

The Pamlico News

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

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Yoga at the Library
 sponsored by the Hope Clinic
 Registration required
 Saturday, July 18th @ 10am

Take a moment to relax, recharge, and care for your well-being at a free community yoga session sponsored by the HOPE Clinic and hosted at Pamlico County Public Library. Join us for a gentle yoga class led by a certified yoga instructor, perfect for beginners and experienced participants alike. Yoga offers many benefits, including reducing stress, improving flexibility and balance, strengthening muscles, and supporting overall mental wellness. Yoga mats will be provided, and the class is open to the community, but space is limited, and registration is required. Come breathe, stretch, and start your weekend feeling refreshed.

Please register here: <https://forms.office.com/r/vYznwnK5r>

Defensive Handling Seminar
 Hosted by Dove Landing Training, LLC
 Monday, July 20th @ 10am

Join Dove Landing Dog Training, LLC on July 20 at 10:00 a.m. for a free Defensive Handling Seminar for adults at the Pamlico County Public Library. This informative program is designed for anyone who walks dogs in public and wants to be better prepared for encounters with loose or aggressive dogs. Participants will learn practical leash-handling skills, emergency U-turn techniques, how to choose and use appropriate tools, and strategies for keeping both themselves and their dogs safe in challenging situations. No registration is required, and attendance is free. Please note that this is a people-only educational program, and pets should not be brought to the seminar.

New Book Tech Mobile Stop in Pamlico County!

Thursday, July 2nd @ 12 pm-2 pm at the Minnesott Beach Town Hall

Please note that due to the Independence Day holiday, there will not be a Book Tech Mobile stop at the Piglet in July. Please mark your calendars for the next time they will be in Oriental - August 7th 10 am-12 pm.

Full Book Tech Mobile Schedule: <https://mycprl.org/my-cprl/btm-about>

SAVE THE DATE!



Apartment Construction Set to Begin

by: Hiram Lupton

The long-awaited new apartment complex, Pamlico Grove Apartments, is slated to begin construction next month. The Pamlico County Board of Commissioners received an update on the project from Pamlico County Economic Development Director Beth Bucksot at their regular meeting on June 15th and gave their final approval for the plan. The Town of Grantsboro had previously given their blessing for the project. The four building, forty-eight-unit complex will occupy roughly six acres behind the new Carolina Quick Care medical facility on NC Hwy 55 in Grantsboro and is currently owned by Brightside Ventures, LLC. It is part of a larger, 24-acre tract that it is hoped will be developed into a retail/commercial business center. Prior to the Board of Commissioners approval, an environmental impact statement was completed as well as an NCDOT plan to add a turning lane to Hwy 55 to aid in access. Further upgrades may be necessary as the project progresses. Although it is hoped to have construction finished sooner, the contractor has until December of 2028 to complete the project.



Pamlico County Economic Development Director Beth Bucksot looks over plans and renderings for the Pamlico Grove Apartment Complex.

Rescue Squad Prepares for 60th Anniversary Celebration

by: Hiram Lupton

Final preparations are underway for a big celebration. Since its founding on July 29th 1966, the Pamlico County Rescue Squad has saved countless lives and provided the residents of our County with emergency assistance whenever called upon. To commemorate their 60th anniversary, the squad is hosting a celebration of their history, and their future on July 25th. "This is a way to celebrate our past, but also a way to say thank you to the community for all their support," says current squad Captain T.W. Harris. There will be lots of historical photos and equipment on display as well as the modern life-saving equipment used by the unit today. Vendors and food trucks are also planned so come out and see some important history of our county and meet some of the people who may one day save your life. The celebration begins at 10 AM and will go until 2 PM.



Rescue Squad Chief T.W. Harris holding appreciation plaque awarded in 1969

Continued on Page A05

AMERICA
250
NC

The Declaration of Independence – Part One, the Date

Independence Day is almost upon us, and this July 4th is a very special one as America will celebrate its 250th birthday. The document that started it all, the Declaration of Independence, is revered throughout our country and has quite a few interesting facts about it and those who signed it. Let's start with the date itself. Should we really be celebrating Independence Day on July 4th or should it be July 2nd. That was the date that the Continental Congress voted to separate from Great Britain. Sort of like when a marriage goes bad and one party moves out. On July 4th, Congress formally adopted the Declaration or served divorce papers on Great Britain if you will. So that was the day the delegates signed the document. Well, no, not really. The signing didn't take place until August 2nd, or at least it began that day. A few delegates had left town and inscribed their signatures later with the last one to sign, Thomas McKean of Delaware, not adding his signature until January of 1777. As you might expect, Great Britain didn't accept a divorce from its colonies too well and it turned nasty, that is why we fought the Revolutionary War. They finally came to terms



and this was when the official announcement was made. The written document was sent to the printers so copies could be made for signing and distribution. When these were returned, they were stamped "July 4, 1776." There were roughly 200 copies of the first official printing which were distributed and read throughout the colonies. The one official signed and engrossed parchment of the Declaration is housed at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. General George Washington officially had a copy read to his troops in New York City on July 9, 1776. The stamped date on the document became associated with independence and thus became the nation's official Independence Day. "Happy fourth of July" has a better ring to it than "Happy second of July" anyway. Next week we will look at the 56 signers of the declaration who literally put their neck on the line for independence.



Rollin' on the River Celebrating 250 Years on the Neuse

Oriental's History Museum celebrates 250 years on the Neuse River with the opening of a special exhibit with a reception on June 27 from 1-4pm. Rollin' on the River is a toast to the Neuse River that runs through the lives of Eastern North Carolina fueling the economy by providing seafood, agriculture products, lumber products and of course, recreation. This special exhibit will run through September. Don't miss learning about the history of the Mighty Neuse and its impact on this area. Join us for light refreshments this Saturday.

Oriental's History Museum is located at 802 Broad Street in Oriental. Hours are: Friday 11-3 and Saturday 1-4. Admission is always free, donations gratefully accepted. For more information contact us at: OrientalHistoryMuseum@gmail.com



Pamlico County Board of Education Continues Process for Disposition of Former Middle School Property

Submitted by Elizabeth Harwick, Pamlico County Schools Public Information Officer

At its May 18, 2026 meeting, the Pamlico County Board of Education declared the current Pamlico County Middle School property, 15526 NC Hwy 55, Bayboro, unnecessary for public school purposes and, as required by North Carolina law, formally offered the property to the Pamlico County Board of Commissioners for consideration.

At its June 15, 2026 meeting, the Pamlico County Board of Commissioners voted to decline its right of first refusal to purchase the property and authorized the Board of Education to pursue other options for its disposition.

The Board of Education will now consult with legal counsel to determine the appropriate next steps in accordance with state law. Additional information regarding the disposition and potential sale of the property will be released in the coming weeks as the process moves forward.

Pamlico County Schools appreciates the cooperation of the Board of Commissioners and remains committed to ensuring that any future disposition of the property is conducted in a transparent and legally compliant manner.

LIKELY WEATHER OVER THE WEEKEND

Saturday, June 27th **91° Hi** Afternoon and night thunderstorms

Sunday, June 28th **88° Hi** Afternoon thunderstorms, evening showers



Hurricane Preparedness





Solo competitor wins PCC's America 250 Trivia Night

By Sandy Wall

A one-man "team" took home the top prize at Pamlico Community College's America 250 Trivia Night contest last Friday evening.

Simon Ellis, a New Bern man playing under the name "Stand Alone If You Must, But Stand," answered 29 of the 32 questions correctly, defeating three other teams in the friendly, fast-paced competition.

For his win, Ellis received a \$250 Visa gift card and bragging rights.

"The Patriots," a six-person team of men and women dressed in patriotic red, white and blue attire, finished second after defeating the two-person squad of "Mac and Government Cheese" on a tie-breaker question. The two teams posted identical scores in the regulation round.

The Patriots won a \$150 Visa gift card, while Mac and Government Cheese took home a \$75 Visa gift card for their third-place finish.

Finishing fourth – and out of the money – was a four-person team named "Dog Park Dynamos."

"The turnout was good for a first-time event like this," said PCC Vice President of Instructional Services Neil Callahan, who developed the questions and hosted the event. "Each team did well and seemed to enjoy themselves. It was a competitive match."

The contest, which took place in the PCC Library, featured four categories with eight questions each. The maximum score a team could get was 32. Participants were not allowed to consult their phones or online search engines during the competition.

This event was part of the Pamlico County 250 Celebration, which, like all America 250 celebrations, commemorates the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.



Pamlico Community College Vice President of Instructional Services Neil Callahan, left, presents Simon Ellis with a \$250 Visa gift card. Ellis won the college's America 250 Trivia Night. Contributed photo

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



"The Patriots" enjoy some snacks before the contest. The six-person team finished second in the competition. Contributed photo



Pamlico Community College Vice President of Instructional Services Neil Callahan, standing at left, and PCC President Zac Schnell, also standing, welcome competitors to America 250 Trivia Night. Callahan developed the questions and emceed the event. Contributed photo



**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...

Allen and the Mariner Realty team were wonderful to work with. Never once did we worry that we weren't getting the best deal. Allen always had our best interests in mind. He was always quick to respond to questions and concerns, and his local knowledge of the area was extremely helpful. We would recommend Allen and Mariner Realty to anyone.

