharing sensitive information.

Officials urge residents to keep the following in mind:

- Monitor accounts regularly. Review bank statements and online activity frequently.
- Verify through official channels. If you receive a suspicious call, contact your bank directly using the number on the back of your debit/credit card or the institution's official website.
- Protect personal information. Never provide financial or personal details over the phone to anyone you did not initiate contact with.



The Sheriff's Office is encouraging residents to stay vigilant and to share this information with neighbors, particularly seniors and others who may be more vulnerable to scams.

Anyone who believes they may have been targeted or provided information to one of these callers is advised to contact local law enforcement immediately.

Island Breakfast with Santa

by: Hiram Lupton



Santa welcomes another excited visitor with open arms



The beautifully decorated Goose Creek Island Community Center

Christmas is a special time of year, filled with joy, magic, and wonderment. No where is that more evident than at the Goose Creek Island Community Center in Hobucken and the annual "Island Breakfast with Santa." This is the third year that the Goose Creek Island Alumni has put on this great event to help raise funds for the Community Center. The entire community center is transformed into a winter wonderland. There was cookie decorating, Christmas crafts, and letters to Santa. The auditorium is filled in every corner with decorations to bring holiday cheer including an enormous Christmas village. There was also a delicious breakfast cooked up by the world-famous chef, Shirley Mayo Ireland herself. There was also of course the big man, direct from the north pole, Santa Claus. Families got to visit

with St. Nick and personally tell him their Christmas wish list. This was truly an experience for the whole family and one that would put even scrooge in the Christmas spirit. In addition to everything else, three Christmas baskets were raffled off raising over \$800 to be donated to the "Make a Wish Foundation" in memory of Noah Sadler. If you missed this year, go ahead and mark your calendar for December 5, 2026 for next years breakfast. Also, the GCI alumni would like to let everyone know that the community center will remain decorated through New Years and is available to rent for small parties and office, business and family gatherings. Just give Pam a call at 252-671-2536. Thank you to the incredible team of volunteers that worked countless hours putting this all together. Merry Christmas!

■ Photos Continued on Page A13

Marine Patrol Chief to Retire

by: Hiram Lupton

Colonel Carter Witten, the head of the North Carolina Marine Patrol is about to have a new title, that of retired Colonel. Witten began his career at the Marine Patrol in 2001 and after advancing through the ranks, was promoted to Colonel in 2019. As Colonel, he led the oldest law enforcement agency in the state, overseeing 2.5 million acres of coastal and estuarine waters and more than 4,500 miles of coastline. During his tenure, Colonel Witten was one of the few officers to have worked in all three marine patrol districts, from the state's northern border to it's southern and everything in between. Under his leadership several initiatives were undertaken or enhanced by the Marine Patrol including establishment of the NC Marine Patrol Swift Water Rescue Team, development of rules and implementation of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, and expansion and support of the Marine Patrol Education Team. These are just a few of Colonel Witten's accomplishments in addition to his everyday duties as head of the Marine Patrol whether it was day-to-day management of Patrol officers to assisting other state agencies during times of crisis and natural disasters. His vision and direction have transformed the NC Marine Patrol into a leading example of state service in North Carolina. His retirement becomes official on January 1, 2026 and he was honored last Thursday with a retirement luncheon at the fisheries aviation hangar in Morehead City. He received several retirement plaques and certificates presented to him by the Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries, Kathy Rawls. In addition, Colonel Witten was inducted into the "Order of the Long Leaf Pine," North Carolina's highest civilian honor which recognizes individuals for significant contributions, service, and leadership to the state. He was bestowed this award by retired NCDMF deputy director Dee Lupton, a past recipient of the award.



Colonel Carter Witten receives certification of his retirement from the Director of the NC Division of Marine Fisheries, Kathy Rawls.



Colonel Witten is inducted into the "Order of the Long Leaf Pine" by fellow member and retired Deputy Director of the NCDMF, Dee Lupton.

Marine Patrol Honored for Service in Aftermath of Tropical Storm Helene

by: Hiram Lupton



Last Thursday, the North Carolina Marine Patrol, and in particular its Swift Water Rescue Team, was recognized for its outstanding service to the State during the aftermath of Tropical Storm Helene. Members of the Marine Patrol deployed to western North Carolina immediately following the storm and assisted in the rescue and evacuation of over 400 citizens who were trapped by flood waters. North Carolina Emergency Management officials presented a North Carolina State flag and plaque to the unit in recognition of their service. The flag was one of several that accompanied support personnel on board a North Carolina National Guard helicopter on flights over the affected area in early October of 2024 and was flown then over the State Capital on December 3, 2025.



The Oriental Spirit of Christmas Flotilla will go on Friday night December 12th unless the weather is bad. We have moved it a couple of times to Saturday night. We invite kayaks, paddleboards, dinghies and canoes to the event. Please do not use motors or sails. Many meet at the Oriental Wildlife ramp (100 Midyette Street, Oriental) at a time to facilitate being in the water at about 4:45. For safety, please wear life vests and carry whistles (a white light is also required but I think Christmas lights will qualify). It's a short paddle, but much of it (especially returning) is in the dark. Battery operated Christmas lights work well for decoration.

Your arrival time would depend on how long it would take to set up your boat. We have had as many as 30 boats involved.

Not everybody departs from the Wildlife Ramp but we try to organize so everyone enters the harbor at the same time. We would like everyone to be ready just outside of the harbor so we can enter at about 5:15 PM.

It is generally somewhat light at our entrance but quickly gets dark enough for the crowd to enjoy the lights. We usually have several hundred in the crowd. It is a short paddle but much of it, particularly returning, will be in the dark. If you have any more questions, message or call me. 252-675-0467

Larry Summers



Local residents joined the toy drive by offering a monetary donation as well as bringing toys for the event.



LIKELY WEATHER OVER THE WEEKEND

Saturday, December 13th **61° Hi** Sun throughout the day

Sunday, December 14th **57° Hi** Clouds throughout the day



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Pamlico Community College

Don't wait! Spring Registration gets underway at Pamlico Community College

By Sandy Wall

Why wait until January? New and returning curriculum students can get a head start on the upcoming Spring 2026 semester at Pamlico Community College by enrolling now and registering for courses!

The registration period officially opened in late November. PCC officials are encouraging returning students to go ahead and register for the new semester before the college's winter break begins Dec. 19.

They also are encouraging new students to start the enrollment process early so they can explore the financial aid options that might be available, including scholarships.

The college still will conduct its usual Spring Registration period on Jan. 6, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., but new and returning curriculum students can avoid the new year's rush and get the courses they want locked in now.

"Now is the perfect time to register for the Spring 2026 semester," said Vice President of Instructional Services Neil Callahan. "Our faculty members and staffers are ready to meet with people and go over their options for the new year. We take pride in our customer service, our individualized attention, and our high-quality academic offerings."

Pamlico is a place where students of all ages and backgrounds can succeed. The college has been ranked among national leaders for students' Educational Outcomes – including again in 2025.

PCC is pleased to offer its students a high-quality, nationally recognized education at an affordable cost.



Pamlico Community College's Cristy Lewis Warner, left, accepts the Adjunct Faculty of the Year Award from Vice President of Instructional Services Neil Callahan earlier this year. Warner and Callahan are just two of the helpful folks ready to help new and returning students register for the Spring 2026 semester. Contributed photo

The college features small class sizes so students can get more personalized attention. It also offers seated and online courses, including some programs that can be completed entirely on the web.

Importantly, financial aid is available for new and returning students who qualify. However, it's important to begin the financial aid process early so students can have access to a range of options.

New students are encouraged to contact PCC's Student Services division to get the application and financial aid processes started. Staffers there can be reached at 252-249-1851, ext. 3001, or studentservices@pamlicocc.edu

Meanwhile, current students are encouraged to reach out to their program advisors.

Looking ahead, the registration period for high school juniors and seniors who want to take Career & College Promise (CCP) courses through PCC is set for Jan. 7 and 8, 2026, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. CCP courses enable moti-

ated high school juniors and seniors to earn transferable, tuition-free college credits through PCC.

Seated classes will begin Jan. 12, 2026. Online courses will start Jan. 28, 2026.

"Contact us today to see how we can help you achieve your academic and career goals in 2026," Callahan said. "We're ready to help you succeed."

