

COASTAL OBSERVER

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50 cents



David Graham's sketch for a Town Hall above the roadway.

PAWLEYS ISLAND TOWN HALL

Gateway idea gets architect in the door

BY CHARLES SWENSON
COASTAL OBSERVER

David Graham took a risk. The Graham Group reaped the reward.

A "napkin sketch" that shows the new Pawleys Island Town Hall spanning the roadway on Pavilion Lane led an ad hoc committee of town officials to recommend the firm unanimously as the architects for the project. It is the first major facility the town has built since it was formed in 1985.

"A little sketch went a long way," said Jimmy Braswell, a member of the Planning Commission. Six of the seven commission members and four of five Town Council members formed the committee that interviewed Graham and Michael Walker of Tyche and Walker. A third firm, Creech and Associates of Mount Pleasant, dropped out.

Committee members agreed the firms were evenly matched. "They both have a passion for the project," said Jimmy Mc-

Cants, who chairs the Planning Commission. "Both of them realize we want something unique," commission member Bill Doar said.

The old Town Hall, which was originally a rental office for beach houses, was flooded during Hurricane Matthew. Uncertain whether it could be rebuilt under federal flood regulation and limited by the building's 450 square feet, the town decided to build a new facility on Pavilion Lane, which runs

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SCHOOLS

In arrest over gum wrapper, agencies say they acted in good faith

BY CHARLES SWENSON
COASTAL OBSERVER

Any damages suffered by a Waccamaw Middle School student who was arrested after throwing a gum wrapper that allegedly hit a teacher was the result of his own actions, according to the Georgetown County School District and Sheriff's Office. They are asking that a suit alleging negligence, false arrest and defamation be dismissed.

The student, 13 at the time, was arrested in November after the teacher, Ernest Frasier, said he was hit in the arm by the wrapper thrown by the student during his keyboarding class. The boy was arrested by the school resource officer, Tiffany Kinloch, for third degree assault and battery.

The charge was dismissed by the 15th Circuit Solicitor's Office 11 days later.

In February, the boy's father filed suit in Circuit Court on behalf of his son seeking actual, consequential and punitive damages "to deter future misconduct," according to the complaint.

The suit claims the wrapper didn't hit Frasier. The student was throwing the wrapper at the trash can and his actions "did not amount to a crime of any kind," the suit states.

In responses filed separately last week, the school district and the sheriff's office say they acted in good faith and therefore have immunity from the civil action. The sheriff's office "had probable cause to secure an arrest warrant," its says in its answer to the suit. "Any damages suffered by plaintiff were due and caused by the sole negligence, recklessness and wantonness of plaintiffs."

Along with raising the issue of immunity, the school district says the complaint improperly groups it with the sheriff's office "without any well-pleaded allegations as to why they should be treated as one in the same."

As to claims of defamation, the school district and the sheriff's office both say any statements made by their employees were made in good faith. They also said that any claims are barred "by the absolute defense of truth."

The complaint seeks a jury trial. No court date has been set.



Photos by Charles Swenson/Coastal Observer

Morgane Metreaux, left, of Florida State gets a hug from Fillipa Moork of Miami after a round of 71 on the final day that helped the Seminoles to a second-place finish. Below, Leona Maguire of Duke, medalist and the world's top female amateur golfer.

With top golfers at Reserve, some see missed opportunity

BY NIKKI BEST
COASTAL OBSERVER

The tournament's heating up, boys.

The Reserve Golf Club hosted the NCAA Atlantic Coast Conference women's golf championship over the weekend. This is the first time the women's championship was held outside of North Carolina in nine years.

"When we found out we were going to host, it was very exciting," Ellen Miller, club member and volunteer coordinator, said. "We wanted to engage our members."

The North Carolina-based ACC relocated all its championships after the state legislature passed a law restricting use of bathrooms by transgender people. Sedgefield Country Club in Greensboro, N.C., was the chosen venue of the tournament before The Reserve was tapped. Both courses are owned by McConnell Golf.

"This week the whole championship venue started coming alive," Miller said.

Signage from the ACC, an oversized golf ball and oversized, portable outdoor viewing screens rolled in last week. Each morning of play the golf carts were staged on the yard next to



the club house and the volunteers showed up a half hour to one hour early to set up their carts and double check everything, Miller said.

"I'm so proud of the members," she said. "It's wonderful to see the members all come together."

The almost 400-member

Reserve Club opened in 1998 and is no stranger to hosting tournaments. Over the years it has hosted several other golf events like the South Carolina Open, Carolinas PGA Section Championships, Carolina Women's Amateur and others. Miller

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BEACHES

County misses walkway deadline

BY CHARLES SWENSON
COASTAL OBSERVER

Public walkways to the Litchfield Beaches that weren't repaired by Georgetown County's self-imposed Easter deadline will be completed in the next few weeks, according to the director of Parks and Recreation.

"I know everyone's frustrated," said Beth Goodale. "There's just been an overwhelming number of things."

A contractor began work in February repairing 55 beach walkways that were damaged or destroyed in October by Hurricane Matthew. "We're finished with the majority of them," Goodale said Wednesday, citing emails from the contractor. "South Litchfield's done."

Ladd Dezendorf, president of the Litchfield Beaches Property Owners Association, took a bike ride along North Litchfield on Wednesday. "I've seen zero evidence of any work," he said.

Those walkways that are open are ones that had minor damage or where residents went out and made their own repairs, Dezendorf said. "The county told me they'd be done by Easter," he added.

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Town agrees to enforce width limit as permit violations rise

BY CHARLES SWENSON
COASTAL OBSERVER

The town of Pawleys Island will hold the line at 4 feet, when it comes to the width of walkways between houses and the beach. Town Council decided last week to enforce its current ordinance even as the town administrator raised his estimate of the number of walkways rebuilt after Hurricane Matthew that don't meet the code.

The town's 4-foot limit on walkway width is the subject of appeals that have stretched over nine years. Robert and Pamela Wilkes, property owners with a 6-foot walkway, challenged the enforcement of the ordinance saying that a worksheet cited the greater width. Although they applied for a building permit, it hadn't been issued before the walkway was built in 2008. The worksheet was subsequently changed.

The state and county allow walkways up to 6 feet in width. After discovering about a dozen nonconforming walkways on Pawleys Island that were built without permits after the hurricane last fall, Town Administrator Ryan Fabbri asked the

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