Drew & Margaret, Oriental



NEW BERN – Fairwinds 2BR/2BA Condo in Fairfield Harbor. Open floor plan, screened deck and open deck, roof replaced last year. Community boat dock, pool, golf course, and restaurant. **OFFERED AT \$202,000**



ARAPAHOE – Prime Commercial Opportunity, 12,000 sf on 1.43 acres near Arlington Place, Minnesott Beach and the Arapahoe Charter School. Not in a flood zone. Expansive paved parking, large loading bay door on side. **OFFERED AT \$235,000**



ARAPAHOE – Lakeview & golf course frontage, 3BR/2BA not in flood zone, no HOA dues. Lifetime metal roof w/gutters & leaf guards. One-car finished garage w/ attached golf cart garage. Detached workshop and detached storage building. **OFFERED AT \$345,000**



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



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



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



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



Sheriff Chris Davis

Five Arrested Following Lynch's Beach Road Incident

On June 15, 2026, deputies with the Pamlico County Sheriff's Office responded to a 911 hang-up call in the Lynch's Beach Road area. Upon arrival, deputies observed multiple individuals leaving the area on foot. Information obtained during the response indicated that one of the individuals may have been in possession of a firearm.

Deputies quickly established a perimeter and conducted a search of the surrounding area, resulting in six individuals being detained for further investigation.

Through interviews, evidence collection, and investigative efforts, deputies determined that the incident involved an attempted first-degree burglary and an attempted common law robbery. Investigators learned that the victim was familiar with one of the suspects due to a previous relationship, indicating the incident was targeted rather than random in nature.

As a result of the investigation, the following individuals were arrested:



Alexander Diuvens, of Mount Olive, NC
• Attempted First-Degree Burglary
• Attempted Common Law Robbery
• Bond: No Bond



Isemene Zephirin, of Elizabeth City, NC
• Attempted First-Degree Burglary
• Attempted Common Law Robbery
• Bond: \$20,000 Secured



Abel Vixamar, of Elizabeth City, NC
• Attempted First-Degree Burglary
• Attempted Common Law Robbery
• Bond: No Bond



Dubios Davidson, of Mount Olive, NC
• Felony Conspiracy
• Bond: \$20,000 Secured



Antoine Michelet, of Mount Olive, NC
• Felony Conspiracy
• Bond: \$20,000 Secured

Based on the facts developed during the investigation, the Pamlico County Sheriff's Office believes this was an isolated event involving individuals known to one another. At no time was there believed to be a threat to the general public.

During the booking process, it was determined that four of the five individuals arrested have active immigration detainers issued by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Those detainers have been lodged with the Pamlico County Detention Center, and ICE has been notified in accordance with established procedures.

The Pamlico County Sheriff's Office remains committed to protecting the citizens of Pamlico County and appreciates the cooperation of those who assisted during this incident.

Former Pamlico County Detention Officer Charged Following Investigation



On May 14, 2026, the Pamlico County Sheriff's Office received a complaint from an inmate housed at the Pamlico County Detention Center. The inmate made allegations of sexual misconduct involving a detention officer employed at the facility.

Upon receiving the complaint, the Pamlico County Sheriff's Office immediately notified the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (NCSBI) and requested that the agency conduct an independent investigation into the allegations.

During the course of the investigation, the detention officer was relieved of his duties and is no longer employed by Pamlico County.

On June 18, 2026, representatives from the NCSBI and the District Attorney's Office met to review the findings of the investigation. Following that review, it was determined that probable cause existed to charge former detention officer Saiquan Bell with Sexual Activity by a Custodian.

Bell subsequently turned himself in at the Pamlico County Sheriff's Office and was served with the charge by NCSBI. He was placed under a no bond hold pending a first appearance before a judge, which is scheduled for June 19, 2026.

As the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation conducted the criminal investigation, any additional questions regarding the investigation or criminal proceedings should be directed to the NCSBI.

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

- June 24th – Today is National Pralines Day.
- June 25th – 1876, The Battle of Little Big Horn in Montana.
- June 26th – Today is National Coconut Day.
- June 27th – Today is National Ice Cream Cake Day.
- June 28th – Today is National Insurance Awareness Day. I'm aware every time I pay my bill.
- June 29th – Today is National Camera Day.
- June 30th – 1953, The first Chevrolet Corvette rolled off the assembly line. It sold for \$3,250.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

- June 24th – 1942, Drummer Mick Fleetwood
- June 25th – 19??, Coach Aaron Caroon
- June 27th – 19??, Director of Grace Fellowship Academy Tina Cowell
- June 28th – 19??, Guitarist Cliff Lee (The Dirt Road Band)
- June 29th – 1943, Singer Eva Boyd (Little Eva, Born in Belhaven, NC)
- June 29th – 19??, Pamlico Library Director Sidney Phibbons
- June 30th – 1985, Olympic Swimming Champion Michael Phelps
- June 30th – 19??, Former Mayor of Mesic Booker Jones



OBITUARIES



Carol Rice Dixon Daniels, 84, of Merritt passed away Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at her home surrounded by the love of her family.

Born in Goose Creek, Pamlico County, North Carolina, on February 8, 1942, she began life surrounded by both loss and love. Shortly after her birth, her mother passed away, and she was lovingly raised by her mother's sister Mary Helen Rice, instantly becoming part of a larger family. Her early years were spent on the family farm in Goose Creek, where she developed the values of hard work, resilience, and devotion to family that would guide her throughout her life.

On August 19, 1961, she married her high school sweetheart, Bud, beginning a loving partnership that would span decades. As a military wife, she faced the challenges of separation and frequent moves with strength and grace while her husband served overseas. Military life took them on adventures around the world and across the United States, including time in Paris, Hawaii, Florida, South Carolina, California, and New Jersey. Following her husband's retirement from military service in August 1980, she returned to her beloved Pamlico County, where she spent the remainder of her life on the Daniels Farm, the place she proudly called home.

She was a devoted mother not only to her own children but also to countless others who were blessed by her nurturing spirit and

generous heart. Her home was always open, and her love extended far beyond her immediate family. Deeply committed to preserving family bonds, she hosted annual family reunions that brought generations together and strengthened connections across the extended family. Through her dedication to family, traditions, and storytelling, she ensured that the family's history, memories, and legacy will continue to live on for generations to come.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Waldon & Bessie Dixon and Lewis & Mary H. Rice; seven brothers; and two sisters.

Carol leaves behind to cherish her memory her loving husband of nearly 65 years, Vernon "Bud" Daniels, Jr.; sons, Vernon J. "Danny" Daniels III (Tanya), David A. Daniels (Kathy), and José Garcia-Gavito (Charo); daughter, Kimberly C. Austin (Arthur); six grandchildren, Caleb Daniels, Natasha Daniels, Rylan Austin, Mallory Austin, José Garcia-Gavito, Jr., and Amalia Garcia-Gavito; two great grandchildren, Tristan Daniels and Blair Daniels; and countless other "adopted" children.

A funeral service to honor her life was held on Tuesday, June 23rd at Daniels-Sadler Funeral Home Chapel. Interment followed in Rawls Cemetery, Arapahoe.

The family receive friends prior to the service at the funeral home.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Readers:

Let's talk about taxes for a bit. I want to address Social Security, Medicare, and the taxes that fund these two programs.

Both programs are funded via payroll taxes that employers and employees share equally. The current Social Security tax rate is 12.4% of the first \$184,500 of earnings paid to each employee. The current Medicare tax rate is 2.9% of all earnings paid to each employee. Since the employer and employee share those taxes equally, the total tax (called FICA) for each employee is 7.65%. If you are self-employed, you must pay the full amount.

There is another type of income not subject to FICA. Income received from investments (stocks & bonds, rental income, and profits from the sale of property) is not subject to FICA. So, a taxpayer who does not receive a salary but lives off investment income does not pay into Social Security or Medicare.

Congress faces a real problem next year. Due to our aging population the current Social Security financial forecast indicates that tax revenues will be insufficient to cover recipient payments by 2032 (or perhaps 2034). That's too soon for most of us to feel comfortable. This week House Speaker Mike Johnson said that some adjustments to both Social Security and Medicare will have to be made in the 2027 budget.

House Democrats are open to raising the cap above \$184,500 and consider making investment income (called "unearned" income) subject to FICA. That would impact fewer taxpayers than cutting benefit payments. GOP members oppose raising the cap on earned income or subjecting any portion of unearned income to FICA.