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



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



Agent of the Week

Gregory Green
Broker-

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

When my wife and I wanted to purchase a nearby property that was not currently listed for sale I contacted Gregory Green. Greg was able to identify the distant owner and negotiate a price for us.

Once the deal was agreed on, he promptly and professionally managed the entire process. He even arranged to have expired permits on the property renewed and referred us to a local attorney to handle the closing. When my neighbor mentioned wanting to purchase a similar property nearby, I recommended she call Greg. He handled all the negotiations, and that property is now under agreement and will shortly be hers.

Overall, we would highly recommend Gregory Green to broker any real estate purchase or sale.

Dave & Lorraine, Arapahoe



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



ORIENTAL – 3BR/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 – 4,000 hsf commercial, fully-insulated. Reception, conference room, 2 offices. Carrier 2.5 ton heat pump for office area, 2 5-ton HVAC systems for warehouse. Attic, 208 3-Phase 200 amp elec system. Ingersole Rand 200 PSI air compressor. Fabrication equipment does not convey. **OFFERED AT \$ 575,000**



ARAPAHOE – Views of Neuse River, 1,370 sf, 2.64 acres, 2BR/2BA, chef's kitchen, new appliances & granite countertops. Two screened porches. Situated amongst trees with a private drive. **OFFERED AT \$ 625,000**



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

See all Listings & Visual Tours at www.orientalncwaterfront.com
1-800-347-8246 • 252-249-1014

Or contact Allen Propst

252-671-4644

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COMMUNITY COLLEGE



CREATING SUCCESS

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

by: Hiram Lupton

- December 10th – Today is Dewey Decimal System Day. Celebrated by Librarians the world over.
- December 11th – Today is National Stretching Day. This time of year, I've stretched my bank account about as far as it can go.
- December 12th – Today is National Ding-a-ling Day. Any Chuck Berry fans out there?
- December 13th – Today is National Violin Day.
- December 14th – Today is Wreaths Across America Day.
- December 15th – Today is National Cat Herders Day.
- December 16th – Today is National Chocolate-Covered Anything Day.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

- December 10th – 1957, Actor Michael Clarke Duncan
- December 11th – 1926, Blues Singer Willie Mae Thornton (Big Mama Thornton)
- December 12th – 1915, Singer and actor Frank Sinatra
- December 12th – 1923, Game show host Bob Barker
- December 12th – 1970, Actress Jennifer Connelly
- December 13th – 1925, Entertainer Dick Van Dyke
- December 13th – 1989, Singer/songwriter Taylor Swift
- December 16th – 1949, Musician Billy Gibbons



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Readers:

As of December 1, 80 people have been killed this Fall in the Caribbean Sea by US Navy air strikes on open boats with outboard engines. We are told, by the DOD, that these fatalities were all drug traffickers bringing fentanyl to the US. But, to date, no drugs were recovered and no survivors captured. No boats salvaged. No evidence of anything illegal deterred or prevented. All we have are statements by the DOD and the White House. Questions from reporters are answered with hostile responses. Legal experts are implying that these air strikes and the killing of civilians are war crimes or, worse, outright murder.

As a US citizen, I am outraged. Our government is killing people and they refuse to answer questions about their vague explanations. Our President and Secretary of Defense seem to be saying nothing illegal happened, but if it did, they are not responsible. They are blaming a Navy Admiral for the killing of two helpless survivors last September while they were hanging onto a burning boat that was likely to sink. I know our military has taken considerable risks in wartime to give aid to injured enemy combatants. That is what they are trained and required to do by law. Defeating the enemy is the goal, not killing helpless soldiers.

We need answers to so many questions. Where is the evidence these boats were carrying fentanyl? Where is the evidence the boats were headed to the U.S.? Why weren't the two survivors captured and brought to justice if they had committed the crimes of which they are accused? Did the government ever consider or discuss bringing them to justice? We must demand more transparency from our government. I want our Congressmen and Senators to demand answers and to share them with the public. We have a right to know what is happening in our name and why.

Doug Sligh
Oriental, NC

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.

Every moment of your life, you perform action— physically, mentally, emotionally, and energy-wise. Each action creates a certain memory. That is Karma.

Concerned about your drinking?

You are not alone, there is help available!

Come join others who have found a Solution!

Alcoholics Anonymous: New Bern Hotline (252) 349-0898

Meetings in Pamlico County:

(If you think you may have a problem, you are welcome to attend)

Tuesday 8pm - Oriental Group - Open Discussion Meeting held at the Free Will Baptist Church 600 Ragan Rd. in Oriental, NC (2nd brick building on left off Hwy 55)

Thursday *7:30pm** - Recovery and Beyond Group - Beginner/Open Discussion Meeting at Alliance United Methodist Church, 687 Main Street in Bayboro, NC (close to DSS/Senior Center)

Friday 8pm - Oriental Group - Open Discussion Meeting held at the Free Will Baptist Church, 600 Ragan Road in Oriental, NC (2nd brick building on left off Hwy 55).

Sunday *7pm - Oriental Sunday Night Group - Big Book/12 & 12 Study Meeting held at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 402 Freemason St. in Oriental, NC (2nd brick church on the left)

<https://aaeasternnc.org/> <https://aanorthcarolina.org/> <https://www.aa.org/>

The Pamlico News

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

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USPS 782-460
Published 51 times a year

801 Broad St., P.O.Box 510
Oriental, NC 28571

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COMMUNITY

OBITUARIES



July 29, 1946 – December 3, 2025

Roland Humphrey Jr., 79, passed away peacefully at home with his family on Wednesday, December 3. Born and raised on Kershaw Road, Roland spent his life deeply rooted in the community he loved.

Roland married the love of his life, Eva, and together they built a family and a legacy of hard work, dedication, and generosity. He began his career as a barber and quickly became known throughout Pamlico County. At his barber shop in Alliance, NC, he cut the hair of nearly every boy and man in the county-earning lifelong friendships along the way.

A true entrepreneur at heart, Roland built and operated several successful businesses over the years, including Humphrey's Supermarket, Humphrey's Furniture, and D & H Logging. His final and favorite venture was Roland's Barbecue in Beaufort, NC, which he proudly owned and operated for 27 years.

Roland was known for his quick wit, kind heart, and unwavering generosity. He cherished time spent coon hunting deep in the woods with close friends, fishing with Eva and his grandsons, and working on the farm with

his tractor-memories his family will forever hold dear.

He loved God and his church and faithfully served as a Deacon at Arapahoe Free Will Baptist Church until his health failed.

Roland is survived by his devoted wife of 63 years, Eva; his son, Jeffery Humphrey of Beaufort; his daughter, Wendy Mayo Anderson and husband, Shane; grandsons, Nick and Sam Mayo of Oriental; and his grandsons' dad, Ernie Mayo of Bayboro.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Roland M. Humphrey Sr. and Bonnie Willis Humphrey; his son, Roland "RM" Humphrey III; and his grandson, Zack Mayo.

A celebration of Roland's life will be held on December 8, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at Daniels-Sadler Funeral Home. Friends and family may visit from 5:00-7:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 7 at Daniels-Sadler Funeral Home and at other times at his home on Kershaw Road.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Arapahoe Free Will Baptist Church at PO Box 117, Arapahoe NC 28510.

Roland's life was defined by love, loyalty, hard work, and the many people he touched along the way. His presence will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

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

IN LOVING MEMORY



JOHN A. SQUIRES
1937 – 2025

It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of John A. Squires, who passed away on the evening of November 25, 2025, at Cliveden Rehabilitation & Nursing Center, located in Philadelphia, PA.

Johnnie, as he preferred to be called, was born in Pamlico County, NC. Where he stayed until his departure for New York City. He was preceded in death by his former spouse Lillian Hicks, and leaves behind a son, and two daughters as guardians of his cherished legacy.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Where would we be without wheat? Yikes, no bread, biscuits, muffins, cake, pasta, pizza crust, donuts and tabbouleh! Ten thousand years ago wheat was just grass. Today due to selective breeding wheat is a staple of our diet. Be thankful for human ingenuity.

