

The Pamlico News

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

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January in the American Revolution

by: Hiram Lupton



January 10, 1776 – Author Thomas Paine publishes a political pamphlet titled Common Sense. It is considered one of the most important pieces of propaganda in the American Revolution and is estimated to have sold over 500,000 copies before the end of the Revolution and helped sway many people to support the war.

January 3, 1777 – The Battle of Princeton – The Colonial Army defeated the British garrison stationed near Princeton, New Jersey. The British suffered 100 killed, 70 wounded, and 280 captured. The Colonial Army lost roughly 40 killed. The Colonial Army withdrew when a large number of British reinforcements were reported approaching.

January 17, 1781 – The Battle of Cowpens – An American force of about 2,000 defeated a British and loyalist force of 1,000 near the town of Cowpens, South Carolina.

IN MEMORIAM

The following Obituaries appeared in 2025 Pamlico News.

JANUARY

Lillie Mae Barker Pegram, 86, Bayboro
Gary Spruill Harrison, 85, Alliance
Beverly Linda Joyner Page, 84, Oriental
Nancy M. Miller, 83, Oriental

FEBRUARY

Harry Keith Bennett, 63, Grantsboro
Charles Franklin "Frank" Brinson, Jr., 81, Arapahoe
Ruby Lee Holton, 69, Arapahoe

MARCH

Walter T. Brown, 92, Oriental
Burke "Bud" Royce Limeburner, Jr., 92, Arapahoe

APRIL

Sandra McRay Foreman-Rice, 81, Lowland
Jackson Howard Smithwick, 86, Arapahoe
Janet Best York Rolison, 88, formerly of Wayne County
Lydia Sawyer Connott, 91, formerly of Alliance

MAY

Tom Lathrop, Alliance

JUNE

William A. Blair, Jr., 72, Oriental
Dr. Marc A. Willi, 69, Oriental
Gregory "Greg" Wayne Mooningham, 57, Bayboro
Tommy Rue Lee, 92, formerly of Arapahoe

JULY

Clara Jean Ensley, 86, Arapahoe

AUGUST

Joe Wright, Oriental, formerly of Polkville

SEPTEMBER

Kathleen Varney Bates, 82, Oriental, formerly of Kewanee, Illinois
Mary Alice Spain, 94, Palm Bay, FL, formerly of Hobucken
Debra Jo Thomas, 67, Lowland
Roland Johnny Ward, Jr., 76, Oriental

OCTOBER

Paul Caraway Brady, 96, Pamlico

NOVEMBER

George Dixon Baxter, Jr., 64, Oriental
Pamela Jeanne Clark Marston, 77, Pamlico County

DECEMBER

Roland Humphrey Jr., 79, Arapahoe

Oriental Dragon Run Welcomes 2026

by: Hiram Lupton



Not one, not two, but three dragons wove their way through the crowd on Hodges Street.

The Town of Oriental bid a fond farewell to 2025 and welcomed in 2026 in the town's traditional manner last Wednesday, with not one but two running of the dragons. The festivities took place on Hodges Street and kicked off the first running at about 8:00 PM with the Oriental Dragon Drummers setting the rhythm and providing the back beat. The early running allows those wishing to attend that are perhaps on both ends of the age spectrum the opportunity to enjoy the celebration before their bedtime. And, enjoy they did, armed with various noisemakers and hoping to prove the theory that if you touch a dragon's tooth on New Years, you will have 12 months of good luck. Someone really needs to get a government grant to either prove or disprove this theory. The second drag-



Oriental Mayor Sally Belangia leads the Super Mega Dragon.

on run took place just before midnight and gave participants another chance to capture some luck for the new year. There was also another part of the ceremonial New Years celebration that is uniquely Oriental. It seems that any town that rings in the new year must drop something to mark the occasion. You of course have the giant lighted ball at Times Square in New York City, a bear in New Bern, a giant pickle in Mount Olive, an Opossum in Brasstown, a Crab



The Croaker in place awaiting midnight

in Washington, and an acorn in Raleigh. Perhaps one year we will see a town do a ceremonial drop in our tax bill to celebrate New Years. Oriental fittingly drops a lighted Croaker, or at least a reasonable facsimile of one, from the Town Dock flag pole. Admittedly, I was not on Hodges Street at midnight for the drop. I was at home nice and warm practicing my own traditional drop on New Years eve, the eye lid drop. Happy New Year everyone!

2026 Election Taking Shape – State and Local Candidates

by: Hiram Lupton

As the calendar turns to 2026 and the filing period has closed for candidates seeking office in this year's midterm election, we now know whose names will be on the ballot for the upcoming primary. In a future article we will look at the U. S. Senate and U. S. House of Representatives races but this piece will focus on some of the local and state elections affecting Pamlico County. First of all, there are several races with only the incumbent as a declared candidate, which means barring a massive write-in campaign, they will retain their office. The Pamlico County Board of Commissioners will have two such candidates in District 3 Commissioner Edward Riggs, Jr. and District 4 Commissioner Carl Ollison who are both unopposed. Also unopposed will be Sheriff Chris Davis and the Clerk of Superior Court Steven



Derek Potter



Doug Brinson



T. W. Harris

Hollowell. Sitting District Attorney Matt Wareham is also unopposed. For the Pamlico County Board of Education, both at large members, Jamie Gibbs and Erik Smith will automatically retain their seats. There will be at least one new member on both the Board of Education (BOE) and the Board of Commissioners (BOC). Both at-large seats on the BOC are up for election and one of those seats will have a new body occupying it. Kari Forrest has decided to not seek reelection and there are three candidates vying for the two at-large seats. Incumbent Doug Brinson will be joined on the ballot by Pamlico County Rescue Squad Chief T. W. Harris and farmer Derek Potter. All three candidates are running as Republicans. At the Board of Education, a similar situation exists. Long time member Helen Jones Gibbs, who represents District 4, is not seeking reelection and two candidates are hoping to fill her seat. Myra Stokes Carter of Bayboro and Carinna Smith of Mesic are on the ballot for that seat. Both ladies are running as Democrats. There are also contested races as far as who will represent Pamlico County in Raleigh. In District 79 of the NC House of Representatives, incumbent Keith Kidwell will face challenger Darren Armstrong in the primary. Both candidates are republicans and there are no Democrats who have filed to run so the primary winner will claim the seat. In the NC Senate District 2 race, the incumbent Republican Norman Sanderson will be unopposed in the primary, however, he does have a Democrat challenger in the general election in Roy Surret. We haven't even touched on the NC Judicial races, the US Senate, or the US House. We will go over those in the near future. The official primary election date is March 3rd but early voting at the Pamlico County Courthouse Board of Elections Office will begin on February 12 and run until February 28. You can cast your ballot from 8:00 AM until 7:30 PM, Monday through Friday during the early voting period, and from 8:00 AM until 3:00 PM on Saturday the 28th of February, the final day of early voting.

Latonia Stancil Sworn in as New Director of Elections

by: Hiram Lupton



With her mom and dad holding the Bible, Latonia Stancil is sworn in as the new Pamlico County Elections Director by Register of Deeds Lynn Lewis.



Retiring Elections Director Lisa Bennett

Just in time for the 2026 mid-term elections, there will be a new Elections Director in charge in Pamlico County. After twenty-three and a half years Lisa Bennett is hanging up her pencil and tally sheet and turning things over to Latonia Stancil. "I would not be retiring if I didn't think the Board of Elections wasn't going to be in good hands. We have

a great Board and having worked with Latonia for two years, I have the upmost confidence that she will do a great job." Stancil, who lives in Stonewall, was sworn in last Friday and immediately gets to work ensuring that Pamlico remains as one of the best run counties in the state as far as elections go.

CarolinaEast limits patient visits to fight rising respiratory illnesses

by News 12 Staff

Carolina East Medical Center is limiting its visitation to two visitors who are 12 years and older at a time during their visiting hours, starting on Monday, Jan. 5. They say this is a result of the growing spread of respiratory illnesses in the community, as well as increased hospitalizations at CarolinaEast Medical Center. It is necessary to limit visitation to help prevent further spread of the virus, according to Carolina East Medical Center.

Photo: Carolina East Medical Center



Hurricane Holiday Hoops Classic



LIKELY WEATHER OVER THE WEEKEND

Saturday, January 10th **72° Hi** Partly cloudy in the afternoon

Sunday, January 11st **66° Hi** Sunny and clear



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Students still have time to register for the Spring 2026 semester at Pamlico Community College

By Sandy Wall

Pamlico Community College's formal registration period is over, but there's still time for new and returning curriculum students to sign up for classes for the Spring 2026 semester!

Students can register for a course as long as it has not started yet. Seated classes will begin Monday, Jan. 12. Online courses will start Monday, Jan. 26.

"It's never too late to start a degree or to finish one," said PCC Vice President of Instructional Services Neil Callahan. "Most of our Spring offerings are online and work-schedule friendly. Call or drop by our campus to find out more about how you can get started."

Additionally, registration for popular Career & College Promise courses for high school juniors and seniors is now underway. It will run today (Wednesday, Jan. 7) and tomorrow (Thursday, Jan. 8) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily at the Mattocks Center in Bayboro.