We have a chance to voice our opinion on the Social Security and Medicare "adjustments" the House of Representatives is considering. Ask the House of Representatives candidates in the upcoming election (Donald Davis, Laurie Buckhout, and Tom Bailey) about their views on Social Security and Medicare adjustments. Are they open to cutting benefits for current or future recipients, or are they willing to have wealthy taxpayers contribute the same percentage of their income as less wealthy taxpayers? Remember, even if you aren't currently insured by Medicare, you will be in the future. A cut in benefits is the same as a tax increase if it affects your household budget.

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.

Charity Golf Tournament

For Men and Women

Sponsored by the

Oriental Woman's Club

Saturday, August 29, 2026

9 a.m. Shotgun Start



Tournament Fee: \$65 per player includes green fee, golf cart, 2 mulligans, continental breakfast and lunch.

Prizes include a chance to win \$10,000 for the first golfer to hit a Hole-in-One at #14 and Rounds of Golf. Other prizes are for Closest to Pin, Longest Drive and Most Accurate Drive.

To register, pick up registration form at Minnesott Golf & Country Club or visit our website: orientalwomansclub.org under Activities. For more information please call Sally Belangia, 671-9288.

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

Horoscopes



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, physical activity can boost your mood and clear your mind for some big decisions that are ahead this week. Tackle some larger projects.



TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Indulge in simple pleasures this week, Taurus. They will lead you to the happiness you deserve. You may discover a new favorite recipe or cozy nook to hang out.



GEMINI – May 22/June 21
Networking may feel less like a chore and more like a party this week, Gemini. A chance encounter could open a door to an excellent opportunity.



CANCER – June 22/July 22
Cancer, right now your home is filled with laughter and shared memories. It's a great week to host a small gathering or a movie night with close friends to share all the good vibes.



LEO – July 23/Aug 23
Leo, today you are a beacon of light and a source of inspiration. Use your unique position as a leader to spread positivity and watch good fortune multiply.



VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, you are often a master of finding practical solutions to tricky problems both at work and at home. Your reliable nature is a great gift to those around you.



LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, some diplomacy this week can help you navigate a complex situation with ease. Find moments for mindful meditation so you can create a calm atmosphere wherever you go.



SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
If you are brave enough to voice it, a secret wish just might come true, Scorpio. After some difficult days, you can use a bit of magic and mystery to change your perspective.



SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
You're definitely a glass-half-full kind of person, Sagittarius. This optimism will open doors to a new horizon. A sudden urge to learn something new leads to an opportunity.



CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Discipline will be rewarded with a measurable success that can feel very uplifting, Capricorn. Your hard work is finally getting the recognition it deserves.



AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Be your most authentic self this week and watch how it attracts those you want in your circle, Aquarius. A weird coincidence may lead to a funny situation.



PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, calmer waters ahead allow you to reflect on yourself and recharge your emotional batteries. You may emerge at the end of the week centered and ready for anything.

CANCER Traits & Overview

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

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

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

FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY

FINANCIAL FOCUS

Turn your savings into paychecks in retirement



Dan M. Roberts

Margaret had saved diligently for decades. Every paycheck, a portion went toward her retirement account. Then, the day finally came: she retired. Suddenly, the hardest part wasn't the saving. It was learning to spend.

If that sounds familiar, you're not alone. Many retirees find the shift from building savings to living off them emotionally difficult, even when they've planned carefully. Here are five smart strategies that can help you feel more confident about what's ahead.

Give yourself permission to spend conservatively. Your retirement plan likely assumes a certain annual spending amount, with increases each year to account for inflation. All else being equal, the lower those initial withdrawals, the longer your money will last. A financial advisor can help you set up portfolio withdrawals personalized to your goals and situation. Feel free to give yourself permission to spend those amounts, knowing there's intention behind them.

For many retirees, the challenge isn't math — it's mindset. After years of being rewarded for saving, spending can feel like doing something wrong. It can help to reframe withdrawals as a paycheck you've already earned. For example, using your monthly distribution to cover travel, hobbies or time with family isn't indulgent; it's the purpose of the plan you built. Connecting spending to your values can make it feel more natural and sustainable.

Do be sure to review your spending regularly and don't forget to set aside funds for annual expenses like taxes and insurance.

Keep some cash on hand. A general rule of thumb for retirees is to keep about 12 months' worth of withdrawals in a separate account for spending and another three to five years' worth in short-term, fixed-income investments. This cushion can allow your stock investments time to recover from a market downturn, reducing the need to sell investments when markets are down. That said, holding too much cash carries its own risk, as your portfolio may not grow fast enough to keep pace with inflation. So, while some cash is good, you'll also want to remain invested in assets with more growth potential to help your portfolio last through retirement.

Review regularly. Retirement can last 25 years or more, and even the best-laid plans need updating along the way. Review your financial strategy at least once a year or after any major life change.

Stay flexible. Even small adjustments to your spending can have a big impact on how long your money lasts. Retirees who hold off on spending increases in years when their portfolio declines are often able to stretch their savings further than those who increase withdrawals each year for inflation regardless of market performance.

Making the switch from saving to spending takes both careful planning and a genuine shift in mindset. A financial advisor can help you build out an effective approach to switch from saving to spending, and work with you so you can fully enjoy the retirement you worked so hard to reach.

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

Rain Barrel Workshop & Rain Water Harvesting

Pamlico County is blessed with an abundance of water, that at times can be difficult to manage. However, during the past three years, we have experienced periods of extreme drought and periods of excessive wetness. Rainwater harvesting is a possible method by which homeowners can capture rainwater to assist with these conditions, conserve valuable drinking water, and help manage possible pollutants.

On July 25, 2026, Pamlico Extension & Pamlico County Extension Master Gardeners will be conducting a Rain Barrel Workshop where participants can learn more about rain water harvesting and leave with their own handcrafted rain barrel. This workshop will take place at the Pamlico County Historical Association and Museum from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. All are welcome to participate, but rain barrels and materials will cost \$75.00 (cash or check), payable the day of the event. We currently have enough materials for 50 rain barrels.

During this workshop, Master Gardeners will instruct participants in assembling their own rain barrel. By practicing these skills, participants can teach others, improve upon this design, and increase the potential to capture more rain water.

You may register online for this event via Eventbrite at: <https://pamlico-rain-barrel-workshop-2026.eventbrite.com/>. You may also call our office at 252-745-4121 or email Erin Richey (Administrative Assistant) at erin_richey@ncsu.edu.

For more information on rain water harvesting, visit the NC State Extension Rain Water Harvesting site at <https://waterresources.ces.ncsu.edu/news/rainwater-harvesting-guidance-and-resources/> or view the NC DEQ Rain Water Harvesting Brochure at <https://www.deq.nc.gov/watereducation/rainbarrelhowto/download>.

RAIN BARREL BUILDING WORKSHOP



623 Gallons
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1-inch Rain per
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Come Build Your Own Rain Barrel

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Participants will leave this workshop with their own rain barrel. Cost per barrel is \$75.00.

Register online via Eventbrite by scanning this code: <https://pamlico-rain-barrel-workshop-2026.eventbrite.com/>



Rain Barrel Benefits

- Conserve Water
- Reduce Stormwater Runoff
- Reduce Potential Pollutants

Workshop Details

- **Date:** July 25, 2026
- **Location:** Pamlico County Historical Association & Museum 10642 NC Hwy 55, Grantsboro, NC 28529
- **Time:** 10:00 AM - 12:00PM



This institution is an equal opportunity provider. Esta institución es un proveedor de igualdad de oportunidades. For accommodations related to disabilities, contact Daniel Simpson at daniel_simpson@ncsu.edu or 252-745-4121.

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the public hearing regarding the Pamlico County Proposed Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget, originally scheduled for June 15, 2026 at 7:00pm, has been RESCHEDULED for Monday, June 29, 2026 at 7:00pm. The public hearing will take place in the Commissioners' Meeting Room located in the Pamlico County Courthouse Annex, 202 Main Street, Bayboro. All interested citizens will have the opportunity to give written and oral comments.

Tracy Boyd
Clark to the Board
June 10, 2026

Water Conservation Benefits of Rainwater Harvesting



Water conservation is one of the many benefits of rainwater harvesting. By capturing rainwater, we're tapping into a natural and renewable resource, directly reducing our reliance on traditional water supply systems. This shift is crucial at a time when water scarcity is becoming an issue across the globe. Rainwater harvesting does more than offer a supplementary water source. It represents a significant step toward a more sustainable and resilient water management strategy.

Reduced Demand on Municipal Water Supplies

The process of rainwater harvesting directly reduces the demand on municipal water supplies. Every gallon of rainwater collected and used for residential, business, or industrial applications is a gallon less that needs to be processed, treated, and transported by the city's water system.

Energy Conservation

This reduction in demand also conserves energy, given the substantial power required for water treatment and distribution processes. By utilizing rainwater for various purposes, we're also decreasing the amount of treated drinking water used for tasks that don't necessarily require potable water, thereby enhancing the efficiency of our overall water use.

Preservation of Local Water Resources

Beyond reducing demand on traditional systems, rainwater harvesting is pivotal in preserving local water resources. In regions where water scarcity is a critical concern, the ability to collect and store

rainwater for future use can be vital. This practice helps maintain the balance of local aquifers, rivers, and lakes by mitigating the need to draw excessively from these sources, especially during peak demand periods.