Bill Deighton
Arapahoe

On December 7, 1941, Japan launched a surprise attack on the American naval facilities at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. According to History.com, the goal of this attack, which claimed the lives of more than 2,400 Americans, was to destroy the Pacific Fleet. Though the attack crippled or destroyed roughly 20 American ships and more than 300 airplanes, the Pacific Fleet was not destroyed. History.com notes that, by the time of the attack, aircraft carriers, and not battleships such as the USS Arizona and the USS Oklahoma, both of which were heavily battered during the assault, had become the most important naval vessels. All of the Pacific Fleet's aircraft carriers were elsewhere on December 7, 1941. Within a day of the attack, U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt declared war on Japan, a declaration that ultimately paved the way for the United States to enter World War II.

Horoscopes



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, this week is all about momentum. Your boldness helps you break through obstacles like a professional. A surprise opportunity might crop up. Embrace this chance.



TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
The week starts off slow and steady, but then a sprinkle of excitement is added to your routine. A sweet surprise from a loved one could make your week even better.



GEMINI – May 22/June 21
Your social butterfly wings are flapping, Gemini. Engage in fun conversations with all of the people who come your way. Who knows, even a spontaneous adventure might present itself.



CANCER – June 22/July 22
Cancer, your nurturing side shines through this week. You might find yourself acting as the go-to person for support or advice. Just be sure to tend to your own needs as well.



LEO – July 23/Aug 23
Leo, you are ready for action even if everyone else isn't. They will look to you as a leader, but you probably won't mind having a few chances to lead over the next several days.



VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Clarity and calm are the words of the week for you, Virgo. Those little details that you've been puzzling over for a bit finally click into place, leaving you feeling amazing.



LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, this week is all about harmony and how you can organize things to achieve it. You may be in the mood to connect and collaborate, helping to bring people together.



SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
People may be drawn to your playful and magnetic side this week, Scorpio. Make time for socialization, but don't hesitate to book some alone time if you think you need it.



SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, your adventurous side is unstoppable right now. You are still being fueled by discovery and others want to join in the fun. Remember to slow down and recharge.



CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Hard work pays off in little victories this week, Capricorn. While you love being productive, remember to celebrate every success, even if it is a small one.



AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
A change of scenery could be good for you, Aquarius. If work had you feeling tired and worn out, book a short trip somewhere to enjoy some much-needed rest and relaxation.



PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Don't brush aside the creative sparks that seem to be popping into your brain one after another, Pisces. Trust your intuition, as it's guiding you toward fun things ahead.

SAGITTARIUS Traits & Overview

Sagittarius is represented either by the centaur, a creature with the body of a man and the legs of a horse, or by the bow and arrow, as centaurs are generally considered excellent archers.

Their symbol is hard to pin down, as is Sagittarius, who, as one of the mutable signs, is always looking for new adventures and new experiences, so you never find them in the same place for long.

One of the fire signs, Sagittarius has a passion for life.

Ruled by Jupiter, this manifests as constant activities. This sign are runners, thinkers, doers!

They don't like to be idle or feel like they are standing still. They are only happy when they are doing and experiencing.

This does mean that they can have a tendency to act before they fully think through the consequences of their decision.

FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY

FINANCIAL FOCUS

Managing risk at different stages of life



As an investor, you will always need to deal with risk of some kind. How can you manage the risk that accompanies the volatility of the financial markets? The answer depends somewhat on where you are in life.

When you're starting out ... If you're early in your career, with perhaps four or five decades until you retire, you can likely afford to invest primarily for growth, which also means you'll be taking on a higher level of risk – because risk and reward are positively correlated. But, given your age, you will have time to overcome the market downturns that are both inevitable and a normal part of investing. Still, even at this stage, being over-aggressive can be costly.

When you're in the "middle stages" ... At this time of your life, you're possibly well along in your career and working on at least a couple of financial goals, such as saving for retirement and your children's college education. You'll want to begin adjusting the balance in your portfolio between assets with higher growth and those with lower growth since there will be progressively less time to rebuild losses. You'll need to decide on the balance between risk and growth that's right for you.

When you're a few years from retirement ... You may have already achieved some key goals – perhaps your children have finished college and you've paid off your mortgage. As a result, you may have more money available to put away for retirement. Growth still matters because your retirement could be 25 or 30 years long, and you'll need investments that can keep up with inflation. But you'll also need investments designed to help provide for your income

needs in retirement and provide more stability. Also consider reducing your exposure to higher-risk investments and instead consider investing more in stable dividend-paying stocks, government and investment-grade bonds, and cash.

When you're retired ... Once you're retired, you might think you should take no risks at all with substantial assets held in cash. However, you could spend two or three decades in retirement, so you may need some growth potential in your portfolio to stay ahead of inflation. A more balanced mix between equities and fixed income is generally appropriate. Establishing a withdrawal rate that's appropriate for your lifestyle and projected longevity can help reduce the risk of outliving your money. Of course, if there's an extended market downturn during any time of your retirement, you may want to temporarily lower your withdrawal rate.

Managing investment risk is a lifelong process that evolves with your goals, responsibilities and time horizon. While you'll look for balance among your investments based on your life stage, having a balanced and diversified portfolio doesn't fully protect against a loss. Still, aligning your strategy with your stage of life can help navigate market volatility and stay on track toward long-term success while avoiding emotional investment decisions. The key is staying informed and making intelligent choices that reflect your current income needs and future aspirations.

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

NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION Pamlico County

The Flowering Poinsettia & Its Care

Original Author - Dr. Brian Whipker N.C. State Extension

History of the Poinsettia

The poinsettia has a long history of cultivation starting with the Aztecs in Mexico. The poinsettia is called *cuetlaxochitl* by Native Americans and this woody shrub to small tree is native to the tropical areas of southern Mexico and Central America. The Aztecs made a reddish dye from the bracts and a medicinal preparation from the latex. It was widely cultivated in gardens.

In the 17th century, Franciscan priests began using the flower in the Fiesta of Santa Pesebre nativity procession. Since the plant flowered naturally during the Christmas season, it became readily linked with the holiday.

The poinsettia was introduced to the United States in 1825 by Joel Poinsett, the first U.S. ambassador to Mexico. The name poinsettia is derived from his name. The botanical name for the poinsettia is *Euphorbia pulcherrima*.

Albert Ecke began growing poinsettias as a cut flower after moving to Hollywood in 1906 and starting a cut flower farm. After moving to Encinitas, CA, the Ecke family focused on field grown poinsettia mother plants, which were shipped throughout the country via railroad box cars.

According to the University of Colorado, active breeding of the poinsettia began in the 1950s to develop cultivars that would retain their leaves and bracts for a longer period. Early breeding efforts included those of Mikkelsen of Ohio (Mikkelsen series), the Hegg of Norway (Hegg series), as well as those of the Ecke family (Eckespoint series). The Fischer family, a German breeder, has also contributed many cultivars to the poinsettia tradition. These breeding programs focused on stronger stems, leaf and bract retention, multiple branching, earlier blooming, and color variation.

Poinsettia Care

Poinsettias are an easy to care for flowering plants that should last for the entire Christmas holiday season with a few basic suggestions. Place the plants in a well-lit location. Poinsettias generally do best at the same temperatures that most people keep their homes in the winter (60 to 68°F). Cold temperatures below 55°F will damage these tropical plants.

Water when needed, which is usually when the surface of the potting soil feels dry, but the plant still feels a bit heavy when picked up. If the plants dry out too much, they will lose their lower leaves. Drying out is probably the main reason plants die early in the home. For best results, the foil or plastic wrapper should be removed from the pot to promote proper drainage. Use a catch basin to contain excess water that may drain from the pot.

In a good location with proper care, many homeowners report that their plants will last until spring. Poinsettias will continue to grow year-round, but plants will require some heavy pruning in the spring and routine care during the year. To keep your plant healthy year-round, follow these tips:



1. Place plant where it receives sun for at least six hours each day but shade during hot afternoons and evenings.
2. Avoid temperatures below 55°F and above 75°F and hot or cold drafts which may cause leaves to drop.
3. Keep soil moist, watering when the surface feels dry or the pot feels light when picked up. Discard excess water from the drainage tray so that the plant does not sit in water.
4. Once flowering is finished, fertilizing occasionally with an all-purpose fertilizer will help keep your poinsettia healthy and promote new growth throughout the year.
5. Around April, cut back stems to about 4–6 inches to promote new growth. Repot if needed.
6. In October, poinsettias need 12–14 hours of darkness each night to trigger blooming. Place the plant in a dark closet or cover it from evening until morning for about 6–8 weeks to help it bring out its bright colors again.