Registration for short-term, career-training Continuing Education courses, most of which have different start dates and times, is also underway and will continue throughout the semester.



Regardless of whether you're interested in curriculum courses leading to a degree, diploma, or certificate, or you'd rather enroll in short-term career-training programs, there's still time to sign up for the Spring 2026 semester at Pamlico Community College. Contributed photo

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!

Financial aid is available for qualified students.

Pamlico has great opportunities in store for 2026 – find yours! For more information about registering at the college, call 252-249-1851, ext. 3001, email studentservices@pamlicocc.edu, or visit www.pamlicocc.edu on the web.

PCC is proud to offer students a place where they can succeed. In fact, Pamlico has been ranked in the Top 10 among the nation's community colleges for students' Educational Outcomes by WalletHub in four of the last six years.

Students who enroll at PCC can expect to be treated as a member of the college family as they receive the knowledge, skills and training they need to get started on a bachelor's degree or to prepare for a great hands-on career in an in-demand field.

PCC features small class sizes and offers personalized attention. It also offers seated and online courses, including some programs that can be completed entirely on the web!

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

Millions of children are overweight...

The World Health Organization reports that hundreds of millions of children across the globe qualified as overweight or obese in 2022. According to the WHO, in 2022 37 million children under the age of five were overweight, while 390 million children and adolescents between the ages of five and 19 met the criteria for being overweight or obese. The WHO considers a child under five years of age overweight if the youngster is weight-for-height greater than two standard deviations above the organization's Child Growth Standards median. The WHO criteria for being characterized as obese is met when a child is three standard deviations above the median. Children and adolescents between the ages of five and 19 are considered overweight if they are one standard deviation above the median and obese if they are two standard deviations above the median. The threats posed by overweight and obesity in childhood are significant. The WHO notes that being overweight as a child and adolescent is associated with earlier onset of various noncommunicable diseases, including type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease. In addition, the WHO notes the adverse psychological consequences of being overweight or obese in childhood and adolescence, which include a lower quality of life that is compounded by stigma, discrimination and bullying.



LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER!!!!

Pamlico's Small Business Center and Imagine Pamlico present

"Backbone Basics: Strengthening Your Nonprofit's Core Operations"

A FREE SEMINAR FOR NONPROFITS SERVING PAMLICO COUNTY

WED., JAN. 14, 2026
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

PAMLICO PUBLIC LIBRARY
13896 NC-55
BAYBORO, NC 28515

You will learn about:

- Clear Governance Structure
- Active Board Oversight
- Compliance Issues
- Financial Management & Internal Controls
- Administrative Infrastructure
- Program & Operational Systems



Instructor Natasha Davis
WPS Strategy Group, LLC



Register now at www.PamlicoSBC.com



Land/Home Sales
Property Management
Appraisals Development



Agent of the Week

Allen Propst
Owner/Broker/GRI

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

We couldn't be more pleased than to have had Allen Propst with Mariner Realtor as our broker. Allen's ability to overcome complicated listing and selling issues was exemplary. We are confident we made the right choice working with Allen.

Earl & Sandy, Oriental



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



NEW BERN – Handicapped-accessible, waterfront 2BR/2BA fully-furnished condo in Oriental Harbor Place. Community pool, air-conditioned commercial elevator.
OFFERED AT \$359,500



ORIENTAL – 3BR/2.5BA w/FROG is a Stuart Hardy built house nestled on wooded Sail/Loft lot. Not in a Federally-designated Flood Zone. Two-garage attached garage, detached 1-car garage/workshop, studio / sunroom, screened porch overlooks pristine back yard with handicap ramp.
OFFERED AT \$425,000



ORIENTAL – 3BR/2.5BA open floor plan, ideal for family gatherings or entertaining on 3 acres. Offers a great balance of space and tranquility. Property will be sold as-is.
OFFERED AT \$425,500



ORIENTAL – 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. Ingersoll Rand 200 PSI air compressor. Fabrication equipment does not convey.
OFFERED AT \$ 575,000



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

See all Listings & Visual Tours at
www.orientalncwaterfront.com

1-800-347-8246 • 252-249-1014

Or contact Allen Propst

252-671-4644

704 Broad St, PO Box 750, Oriental, NC 28571



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

by: Hiram Lupton

- January 7th – Today is National Bobblehead Day. I get a bobblehead everyday around 10 PM.
- January 8th – Today is National Bubble Bath Day. Scrub-a-dub-dub.
- January 9th – Today is National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.
- January 10th – Today is National Houseplant Appreciation Day. I'd appreciate it if they didn't die.
- January 11th – Today is National Milk Day.
- January 12th – Today is National Pharmacist Day.
- January 13th – Today is National Rubber Ducky Day. Jeep owners be alert.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

- January 7th – 1952, Actress Erin Gray
- January 8th – 1935, Elvis Presley
- January 9th – 1944, Guitarist Jimmy Page
- January 10th – 1949, Boxing Champ George Foreman
- January 10th – 19??, Barry Monk
- January 11th – 1942, Saxophonist Clarence Clemmons
- January 11th – 19??, Eric Hardison
- January 13th - 1961, Actress Julia Louis-Dreyfus



New Year's Resolutions

Say no to toxic people and yes to pizza.

Fair Housing Policy General Information Pamlico CDBG Program

Fair Housing law prohibits discrimination in most housing based on race, religion, sex, familial status, handicap or national origin. Pamlico County affirmatively furthers fair housing law pursuant to the receipt of CDBG funding.

It is unlawful in the sale, rental or lease of real property to:

- Refuse to negotiate, receive / transmit an offer, or engage in a transaction
- Make unavailable or deny housing in any way
- Misrepresent availability or limit inspections
- Advertise or offer the property with an indication or understanding of future discrimination
- Promote panic selling concerning protected class neighborhood composition changes, lowering of property values, criminal / antisocial behavior or quality of schools
- Use and application which indicates intent of discrimination against protected class persons
- Discriminate in membership of real estate transactions related organization

Fair Housing Law does not apply to:

- Rental of accommodations in a building which contains housing for fewer than five families living independently if the person who is leasing the building or a member of his family resides in one of the units
- Rental of a room in a housing by an individual if her or a member of his family resides therein
- Religious, charitable or education institutions or organizations which give preference to members of the same religion. If membership in such religion is not restricted by race, color, sex or national origin
- Private clubs which may provide lodging to their members or give preference to their members if they are not open to the public
- Single-sex dormitories with respect to discrimination based on sex
- A person who adopts and carried out a plan to eliminate present effects of past discrimination of to a assure equal opportunity in real estate transaction as part of a conciliation agreement under state or federal law

Individuals wishing to access TDD or TTY services may dial 7-1-1 to reach the North Carolina Telecommunications Relay Service (Relay North Carolina)

This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact the individual listed below to accommodate this request.
Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma a petición. Póngase en contacto con el individuo enumerado a continuación para dar cabida a esta solicitud.

Sarah Deskar, Grants Administrator
Pamlico County
302 Main Street
Bayboro, NC 28515
(252) 745-4131



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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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.

COMMUNITY

OBITUARIES

In Memory of David Alan Peterson
December 27, 2025



David Alan Peterson, age 88, and a Pamlico County resident for 38 years, transitioned out of this world on the morning of December 27, 2025 in the company of his

daughter, Veronica and caring staff of the Grantsbrook Nursing and Rehab community and with support of Hospice of Pamlico County after enduring physical incapacitation and cognitive decline as a result of a series of debilitating strokes in recent years. David was preceded in death by his wife, Rose Marie (Cappuccio) Peterson; his son, Jeffrey Alan Peterson; his granddaughter, Samantha Peterson; his parents, Harold A. and Muriel (Kelch) Peterson; and his sister, Marilyn Dorothy (Peterson) O'Rourke. He is survived by his brother, Randall A. Peterson; his daughters, Veronica (Peterson) Lance and Cynthia (Peterson) Dean; and extended family members and friends. Dave's four-legged companions, Chloe and Lola, have been adopted by their "step-sister" and family.

David was born and raised in Staten Island. He was a proud veteran, serving his country in the United States Coast Guard during the 1950's and in the USCG Reserves until 1962. His young family relocated from Staten Island to New Jersey. David's professional journey was marked by a successful career at IBM in his formative working years. Following an opportunity to pursue an early retirement, his life took on more adventurous and varied pursuits, including his move to Pamlico County. Over the years, David's interests brought him connections to many in several communities.

His interest in public service included elected office and Mayor of Bethlehem Township, New Jersey, and later serving as the Town Clerk for both Vandemere, NC and Arapahoe, NC. He had a passion for the outdoors starting with the Boys Scouts and as an accomplished Eagle Scout, then enjoyed camping and hiking with his young family, and later serving as volunteer Campground Host at multiple National Parks as he travelled extensively throughout the US. Many friends will remember him on the dance floor; Dave was an avid square and round dancer, later finding joy in ballroom dancing. He enjoyed service and fellowship as a Mason, Shriner and Pamlico County Mourner. He also mentored and helped people in many informal capacities.