Environmental Benefits of Rainwater Collection

The benefits of rainwater collection include several environmental advantages. By channeling rainwater from rooftops and landscapes into storage tanks, we're engaging in a practice that has a positive ripple effect on our natural surroundings.

Reduced Stormwater Runoff

This sustainable method is crucial for reducing surface runoff, a common issue that can lead to soil erosion and the degradation of local waterways. By capturing rainwater before it hits the ground and becomes runoff, we're effectively minimizing the potential for erosion, preserving soil integrity, and protecting the habitats of countless organisms.

Improved Aquatic Environments

Rainwater harvesting also affects local aquatic environments. Usually, as rainwater flows over surfaces, it picks up pollutants, including pesticides, fertilizers, and oils, eventually carrying these harmful substances into rivers, lakes, and streams. This process can severely affect water quality, harming aquatic life and disrupting ecosystems. However, by intercepting rainwater and putting it to use, we significantly reduce the volume of polluted runoff entering these water bodies. This helps maintain cleaner rivers and lakes and supports biodiversity by providing a safer environment for fish, amphibians, and other aquatic species.

Water Pollution Mitigation

By collecting rainwater, we're able to lessen the amount of untreated stormwater that directly enters our waterways, reducing the load of pollutants and improving the overall health of our water resources. This reduction in stormwater runoff is essential in urban areas, where impervious surfaces are abundant and natural filtration is limited. By implementing rainwater harvesting, communities directly mitigate water pollution, showcasing how local actions can lead to substantial environmental improvements.

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Continued from page A1

Rescue Squad Prepares for 60th Anniversary Celebration



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Early Ambulance and members of the unit.



An oxygen kit from 1969. It could supply about 5 minutes of O2 to a patient.

Activities that exercise the brain

Mental health is an important topic to acknowledge and discuss, and such recognition is vital for all people, including the aging population. The World Health Organization indicates 57 million people had dementia worldwide in 2021. The National Institutes of Health reports the global prevalence of dementia in individuals under the age of 70 increased by 122 percent in recent decades, rising from roughly six million people in 1990 to more than 13 million in 2021. Although many factors are involved in the development of dementias and cognitive decline, Alzheimer's disease or other neurodegenerative illnesses are not inevitable as one gets older. But it is understandable why so many adults make brain health a priority. People of all ages can benefit from incorporating activities that exercise the brain into their daily lives.

Learn a new language

Speaking a new language opens up new opportunities for travel and socialization and also strengthens the brain. A 2019 review published in *Frontiers in Neuroscience* noted that bilingualism increased and strengthened the connectivity between different areas of the brain. This enhanced connectivity might play a role in delaying the onset of dementias, according to researchers.

Learn new skills

Trying something new might stimulate the brain in ways that improve its function. A cognitively demanding skill, such as photography, playing an instrument and other activities could enhance memory function. Teaching such skills to others also can reinforce brain functions.

Take dancing classes

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says that dancing might help combat Alzheimer's disease by improving blood circulation throughout the body. It also forces a person's memory and processing speed to work at a higher capacity through learning the choreography.



Use all of your senses

A 2014 study in *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience* indicated doing activities that simultaneously engage each of the five senses can strengthen the brain. Working memory and recall were higher for multi-sensory interactions. Baking a batch of cookies is an example of a multisensory experience.

Work on puzzles

Crossword puzzles, word searches, word games, and brain teaser-like puzzles are entertaining and work the brain. Research has shown that even doing jigsaw puzzles "recruits multiple cognitive abilities and is a protective factor for visuospatial cognitive aging," according to Healthline.

Socialize with others

Socializing with other people can stimulate attention and memory. This helps to strengthen neural networks in the brain that makes the brain work harder. This increase in mental activity can pay off in the long run. Socialization is also beneficial for mental health, especially among older adults who tend to be more isolated. People are often concerned with giving their bodies a workout, but they also should focus on activities that strengthen their brains.

Magic at the Library

by: Hiram Lupton

The library is always a magical place and that is especially true when master magician Gary Shelton shows up to share his special brand of illusion, storytelling, and entertainment. Last Thursday he paid a visit to the Pamlico County Public Library and thoroughly amused both kids and adults alike. There was one downside to the day. Gary announced that he was about to pull off one of the ultimate magic tricks, retirement. Thursday would be his final show at Pamlico County Public Library and his June 23rd show at the Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library in Edenton will be his final library show. Gary performed his first show in 1978 at the Craven County Public Library in New Bern so I would say that after 48 years, you deserve to retire on your own terms. You are a class person who always performed a class act and will be greatly missed. Congratulations and happy retirement.



Another great magic show at the Pamlico County Public Library



Magician Gary Shelton performs a disarming trick on a young volunteer.



(L to R); Gary Shelton, Cammie the Rabbit, Pamlico County Public Library Manager Sidney Phibbons, Librarian Fran Benninger.

Did you know?

Drinking water is essential for good health, especially when warm temperatures increase the risk for dehydration. Many people are familiar with the general guideline that recommends drinking eight to 10 full glasses of water and other beverages a day. But what about hydration and companion animals? Ensuring a dog, cat or other pet is getting enough water is complicated. After all, one cannot force a pet to drink. However, Figo Pet Insurance says, on average, a healthy adult dog needs between one-half and one ounce of fresh water per one pound of body weight, daily. Therefore, a 50-pound dog will require anywhere from 25 to 50 ounces of water a day, or roughly three to eight cups of water. Cats often require less water, but still should have constant access to fresh water. Temperature will impact how much pets need to drink. In hot weather or after exertion, pets will need more water to regulate body temperature. PetMD also says that pets that eat dry food (kibble) may generally drink more water than those who eat wet food, as the latter receive more moisture from their diet than the former. Pet owners should discuss concerns about water intake with veterinarians if something seems amiss. Gently pinching the skin near the pet's shoulder blades can offer a quick assessment of proper hydration. The skin should return to normal immediately. If it doesn't, the pet may be dehydrated. Also, pets who are drinking excessive amounts of water may have an underlying health issue, which also should be promptly addressed by a vet.





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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of Birdie Clifton Potter, Deceased, of Pamlico County, N.C., are notified to present the same to the Personal Representative listed below on or before September 3, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All debtors of the said Estate are asked to make immediate payment. This 3rd day of June, 2026.

Jane Potter Whitley
Executor
c/o GREGORY T. PEACOCK
Ward and Smith, P.A.
Attorneys at Law
Post Office Box 867
New Bern, NC 28563-0867

Notice to Creditors
North Carolina, Pamlico County

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of Alma Victoria Perez-Suarez, deceased, of New Bern, NC, are notified to present the same to the personal representative listed below on or before September 10, 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 10th day of June, 2026.

Maria De Lourdas Suarez De Perez, Administrator of the Estate of Alma Victoria Perez-Suarez
c/o Quay & Associates, P.A.
412 Broad Street
New Bern, NC 28560

PUBLICATION DATES:
06/10/2026, 06/17/2026,
06/24/2026, 07/01/2026

Notice to Creditors
North Carolina, Pamlico County

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of Derek Earl Spain, deceased, of Merritt, NC, are notified to present the same to the personal representative listed below on or before September 10, 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 10th day of June, 2026.

Cindi M. Quay, Administrator of the Estate of Derek Earl Spain
c/o Quay & Associates, P.A.
412 Broad Street
New Bern, NC 28560

INCIDENTS

June 11, Main St., Bayboro, vehicle damage
June 11, Neuse Rd., New Bern, order for arrest boat access area - other purpose
June 11, Halls Creek Rd., New Bern, driving while license revoked impaired revoked - failure to appear/order for arrest
June 11, NC Hwy 55, Grantsboro, fraud
June 11, NC Hwy 55, New Bern, carry concealed gun (M), driving while license revoked not impaired revoked, driving while impaired
June 12, NC Hwy 55, Grantsboro, financial card fraud - misdemeanor
June 12, Kershaw Rd., Oriental, operate motor vehicle while fleeing/attempt to elude law enforcement (F)
June 12, Lynchs Beach Rd., Bayboro, assault by pointing gun law enforcement officer, attempted common law robbery, attempt first degree burglary, felony conspiracy
June 13, NC Hwy 304, Vandemere, cruelty to animals (M)
June 14, NC Hwy 306 S., Arapahoe, speeding, no operators license, plate not properly attached, fictitious info to officer, order for arrest driving while license revoked
June 15, Plantation Oaks Dr., New Bern, resist/delay/obstruct public officer
June 15, Main St., Bayboro, order for arrest child support
June 15, NC Hwy 55, Grantsboro, warrant for arrest breaking and/or entering, warrant for arrest felony larceny, warrant for arrest injury to real property
June 16, Main St., Bayboro, property found
June 16, Magnolia Way, Grantsboro, order for arrest driving while license revoked not impaired revoked
June 16, Willowbrook Dr., Arapahoe, order for arrest child support
June 16, Mill Pond Rd., Alliance, larceny of property or goods <= \$1,000
June 16, Prescott Rd., Grantsboro,

PUBLICATION DATES:
06/10/2026, 06/17/2026,
06/24/2026, 07/01/2026

NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE PAMLICO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF CHARLES ASHLEY LANE
File No.: 26E000093-680

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against deceased, are notified to exhibit them to DONNA L. MILLER, EXECUTOR on or before SEPTEMBER 9, 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 10TH OF JUNE 2026

ESTATE OF CHARLES ASHLEY LANE
C/O DONNA L. MILLER
1010 HOLOHOLO STREET
KAILUA, HI 96734

Publish JUNE 10, 17, 24 AND JULY 1, 2026.