If you would like to learn more about growing poinsettias and the nursery industry, then visit the N.C. State Extension Poinsettia Web Portal at <https://poinsettias.ces.ncsu.edu/>.

For more information on this and related subjects, you can contact Daniel Simpson at Daniel_simspon@ncsu.edu or 252-745-4121.

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PAWS inherited a sum of money that is designated exclusively to build a no kill shelter. Donations are still needed to help the animals of Pamlico County in many ways.

See you for Spirit of Christmas in front of the Oriental Village Veterinary Hospital for hot dogs on Friday and chili on Saturday.

The Pamlico Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of animals in Pamlico County.

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PRIMETIME DECEMBER

Breakfast with Friends
Brantley's Restaurant
Thursday's – December 11, 18

8:30 am
Please join the group at Brantley's (Center Room) for breakfast. The breakfast will continue every Thursday at 8:30. (Except for when they are closed). Come as you are able. Breakfast is on your own. All are welcome!

Prayer Shawl
Thursday's – December 11, 18

10:00 am
Oriental United Methodist Church – Fellowship Hall
Crochet, knit shawls or lap robes to share with those that are in need of comfort and support. Please call Leigh Price for details. 919.219.2446.

Game Day
Wednesday - December 10
2-4pm
Oriental United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall
Join us for an afternoon of fun filled board games,

cards and fellowship! All skill levels are welcome!

Digital Skills Session - Telehealth - Connecting with your Doctors Digitally
Monday - December 15
10am to noon at Oriental United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall

Learn how to utilize your computer or phone to connect with your health care team virtually. This course will help you maximize your time with your health care professionals. This is the 4th

session in a 5 part series.

Prime Time's mission is to provide services and activities promoting the well-being for the 50 plus community in Oriental and Pamlico County. Prime Time brings together many resources helping area residents sustain an independent and enriched quality of life. All are welcome!

Have a suggestion for a program or day trip, please contact Debora Steenson @ 252.675.0909 or email director@primetimepamlico.org

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



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Bottom Line With Brad

END OF YEAR PLANNING

"If you don't know where you are going, you might wind up someplace else." —Yogi Berra

There aren't many situations in life to which a good Yogi Berra quote doesn't apply. As we head into the holiday season and 2026, it's a great time to check in on where you are, and where you are going.

We have talked a lot about financial health this year – good habits being the central theme. But one other habit that is very relevant to financial literacy and health is the annual checkup. Just like going to the doctor each year, there are sources of potential dread in a financial checkup – do I really want to know? Can it have gotten better with another year of age? It sure is easier to ignore problems!

So, just like your annual physical, if you don't already take an annual snapshot of your financial picture, find some time over the holidays to do that. What that entails is up to you, but at a basic level I would suggest building your own "balance sheet" and potentially a cash flow plan for next year.

When my wife and I were planning our wedding, one of the traditions in the Catholic Church is pre-cana classes. These classes go through many of the logical issues that you would imagine the church would focus on, but they also covered the basics of a financial plan. As we went through the session on this, it was amazing to me how many other engaged couples had no clue that their future spouse had massive credit card debts, or, in one case, that they were the beneficiary of a large trust fund. Knowing these things is really important to having any kind of a plan together, or even on your own.

Making your balance sheet is straightforward – you are looking to comprehensively total up your assets and your liabilities (or debts). Making a simple spreadsheet that lists the things you own and the amounts you owe not only will give you a good snapshot of where you are, but also it makes planning much easier in the future. You'll start next year's check-in from last year's balance sheet, and the updates can be incremental that way. Moreover, your balance sheet will greatly simplify things for your heirs in the event tragedy strikes.

Starting with this snapshot, I would then suggest building a plan for next year. It can be simple – what are the big sources of funds that will come in next year, and what are the big uses of funds next year? I like to project mine monthly – I know what my paycheck should be, and what my mortgage payment and other monthly recurring expenses will be. Then I can see what I'll have left over after the basics for more optional expenses.

As you do these over time, you get a good picture of the progress you are making toward whatever goals you have. Progress won't be linear – you'll have some good years and some less good years, but by knowing where you are, you'll have a much better chance of knowing where you are going...

Happy Holidays to everyone!



Brad and Cheryl getting married in 2002.



Young Brad calculating the best Christmas present he can ask Santa for.

SPORTS

PCMS Basketball

by: Hiram Lupton



Cassidy Bond shoots against Grover C. Fields Middle School



Pamlico's Kharon Carroll takes it to the hoop against Havelock Middle School

Pamlico County Middle School officially tipped off their basketball season last week by hosting a pair of conference rivals. On Tuesday, the Grizzlies of Grover C. Fields Middle School visited Stonewall and took a close one from the PCMS girls, 18-17. The boy's matchup was nearly as close but the Hurricanes prevailed in this one, 32-29. On Thursday PCMS was back on the court, this time against Havelock Middle School. The Trojan girls defeated Pamlico in another close game, 26-22, while the boys team used some great teamwork to build up a nice lead and steadily pull away to a 42-23 victory. This week the Hurricanes travel to HJ MacDonald on Tuesday and host West Craven Middle School on Thursday.



Clark Scores Her 1000th Career Point

by: Hiram Lupton

Pamlico's Nya Clark reached a big basketball milestone on Friday as the Junior Guard scored the 1000th point of her high school career for the Hurricanes. She did it in the first half of Pamlico's home win against Ayden-Grifton. Nya is the team's leading scorer so far this season and is averaging 26.6 points per game.



Hurricane Wrestlers Compete at Swiss Bear Classic

by: Hiram Lupton

High school wrestling season is underway and last Saturday a contingent of Pamlico County High School grapplers hit the mats at the annual Swiss Bear Classic wrestling tournament held at New Bern High School. The standout performer on the day for Pamlico was Senior Syler Hall who brought home gold for his first-place finish in the 215-pound class.



Syler Hall about to pin his first-round opponent



Alex Eastwood gains the upper hand on his opponent



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Notice to Creditors

North Carolina, Pamlico County

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of Kathleen A. Wilkinson, deceased, of Merritt, NC, are notified to present the same to the personal representative listed below on or before February 26, 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 26th day of November, 2025.

Douglas Trevor Wilkinson, Executor of the Estate of Kathleen A. Wilkinson
c/o Quay & Associates, P.A.
412 Broad Street
New Bern, NC 28560

PUBLICATION DATES: 11/26/2025, 12/3/2025, 12/10/2025, 12/17/2025

NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION
ALAMANCE COUNTY
25CV006667-000

NOTICE OF SERVICE
BY PROCESS OF PUBLICATION

Rodney Carlyle Jordan, Jr., Plaintiff,
vs.
Violet Mollano Jordan, Defendant.

TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The Plaintiff is seeking an Absolute Divorce.

You are requested to make defense to this pleading no later than the 19th day of January 2026; said date being forty (40) days from the first publication of this notice and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This the 10th day of December 2025.

Robert D. Craig
Attorney for Plaintiff
4 NE Court Sq., Suite D
Graham, NC 27253
(336)266-1526
NC Bar #16457
12/10, 12/17, 12/24

INSPECTIONS

Oct. 24, Steve Walton, Bayboro, mechanical, \$100
Oct. 27, Helen Leary, Oriental, mechanical, \$99.36; Bill Deighton, Arapahoe, mechanical, \$100; Mike Kane, Oriental, mechanical, \$100; Bent Tree, Oriental, electric, \$100; Streamline, Oriental, new, \$1,304.04
Oct. 29, Hope Clinic, Bayboro, gas, \$50
Oct 30, Nikki Kurdys, Oriental, mechanical, \$100
Oct. 31, Pamlico Community College, Bayboro, mechanical, \$100; Oriental Consortium, Oriental, mechanical, \$162; Daniel Greeley, Minnesott Beach, addition/porch, \$114; Joshua Bell, Merritt, electrical, \$150
Nov. 3, Betty Hill, Arapahoe, plumbing, \$50; Roy & Sheila Ray, New Bern, CAMA, \$137.75; Bill Tipton, Bayboro, shed, \$130.24; American Tower, Oriental, remodel/build/electrical, \$50; Lucinda Day, Merritt, set up, \$235
Nov. 4, George Tucker, Oriental, mechanical, \$100; Dustin Turnage, Bayboro, mechanical, \$204.56; Thomas Mattocks, Oriental, electrical, \$50; Carrie Gregory, Arapahoe, mechanical, \$100; Steven Yochum, Oriental, new, \$1,766.16; Graham Carroll, Grantsboro, electrical, \$100
Nov. 5, Maher Construction, New Bern, new, \$1,446.52; Streamline, Minnesott Beach, new, \$1,432.36; Tim Mayo, Oriental, deck, \$75.60
Nov. 6, Theodore Arndt, Oriental, modular, \$796.12; William Olah, Grantsboro, new, \$1,377.64
Nov. 7, Brandi Robertson, Grantsboro, electrical, \$57.68
Nov. 10, William Jackson, Oriental, CAMA, \$153.84; Robert & Rosa Shepard, Oriental, new, \$1,805.06; Jesse & Teresa Cahoon, Oriental, electrical, \$50
Nov. 13, John McGovern, Oriental, build/repair, \$50; Patricia Page, Oriental, solar, \$195; Doug Anderson, Minnesott Beach, garage, \$262.24; Jeffery Hedges, New Bern, new, \$1,575.80