Dave was fortunate for the series of wonderful senior companions who enabled him to live in his home for as long as possible and then who facilitated quality of life after he needed the support of full time institutional care. Caring and dedicated Staff at Grantsbrook and at Pamlico Hospice will remember him for his (mostly) good humor and "Dad jokes". The family is deeply grateful to all those who contributed to Dave's support and care through the years. Thank you.

Notes of remembrance can be left on the obituary page of Daniels - Sadler Funeral Home and Crematory. A celebration of Dave's life is being planned and will be announced at a future time for family and friends to join in his remembrance. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made in David's name to Hospice of Pamlico County, 602 Main Street, PO Box 6, Bayboro, NC 28515, Phone: 252-745-5171.

Ernest Lee Riggs

June 22, 1932 – January 02, 2026



Ernest Lee Riggs, 93, of Reelsboro, passed away peacefully on Friday, January 02, 2026, at Craven Regional Medical Center.

Ernest was a devoted husband to his late wife, Mildred Purifoy Riggs, for 70 years. He and Mildred had three children. He was a caring father to each of them as well as a caring grandfather, great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather to his grandchildren. Ernest lived a life rooted in hard work and devotion to those he loved. He was the breadwinner of his family. Everyone was welcome in his home.

Ernest was born in Onslow County, but at an early age moved to Pamlico County. In 1947, he started working for Mr. Oscar Krechel who decided to open a grain and feed mill on Highway 55 in Grantsboro, Krechel's Grain mill. When Mr. Krechel retired, Ernest

and his son Edward took over the business, and it became Riggs and Son Mill. Ernest would make custom feed for livestock in the early days, grinding hay and corn for farmers in Pamlico and surrounding counties. As the years passed, Ernest continued to sale chicken and dog food and looked forward to seeing his faithful customers. He had the reputation of selling some of the best sweet potatoes around. Ernest would have customers come to the mill during the holidays and load their cars full of sweet potatoes to take back with them to their homes as far away as New York. He refused to retire. He continued to work until he couldn't go any more. He was a fixture there for almost 78 years.

Ernest was preceded in death by his precious wife as 70 years, Mildred Purifoy Riggs and his son, Edward Lee Riggs, Sr.

Ernest is survived by his daughters, Bessie Riggs Rice and Shirley Riggs Allen; his daughter-in-law, Rosemary Edwards Riggs; eight grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren; and four great-great grandchildren.

The visitation will be held Thursday, January 09, 2026, from 6:00 – 7:30 pm at the Daniels-Sadler Funeral Home in Alliance, NC. A graveside service will be held Friday, January 10th, 2026 @ 2:00 pm at the Bridgeton Cemetery on Half Moon Road in Bridgeton, NC. Please bring a lawn chair for the service if needed as there will be limited seating for the immediate family.



JANUARY

Breakfast with Friends

Brantley's Restaurant
Thursday's – January 8, 15, 22, 29
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 – January 8, 15, 22, 29
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.

Cook, Care & Connect - A Hands-On Cooking Experience

January 7, 9, 13
10am-1pm
Oriental United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall
Three Opportunities - A Hands-On Cooking Experience that will support those in need within our community. Join us for a special hands-on cooking event where community and compassion meet in the kitchen!

Game Day (2nd & 4th Wed)

Wednesday - January 14 & 28

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!

Creative Card Making Class

Wednesday - January 14
10am - Noon
Oriental United Methodist Church
The card making class meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday. The class is led by Cheryl McAskill, a Stampin' Up demonstrator. Cost is \$25/month. Advanced Registration.

Digital Skills Session - iPad and Hotspot Basics

Monday - January 12
10am to noon at Oriental United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall
Learn how to navigate and use iPads and hotspots. This is the 5th session in a 5 part series.

Additional sessions will be offered in 2026!

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

FINANCIAL FOCUS

New Year’s financial resolutions: Making them stick



Dan M. Roberts

As the calendar flips to a new year, millions of Americans pledge to improve their financial lives. But without a concrete plan, those well-intentioned resolutions often fade quickly.

Financial goals consistently top the list of New Year’s resolutions. A 2025 CFP Board study shows that financial resolutions are prominent, with saving more money (45%) and reducing debt (32%) ranking among the top three goals.

Unfortunately, most resolutions don’t last. A 2023 Forbes Health poll found that over half of people give up on resolutions by the four-month mark and only 1% make it the full year.

The challenge isn’t a lack of desire for change. People may set the same resolution year after year, revealing a disconnect between intentions and action. Or it may be that they try to tackle too many goals at once, or aim higher than is realistic, setting themselves up for disappointment.

Set smart financial goals. Before crafting your action plan, consider which financial priorities matter most to you. If you need ideas, here are some areas where you may want focus in 2026:

- Regularly review your financial goals and track progress toward meeting them
- Increase your 401(k) contributions or max out your IRA and/or HSA contributions
- Pay down debt strategically and negotiate lower interest payments
- Build an emergency savings fund of six to 12 months
- Save more consistently

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

Be specific. Vague resolutions like “save more money” rarely succeed. Instead, it can help to make goals specific and measurable. For example, rather than making a resolution to “start an emergency fund,” commit to a specific goal, such as, “I will put \$100 a month into an emergency fund.”

This shift from general to specific transforms wishful thinking into actionable steps. When goals are attainable, it’s easier to track progress and stay motivated.

Find an accountability partner. Don’t go it alone. Having someone to check in with can help you stay on track. This could be a spouse, friend or family member who shares similar goals.

Consider working with a financial advisor who can help you create a realistic plan, monitor your progress and adjust strategies as needed. A professional can provide expertise and accountability, making it easier to stay on track throughout the year.

Start small and build momentum. Rather than overhauling your entire financial life all at once, focus on one or two priority areas. Identify where the largest gap exists between your current situation and where you want to be, then concentrate your energy there.

Breaking larger goals into smaller, manageable actions makes them less overwhelming and more achievable. Each small win builds confidence and momentum for tackling the next challenge.

The new year offers a fresh start and renewed motivation to improve your financial health. With specific goals, a solid action plan and the right support system, this could be the year your financial resolutions finally stick.



Spectrum Launches Gigabit Broadband, Mobile, TV And Voice Services In Pamlico County

Spectrum Internet® with Speeds Up to 1 Gig Now Available to More Than 1,200 Homes and Small Businesses Network Buildout is Part of Spectrum’s \$7 Billion Rural Construction Initiative

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (January 6, 2026) — Spectrum, the #1 rural internet provider in the nation*, today announced the launch of Spectrum Internet, Mobile, TV and Voice services to more than 1,200 homes and small businesses in Pamlico County.

Spectrum’s multi-year rural construction initiative is driven by more than \$7 billion in private investment from Spectrum and will ultimately add an additional 100,000+ miles of fiber-optic network infrastructure and deliver symmetrical and multi-gigabit speed Internet access to more than 1.7 million new locations across the country.

“Spectrum is bringing gigabit broadband to unserved communities in North Carolina and across America,” said Tim Williams, Vice President of Construction at Spectrum. “Our investment is making it possible to deliver the high-value broadband, mobile, TV and voice services now available in Pamlico County. We are providing local residents and small businesses superior connectivity at highly competitive prices, backed by a team of skilled local technicians and 100% U.S.-based customer service.”

Broadband speeds up to 1 Gbps, plus money-saving Mobile options and 85,000 On Demand choices

Spectrum Internet delivers speeds up to 1 Gbps and Advanced WiFi for residential and small business customers, featuring starting speeds of 500 Mbps, with no modem fees, data caps or contracts. Spectrum Business Internet offers customers 1 Gbps download speeds, with 500 Mbps and 750 Mbps options. The company has also begun a network evolution that will provide gigabit upstream speeds and multiple gigabit download speeds across its entire 41-state service area.

“Pamlico County’s rural residents and businesses now have fast and dependable internet and mobile service thanks to Spectrum’s investment in our community,” said state Rep. Keith Kidwell. “This connectivity powers businesses to reach customers, families to stay in touch, teachers and students to learn, and residents to remotely access healthcare services.”

Spectrum Internet exceeded advertised download and upload speeds for all tiers measured — even during peak weeknight usage between 7 and 11 p.m. — according to the FCC’s most recent “Measuring Broadband America Fixed Broadband Report.”

Along with multiple broadband options, Spectrum services now available also include Spectrum Mobile™ and Spectrum TV*. Spectrum Mobile is the nation’s fastest-growing mobile provider** and combines with Spectrum Internet and Advanced Home WiFi to provide seamless connectivity inside and outside the home. Spectrum Mobile provides customers access to nationwide 5G at great value, with Unlimited lines starting at \$30 a month, as well as By the Gig options.

Spectrum TV offers more than 270 HD channels and access to 85,000 On Demand movies and shows. Using the Spectrum TV App — the highest-rated pay TV streaming app in the U.S.*** — viewers can stream content across a growing number of platforms, including iOS and Android mobile devices, Xbox One, Kindle Fire, Samsung Smart TVs, Apple TV, Google Chromecast, Roku, Xumo TVs and PCs.