NORTH CAROLINA PAMLICO COUNTY NOTICE TO CREDITORS:

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of Oscar A. Krechel, Jr., deceased, of Pamlico County, N.C., are notified to present the same to the personal representative listed below on or before September 11, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All debtors of the said estate are asked to make immediate payment.

This 10th day of June, 2026.

Netta K. Broughton, Executor of the Estate of Oscar A. Krechel, Jr., Deceased,
c/o David B. Baxter, Jr.
416 Pollock Street
P.O. Drawer 889
New Bern, NC 28563

6/10/26; 6/17/26; 6/24/26; and 7/1/26

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

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

January 2, PIN J031-27-4, J031-66, J032-112, J032-113, J032-114, J032-115, K04-18, K04-2, K04-24, K04-3-1 & K04-9; Multiple Tracts See Instrument from Judy Holton Thaanum, Judith Holton Thaanum, Judy H. Thaanum to Judith Holton Thaanum/TR, Judith Holton Thaanum Revocable Trust Agreement, Judith Holton Thaanum, \$0
Jan. 2, 6.29 AC Tract One & 11.66 AC Tract Two PCB 16-20; 17.95 Acres off Orchard Creek Rd (SR 1317) River Dunes from River Dunes Development, LLC, River Dunes Investment Property, LLC to River Dunes Shoreline Holdings, LLC, \$900
Jan. 2, River Dunes Section 13 Lots 1-18 & All Common Area PCA 173-20, River Dunes 1.68 AC Parcel A PCB 21-19, PIN L10-3 & L10-13-1-18 from River Dunes Land Holdings, LLC, River Dunes Investment Property, LLC to River Dunes Shoreline Properties, LLC, \$3,000
Jan. 2, Sea Vista Oriental Heights Block: D Lot: 60 MB 5/84, Quitclaim Deed; PIN J082-330-60 from 620 Windward Dr LLC to Shane Walsh, \$0
Jan. 2, .96 AC Tract Riggs Rd (NCSR 1205) PCA 30-1 from Jonathan B. Caraway, Tiffany Caraway to Sonok Caraway, \$0
Jan. 6, PIN L091-97; 24,620 Sq Ft Lot N/S Broad Creek & E/S Mercer Dr (Beach Rd) Map DB 408/309 from Kevin Ernest York/TR, Theresa York/ TR, The York Living Trust, \$0
Jan. 6, Forestshore Estates Lot: 9 PCA 38-4 from Leslie Neil Birnbach, Jeanne Marie Birnbach to David Richard Smith, Daniele Erika Livermon, \$266
Jan. 6, Oriental Harbor Village Marina Boat Slip 26 Dock C CB 1 Slide 11-10

File No.: 26E000063-680

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against deceased, are notified to exhibit them to WILLIAM EDWARD CROSS, EXECUTOR, on or before SEPTEMBER 9, 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 10TH OF JUNE 2026

ESTATE OF PATRICIA BAYLISS CROSS
C/O WILLIAM EDWARD CROSS
220 PHILLIPS DRIVE
ARAPAHOE, NC 28510

Publish JUNE 10, 17, 24 AND JULY 1, 2026.

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

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

This 17TH OF JUNE 2026

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

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

June, 2026.
Phyllis H. Styron
Administrator CTA
c/o TERRI W. SHARP
Ward and Smith, P.A.
Attorneys at Law
Post Office Box 867
New Bern, NC 28563-0867

NORTH CAROLINA PAMLICO COUNTY NOTICE TO CREDITORS:

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

This the 24rd day of June, 2026.

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

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

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

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

This 24TH OF JUNE 2026

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

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

REPORTS

& Und Int Common Areas PIN J082-173-C-26-SL from Francis J. Doucette, Leanne M. Doucette to Leon Turetsky, \$66
Jan. 8, Lake Minnesott Estates Section V Lot: 7, MB 6/10; Map DB 328/588, Lake Minnesott Estates Section V Lot: 8 MB 6/10; Map DB 328/588 PIN F093-5-7 from John Ernest Stiles, John E. Stiles, Judith M. Stiles to Jacobsen Properties, LLC, \$320
Jan. 8, Sound View Beach Development, 1/2 AC SE/S Morning St & E/S Canal Dr, Sound View Beach Development 1/2 AC NE/S Dawn St S/E Morning Dr & SW/S Canal Dr, PIN L091-38 from Maureen M. Donald, Maureen D. Darna, Peter H. Darna to Dale K. Ouzts, Jr., Julie A. Ouzts, \$715
Jan. 9, Oriental Cottage Industries LLC Tract A PCA 150-4 from Suzanne Rulon Decker to Kimberly Minshew Robertson, Johnnie Lynn Robertson, \$730
Jan. 12, Arlington Place Lot: 35 Phase 1 PCA 153-17, Mill Creek Lot: 252 Arlington Place Phase 1 PCA 172-2, Mill Creek Lot: 253 Arlington Place Phase 1 PCA 172-2 from Sandhill Machining, Inc., Corey Harrison Construction to Bay River Capital, LLC, \$0
Jan. 12, 1.25 AC Tract PCA 200-11 & PCA 23-9 from Edward Hill Williams, III/TR, April Ogburn Williams/TR, The Williams Family Revocable Trust to Timothy W. Quinn, Laura M. Quinn, \$1,354
Jan. 12, Bay Winds Lot: 4 Section 1 PCA 82-8, PIN J043-58-4 from Otis William Brammer, Nancy Garrell Brammer to John David Brammer, Elizabeth Lewis Brammer, \$0
Jan. 13, 14 AC Tract Metes & Bounds from Phyllis J. Gay to Tidewater Grain, LLC, \$27
Jan. 13, Pinedale Lot: 53 Chair Rd; Map DB 356/9 PIN D061-188-53 from Dwelling Properties IV, LLC, SN Servicing Corporation/AIF to JMT & Sons Properties, LLC, \$150
Jan. 13, Oriental Harbor Place Condominiums Unit: A-15 CB1 Slide 9-4 from Evelyn Mary Scozzafava to Frederic Ashley Staley, Catharine Green Staley, \$778

Jan. 14, Tract B PCB 21-18 from Matthew James Sheaffer, Matthew J. Sheaffer, Michelle D. Sheaffer to Matthew James Sheaffer, Michelle D. Sheaffer, Johnson Matthew Sheaffer, \$0
Jan. 14, One Tract S/S NCSR 1324 & E/S NCSR 1329 Florence from Michael P. Day, Lucinda Day to Michael P. Day, Jr., \$0
Jan. 14, PIN G042-41; One Tract NC Hwy 55 Near Cowell LN & Fifth St from Forrest Farm Supply, Inc. to Meherrin Agricultural & Chemical Company, \$1,200
Jan. 14, .41 AC W/S NC Hwy 55 & S/S Robertson (Roberts) Road (SR 1323) Merritt from Troy Jay Drennen, Jr., Troy Drennen, Julie Woodard to Sherrie Wilkinson, \$30
Jan. 14, 17E93; 1 Tract Beech Lane MB 4/18; Map DB 332/683 from Mark Allen Harris to Anthony Maxton Woodard, \$100
Jan. 15, Mill Creek One Tract S. Brightleaf Dr.; Phase II; Arlington Place PCA 164-2 from David T. Brown, Mary K. Brown to Timothy J. Nodine, Danuta M. Nodine, \$177
Jan. 15, Baird Creek Point Lot: 31 Section 2 Phase I PCA 171-8, Baird Creek Point Marina Unit: 1 CC1 Slide 11-15 from Patrick J. Manzo, Samantha L. Manzo to Kenneth Demey, Karen Demey, \$0
Jan. 15, One Tract S/S Hodges St & Midyette St Oriental from Gilbert Jesse Fontes, Laura J. Turgeon to Gilbert Jesse Fontes, Laura J. Turgeon, \$0
Jan. 15, PIN H08-64; 210.65 AC Oriental Rd (NCSR 1308) & Janiero Rd (NCSR 1302); J.W. Cowell Property from Deborah D. Godwin/EXR, Caroline C. Godwin/EST to Cynthia C. Godwin, Deborah D. Godwin, William T. Godwin, Jr., \$0
Jan. 15, PIN H08-64; 210.65 AC Oriental Rd (NCSR 1308) & Janiero Rd (NCSR 1302) J.W. Cowell Property from Cynthia C. Godwin, Deborah D. Godwin, Alan R. Williams, William T. Godwin, Jr., Debra T. Godwin to Volker E. Dube/TR, Volker E. Dube Revocable Trust, Volker E. Dube, \$1,380

Pamlico Vistas

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



A Hot morning on the Neuse, near Dolphin Point - Oriental

by: Hiram Lupton



Expand your grilling horizons

Grilling is a great way to cook many different types of foods. Burgers, chicken or steaks may be grilling staples, but many other foods are equally at home cooking over an open flame.