INCIDENTS

Nov. 13, NC Hwy 55, Grantsboro, larceny of property or goods value > \$1,000
Nov. 14, Kershaw Rd., Arapahoe, child custody civil dispute
Nov. 14, Florence Rd., Merritt, P3 Notification
Nov. 14, Don Lee/Janiero Rds, Arapahoe, larceny of property or goods < = \$1,000
Nov. 15, Alexander Way, Grantsboro, second degree trespass
Nov. 15, Arnetta Way, Oriental, larceny of property or goods < = \$1,000
Nov. 16, NC Hwy 55, New Bern, lost property
Nov. 16, Swan Point Rd., Bayboro, communicating threats
Nov. 16, Main St., Bayboro, unauthorized use of motor vehicle/car without consent of owner, injury to personal property
Nov. 16, Windward Dr., Oriental, break or enter any building - intent commit felony/larceny, larceny after breaking or entering
Nov. 17, Arant Lane, Bayboro, second degree trespass
Nov. 17, Silverbrook Rd., Oriental, order for arrest child support warrant service
Nov. 18, NC Hwy 306 S., Grantsboro, simple assault
Nov. 18, Janiero Rd., Arapahoe, assault
Nov. 19, First Ave., Oriental, larceny of property or goods value > \$1,000
Nov. 19, Main St., Bayboro, obtain

property by false pretenses
Nov. 19, Sanders Rd., Merritt, injury to personal property, simple assault
Nov. 19, NC Hwy 55, Bayboro, carry concealed weapon, intoxicated and disruptive, possession of drug paraphernalia not for marijuana
Nov. 20, Upper Neck Rd., Lowland, suspicious activity
Nov. 21, Main St., Bayboro, driving while license revoked not impaired revoked, fail to yield left turn
Nov. 21, Main St., Bayboro, simple assault
Nov. 21, Main St., Bayboro, assault by pointing gun, communicating threats
Nov. 21, NC Hwy 306 N., Grantsboro, larceny of property or goods < = \$1,000
Nov. 22, NC Hwy 55, Alliance, injured wildlife
Nov. 23, Main St., Bayboro, injury to real property
Nov. 23, NC Hwy 55, New Bern, injury to personal property
Nov. 23, NC Hwy 55, Alliance, larceny of property or goods < = \$1,000
Nov. 24, Beech Lane, Grantsboro, order for arrest misuse of 911 system
Nov. 24, Hale Rd., New Bern, unauthorized use of motor vehicle/car without consent of owner
Nov. 25, Hardison Field Rd., Arapahoe, obtain property by false pretenses
Nov. 25, Courtland Dr., Alliance, harassing phone calls
Nov. 26, Arant Lane, Merritt, war-

rant for arrest breaking or entering
Nov. 26, Vernon Rd., Grantsboro, assault on a female by male at least 18 years of age
Nov. 27, Leaf Lane, New Bern, family offenses, nonviolent
Nov. 28, Elm St., Vandemere, civil matter
Nov. 29, Janiero Rd., Oriental, assist SHP with DWI
Nov. 30, NC Hwy 55, Bayboro, larceny of property or goods < = \$1,000, first degree trespass enter/remain, communicating threats
Dec. 1, Main St., Bayboro, possession of firearm by convicted felon
Dec. 2, NC Hwy 55, Alliance, larceny of property or goods < = \$1,000
Dec. 2, Main St., Bayboro, walk in complaint
Dec. 3, Silverbrook Rd., Oriental, order for arrest child support warrant
Dec. 3, Main St., Bayboro, identity theft, obtain property by false pretenses
Dec. 3, NC Hwy 55, Alliance, larceny of property or goods < = \$1,000

E/S Loop Rd (SR 1334) & NC Hwy 55 Map DB 230/93 from David A. Peterson, Veronica P. Lance/AIF to Sara G. Nugent, Chris Phaby, \$344
Sept. 8, 0.83 AC Tract 1, 0.70 AC Tract 2 & 0.44 AC Tract 3 PCB 20-13 from M. Scott Whitford, Michael A. Draughan, Donald C. Truesdale/TR, Cynthia S. Truesdale/TR, Truesdale Revocable Living Trust to Donald C. Truesdale/TR, Cynthia S. Truesdale/TR, Truesdale Revocable Living Trust, \$24
Sept. 8, Cutter Bay Lot: 21, 5.22 AC PCB 16-5 & PCB 13-9, PIN H042-70-21 from Cutter Bay LLC to William B. Ianiero, Joan E. Ianiero, \$370
Sept. 8, Forestore Estates Lot: 11 PCA 38-4; Map DB 322/701, PIN K07-6-11 from Douglas J. Hall, Jounsun Park Hall to William Gordon Howard, III, Kimberleigh Christina Howard, \$1,365
Sept. 8, Arlington Place Lot: 164, Phase 1, Whitetail Lane, Minnesott Beach, PCA 153-17, Arlington Place Lot: 165, Phase 1, Whitetail Lane, Minnesott Beach PCA 153-17 from Duck Dreams OBX, LLC, Duck Dream OBX, LLC to Streamline Developer, LLC, \$120
Sept. 9, 2.18 AC SE/S Old Bay River Rd (NCSR 1347) Alliance Map DB 461/655 from Hilda A. Carmady to Andrew Blake Tingle, \$0
Sept. 9, Oriental Plantation Lot: 101 Section 1, PCA 55-4 & PCA 76-5, Oriental Plantation Lot: 102, Section 1, PCA 55-4 & PCA 76-5 from Michael W. Kane, Anne-Marie Kane to Gale Swann, \$834

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

Sept. 8, 10.38 AC Lot 7 Milford R. Bennett Estate PCA from Ken Bennett Jr. to Gregory Cole Bennett, Kara Peed Bennett, \$40
Sept. 8, 12E72; Tract One: 1.76 AC E/S Loop Rd (SR 1334) & NC Hwy 55 Map DB 203/501; Tract Two: 43/100 AC E/S Loop Rd (SR 1334) & NC Hwy 55 Map DB 219/172; Tract Three 70/100 AC

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AROUND THE COUNTY

Aurora Joy McCracken, *Correspondent*



The last Dolphin sighting was 11/23; a lone adult. Although the creek is mostly bird-less, I'm pretty sure there are a couple of Common Loons hanging about. The groups of Blackbirds are coming through feeding on the lawn (this week's photo).

Heron are utilizing the tops of the power poles next to the mine pond. It's startling to see them up there. It use to be Bald Eagles.

The last of the Fall color is being realized with the yellow Gum trees. Makes me think of the song 'California Dreaming' by the Mama's & the Papa's.

Had a good visit at Thompson's where I got some sod staples, the best cold Pepsi in the tri-county area and seeing Big Boy the Cat.

Y'all come by at the end of the week to help us celebrate 'Christmas in Aurora'. Friday night at 6:30 will be the water tower tree lighting and a stroll though town with fellowship and snacks, Saturday will



be the Craft Fair at the Community Center and Sunday Aurora's VFD annual BBQ at 11:00 with the town parade later at 3:00 pm.

Grantsboro Jeff Roberts, *Correspondent*



Good morning, good, afternoon, and good evening. It sure seems that winter may be knocking at our door as I am hearing possibilities of freezing rain this evening. It would be nice to see a little snow. There is something about the freshness a blanket of snow adds on an early morning when you first get up. Though that does not last very long!

