

COASTAL OBSERVER

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50 cents

Pawleys plans beach projects for fall

BY CHARLES SWENSON
COASTAL OBSERVER

It will be all play and no work on the beach at Pawleys Island this summer. Plans to repair the 23 rock and timber groins along the shoreline will wait until after Labor Day.

That will still leave plenty of time for the work to be completed before the town embarks on a project to place up to 725,000 cubic yards of off-shore sand along 2.7 miles of beach. The final permit for that project was approved by the Army Corps of Engineers last month. The town will now seek bids for the work.

"We hope to do it in November,"

Town Administrator Ryan Fabbri said. That is the earliest work can start under the permit conditions. Work has to be completed by April 30.

The work on the groins was first identified in a 2014 study. Hurricanes in the next three years only added to the damage to the structures that are built perpendicular to the beach in order to trap sand that moves in the current running parallel to the shore. It is estimated to cost \$250,000, which will be paid for from a portion of the town's reserve earmarked for beach management.

The town had planned to do the work this spring, but with work beginning on a new Town Hall, an

Repair of groins along the beach will now start after Labor Day.

Charles Swenson/Coastal Observer

underground utility project wrapping up and a push to get the beach nourishment permits, Fabbri said he didn't have time to get bids on the groin work. "It didn't make any sense to do it while the tourists are here," he said.

Most of the groins are in portions of the island that have no public access from the street. Contractors will either have to move equipment down the beach or seek access from

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Photos by Tanya Ackerman/Coastal Observer

Imagination takes flight at library program

Stephen Schabel, above, of the Center for Birds of Prey calls back a Harris hawk during a program last week at the Waccamaw Library. Below, Katie Maleckar, a volunteer from the center, shows an American kestrel.



SCHOOL BUDGET

District sees enrollment fall as it seeks to raise salaries

BY CHARLES SWENSON
COASTAL OBSERVER

New contracts are going out today to 1,209 teachers and other Georgetown County School District employees, 120 less than a year ago as the state phases out a program that allowed retirees to continue to work. How many of those positions will be filled is uncertain as the school district watches its enrollment drop at the same time it is trying to raise

pay to compete with neighboring districts.

"We probably won't fill some vacancies," Superintendent Randy Dozier said.

As of March 30, the district enrollment was down by 116 students to 9,032. The district receives funds from the state based on the number of students. The current base funding is \$2,425, with more allocated for students based on grade level and special

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COUNTY COUNCIL

NAACP calls for firings in wake of treasurer dispute

BY JIM HILLEY
COASTAL OBSERVER

Tensions remain high following accusations of rude and possibly racist behavior by Georgetown County Treasurer Allison Peteet. The allegations include that she verbally abused assistant auditor Jessie Duncan on several occasions and dismissed Sherrell Cruel from her job at the treasurer's office without just cause.

Duncan was formerly Peteet's superior at the auditor's office and Cruel was reportedly fired for refusing to sign a form accepting probationary status for her employment. Both of the affected county employees are black. Peteet is white.

Marvin Neal, the local NAACP branch president, blasted the County Council this week for not taking action against the treasurer. "Change the policy or fire the policymaker," Neal said, calling for the removal of County Administrator Sel Hemingway and



Charles Swenson/Coastal Observer

Marvin Neal

the council's help in having the governor remove Peteet from office.

Neal charged that Peteet had "totally disregarded the rights of county employees" by her actions.

"Georgetown County is still allowing blacks and people of color to be degraded by

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EDUCATION | Georgetown RISE

Internships provide lessons in sustainability

BY EMILY TOPPER
COASTAL OBSERVER

Sustainable development is on the agenda in Georgetown County, and the next generation of county leaders are already tackling the challenge head-on.

A group of Coastal Carolina University students spent the spring semester as interns for local government agencies and nonprofits in Georgetown County. They will be followed this summer by another group who will intern at area businesses.

The partnership with the Bunnelle Foundation is intended to foster sustainable development goals. "The sustainable development goal of encouraging youth development for a better planet means encouraging youth development for a better Georgetown County," said Pam Martin, a Coastal Carolina professor of politics and international relations who leads the program.

She also led the effort to have the county designated as a United Nations Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development. It has the backing of local government, nonprofits and universities. The



Tanya Ackerman/Coastal Observer

Breanna Dew, left, collaborates with Katelyn Montrief on their intern projects.

effort has shortened its name to Georgetown RISE, an acronym for resilience, innovation, sustainability and education.

The 15 interns get a stipend from the university in the form of course credit and \$1,250 from their employers. The Bunnelle Foundation sponsored four of the initial internships.

"Breaking into internships and partnering with Coastal Carolina University to bring more young people and more opportunity together in Georgetown County is what we're all about," said Geales Sands, the foundation's executive director. "We hope we are planting seeds, not only among these students,

that there are opportunities in Georgetown County, but also amongst the businesses that you can grow your own workforce."

Along with their internships, the students take a class on sustainable development goals. By meeting as a class, the students are able to share ideas and help each other with projects. "You may have one intern, but you probably have 15," Martin said.

At a recent class at the Coastal Carolina facility on Front Street in Georgetown, Martin asked students to share their biggest challenges and accomplishments from the prior two weeks. Some are organizing the upcoming Tour de Plantersville for the nonprofit Village Group. Others are working on sustainability projects and emergency preparedness. The goal of the class is for the students to create a network of resources, allowing their efforts to extend beyond their individual internships.

Katelyn Montrief, an intern with the town of Pawleys Island, has a passion for Excel spreadsheets. She's working on fundraising for the new Town Hall.

"They're engraving bricks

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Life at 3 mph: East Coast walk hopes to shed stigma from opioid victims.

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Environment: Anti-plastics campaign gives seal of approval to bakery.

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