Shrimp grills up perfectly and can be enhanced with mesquite, oak or pecan wood. Wrapping shrimp with a spinach leaf not only increases the wow factor when plating, it also helps keep the shrimp tender and moist during cooking. Such is the case in this recipe for “Wood-Grilled Shrimp and Yellow Peppers” from “The Gardener & The Grill” (Running Press) by Karen Adler & Judith Fertig.

Wood-Grilled Shrimp and Yellow Peppers

Serves 4

- 1/2 cup moistened wood chips or dry wood pellets
- 1 1/2 pounds large shrimp (18 to 20 count), peeled and deveined
- 30 medium-size spinach leaves
- 2 yellow, red, or orange bell peppers, stemmed, seeded, and cut into quarters
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- Kosher or sea salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

Prepare a hot fire on one side of your grill for indirect cooking.

Wrap each shrimp loosely with a large spinach leaf. Place the shrimp in a disposable aluminum pan. Lightly season with sea salt and pepper, and then drizzle lightly with olive oil.

For a charcoal grill, throw 1/2 cup moistened wood chips or dry wood pellets directly on the coals right before you want to grill. For a gas grill, enclose the wood chips or pellets in a foil packet with holes poked in the top; place the packet on the grill grate over the heat source.

When you see the first wisp of smoke from the wood, place the shrimp on the indirect side of the heat and the peppers on the direct side. Close the lid and grill for 8 minutes. Open the lid and turn the peppers. Grill for another 8 minutes. Open the lid and turn the peppers. Grill for another 8 minutes, then open the lid and transfer the peppers to the indirect side. Close the lid and transfer the peppers to the indirect side. Close the lid and grill for 15 to 20 minutes more, or until the shrimp are cooked through and they have a pleasant, smoky aroma.

To serve, cut the peppers into strips, arrange on plates, and top with the shrimp.

EDITORIALS and OPINIONS

An Open Letter from Commissioner Bohmert

To the people of Pamlico County,

I am a Pamlico County Commissioner and was first elected in 2016. Before that, I served on the Oriental Town Board for eight years. I share that background because I have spent more than twenty years involved in local government and more in public service. It has been an honor to serve my town and my county. There have been good times, and there have been difficult times. The current situation is among the most difficult I have experienced.

Over the past couple of years, the level of accusation, distrust, and personal attack directed toward our Board, our staff, and our county government has been deeply troubling. Local government is difficult under the best of circumstances. Those who have served in elected office understand how hard it can be to bring people together, make difficult decisions, and balance competing needs with limited resources.

That is why the recent allegations against a Board of seven elected commissioners, our Finance Officer, and our County Manager have been so disheartening. The suggestion that nine individuals could somehow agree to use the budget process to nefariously harm or rob taxpayers in a small county should have raised serious questions before it was accepted or repeated. It is difficult enough to get two people to agree on a major decision, much less nine people with different backgrounds, perspectives, and responsibilities. One of our Board members is an ordained minister and an active member of her church. These are people who live here, serve here, worship here, and answer to the same citizens who pay these taxes.

A simple phone call could have helped set the record straight.

For months, the Board worked through a public budget process. Members of the public were involved. The schools, rescue squad, fire chiefs, and department heads were involved. Our meetings were open. They lasted for hours. The discussions were serious, detailed, and at times intensely debated. None of this was done in secret, and none of it was done lightly.

Pamlico County has major needs. We have asked the legislature for years to help us with a Health Department and Senior Services building, but that help has not come. We also met with Congressman Don Davis and asked for assistance. We have continued trying to address these needs through every reasonable avenue available to us.

During the budget process, additional issues emerged. We learned that courthouse seating needs to be upgraded. That will be costly. The courthouse was built in the 1960s and has seen very little improvement since then, aside from hurricane-related repairs to the roof and wall.

We were also questioned about courthouse security. That is not a small concern. It affects our judges, court personnel, law enforcement, county employees, and the public.

We then learned that the jail locking system had effectively failed. Some of the cells can no longer be used as intended. That creates a serious safety issue for our jailers and operational complications for our Sheriff. The cost is expected to be approximately one million dollars, and the repair will not happen quickly.

In addition, the tax structure for our fire districts needs to be completely overhauled. We placed that issue on the table for work in 2027 and honored the request of the fire departments not to reduce their tax rate this year.

The budget began with a revenue-neutral rate of approximately 44 cents. As we worked through the real needs facing the county, that rate moved to 49 cents. After considering courthouse security, the jail locking system, and the Sheriff’s Office phone system, which is becoming unreliable due to age, the Board ultimately moved to 52 cents. We agreed on the budget and the tax rate and were preparing to post it.

Then, with no warning, we were told that Pamlico County had been placed under a moratorium on our new evaluations and that we had three weeks to produce a new budget.

There were no prior phone calls. There were no questions directed to the Board. There was no opportunity to explain the process, the needs, or the consequences. There was only silence, followed by action that blindsided the county.

That was stunning.

Approximately fifty percent of Pamlico County property owners would have seen little to no increase in property taxes under the proposed rate. Some property categories, including vehicles and boats, would have seen reductions. No one was going to be “gouged” or “run out of their homes,” as has been suggested. Each member of the Board would have also seen an increase. We were not asking citizens to carry a burden that we ourselves would not share.

But instead of asking questions, attending meetings, calling commissioners, speaking with the County Manager, or reviewing the facts with our Finance Officer, accusations were allowed to stand. The elected Board was thrown into a crisis without evidence being presented to us and without the basic courtesy of a conversation.

Please understand that if we did not immediately reach out in the middle of that crisis, it was because we believed the decision had already been made without us. We believed no one had cared enough to ask before taking action, even though many of you know how serious the county’s circumstances are.

Now Pamlico County is left without an adopted budget, facing the possibility of a tax rate equivalent to approximately 77 cents on the old valuation, with hurricane season already upon us.

This is not a political game for us. This is our county. These are our citizens, our employees, our schools, our emergency services, our courthouse, our jail, and our future. We are asking to be heard, to be treated fairly, and to be given the opportunity to explain the facts before decisions are made that affect every resident of Pamlico County.

Sincerely,

Candy Bohmert

Pamlico County Commissioner

CROAKER FESTIVAL 2026

Croaker Queen Pageant



JENNA LEE BUCK – Age: 17
Daughter of: Cliff & Lisa Buck
Hometown: Reelsboro



DANICA MOGEY – Age: 17
Daughter of: Brittney Lee
Hometown: Grantsboro



KRISTA LYNN BALANCE – Age: 18
Daughter of: Kelly & Chris Ballance
Hometown: Lowland



EMMA GRACE SPAIN – Age: 18
Daughter of: Amber Caraway Spain
Hometown: Merritt



BRISTOL KAYLA-PAIGE POLASKI – Age: 15
Daughter of: Callie & Jeff Polaski
Hometown: Alliance



MORIAH SEANNA MARIE PHILLIPS – Age: 18
Daughter of: Shaneka Hickman
Hometown: Grantsboro



EMMA MADISON PETERSON – Age: 17
Daughter of: Jonathan & Ashlynn Peterson
Hometown: Reelsboro



ASHLEY DAWN WARREN – Age: 17
Daughter of: Johnny & Christina Warren
Hometown: Vandemere



CATHERINE GRACE LACKEY – Age: 18
Daughter of: Jennifer Lackey & Eric Pare
Hometown: Hobucken



RAELYN NEVAEH HUGHES – Age: 15
Daughter of: Pamela O'neal
Hometown: Mesic



MELODY ROSE ARMSTRONG – Age: 15
Daughter of: Kim & Wes Ireland
& Stewart Armstrong
Hometown: Oriental



ABIGAIL RAE CAHOON – Age: 18
Daughter of: Jeremy & Amber Kimla,
BJ & Sabra Cahoon
Hometown: Oriental



ANIYAH LANE' SYLVIA KING – Age: 17
Daughter of: Antonio & Tracy King
Hometown: Bayboro

Let the pomp & circumstance begin!