Christmas is quickly approaching us and I personally have found it very hard to get in the spirit or even put up a tree this year. It's a lot of work especially when it is only my wife and I at home and we rarely get a visitor so what's the point? I am very appreciative of the meaning of the season and it does mean the world to me however this year the decorations just aren't for us this year. I will just enjoy everyone that has them up. I don't have to put them away at the end.

The public school system lost two very influential people lately, Mr. Allen Mason and Mrs. Letha Tingle. Both will be greatly missed but their legacies will live on in the lives of the children they influenced over the years.

I am looking to continue researching our community history and plan to share my findings here with all of you. I think it is very important for us to remember our roots and where we came from. Those roots are what shapes our communities and towns. So many that move here don't know our heritage and history here, by knowing our history it helps them understand the area and most likely what made it feel like home to them.

If there are any histories you would like for me to research feel free to contact me anytime at nckikn@gmail.com and I will gladly do my best to research it and share it here.

I hope that you all have an amazing week and I will entertain you again next week.



Photography by: Jeff Roberts

Pamlico Betty Jo Rodgers, *Correspondent*



With all the rain this week, the fields on Straight Road have been full of snow geese. They seem to be enjoying the water and the newly planted seeds across the road from the farm. I have had many deer sightings this week, but there was a sad one on Wednesday night when a white pick-up truck hit a deer in Stonewall across from Cutter Bay. The deer was directly in the path of my car, but luckily I was going slow and did not run into it. Asa and Dixie Gatlin also came upon it, and they too were blessed not to hit the downed deer.

The Stonewall choir presented their performance of the Christmas cantata, "Breath of Heaven" on December 7, 2025. This performance was dedicated to David Varley, our choir member who is now singing in the heavenly choir. We were blessed to have over 80 in attendance for the performance. Everyone shared an evening of music, worship, and fellowship. Each attendee received a blessing and a Christmas gift.

We called Norway and sang Happy Birthday to our granddaughter, Hannah Rodgers Broeker, who is a missionary serving in Oslo, Norway.

Oriental will celebrate The Spirit of Christmas on December 12, 2025 and December 13, 2025 this year. The Pamlico Chorale, the luminaries, the parade, the Baptist Church choir, the children's live nativity, and many other activities make this a special weekend in Oriental. But bundle up; it will be brrrr ... cold.

Alliance United Methodist Church will have a Christmas sing-along on December 14, 2025 at 7:00 pm. Everyone is invited to come out and join the choir in singing Christmas carols.

Stonewall Methodist Church will have their Blue Christmas Service on December 21 at 7:00 pm and a Candlelight Communion on Christmas Eve at 6:00 pm.

Celebrating birthdays in December are Claudia Bemis (12/11), Jimmy Jones (12/13), Carly Muse (12/15), Ernest Dunn and Sam Lane (12/21), Beth Stowe Wood (12/23), Savannah Alexander (12/24), Jesus (12/25), Larry Gwaltney (12/26) and Pam Hannah (12/27).

Have a blessed week. Tired? Take Spiritual Vitamin T. "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31)



Op-Ed: Lottery is not a kid's game

By Mark Michalko, chief executive officer of the N.C. Education Lottery.

Here at the N.C. Education Lottery, we know that our scratch-off tickets make popular gifts during the holiday season. They are fun stocking stuffers. They can be the gift everyone wants to walk away with at the White Elephant Gift Exchange.

All gifts can carry a small risk. Will they like it, you might wonder. Is it the right color? Should I have gotten something else? But some risks are bigger than others. And a risk we want to make sure all parents and gift givers know about is the big gamble of giving someone under 18 a lottery ticket.

We know from research that many young people say their first gambling experience occurs around the ages of 9 to 11. Research also shows that the earlier a person first plays a game of chance the more likely they are to develop a gambling problem later in life.

For adults, a lottery ticket is a gift with the potential to keep giving. Adults can enjoy the lottery and still set limits on their play. Kids don't have a handle on that. For anyone under 18, a lottery ticket could cause harm.

While we want to raise another \$1 billion for education this year, we want just as much to sell and market our games in the most responsible way possible.

One of the ways we operate responsibly is by doing our part in an annual holiday prevention effort organized by the National Council on Problem Gambling. We join the campaign, supported by more than 170 lotteries and organizations around the world, through our Play Smart program, calling our holiday initiative, Play Smart Gift Smart.

How do you Gift Smart?

- Never give or share a lottery ticket with kids.
- Only give lottery tickets as gifts to adults in your life.
- Help us keep lottery tickets, even scratched ones, out of the hands of children.

Sure. We hope you get a lottery ticket in your stocking or that you get to take one home from the gift exchange. We want to keep that tradition alive. But when you make your gift list, remember lottery is not a kid's game. Let's keep the fun 18+ this holiday season.

For more information on our Play Smart program, visit ncplaySMART.com.

Mark Michalko is the chief executive officer of the N.C. Education Lottery.

Life is a gift.

Never forget to enjoy and bask in every moment you are in.

~ Unknown ~

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COUNTY OF PAMLICO NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

DATE: January 5, 2026
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: County Commissioner Meeting Room
202 Main Street
Bayboro, NC 28515

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

Consolidation of Human Services Agency

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

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SPORTS

Hurricane Hoops Men Grab First Win of Season

by: Hiram Lupton

It was a busy week for the Pamlico County High School basketball teams with three game nights on tap for the Hurricanes. The week tipped off on Tuesday in New Bern as the Hurricanes took on the Bears. The Ladies were in high gear from the start, running out to a 22-8 lead at the end of the first quarter and never looking back, finishing the night with a 51-13 win. Sydney Whitley-Reese led the 'Canes with 25 points while Nya Clark chipped in with 15. The Men weren't so fortunate as they were on the receiving end of a Bear blitz and by the half were behind 33-15. Pamlico held their own the rest of the way before falling by a final of 66-40. VJ Midgett led Pamlico with 15 points. The following night, Pamlico took another road trip, this time to Ayden-Grifton to face the Chargers. For awhile the ladies contest looked to be a close game with the Hurricanes holding only a 4-point lead at the half. Pamlico came out after the break on fire, using their defense to shock the Chargers with a strong third quarter to take a 49-37 advantage. They continued their strong play finishing with a 64-44 win. Nya Clark finished the night with 42 points to lead the 'Canes and Sydney Whitley-Reese scored 15. While they won on the scoreboard, Pamlico may have suffered a bigger loss long term as Sydney Whitley-Reese, an all-conference performer, went down after a hard foul with a knee injury. Tests are scheduled this week to determine the full extent of her injury but she is expected to miss some extended time. The Hurricanes were already missing a key backup in Bella -Ann Schulz who continues to recover from an ankle injury. In the men's game, Ayden-Grifton opened strong and by the half, led 35-15. This game was hard to watch as constant referee whistles and stoppages never let either team get into any sort of game flow. Pamlico showed a little fire in the third period but the Chargers were too strong at the end, rolling to a 74-40 victory. Midgett again led Pamlico with 13 points. Finally on Friday, Pamlico played in the friendly confines of their own gym and home cooking did wonders for the Hurricanes. They were hosting a foe they were by now familiar with, the same Ayden-Grifton team they played Wednesday. The girls opened up looking a bit unsteady as they were missing their injured star, but as the game went on, they began to get their footing, once again using a third quarter blitz to take control and pull away for a 46-28 win. Nya Clark led the way with 21 points. For the men, this was an opportunity to pay the Chargers back for Wednesday's loss and the Hurricanes did not waste their chance. Pamlico came out ready and Ayden-Grifton came out over confident and the Hurricanes quickly took a 10-0 lead forcing the Chargers to burn a quick timeout. Pamlico continued to pour it on and early in the third quarter their lead was at 35-17 when the Chargers slowly but surely began to creep back into the game and by the start of the final period had the Hurricane margin down to 12. Ayden-Grifton did everything they could to rattle the Hurricanes with full court pressure and contesting and fouling on nearly every shot. Pamlico, however would not be fazed despite some rather bad free throw shooting. They were only 10 of 34 for the game from the charity stripe and had the Chargers been a little more efficient themselves it would have made a difference, but tonight belonged to Pamlico as they held on for a 57-49 win. Freshman Noah Gibbs led Pamlico with 14 points while Timmy Taylor and VJ Midgett tallied 11 each, but this was a combined team effort on both ends of the court. A satisfying win to say the least and it was also first year Varsity Head Coach Dwayne Lewis' first career win. Congratulations DJ, there will be many more to come for this home-grown Pamlico alumnus. Things don't get any easier for Pamlico this week as they take on Havelock at home on Tuesday and travel to West Carteret on Wednesday.