Local residents and business owners should visit spectrumruralexpansion.com to learn more about when their home or business may be able to receive Spectrum services.

* Based on December 2022 FCC Broadband Data Collection locations.

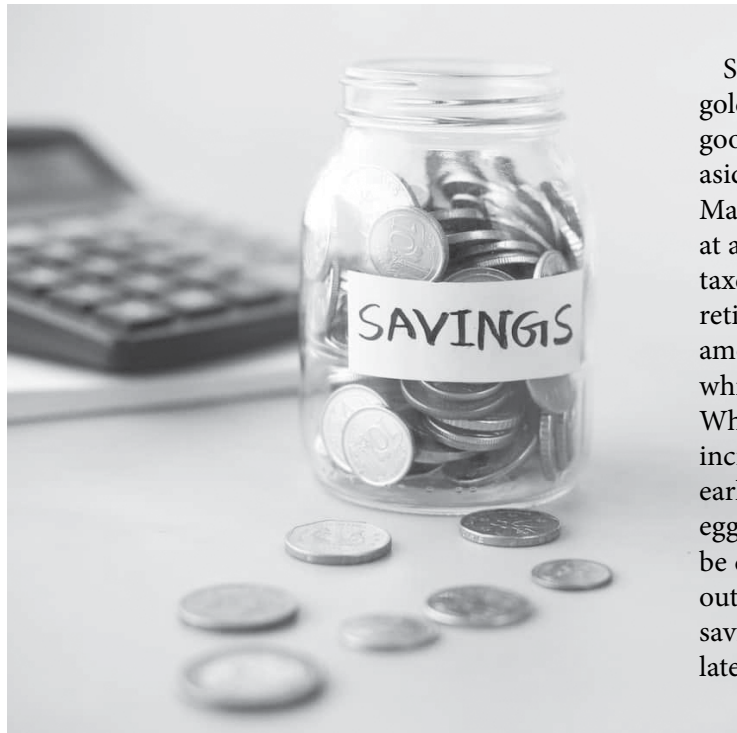
** Based on 1Q 2024 subscriber data among top 3 carriers.

*** iOS (App Store) and Android (Google Play) average ratings as of July 1, 2024. Apps must have at least 150k reviews through combination of iOS & Android store reviews as of July 1, 2024.

About Spectrum


Spectrum is a suite of advanced communications services offered by Charter Communications, Inc. (NASDAQ:CHTR), a leading broadband connectivity company available to 58 million homes and small to large businesses across 41 states. Founded in 1993, Charter has evolved from providing cable TV to streaming, and from high-speed Internet to a converged broadband, WiFi and mobile experience. Over the Spectrum Fiber Broadband Network and supported by our 100% U.S.-based employees, the Company offers Seamless Connectivity and Entertainment with Spectrum Internet®, Mobile, TV and Voice products.

More information can be found at corporate.charter.com.




Saving for retirement ensures people can navigate their golden years with enough money to comfortably say goodbye to working full-time. The earlier one begins to set aside savings for retirement, the more money accumulates. Mass Mutual says a saver at age 22 with a goal to retire at age 65 can achieve total savings of \$2,255,844 before taxes and inflation when putting away \$500 a month for retirement. Waiting until age 32 to start saving the same amount monthly drops the total savings down to \$972,542, while waiting until age 42 shaves it down to \$395,866. When a person starts saving at age 22, the rate of savings increases because of compounding interest over time. The earlier a person starts, the easier it is to end up with a nest egg that can ensure a comfortable retirement. While it may be challenging to think about retirement when just starting out in a career, keeping an eye on the future with smart saving strategies can set people up for financial security later in life.

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Cheers to a new year!

May you have a happy, prosperous and healthy new year!



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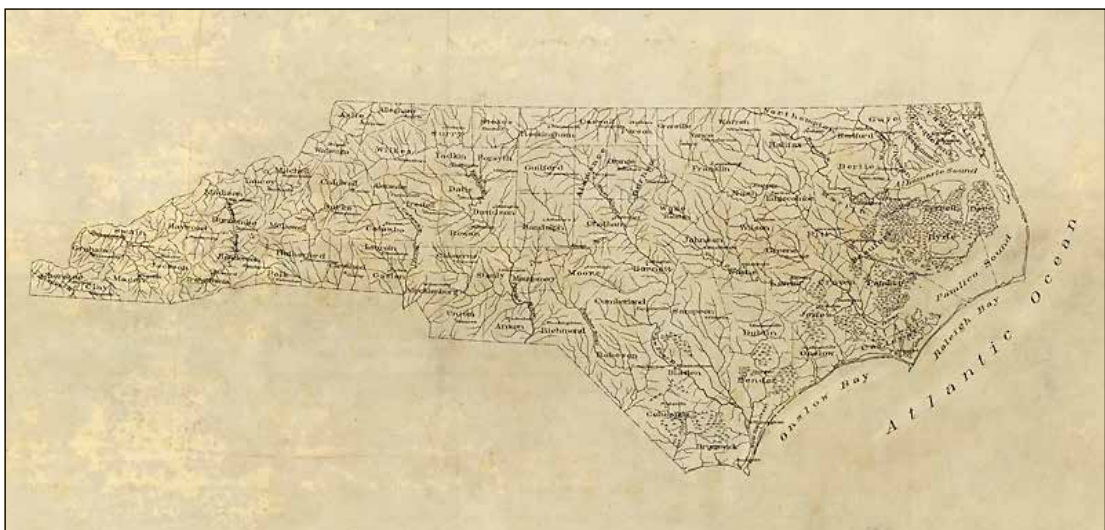
Help Others A selfless act for another is a victory over selfishness.



New Year's Resolution



My office, and all the items in it, have a story to tell. I sit at former Treasurer Harlan Boyles' desk – it reminds me of the legacy of stewardship of our state's finances that I must live up to. On my wall is an antique map of North Carolina from the 1890s, before there were even 100 counties in our state (fun fact, there were only 96 back then), which reminds me of how this state continues to evolve for the better. We also have many historical stock and bond certificates from great North Carolina companies that adorn the walls, a nod to all the amazing banks, industrial companies, railroads, counties and towns who comprise so many of the employers still today in this state.



And then there is the one item on my shelf that everyone notices... the small plaque that just reads: "I Suck at Investing." I've spent my career building companies and teams focused on investing, so people generally find it a bit ironic. But to me it's an important memory - a memento from a stock-picking contest where I finished in last place in 2020. In my defense, I didn't see Covid or the extreme response to it coming in December 2019... but it doesn't really matter my excuses, the reality is that I wasn't very good at my job that day.



I keep it in my office not only to remind me of the friends I competed with, but also to remind me that sometimes I do actually suck at investing. And so do we all, when it comes to matters requiring consistency and discipline - perhaps most notably in the area of personal finance. While it is better not to have bad days, or bad weeks/months, the truth is we all have them. The trick to success is in recovering from those tough times. How do you pick yourself up, learn from your mistakes and be a little better next time? Of course it's embarrassing to perform poorly, or overspend or overindulge. But it does happen, particularly when we are celebrating special occasions like Christmas or New Years.

For January, challenge yourself to get back on track. We talked to a lot folks for the newsletter this month to help guide you through the new year reset. See if you can make some small progress today in correcting where you may have veered off course over the holidays. For me, I'm going to try and go all of January without buying coffee at a coffee shop. And I'll use that money to build my retirement savings. If I can make some good investments with that money this time, then my golden years will be that much more golden!

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Satellite tracking can yield wealth of information for researchers; Public can follow fish movements through a tracker

MOREHEAD CITY – It's called Big Red, a 33-inch Red Drum swimming along the East Coast with a satellite tag affixed to its body. Ironically, Big Red's nearly 3-foot length categorizes it in the smaller/younger adult category of Red Drum, but the information that it gives researchers is of no small significance.

Big Red is one of 33 Red Drum tagged this year by The Red Drum Satellite Tagging Project, a partnership between N.C. Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Marine Fisheries and the North Carolina Marine & Estuary Foundation. The tracking information, which includes location and water temperature, may teach researchers more about Red Drum stock structure (potential mixing of northern and southern populations), spawning and offshore migrations, and habitat preferences.

"This information could fill data gaps useful for coast-wide stock assessments, such as adult offshore movements, and it could support conventional tagging migration data with more detailed information," said Division Biologist Cara Kowalchyk.

The Division began the Red Drum Satellite Tagging Project in 2024 with a \$30,000 grant from the foundation to test tagging and information retrieval. The foundation provided another

\$30,000 for the second year of the project in 2025.

This year, the Division tagged 19 Red Drum, and the foundation, working with charter guides, tagged 14 more. The tags can stay on the fish for up to a year, providing key insight into seasonal movements. Now the public can watch the fish movements through a Red Drum Satellite Tracker on the Foundation's website.

"Red Drum are an iconic symbol of North Carolina's coastal communities and a key driver of our state's \$4 billion saltwater fishing economy," said the foundation's Executive Director Chad Thomas. "This exciting new tool invites the public to engage directly with real-time science from the field — to see where these fish travel and to understand why protecting their habitat matters."