**COME OUT AND SEE ALL THE AMAZING AND BEAUTIFUL MISS CROAKERS
FRIDAY JULY 3RD AT 6:30 PM ON THE MAIN STAGE.**

CROAKER FESTIVAL 2026

Mini Miss Minnow Pageant



HALO JADE GATLIN – Age: 4
Daughter of: Michaela Simmons
Hometown: Bayboro



JOSEPHINA LEIGH BROUGHTON – Age: 4
Daughter of: Alice Frazier & Jason Broughton
Hometown: Alliance



EMMA RAE HARDISON – Age: 4
Daughter of: Chase Hardison & Makayla Bright
Hometown: Bayboro



BERKLEY ROSE BANKS – Age: 6
Daughter of: Steve & Lauren Banks
Hometown: Oriental



EVA BLAISE WILLIS – Age: 4
Daughter of: Jacob Willis & Darrow Paul
Hometown: Bayboro



COLLINS RAE PRESCOTT – Age: 5
Daughter of: Trent & Ashley Prescott
Hometown: Merritt



ANNIE REECE CLAY – Age: 6
Daughter of: Clint & Casey Clay
Hometown: Arapahoe



GRACIE LEE KNOWLES – Age: 5
Daughter of: Worlise & Lacy Knowles
Hometown: Alliance



GUINEVERE IVY CLARK – Age: 4
Daughter of: Caitlin & Jacob Clark
Hometown: New Bern



ANNABELLA RAZZALYNN DAIL – Age: 4
Daughter of: Summer & Richard Dail
Hometown: Grantsboro



ESTELLE JAYE DEARING – Age: 5
Daughter of: Mark & Laura Dearing
Hometown: Oriental

Miss Minnow Pageant



BETHANY BURTON – Age: 8
Daughter of: Tonya & Gerald Burton
Hometown: Reelsboro



AUBREY LEONARD – Age: 9
Daughter of: Camilla Leonard
Hometown: Oriental



EVERLY LEONARD – Age: 9
Daughter of: Camilla Leonard
Hometown: Oriental



BRYLEE WHORTON – Age: 7
Daughter of: Worlise & Lacy Knowles
Hometown: Alliance



ALEXANDRIA WILKINSON – Age: 8
Daughter of: Sara & Kevin Futrell,
& Jeremy Wilkinson
Hometown: Arapahoe

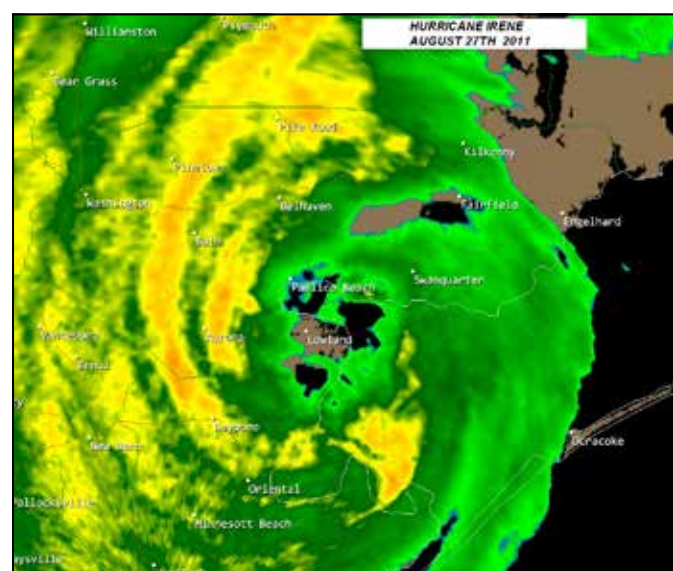
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FRIDAY JULY 3RD AT 5:30 & 6:00 PM ON THE MAIN STAGE.**

COASTAL LIVING

Are You Ready for Hurricane Season?

by: Hiram Lupton

June 1st once again marked the beginning of hurricane season in the North Atlantic and that means right here in Pamlico County. It may seem early but now is the time to begin your hurricane preparation. No, we don't mean boarding up your windows and bringing in the patio furniture, but taking a few steps and making a plan that hopefully you won't have to implement. While eastern North Carolina's peak for storm activity is late August into September, July hurricanes have occurred. In 1996 Hurricane Bertha made landfall between Wrightsville Beach and Topsail Beach along North Carolina's Southeast coast on July 9 with winds of 115 mph before swinging northeast and continuing up the coast. Hurricanes can cause a great deal of stress and anxiety and by coming up with a plan now, you can increase your preparedness and hopefully reduce your panic mode. This is particularly true if you are relatively new to the area and have never experienced a hurricane firsthand. First of all, if you have a home electric generator, make sure it is in good working order. You could be without power for several days so plan accordingly. Many newer homes now have permanently mounted generators that cycle weekly on a regular self-test. For these, if everything is working fine, you just need to make sure you have adequate fuel. If you have a portable generator, now is the time to blow off the dust and crank it up. If it needs maintenance, do it now, not when there is a storm off the coast potentially making land fall in a day or two. Also make sure you have adequate fuel supplies and containers for fuel. When a storm is headed our way, lines at the gas pumps can suddenly get long and supplies may get short. Understand portable generator safety. DO NOT run a generator in an enclosed space. Nearly every hurricane season there are reported deaths after a storm from carbon monoxide poisoning from improper operation of a home generator. Another early prep involves understanding where you live and if evacuation may be necessary. If you have never experienced a hurricane at your current home, talk to your neighbors who have. Find out just how high water may become in your neighborhood and make a determination



The eye of Hurricane Irene passes over Lowland in Pamlico County

of what criteria and when and where to evacuate to. There is a certain point where evacuation may no longer be a safe option. When emergency management issues a mandatory evacuation order, take it seriously. If an order is issued what it basically means is that if you decide to stay and ride out the storm, you could be on your own for as much as 72 hours before emergency personnel can reach you. The phrase is "The first 72 are on you." If you do decide to evacuate, let someone know. Make sure you have adequate nonperishable food and enough water to last if you are stranded for that long. Other items you should have are an emergency first aid kit, a battery powered radio, and extra batteries. Hammer and nails, a staple gun, plastic tarps, and a ladder come in handy for making emergency repairs once a storm has passed. A review of your homeowners insurance is also a good idea to make sure you know what is and is not covered. Some policies, such as flood insurance, have a waiting period from the time you sign up until the policy becomes active. Have some cash on hand. If the power is down, ATM machines will not work. Once the storm has passed, check on your neighbors but be aware of downed power lines as well as any critters who may have been displaced and are slithering around. There are many things to think about, and it is hard to cover them all. There are websites which go more in depth about hurricane preparedness, check them out. One more item, since we are on the subject of the internet, make sure you listen to reliable sources for information leading up to the storm. The best sources are the National Weather Service and the National Hurricane Center. North Carolina Emergency Management and Pamlico County Emergency Management are two other places for excellent information. Bookmark these sites and follow them on Facebook. Early preparedness can save your life and reduce property loss.

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<https://www.nhc.noaa.gov>
<https://www.weather.gov>
<https://www.oems.gov>
<https://www.pamlicocounty.org>

Hurricanes: A true or false quiz



Summer ushers in hurricane season, which typically runs from early June to late fall in the Atlantic. In the Pacific, hurricane season typically begins in May and runs until November. Understanding these impressive storms can help the public better navigate the wild weather. People can test their hurricane knowledge by answering these true and false questions, courtesy of The Weather Channel and National Geographic.

1. Hurricanes are small storms that produce light rainfall.
Answer: False. Hurricanes are giant tropical storms that produce heavy rainfall and strong winds.
2. Ocean waters must be above 79 F (26 C) for a hurricane to develop.
Answer: True. Below this threshold temperature hurricanes will not form or can rapidly weaken once they move over water.
3. Each year an average of 10 tropical storms develop over the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico.

Answer: True. Many of these storms remain over the ocean, while Weather.gov says six will become hurricanes each year.

4. The center of a hurricane around which winds circulate is known as the nose.

Answer: False. The center of a hurricane is called the eye. Around the eye is the eye wall, which features the strongest winds, thickest clouds and heaviest rain.

5. Hurricane force winds can reach nearly 200 miles per hour (320 kph).

Answer: True. These strong winds are capable of uprooting trees and destroying buildings.

6. Hurricanes rotate in the same direction whether they form in the northern hemisphere or the southern hemisphere.

Answer: False. In the southern hemisphere, hurricanes rotate in a clockwise direction. In the northern hemisphere, they rotate counterclockwise. This is due to the Coriolis Force produced by the Earth's rotation.

7. Hurricane force winds can extend out more than 150 miles (241 kilometers).

Answer: True. Tropical storm-force winds can stretch out even further from the center of the storm.

8. Hurricanes are only known as hurricanes across the globe.

Answer: False. Hurricanes also are called cyclones and typhoons, depending on where they occur.

Hurricanes are fascinating storms that can cause far-reaching damage. Nevertheless, they can be interesting to study.