Pamlico Guard VJ Midgett penetrates against Ayden-Grifton



Hurricane Julia Bain shoots for the 'Canes



Ladies Coach April Rose pleads her case to the game official



Men's Head Coach Dwayne Lewis picked up his first career win Friday night.

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THEME : MERRY AND BRIGHT!

DECEMBER 20, 2025
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For any information regarding registration, please, contact the Pamlico County Parks and Recreation Department at (252)745-4240 or email us at recreation@pamlicocounty.org

Humane Society of Beaufort County, NC Receives \$35,000 Donation Monday, December 8, 2025 Washington, North Carolina

The Humane Society of Beaufort County (HSBC) has received a \$35,000 anonymous gift in honor of Dr. Marleta (Marty) Poffenberger for her tireless work and passion in advocating for the well-being of all animals in Beaufort County. The donation matches proceeds from the Humane Society's recent annual fundraising event held at the Washington Civic Center, and is the largest single donor contribution in their history.

"I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of this donation in my honor," said Dr. Poffenberger. "My life's work has been to see that no pets lose their lives simply because they are unwanted. This generous donation is more than just financial support, it shows faith in our efforts and goals to make this a better world for the animals that we love."

In the past 5 years the Human Society of Beaufort County, NC has funded the spaying/neutering of more than 4,900 cats. In 2024 alone over 1,100 cats received care. In the first half of 2025, they've already helped over 700 cats and expanded support to canine spay/neuter programs making a tangible impact in curing pet overpopulation.

For More Information: Call the Humane Society of Beaufort County at 252-946-1591 or email them at bchsnc2017@gmail.com.

The Humane Society of Beaufort County is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit corporation.
Tax ID#23-7410316
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PAMLICO COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Pumpkin Contest **WINNERS!**

Our amazing winners went above and beyond with their creativity, effort, and imagination! Each pumpkin was a masterpiece—full of thought, detail, and Halloween spirit. We're so proud of the hard work and artistic flair that made this contest such a success.

- 1st place - Hazel Minter**
 - 2nd place - Lyza Daye**
 - 3rd place - Sean and Forrest Rich-Lippai**
 - Honorable Mention - Shawn Monk, Albert Heath, Ella Lowery, Khylin Chadwick**
- #PumpkinContest #CreativityInAction #ProudMoment #FallFun



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PAMLICO COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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"Ms. Jill from Voices Together provides weekly music therapy sessions for students in Mrs. Spivey's class, enriching their learning through interactive songs, movement, and therapeutic musical engagement."

Winter Concert to Showcase Young Talent



Kindergarten and third-grade students will take the stage for their annual Winter Concert on Thursday, Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. Families and community members are invited to enjoy an evening filled with festive performances.

Students will sing seasonal songs, demonstrate their growing musical skills on a variety of instruments, and even perform choreography they have been practicing throughout the fall.

The event promises to bring holiday cheer to all who attend and highlight the hard work and talent of these young performers.

Students Celebrate Thanksgiving With Creative Festivities



Students enjoyed a festive week of Thanksgiving activities filled with creativity and hands-on fun. They disguised turkeys in clever costumes, shook jars of cream to make their own butter, and gathered together for a special classroom feast.

One of the highlights was creating miniature Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade balloons, inspired by the famous holiday tradition. Their colorful balloon characters "floated" through the halls, bringing excitement to students and teachers alike.

From crafts to cooking to imaginative projects, the week offered students a joyful way to learn about Thanksgiving traditions while celebrating together.



Club Fridays Still a Hit



Club Fridays continue to be a favorite among students. Each week, children earn the chance to join these fun activities by showing good behavior. The tradition remains a great motivator—and a highlight of every Friday.

Second Graders Explore the Estuarium



Second grade students enjoyed an exciting and educational field trip to the Estuarium. During their visit, students explored interactive exhibits, learned about local aquatic habitats, and discovered the plants and animals that make up the region's unique ecosystem.

The hands-on experience helped bring science lessons to life and sparked plenty of curiosity and conversation on the bus ride home. It was a wonderful day of learning and adventure for all.

What does winter sound like in color?



Pamlico Primary's young artists answered that question through vibrant collages inspired by children's winter songs. Guided by our art teacher, students listened for rhythm and imagery, planned their designs, and used careful cutting and gluing to bring their ideas to life.

Each collage tells a unique musical story—capturing the creativity and imagination that fill our classrooms this winter.



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COASTAL LIVING

The Spirit of Christmas 2025

My Traditional Christmas
December 11th ~ 13th
An Oriental Christmas Since 1986

Each year the merchants, churches, townspeople and civic groups unite to present this heartwarming event in the spirit of giving and as a way to say "thank you" for support during the year.

Please come join us for holiday treats, entertainment and specials throughout town. Enjoy the Friday evening lighted kayak parade, the Saturday afternoon parade, live Nativity, the lighting of the Oriental Star and revel in the beauty of our Town as luminaries light the streets at dusk on Friday.

This program is packed full of wonderful activities, many of which are going on simultaneously. Please read the entire program so that you don't miss anything. We have included a special thank you, at the very end of the program, listing our "silent" supporters without whom we simply could not have accomplished this wonderful weekend. All of us say "Welcome Home for the Holiday". To old and new friends, from out of town, we hope you enjoy Oriental and come back to visit or perhaps stay for good. To our local friends and neighbors, we thank you for your support year round.

Thursday, December 11th

Tree of Names and Lights

The event at Lou Mac Park will begin at 5pm. Parks and Rec is sponsoring a Town Wide Cookie Exchange with hot chocolate. Please bring a dozen cookies – you will get to pick a dozen cookies in return. There will be Christmas caroling with members of the Pamlico Chorale accompanied by the Oriental Uhoos. We will be announcing the winners of the "Light Up Oriental" contest and Meta Jones, daughter of Grace Evans, will give the history of our special tree. This year's charity recipient is the Oriental History Museum. Please join us for this community event.

Friday, December 12th

Oriental History Museum Come enjoy Olde Christmas – a wonderful display of toys and décor of yesteryear. Enjoy a visit to our gift shop for Christmas shopping and enjoy our hospitality.

PAWS (Oriental Village Veterinary Hospital) 1-4 p.m. PAWS will be out front serving hot dogs, courtesy of Dr. Sherri Hicks (outside only please) Weather permitting, no rain date.

Nautical Wheelers from 2-4 – Join us as we provide snacks, wine! As always, this will be completely complimentary. We just want to say thank you and celebrate with you this holiday season.

First Citizens Bank, 4-5 p.m. – Serving light refreshments and offering a performance by the Pamlico Flutes playing Christmas tunes. 409 Broad Street.

The Wichrowski's - 408 Broad Street - 4-5pm. Come enjoy some holiday cheer with the Wichrowski Family. We look forward to seeing you.

Lighted Kayak Parade & Star Lighting, 5:00ish p.m. A flotilla of lighted kayaks, canoes, paddleboards and any unmotorized dinghies. The paddlers will work their way toward the Town Dock leaving from the Wildlife Ramp around 5 p.m.

"Light Up Oriental" Contest winners will be announced after the star lighting"

Oriental United Methodist Church at 7pm – Join the Pamlico Chorale for a Christmas Sing-a-Long. Join us in singing your favorite Christmas carols and getting into the holiday spirit - and a visit from Santa!

Stroll around the harbor and enjoy the decorated boats along the waterfront.

Please enjoy the holiday decorations and luminaries brought to you by the Village of Oriental

Sat., December 13th

Farmer's Market, 8 - 11am - Come visit The Oriental Farmer's Market for the Spirit of Christmas! We have a wonderful variety of local produce, freshly baked goods, jams & jellies, fresh Christmas greenery, and fine arts & crafts. Shop local and get all your holiday shopping done right here. Harbor District on Hodges

Street at Garland Fulcher Seafood.

Brantley's Village Restaurant, Breakfast with Santa begins at 8am. Gingerbread House & Cookie Decorating for Kids – 9-10:30am. in the back dining room. First Come, First Serve Basis.