What about Big Red? It was tagged on Sept. 3, 2025, near the Pungo River. Since then, it has traveled more than 3,000 miles, remaining in the ocean, swimming to waters off northern Florida, then traveling back to waters offshore of Hatteras Inlet. Big Red is currently the frontrunner for miles traveled among the 33 satellite tagged fish.

For more information about the Division's participation in the Red Drum Tagging Project, contact Cara Kowalchyk at Cara.Kowalchyk@deq.nc.gov or 252-948-3875.

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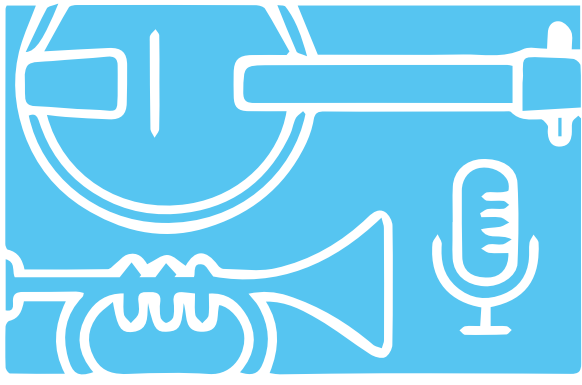
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"America"

As residents of the United States of America celebrate the nation's two hundred and fiftieth anniversary, some might be curious where the "America" portion of the country's name comes from. According to the Library of Congress, America is named after Italian explorer Amerigo Vespucci. The LOC contends that Vespucci was the first to suggest that the lands Christopher Columbus sailed to in 1492 were part of a separate continent. German mapmaker Martin Waldseemüller honored Vespucci's assertion in 1507, when he created a notable map that was the first to depict the lands as a separate continent, naming the area "America," which is a Latinized version of "Amerigo." That map is now part of the cartographic collections at the LOC, and is sometimes referred to as "America's Birth Certificate."





PAMLICO MUSICAL SOCIETY

Ring in the New Year with ArcoStrum at River Dunes

Award-winning violin-guitar duo, ArcoStrum, is blazing trails and redefining the 21st-century violin-guitar art form, presenting a new generation of chamber music that is mixed-genre, multi-cultural, and cross-era. Join us on Sunday, January 11, when ArcoStrum -- featuring violinist Strauss Shi and guitarist TY Zhang -- performs at the River Dunes Harbor Club beginning with light hors d'oeuvres at 4:00 PM and concert at 4:30 PM, presented by the Pamlico Musical Society. You will be enchanted with original transcriptions of beloved classical repertoire, a unique blend of Chinese-Western instrumentations, and modern progressive rock. Don't miss it!



A Winner and Audience Prize recipient at the 2023 Concert Artists Guild Victor Elmaleh Competition—the first violin-guitar duo in CAG's 70+ year history to achieve this—ArcoStrum is comprised of violinist Strauss Shi, a three-time international competition winner, and guitarist TY Zhang, the first and only Chinese classical guitarist to win the prestigious Guitar Foundation of America International Concert Artist Competition. On stage, they are ArcoStrum. Offstage, they are lifelong friends whose musical bond began as classmates at The Juilliard School and has evolved into a brotherhood rooted in curiosity, creativity, and a love for sharing music. Every note they

play reflects hours of joyful collaboration and a deep respect for both tradition and the thrill of reinvention. ArcoStrum has been featured by The Violin Channel, The Strad, and Chamber Music America Magazine and has brought its dazzling virtuosity and magnetic stage presence to sold-out audiences across China, Mexico and the United States.

Tickets to the concert are \$40 and are available in Oriental at Nautical Wheelers, 411 Broad Street, in New Bern at Nautical Wheelers, 202A Craven Street, and online at pamlicomusic.org.

For helping to make this concert possible, the Pamlico Musical Society wishes to thank our season sponsor: Beth Frazer Real Estate & Rentals; business sponsors: Daniels Sound; and individual sponsors: Wendy Osserman & Ken Laser, and Trish Mead. We are also grateful for a grant from the North Carolina Arts Council, a Division of the Department of Cultural Resources.

Celebrating 28 years of presenting great music for our community, the Pamlico Musical Society is a non-profit organization bringing quality musical entertainment, enrichment, and education to Pamlico County. We welcome your support! To learn more about the benefits of joining our group, including advance ticket sales and artist receptions, call 252-617-2125 or visit www.pamlicomusic.org, and like us on Facebook @pamlicomusic.

www.pamlicomusic.org

Pamlico Vistas

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



The Mouth of Goose Creek at the Pamlico River - Lowland

Photo by: Hiram Lupton

New Year's Resolution:

Stop judging people who put pineapple on pizza.



Broad Strokes GALLERY
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This project is supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

JANUARY 2026



presents Featured Special Artist

SARAH RIDGWAY

Mark your calendars because we have even more in store for January! Join us at the gallery on Saturday, January 10, from 2-5 p.m. for a lively opening reception featuring the inspiring artworks of Sarah Eve Ridgway.

Once a Respiratory Therapist, Sarah's life took a dramatic turn when she faced a challenging, inoperable brain tumor. But instead of letting that define her, she embraced her creativity as a powerful way to cope with the ups and downs of her journey—just like the incredible Frieda Kahlo! Known affectionately as Sarah Sunshine, she keeps her spirit bright and has even started a support group in Pennsylvania to uplift others facing similar battles.

While she can't be with us in person, her art will shine at the opening, and every piece purchased goes towards her essential medication not covered by insurance. Let's come together to celebrate art, resilience, and community! Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity!

Please join us for an opening reception for the artists at the gallery from 2-5 p.m., Sat., January 10
Refreshments will be served • broadstrokesgallery.weebly.com

If you missed the opening on Jan. 3 for Guest Artist Quin Troxler Dionne and Student Artist Lena Robertson, their work will still be on view for the rest of Jan., so come see it all!

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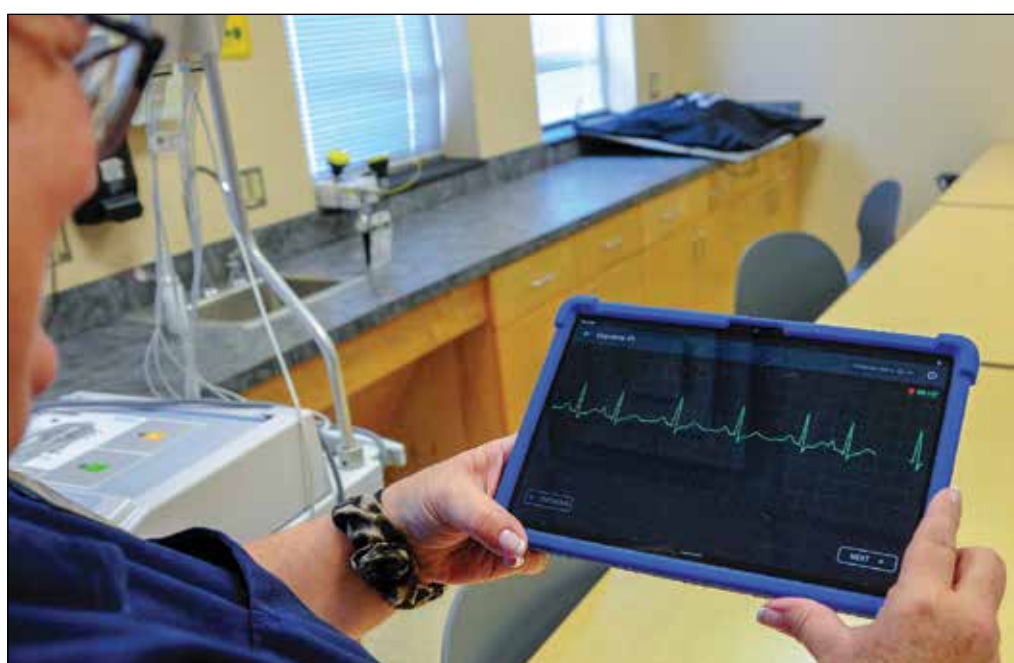


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- * **Electronic Health Records, Begins Jan. 26!**
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- * **Medical Billing & Coding, Coming Jan. 26!**
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Health & Wellness

Tips to stay the course with a New Year's resolution



The holiday season is steeped in tradition. Many of those traditions are rooted in celebrants' faith, but one of the last customs people embrace each year is largely secular.

The tradition of making New Year's resolutions is older than many people may realize. According to History.com, the ancient Babylonians are believed to be the first people to make New Year's resolutions when they began doing so roughly 4,000 years ago during a 12-day festival known as Akitu. That festival was religious in nature, but many people now make resolutions with a goal toward self-improvement unrelated to their faith. As people ponder their resolutions for the year ahead, the following strategies might help them stay the course over the next 12 months.