The complicated dynamic around storms and seasons

A novice weather observer may conclude that storms are entirely seasonal. But according to weather experts, storms are not beholden to one time of the year, even if there are peak times when certain types of storms are most likely to strike. For example, thunderstorms are a hallmark of a hot and balmy summer, but they're not exclusive to this time of year. Thunderstorms can occur any time, even when it's cold outside. For example, storms known as thundersnow are thunderstorms in which snow falls as the primary precipitation instead of rain. Although every season can have notable storms, storms often occur in every season, underscoring the need for year-round preparedness. The National Weather Service notes that the peak severe weather events occur during the spring, followed by the fall for some areas. For certain storms, like tornadoes, the season spans two meteorological seasons: spring and summer. The National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration says the peak tornado season for the southern plains begins in May and extends into early June. On the Gulf Coast, it is earlier in the spring. In the northern Plains and upper Midwest, tornado season is in June or July. Again, tornadoes can happen any time of the year and anywhere across the country. The NOAA indicates the official hurricane season for the Atlantic basin runs from June 1 to November 30. But again, tropical cyclone activity can occur before and after these dates. Flooding can occur at any time, but the peak time for flash floods in the United States is generally from late spring through summer, according to The Weather Channel.



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Health & Wellness

Notable men's health issues



The notion that men may not take care of themselves as well as women has some truth to it. Global health data highlights a persistent lifespan gender gap, with men dying an average of six years earlier than women, according to the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. That lower life expectancy is driven by a combination of biological vulnerabilities, risky behavior and a tendency to delay medical care. Men tend to be statistically half as likely as women to visit a doctor for regular checkups.

Illness can impact men's longevity, and certain health conditions are prevalent among men across the globe.

CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

Heart disease is the leading cause of death among men worldwide. The World Health Organization says ischaemic heart disease accounts for approximately 13 percent of all global deaths regardless of gender. And the CDC says more than 50 percent of men age 18 and older have high blood pressure, a silent driver of heart attack and stroke.

CANCER

Cancer can affect anyone, but men are especially vulnerable to certain types. The most common cancer for men is prostate cancer. Roughly one in eight men will receive a diagnosis in their lifetime, says Shortlister, a vendor database and platform. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death for men, driven largely by smoking rates that are higher among men than women. Colorectal cancer is another form of the disease that affects a significant number of men.

MENTAL HEALTH

Revive Research Institute says poor mental health is a silent crisis among men. Men are nearly four times more likely to die by suicide, stemming from societal stigmas that discourage men from seeking mental health support, advises Carthage Area Hospital.

METABOLIC ISSUES

The American Heart Association says men are at a higher risk for type 2 diabetes at lower BMIs than women. If left unmanaged, type 2 diabetes can cause a series of issues that affect cardiovascular and kidney health.

RESPIRATORY CONDITIONS

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a major cause of disability in men that is linked to long-term tobacco use. Also, occupational exposure to dust and chemicals can compromise lung health.

ROAD INJURIES

Men account for a higher rate of unintentional injuries, according to Shortlister. Men represent the majority of workplace deaths, but they're also more likely to be involved in fatal motor vehicle accidents. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety says crashes involving male drivers often are more severe than those involving female drivers. Men tend to engage in risky driving practices that put them at elevated risk for accidents.

Learning about the issues that affect men's health the most can encourage men to alter their lifestyles in ways that can improve their life expectancies.

Did you know?



The Cleveland Clinic notes that kidney pain is often mistaken for back pain. Those unsure of what's causing their discomfort should know there are some notable differences between kidney pain and back pain. Back pain typically affects the middle of the back over the spine and leads to discomfort in the lower back. Kidney pain typically occurs to the right or left of the spine just below the rib cage where the kidneys are located. Kidney pain may feel deeper than back pain, and can radiate to other areas of the body, including the abdomen or groin. If back pain goes beyond the initial area, it tends to radiate down the legs. Individuals experiencing pain sufficient enough to feel discomfort that does not subside are urged to speak with a physician to determine if the pain is indicative of a back problem or an issue with their kidneys.

Pamlico County Health Department Clinic
Your Health - Your Family - Your Community
203 North Street, Bayboro, NC 28515 (Located behind the Courthouse) 252-745-5111 Monday-Friday 8:00 am-5:00 pm

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The climate experts at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) continue to predict active Atlantic hurricane seasons in the coming years. Therefore, boaters in hurricane-prone regions need to take steps to keep their vessels safe from harm or at least minimize potential damage and injuries. To help, we've put together a few important tips:

1. Move the boat if you can. Protect it if you can't.

If your boat is trailerable, haul it out of the water and move it to a safe location as far from tidal waters as possible and away from trees that could topple. Remember to pull the drain plug and remove electronics on board.

If it needs to stay in a marina berth, double all lines and rig-cross spring lines fore and aft, and attach lines high on pilings to allow for tidal rise or surge. Secure the vessel on the offshore side to solid pilings and make sure cleats and other attachment points are strong.

If it will remain on a mooring, make sure the mooring is designed to withstand the load that will be placed on it by your vessel. Contact your marina or mooring provider to confirm the maximum load. Inspect chains and swivels that connect to the mooring buoy and double up on the mooring pendant.

2. Do not stay onboard.

During a hurricane, winds can exceed 100 mph and tornadoes are often associated with these storms. If you're onboard during a bad storm, you are risking your life. Don't wait until the last minute to prepare, take precautions, and keep yourself safe.

3. Cover all lines to prevent chafing.

Wrap all lines at where lines feed through chocks with tape, rags and rubber hoses or leather. Install fenders, fender boards or tires to protect the boat from rubbing against the pier, pilings, or other boats.

4. Charge batteries and make sure they can run automatic bilge pumps throughout the storm. Consider adding back-up batteries and shut off all other devices that consume electricity.

5. Monitor weather broadcasts frequently.

You'll need all the time you can get if you need to move your vessel, strip sails, derig and anchor.

6. Create and maintain an inventory of all items.

This includes personal belongings you leave on the boat and those you take off. Mark valuable items, so they are easy to find. Consider keeping a video or photographic record of the boat and its contents in a secure location.

7. Keep documents and insurance handy.

Consolidate all records in a safe place, including insurance policies, recent photos of the vessel, boat registration, equipment inventory, and lease agreement with the marina or storage facility.

8. Understand your responsibilities and liabilities.

Check your lease or rental agreement with the marina or storage facility to see what they cover and what you are responsible for.

9. Be cautious after a hurricane has passed.

Electrical wires could be downed but still "hot" because generators may still be operating. There could be stray electrical current from submerged outlets and/or shore cords in the water, damaged vessel systems, etc. Do not enter the water. Check for leaking natural gas and propane by smell only, not with matches or candles. Check dock lines and mooring pendants, and before you get underway, confirm that there are no submerged objects or debris in your path. Contact local authorities to make sure waterways are safe to navigate.

10. Maintain a list of key contacts.

It's always a good idea to keep a list of key contacts handy that you may need throughout the boating season, such as your marina, emergency towing providers, and your insurance agent.



It is essential to keep cool and remain calm in the face of adversity, including when facing dangerous conditions like those that present during a natural disaster. Adults may experience anxiety when facing adversity. Children who may not be mature enough to fully understand what's going on may worry more than adults, which can increase their chances of being harmed in dangerous situations.

Making disaster preparedness a routine component of family life can take some of the mystery out of what to do in the event of an emergency. According to the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, it is never too early to start teaching kids about preparing for emergencies. Children are the most vulnerable when disaster strikes. Without sufficient preparation, children may suffer developmental, physical and psychological trauma following exposure to a disaster or another emergency.

Ready.gov and the VA offer tools and information to help all members of the family prepare for potential disasters. The following are some of their suggestions.

- Get talking. Talk about storms or conditions that may occur where you live. For example, if you live where hurricanes are prevalent, you might want to address hurricane information more so than someone who lives where tornadoes or earthquakes are more likely. Explain what can be expected during these storms and find out if kids have a cursory understanding of what to do if one strikes.

- Make a plan. Children rely on the adults around them to provide direction. Make sure kids understand who to call and where to meet as part of an emergency plan. Write down the

instructions and important phone numbers and keep this information in a place that's accessible to children. If the emergency plan includes evacuating the house or going into a storm cellar, practice getting up and moving safely but quickly together.

- Assemble emergency supplies. Include children in building a kit that includes a three-day supply of water, nonperishable food, flashlights, blankets, and kid-friendly activities. For a detailed list of what to place in an emergency supply kit, refer to suggestions from the American Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

- Teach kids about different storms. All sorts of storms may strike, so in addition to the ones that are notable in your area, instruct kids about what to do during common scenarios, such as thunderstorms and floods. Children should understand to move indoors if they see lightning or hear thunder. Following the "Turn Around, Don't Drown!" motto can help kids understand that just six inches of moving water can knock them off their feet during flood conditions.

- Employ additional resources. Kids may learn better through stories and activities geared to their level. The Red Cross and FEMA partnered to create the "Prepare with Pedro" program, which utilizes an activity book, a preparedness game and additional resources to teach kids about emergency preparedness in a fun way.

Instructing children about natural disasters and emergency preparedness can take some of the mystery out of how to behave in these situations. It also may make surviving an emergency much easier for the entire family.



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