Marsha's Cottage – Radio host Allen Vick invites you to be a part of his live radio remote from 10am – 12pm on our front porch. Starting at 11am the jolly 'ole elf himself will be paying a visit. Santa will be here to visit and to have his picture taken with children of all ages. Come enjoy the Christmas Spirit.

Village Health & Fitness - 10am. Jingle Bell Fun Run/Walk – Ugly Sweater Style – Walk, run or skip – all are welcome to join in the 2 miles of fun. Wear your ugly sweater or other gaudy holiday gear. All registration donations will go to the HOPE Clinic.

The Bean – 11am-12pm - Cupcake decorating and hot chocolate. Be sure to pick up your free "Goody Bag" for parade candy.

Oasis Therapeutic Massage – 502 Main Street – Holiday refreshments on the porch.

Oriental's History Museum - 10am-1pm - Orientals history museum is open special hours before the parade. Come enjoy Olde Christmas – a wonderful display of toys and décor of yesteryear. Enjoy a visit to our gift shop for Christmas shopping and enjoy our hospitality.

The Town of Oriental – 3-5pm - will have an Open House at our Welcome Center, known as the Sargent Boat House on Dock 2, by the harbor at 301 South Ave. Join us for a meet and greet with Harbor Waterfronts and other town officials and staff. Mayor Sally will be serving up homemade goodies and hot chocolate. Christmas music will be performed by Ken Belangia! Look for Santa - He'll be paying a visit!

Village Hardware. Come join us for Cookies and the debut of our new coffee at 804 Broad Street (across from the Post Office). We feel it will also complement our popcorn.

PAWS 10am-2pm - will be serving chili & fixin's at Oriental Village Veterinary Clinic from 10am to 2pm.

Nautical Wheelers - 11:30am-3pm - Here at Nautical Wheelers, we are so excited to participate in Spirit of Christmas. At this time of year, we can't help but be extra grateful for our community and customers here in Oriental. On Saturday, December 13th from 11:30-3pm, we will have local artist Patty with Pierce Creek Art, local beekeeper Alan with At Ease Honey, local author Liza Wieland, and Primetime set up in front of the store, as well as POLYWOOD seating for the parade. We want to say thank you and celebrate with our customers this holiday season.

Grace Fellowship Academy - 12-2pm - at Oriental First Baptist Church - Christmas craft and bake sale

Broad Strokes Gallery – A beautiful array of unique gifts and ornaments await you. Let us help you find that special item for anyone on your Christmas list. Join us at 2pm to decorate your own wine glass – test your artistic abilities.

PARADE - PICK A SPOT ALONG BROAD OR HODGES STREETS AND WATCH THE PARADE AT 1PM

Toucan/Tiki Bar 2-4pm - Pauline Smith will be performing on the deck at 101 Wall Street.

Oriental United Methodist Church, 3:30pm The Children's Church at OUMC will have a Live Nativity outside.

Oriental First Baptist Church at 5pm - Presenting their Christmas Cantata - "Christmas Presence."

Please enjoy the holiday decorations and luminaries brought to you by the Village of Oriental

Thank you to All who have donated - money or time - to make The Spirit of Christmas a reality each year

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Adorable cookies add to the festive feel of the holidays

Food helps to set the festive atmosphere that has become synonymous with the holiday season. Celebrants asked to recall their fondest memories of the holiday season undoubtedly would point to nights spent surrounded by loved ones at the family dinner table, which serves as a testament to the unifying power of food during a special time of year.

Holiday hosts looking to food to set a festive tone can consider these "Peanut Butter Reindeer Cookies" from Lines+Angles. These cookies are flavorful and the finished product is adorable, which can help celebrants feel even more festive during seasonal celebrations.

Peanut Butter Reindeer Cookies
Makes 48 cookies

- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 3/4 cup peanut butter
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1/3 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 48 large red M&M candies
- 96 mini semisweet chocolate chips
- Pretzels, broken into 96 1-inch pieces

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.



2. In a large bowl, beat together butter, peanut butter, sugar, and brown sugar on medium speed until light and fluffy, about 2 minutes. Add egg and vanilla extract and mix until combined.
3. In a small bowl, whisk together flour, baking soda, and salt. Add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients and stir until just combined. Roll the dough into 1-inch balls, and place at least 1 inch apart on cookie sheet. Bake only 10 to 12 cookies at a time. Refrigerate the bowl of dough in between batches. Bake for 7 to 9 minutes, until the cookies are just set.
4. Immediately place one M&M in the center of each cookie for a nose (press down a bit if your cookies aren't flat enough), 2 mini chocolate chips for the eyes, and 2 pretzel pieces at the top for antlers. Carefully transfer the cookies to a wire rack to cool completely.

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Continued from page A1

Island Breakfast with Santa



Expert photography by Carolyn Mayo captures the moments

The incredible Christmas village



The magic of Christmas

The United States Coast Guard from Station Hobucken visited with Santa and asked for fair winds and calm seas.



On Sunday, December 7, Coastal Carolina Kayak Fishing, partnered with NC SECC held their annual fishing tournament in Vandemere. The groups raised \$810 for Western North Carolina Disaster Relief. For more information about them, visit the Coastal Carolina Kayak Fishing Facebook Page.

Health & Wellness



How to tell if it's a cold, the flu, COVID-19 or RSV.

There's much to look forward to at the start of winter. The holiday season starts winter off with a bang, while outdoor enthusiasts know their chances to hit the slopes and ski and snowboard are just beginning. Sports fans know January marks the return of the National Football League playoffs, while travelers who need a little winter warmth often designate February as a month to soak up some sun in a faraway locale. With so much to do each winter, it's especially problematic when you come down with a cold. However, winter tends to be cold and flu season in many areas, as viruses tend to spread more easily when people spend more time indoors. This winter, people may wonder if their sniffles indicate they have a cold, the flu or a sign of something more serious, such as COVID-19 or respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). Anyone unsure of what's behind a cold-like illness is urged to speak with their physician. In addition, the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases notes that the common cold, the flu, COVID-19, and RSV present some similar symptoms, but also some unique ones. Though each illness is complex, the frequency with which some symptoms present may indicate which issue a person is dealing with. Knowledge of those symptoms and their frequency can help people determine if the culprit behind their winter illness is a cold, the flu, COVID-19, or RSV.

Cold

- Aches: Sometimes
- Difficulty breathing: Rarely
- Fatigue: Sometimes
- Fever: Rarely
- Loss of taste or smell: Rarely
- Sore throat: Often
- Wheezing: Rarely

COVID-19

- Aches: Sometimes
- Difficulty breathing: Often
- Fatigue: Often
- Fever: Sometimes
- Loss of taste or smell: Sometimes
- Sore throat: Often
- Wheezing: Rarely

Flu

- Aches: Often
- Difficulty breathing: Rarely
- Fatigue: Often
- Fever: Often
- Loss of taste or smell: Rarely
- Sore throat: Sometimes
- Wheezing: Rarely

RSV

- Aches: Rarely
- Difficulty breathing: Sometimes
- Fatigue: Rarely
- Fever: Sometimes
- Loss of taste or smell: Rarely
- Sore throat: Rarely
- Wheezing: Often

Individuals who are concerned by the presence of cold- or flu-like symptoms are urged to speak with their physicians. Though many instances of cold, flu, COVID-19, and RSV will go away without medical intervention, each condition can pose a significant health risk in certain situations.

Fresh air pays dividends, even when it's cold



The great outdoors beckons millions of people each spring, summer and fall, but far fewer individuals spend as much time outside in winter. However, spending time outdoors can help to improve mood just as much when the mercury drops as it can when temperatures are warm. The United Kingdom-based Mental Health Foundation reports that nature helps to generate positive emotions such as calmness, joy and creativity. The MHF also notes that connectedness with nature has been linked to lower levels of poor mental health, particularly depression and anxiety.

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DRESSING FOR COLD WEATHER

CHILLY

- 1-2 layers
- outer layer to keep out wind, rain
- long layer
- warm shoes water proof

COLD

- 2-3 layers
- warm hat
- outer layer to keep out wind, wet snow
- gloves
- boots water proof
- 1-2 layers

EXTREME COLD

- 3+ layers
- insulating
- warm hat
- face mask
- outer layer to keep out wind
- gloves
- boots water proof
- 2+ layers

weather.gov/safety

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