- Give serious thought to a prospective resolution. Statistics regarding New Year's resolutions vary, but a survey from the Pew Research Center found that 13 percent of adults polled indicated they kept none of their resolutions. Numerous variables can affect whether or not a person keeps a resolution, but giving a potential resolution little thought ahead of time can make achieving a goal unlikely. Give any potential change ample thought before committing to a resolution. If you aspire to lose weight, identify the ways you're going to go about that. Find a local gym to join, identify ways to eat a more nutritious diet and, perhaps most importantly, study how you can make time to stay the course. A little legwork in advance of declaring a resolution can pay off in the long run.

- Set periodic goals. Small goals along the way to the larger goal can serve as motivation to keep going. If you aspire to watch less television and read more, resolve to read 100 pages per week and then gradually increase that total if you so desire. Small goals can provide a great means to measure incremental progress that will ultimately make achieving a larger goal more likely.

- Be realistic. Realistic goals are more likely to be achieved than ones that seem good on the surface but are too difficult to keep. For example, if you aspire to exercise for an hour each day but obligations to work and family leave little time for physical activity, then you may need to reduce those expectations in favor of a more realistic, achievable goal. Taking on too much will only discourage you when hurdles inevitably appear, and that is likely to compel you to abandon the resolution entirely. If your initial goal is realistic, then any challenges that arise are less likely to derail your efforts.

- Don't go it alone. Many people employ the buddy system as a means to stay motivated with fitness-related resolutions, and that approach can be applied to any goal you set at the beginning of the year. Having someone there to hold you accountable, and doing the same for a partner, increases the chances you'll stay the course.

New Year's resolutions are an ancient tradition, even if the majority tend to be abandoned rather quickly. But anyone can buck that trend and stay the course by employing a few simple, yet effective strategies.

Spend more time outside

Spending more time outdoors can improve health by relieving stress, elevating mood, and even lowering blood pressure. Making a New Year's resolution to spend more time outside every day is a sustainable and healthy goal that can benefit almost everyone, no matter where you live. Taking a walk outside during your lunch break, hiking on weekends, going camping with friends, or simply soaking in the beauty of your backyard or local park are all ways to incorporate nature into your daily routine.



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COASTAL LIVING



REMINDER: Division of Coastal Management offers guidance for recycling natural Christmas trees for dune restoration

MOREHEAD CITY - The N.C. Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Coastal Management is providing guidance to property owners, organizations and towns that plan to accept natural Christmas trees for use in dune restoration.

Locally donated, undecorated natural Christmas trees may be used as a substitute for traditional sand fencing, a barrier, usually made of wood or synthetic materials, placed on beaches or dunes to trap blowing sand. The trees should be placed in a manner that meets the state's rules for sand fencing (rule citation below), with the exception that Christmas trees may be placed no closer to the ocean, sound, river or shoreline than the base of the closest dune to the waterline.

Christmas trees should not block public access to the beach, recreational use of the beach, emergency vehicle access or be placed on private property without permission. Trees should be placed at an angle no less than 45 degrees to the shoreline, and trees should be spaced apart at a minimum of seven feet.

If sand fencing is present, a seven-foot separation between trees and the fence sections must also be maintained. Rows should be single-tree width. Unvegetated beach berms, or recently created "starter dunes," are not considered natural dunes. Trees should not be placed at the seaward base of these berms, starter dunes or on the open beach.

To ensure compliance with all of the rules that apply to sand fencing, please review the standards outlined in 15A NCAC



Photo credit Division of Coastal Management

07K .0212. If the proposed layout of trees along the beachfront does not meet these criteria, applicants should submit a CAMA Minor Permit application for review. For more information, please contact the local CAMA permitting authority or appropriate DCM district office prior to tree placement.

To ensure compliance with recycling programs in your neighborhood, we suggest contacting the appropriate local government office for information regarding recycling natural Christmas trees.

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Help Tell the Stories of Civil War Era New Bern Auditions Jan 10 for Hallowed Ground Lantern Tour

NEW BERN, NC, Are you into history? Storytelling? Then here is an event for you! The New Bern Historical Society invites you to audition to portray exciting storytelling characters in their event, the Hallowed Ground Lantern Tour in March. Auditions will be held January 10, 11am-1pm at the Attmore-Oliver House at 511 Broad Street. Actors will be asked to read from scripts. The Lantern Tour is presented in New Bern Battlefield Park, site of the first Battle of New Bern.

The fifth annual Hallowed Ground Lantern Tour will take place in the evenings, March 19-21, 2026. Visitors will take a 60-minute guided, lantern-lit walk through the wooded battlefield trails, where spirits from New Bern's Civil War past will share their inspiring stories of courage and conviction. Each Lantern Tour brings all new characters and presentations, but their stories remain poignant and touching. And the visitors will learn about

the Civil War era in New Bern. This is not a recreation of the war, but instead real, historical accounts from the people who found themselves in New Bern during this time in history.

If you'd like to be involved as one of these characters, or in any capacity, please come to the auditions Saturday, January 11, 11am-1pm at the Attmore-Oliver House at 511 Broad Street. The Lantern Tour is March 19-21, 2026.

The mission of the New Bern Historical Society is to celebrate and promote New Bern and its heritage through events and education. Offices are in the historic Attmore-Oliver House at 511 Broad Street in New Bern. For more information, call 252-638-8558 or go to www.NewBernHistorical.org or www.facebook.com/NewBernHistoricalSociety.

Images from previous Lantern Tour by Coastal Photo Club.



www.NewBernHistorical.org

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VINCE THE SIGN GUY

IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN WRIGHT IF FORD INVENTED THE AIRPLANE

Notice to Creditors North Carolina, Pamlico County

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of Joyce Grey Cagle, deceased, of Bayboro, NC, are notified to present the same to the personal representative listed below on or before April 7, 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 7th day of January, 2026.

Guillermina Gregg, Ancillary Executrix
of the Estate of Joyce Grey Cagle c/o Quay & Associates, P.A.
412 Broad Street
New Bern, NC 28560

PUBLICATION DATES:
01/07/2026, 01/14/2026,
01/21/2026, 01/28/2026

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of Clara Jean Ensley, deceased, of Pamlico County, N.C., File No.: 25E001221 are notified to present the same to the undersigned on or before April 7, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All debtors of the said estate are asked to make immediate payment.

This 7th day of January 2026.

Randy R. Beeman, Administrator of the Estate of Clara Jean Ensley, deceased
c/o John W. King, Jr.
King & Moss PLLC
Attorneys at Law
PO Box 1112
New Bern, NC 28563
(252) 638-1103

Run Dates
1) January 7, 2026
2) January 14, 2026
3) January 21, 2026
4) January 28, 2026

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, PAMLICO COUNTY

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT BEFORE THE CLERK FILE NO. 25SP001040-680

Velma Barrett, *Petitioner* v. David Coleman, Jr., Anthony Cox, Jr., Tanya T. Neil Cox, Samantha Cox, and Michelle Best, *Respondents*.

TO: ANTHONY COX, JR.

Take notice that a pleading seek-

ing relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled special proceeding. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows:

1. Petition to Partition requesting the sale of certain real property located at 1302 Silverbrook Road, Oriental, NC 28571 and more particularly described as follows:

A certain tract or parcel of land in Pamlico County, State of North Carolina, described as follows:

Lying and being on the Silverbrook Road near Oriental beginning at a cedar stake on the South side of the Silverbrook or Main Road, the western corner of the Henry Ormand property, and the northeast corner of a lot of land owned by Henry Collins in Hudstontown, and runs thence a southeastwardly course with Henry Collins line 50 feet; thence a northeastwardly course parallel with the Main road 100 feet; thence a northeastwardly course with the first (Henry Collins') line 50 feet; thence a southwesterly course 100 feet to the Beginning, being one lot of land in the western corner of the tract of land formerly belonging to Henry Ormand, known as the Henry Ormand property, being the same deeded by G.H. Roberts and L.F. McCabe to Henry Ormand, by deed of record in Book 56 at page 545, Pamlico County Registry, and being also the same lot conveyed to Commissioner to Pamlico County, by deed of record in Book 101 at Page 425, Pamlico County Records, also the same property conveyed to Allied Mortgage & Development Company, Inc. by Trustee's Deed recorded in Book 139, Page 75 of aforesaid records.

2. Private sale of the property under N.C.G.S. § 1-339.3A.

3. Reimbursement or contribution from the Respondents for a pro-rata portion of any carrying costs proven.

4. Reasonable attorney's fees in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 46A-3 and other applicable law.

5. Any other relief the Court deems necessary and appropriate in the interests of justice.

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than February 16, 2026 and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.

This the 7th day of January, 2026.

/s/ John W. Moss

JOHN W. MOSS
N.C. Bar No. 54932
King & Moss, PLLC
P.O. Box 1112
New Bern, NC 28563
Phone: (252) 638-1103
Fax: (252) 638-0400
Email: jmoss@newbernlaw.com

Publication dates:
01/07/2026
01/14/2026
01/21/2026

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, PAMLICO COUNTY

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT BEFORE THE CLERK FILE NO. 25SP001040-680

Velma Barrett, *Petitioner*, v. David Coleman, Jr., Antohny Cox, Jr., Tanya T. Neil Cox, Samantha Cox, and Michelle Best, *Respondents*.

TO: MICHELLE BEST

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled special proceeding. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows:

1. Petition to Partition requesting the sale of certain real property located at 1302 Silverbrook Road, Oriental, NC 28571 and more particularly described as follows:

A certain tract or parcel of land in Pamlico County, State of North Carolina, described as follows:

Lying and being on the Silverbrook Road near Oriental beginning at a cedar stake on the South side of the Silverbrook or Main Road, the western corner of the Henry Ormand property, and the northeast corner of a lot of land owned by Henry Collins in Hudstontown, and runs thence a southeastwardly course with Henry Collins line 50 feet; thence a northeastwardly course parallel with the Main road 100 feet; thence a northeastwardly course with the first (Henry Collins') line 50 feet; thence a southwesterly course 100 feet to the Beginning, being one lot of land in the western corner of the tract of land formerly belonging to Henry Ormand, known as the Henry Ormand property, being the same deeded by G.H. Roberts and L.F. McCabe to Henry Ormand, by deed of record in Book 56 at page 545, Pamlico County Registry, and being also the same lot conveyed to Commissioner to Pamlico County, by deed of record in Book 101 at Page 425, Pamlico County Records, also the same property conveyed to

Allied Mortgage & Development Company, Inc. by Trustee's Deed recorded in Book 139, Page 75 of aforesaid records.

2. Private sale of the property under N.C.G.S. § 1-339.3A.

3. Reimbursement or contribution from the Respondents for a pro-rata portion of any carrying costs proven.

4. Reasonable attorney's fees in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 46A-3 and other applicable law.

5. Any other relief the Court deems necessary and appropriate in the interests of justice.

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than February 16, 2026 and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.

This the 7th day of January, 2026.

/s/ John W. Moss
JOHN W. MOSS
N.C. Bar No. 54932
King & Moss, PLLC
P.O. Box 1112

New Bern, NC 28563
Phone: (252) 638-1103
Fax: (252) 638-0400
Email: jmoss@newbernlaw.com

Publication dates:
01/07/2026
01/14/2026
01/21/2026

NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE PAMLICO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF JAMES A MASON File No.: 25E001231-680

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against deceased, are notified to exhibit them to JO ANN CLAY EXECUTOR on or before APRIL 7, 2026 at the address listed below or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named EXECUTOR.

This 7TH OF JANUARY, 2026

ESTATE OF JAMES A MASON
C/O JO ANN CLAY
PO BOX 147
BAYBORO, NC 28515

Publish JANUARY 7, 14, 21 AND 28, 2026.

INCIDENTS

Dec. 18, Water St., Bayboro, possession of drug paraphernalia not for marijuana, maintain vehicle/dwelling/place for CS
Dec. 19, Plantation Oaks Dr., New Bern, communicating threats
Dec. 19, S. Third St., Bayboro, larceny of property or goods value > \$1,000, larceny after breaking or entering
Dec. 19, Neuse Rd., Grantsboro, stalking
Dec. 20, Whortonsville Rd., Merritt, civil matter - elder female supervision
Dec. 20, McCotter Rd., Bayboro,

animal bite
Dec. 21, Hatsell Lane, Bayboro, injury to personal property
Dec. 21, N. Third St., Bayboro, possess controlled substance prison/jail premises
Dec. 21, Midyette St., Oriental, order for arrest child support order for arrest numerous traffic offenses, order for arrest misdemeanor crime of domestic violence
Dec. 22, NC Hwy 55, New Bern, second degree trespass
Dec. 22, NC Hwy 304, Vandemere, welfare check

Dec. 23, NC Hwy 55, Alliance, order for arrest felony possession of cocaine, order for arrest possess drug paraphernalia, order for arrest driving while license revoked not impaired revoked
Dec. 23, Prescott Rd., Grantsboro, verbal domestic
Dec. 25, Country Club Dr., Arapahoe, assault on a female by male at least 18 years of age
Dec. 26, Main St., Bayboro, injury to personal property
Dec. 26, Neuse St., Oriental, break or enter motor vehicle

Dec. 26, Oyster Creek Rd., Lowland, larceny of firearm, missing firearms
Dec. 27, Fisher Rd., Merritt, second degree trespass
Dec. 27, Neuse Rd., Grantsboro, first degree trespass enter/remain
Dec. 27, Straight Rd., Oriental, driving while impaired
Dec. 28, Broad St. Ext., Oriental, warrant for arrest possession of firearm by felon, warrant for arrest conspire traffic opium/heroin, warrant for arrest felony conspiracy

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work history needed. 877-553-0252 [Stappacher Law Offices LLC Principal Office: 224 Adams Ave Scranton PA 18503]

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AROUND THE COUNTY

Aurora Joy McCracken, Correspondent



The leaves are gone and the Water Oaks were the last to mass drop. The one in the yard lost the rest of the leaves in one day and I could hear the Charlie Brown Snowflake music in my head as they showered the yard. I miss the Holiday parties the mine would have for us landowners at the Rec Center. There was this local fellow who played piano and included the CB suite. I love Fall down here. It's not as abrupt, sneaks up on you, various species have their showy moments and it seems to last forever. Now, Beeches stay leafy, sentinels in the forest while the rest of the deciduous look like beard stubble.

A very special Dolphin sighting on Christmas Day; a pod of three. Otherwise just ducks (mostly Ruddies) a Grebe here and there, and some geese with some Great Herons over towards the point. A shock on 1/3 of a Hummingbird checking out the long empty feeder which I promptly filled up. According to eBird, recent sightings are further



Volunteers are working with the Partnership for Aurora-Richland Township, a 501(c)(3) established to support revitalization efforts in Aurora, have been cleaning and painting as the first steps of a rehab and update of the Aurora History Museum (the old jail).

inland (Oriental, Washington) this time of the year. We have year round visitors on the Outer Banks. Feeder guests include Cardinals, Titmice, White-throated Sparrows, Nuthatches, Chickadees and Red-bellied Woodpeckers.

Curious predawn boating numbers. I have no idea what they are catching.

Whortonsville Reba Tiller, Correspondent



I am finally back on line. It has been a while and i had a lot of news during the holidays. Our community had a brunch at christmas with 17 folks in attendance in my home. Kevin and suzy bryan had the pizza party on christmas eve so things are getting back to normal. The church had a beautiful almost new piano for me to play in the service every sunday. We had all our family here for christmas. We had some sad news when my great niece who is a

policewoman in homeland security in new york was returning to new york after having an early christmas with her family in iowa and was hit by a cab and was killed. There was quite a lot of news on it because she was also an actress and played many roles in plays in n.y. My neighbors joe and colleen across the creek flash each other with our flashlights and two nights ago two beautiful deer were in my backyard. Thats okay but i do not want to cut my lights on and see a bear in my back yard!

Thought for the week – have a Happy New Year!

Pamlico Betty Jo Rodgers, Correspondent



Happy New Year. I pray you have a safe and blessed 2026.

This week, six pelicans have been fishing Broad Creek off our pier. I think they are catching trout.

The house that was moved from Cribbs Cove to the intersection of Trent and Straight Roads had a lot of work done on it over the holidays. They have cleared out the underbrush, and it looks a lot nicer. I don't know who has been doing the renovation, but it has spruced up the neighborhood. Mr. Dubois seems to be nearing completion of his cottage next door.

Epiphany Sunday at Stonewall Methodist Church was well attended. There were several visitors, including two families with young children. Before closing with Holy Communion, everyone heard the true meaning of the carol "The Twelve Days of Christmas." On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me . . . a partridge in a pear tree. (The partridge in a pear tree represents Jesus, the Son of God, whose birthday we celebrate on the first day of Christmas. Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge, the only bird that will die to protect its young.) On the second day of Christmas, my true love gave to me . . . two turtle doves.

(These twin birds represent the Old and New Testaments. So, in this gift, the singer finds the complete story of Judeo-Christian faith and God's plan for the world.) On the third day of Christmas, my true love gave to me . . . three French hens. (These birds represent faith, hope, and love.) On the fourth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me . . . four calling birds. (One of the easiest facts of the song's code to figure out, these are the four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.) On the fifth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me . . . five gold rings. (The gift of the rings represents the first five books of the Old Testament, known as the Torah or the Pentateuch.) On the sixth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me . . . six geese a-laying. (These lyrics can be traced back to the first story found in the Bible. Each egg is a day in creation, a time when the world was "hatched" or formed by God.) On the seventh day of Christmas, my true love gave to me . . . seven swans a-swimming. (It would take someone quite familiar with the Bible to identify this gift. Hidden in the code are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading, and compassion. As swans are one of the most beautiful and graceful creatures on earth, they are a perfect symbol for the spiritual gifts.) On the eighth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me . . . eight maids a-milking. (As Christ came to save even the lowest of the low, this gift represents the ones who would receive his word and

accept his grace. Being a milkmaid was the worst job one could have in England during this period; this code conveyed that Jesus cared as much about servants as he did those of royal blood. The eight who were blessed included the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake.) On the ninth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me . . . nine ladies dancing. (These nine dancers were really the gifts known as the fruit of the Spirit. The fruits are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.) On the tenth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me . . . ten lords a-leaping. (This is probably the easiest gift to understand. As lords were judges and in charge of the law, a code for the Ten Commandments was fairly straightforward to Catholics.) On the eleventh day of Christmas, my true love gave to me . . . eleven pipers piping. (This is almost a "trick" question, as most think of the disciples in terms of a dozen. But when Judas betrayed Jesus and committed suicide, there were only eleven men who carried out the gospel message.)

On the twelfth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me . . . twelve drummers drumming. (The final gift is tied directly to the Catholic Church. The drummers are the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed. "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.")

Celebrating birthdays in January are Janice Shorey (1/1), Reuben Phillips, Jeremiah Day, and Anne Watson (1/3), and Kathy Tyndall and Barbara Varley (1/5), Megan Rodgers (1/7), Amy Gatlin (1/13), Shelby Sutton, Elizabeth Farmer Tillman (1/15), Kelli Hinson and Ruth Ireland (1/16), Ned Ferris (1/21), Kate Moye, Ellen Lupton, and Jenny Lupton (1/22), Desiree Brinson (1/25), Ann Smithwick (1/26), Willy Hope (1/28), Nan Gilbert, Becky Sadler (1/30), and Shari Roberts Hale (1/31).

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

10 Seconds to New Year's...

Come New Year's Eve, it's customary to count down the last 10 seconds until the clock strikes midnight and the new year officially begins. It seems like the 10-second countdown is as old as time itself, but the tradition actually is much more modern. According to Alexis McCrossen, a history professor at Southern Methodist University, prior to the twentieth century, New Year's Day was celebrated rather than New Year's Eve. And even up until the mid-twentieth century, countdowns were not associated with New Year's Eve or even festive occasions. However, the tides turned on countdowns with the Apollo moon launch in 1961. After that, countdowns for radio hits and other fun activities began. Although some TV announcers in the 1960s began counting down to the new year, it wasn't until 1979 that the crowd at Times Square in New York City began joining in. This was despite the first New Year's Eve ball drop being held more than 70 years earlier in 1907. Publisher Adolph Ochs organized the first New Year's Eve party in Times Square in 1904, while the first-ever ball drop took place three years later when the city banned fireworks for the celebration. Yet it was not until the final year of the 1970s for it to be fashionable for a crowd to gather and participate in shouting out the 10-second countdown, a practice that is now tradition

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- Getting active and eating healthy
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New Year

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LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 211

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
2025 Biennial Avoided Cost Proceeding)
Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost)
Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from)
Qualifying Facilities)

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) has scheduled a public hearing in this docket which will commence on Monday, February 16, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of taking nonexpert public witness testimony as a part of its 2025 biennial determination of avoided cost rates for purchases of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this docket for qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities. The electric utilities who are parties to this docket are Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC), Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP), Virginia Electric and Power Company, d/b/a Dominion Energy North Carolina (Dominion), Western Carolina University (WCU), and Appalachian State University, d/b/a New River Light and Power Company (New River).

The Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) requires electric utilities to offer to purchase electric energy from cogeneration and small power production facilities which obtain qualifying facility status under PURPA. The rates for such purchases shall be set by the state regulatory authority, shall be just and reasonable to the ratepayers of the electric utility and in the public interest, shall not discriminate against qualifying cogenerators or qualifying small power producers, and shall not exceed the incremental cost to the electric utility of acquiring alternative electric energy. As a part of its responsibility in these matters, the Commission determines on a biennial basis the avoided cost rates and conditions for the purchase of electricity by electric utilities from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

In addition to the requirements of PURPA, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-156 requires the Commission to determine the rates and contract terms to be observed by electric utilities in purchasing power from small power producers as defined in N.C.G.S. § 62-3(27a). The rates established pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-156 shall not exceed, over the term of the purchase power contract, the incremental cost to the electric utility of the electric energy which, but for the purchase from a small power producer, the utility would generate or purchase from another source.

The purpose of the hearing cited in this Notice is to consider revision of the avoided cost rates and contract terms previously set by the Commission for the purchase of electricity by the electric utilities who are parties to this proceeding from qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities in North Carolina.

The Public Staff is required by statute to represent the using and consuming public in proceedings before the Commission. Written statements to the Public Staff should include any information which the writer wishes to be considered by the Public Staff in its investigation of the matter, and such statements should be addressed to Mr. Christopher J. Ayers, Executive Director, Public Staff – North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300.

The Attorney General is also authorized by statute to represent consumers in proceedings before the Commission. Statements to the Attorney General should be addressed to The Honorable Josh Stein, Attorney General of North Carolina, c/o Utilities Section, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-9001.

Written statements are not evidence unless those persons submitting such statements appear at a public hearing and testify concerning the information contained in their written statements.

Any person desiring to intervene in the matter as a formal party of record should file a motion under Commission Rules R1-5 and R1-19 no later than Thursday, February 5, 2026. All such motions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4325. The comments and exhibits to be presented in this proceeding by formal parties other than DEC, DEP, Dominion, WCU, and New River must be filed with the Commission no later than Thursday, February 5, 2026.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 22ND day of August, 2025.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston


A Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

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PAMLICO COUNTY SCHOOLS

Hurricane Holiday Hoops Classic

by: Hiram Lupton

The time of year between Christmas and New Years means a break for most of us. We eat too much, sleep a little late, and do our best to not forget what day of the week it is. For the varsity basketball teams of Pamlico County High School there was a little rest but there was some hard work too as they not only played in, but hosted the Hurricane Holiday Hoops Classic, a two-day event featuring games all afternoon into the evening on December 29th and 30th. Ten different teams took part with five games on tap each day. We won't dive into the details of every game because let's be honest, what we really care about is how our Hurricanes fared. The Lady 'Canes took the floor on Monday to take on the Vikings of White Oak High School from Onslow County. The Vikings showed they could hang with the 'Canes for a while as Pamlico only held a one-point lead at the half, 26-25. In the second half, Pamlico used their quickness to steadily pull away from their 6A opponent, with the Hurricanes taking the win, 64-49. Sydney Whitley-Reese, who looks to be fully recovered from a knee sprain suffered in November, led all scorers with 27 points while Nya Clark poured in 23. In the final game of the day, the Pamlico Varsity Men took on Living Water Christian School from Jacksonville. The Hurricanes were competitive through the first quarter but LWCHS's size began to take a toll on Pamlico and the Warriors went to the half leading 33-16. The second half was nearly the same as LWCHS pulled away further for a 68-36 win. Freshman



Nya Clark (#1)



Dylan Ward (#11)

Noah Gibbs led Pamlico with 14 points while Dylan Ward chipped in 8. Day two of the hoops extravaganza saw the Lady 'Canes once again in action taking on Bear Grass Charter School. The lid was definitely on the bucket for nearly all of the Pamlico girls, all except one that is. Pamlico's Nya Clark seemed to find a way to score when no one else could. Whether it was drives to the basket, 3-pointers from beyond the arc, or floaters in the lane, Clark was scoring from all angles and distances. When the final buzzer sounded, she had tallied 43 points for the game. Sydney Whitley-Reese came alive in the

second half to add 15 of her own along with 12 rebounds for a double-double. Final score, Pamlico 67, Bear Grass 43. The final game of the evening saw the Pamlico boys do battle with West Craven. The score was tight until the Eagles managed to open up a working margin just before the half. They continued that trend in the second half, slowly pulling away for a 70-46 win over the Hurricanes. VJ Midgett led Pamlico with 15 points while Noah Gibbs had 11. This week Pamlico hits the road, traveling to West Craven on Wednesday and to Edenton to battle Holmes on Friday.

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Pamlico Native Serves as Shrine Bowl Official

by: Hiram Lupton



Rice and his family at the Shrine Bowl



Game time at the Carolina's Shrine Bowl

The Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas has long been recognized as one of the premier high school football all-star games in the country. On December 20th of last year, the 89th Shrine Bowl was played in Spartanburg, South Carolina and it brought together the best high school players in the states of North Carolina and South Carolina on the gridiron representing their respective states. Only the best players receive an invitation to play and as it stands to reason, only the best game officials receive an invitation to enforce the rules and call the game. For the 2025 game, there were four officials chosen from North Carolina and three from South Carolina and one of those was from right here in Pamlico County. You may know Henry R. Rice, III as a long-time administrative employee of the Pamlico County school system where he has served in many positions including principal and assistant superintendent, but on many Friday nights during football season he trades in his suit for a striped shirt and officiates high school football games as a Line Judge. He has been doing this now for thirty-five years and he was chosen by the East Carolina Football Officials Association for the honor of being one of the officials at December's game. "It was truly an honor to be able to officiate this event and represent North Carolina and Pamlico County," said Rice. "Being a part of the game was great but another part of the 3 days spent there was touring the Shriner's Hospital in Greenville, South Carolina and getting to see the facility and the outstanding work they do there." Henry was also presented with the Shriner's Walt Disney Award. It was given to players, coaches, and officials who had the prestigious honor of being chosen for the game and recognized their involvement with the Shrine Hospitals for Children, an organization Walt Disney supported. "This is an event I'll cherish the rest of my life and I'm glad my family was here with me for it."

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