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50 cents



Tanya Ackerman/Coastal Observer

A \$2 hourly fee at beach accesses would raise about \$200,000 a year, according to one estimate.

PAWLEYS ISLAND

Parking fee plan draws objection from Town Council member

BY CHARLES SWENSON
COASTAL OBSERVER

A proposed parking fee at beach accesses on Pawleys Island drew a blunt rebuke from a Town Council member last week. The town has been working to close a gap in its operating budget and

raise money for long-term beach nourishment. After checking into a variety of revenue-raising options an ad hoc committee was left with a parking fee estimated to raise about \$200,000 a year.

"Most of my life I didn't have property on this island, but it's always been my island," Coun-

cil Member Guerry Green said. "People that love Pawleys Island and people that have been here for generations are going to pay \$2 an hour?"

Josh Ricker, a resident who chairs the committee, came up with the proposal to install ticket
SEE "PARKING," PAGE 6

SCHOOLS | Coastal Montessori

Charter director cited board's conduct in resignation

BY CHRIS SOKOLOSKI
COASTAL OBSERVER

The director of Coastal Montessori Charter School resigned in January because she felt she was being undermined by the school's board of directors, according to internal documents.

Nathalie Hunt's tenure as director came to a quick end during a two-week period in January.

On Jan. 9, Hunt sent a letter to the school's board of directors expressing her concern that they were undermining her position.

The next day, she submitted her letter of resignation, effective June 30. She sent a copy to Georgetown County Schools Superintendent Randy Dozier. She also sent Dozier a copy of her Jan. 9 letter and a link to a survey the charter board asked staff to participate in on Jan. 7.

On Jan. 14, Hunt made her resignation public in the school's newsletter. "This decision was not easy," Hunt wrote. "I truly consider this school my first child."

On Jan. 26, the board informed the school district that

Hunt was no longer the director. Hunt's interactions with the board and Dozier were obtained from the school district under the state's Freedom of Information Act.

The district sponsors Coastal Montessori, which has its own board.

The charter board has not disclosed the reason for Hunt's departure. During a charter board meeting on Jan. 28 attended by about 30 people, chairman Ryan Fabbri said board members were shocked when Hunt wrote in the school newsletter that she was stepping down at the end of the school year.

"She put it in her statement," Fabbri said. "What you know is what we know."

He did say that the decision was not related to financial problems created when the district discovered it was overpaying the charter school under a formula established by state law.

Hunt was hired in 2013 as the charter school's second director and oversaw the move from a wing in Waccamaw Middle
SEE "CHARTER," PAGE 3

Town will seek share of surplus from county's capital sales tax

BY CHARLES SWENSON
COASTAL OBSERVER

The town of Pawleys Island will ask Georgetown County for a share of the estimated \$19 million surplus generated by a capital projects sales tax that will expire in May. The town wants to use the money for beach renourishment.

The town learned recently that it faces an additional \$1.2 million in costs for a renourishment project it expects to start this fall with the Army Corps of Engineers.

The project will pump up to 1.1 million cubic yards offshore sand onto the beach. The federal government will pay 65 percent of the cost for the work on the island's south end. The town will spend additional funds to extend the renourishment north to Second Street.

The town expected that the cost of mobilizing the equipment for the entire project would be covered by the federal funds.

SEE "BEACH," PAGE 6



Photos by Tanya Ackerman/Coastal Observer

Chili weather | The seventh annual chili cook-off for the Make-a-Wish Foundation drew about 1,500 people to the Village Shops. Teri Daley and Art Garcia, above, from Island Bar and Grill dish up 'Mazing Chili. Marc Baudet and Chace Thornton, below, won Judges' Choice for their chili and grilled cheese.



Tanya Ackerman/Coastal Observer

Over 9,000 addresses were added to the county since the 2010 census.

2020 CENSUS

Agency wants to make sure everybody gets counted

BY CHRIS SOKOLOSKI
COASTAL OBSERVER

Georgetown County has more than 9,000 new addresses that will get counted in the next census, which will begin April 1, 2020.

Chip Balthis, the county's geographic information system manager, spent a month last year comparing the list of addresses that the U.S. Census Bureau had from the 2010 census, with the most current list of addresses the county had. He put the two lists in an Excel spreadsheet and deleted the addresses that appeared on both. He was left with 9,473 addresses.

"I work with numbers a lot so it's just another month for me," Balthis said.

Balthis said if the Census Bureau has questions about any of the addresses they will contact the county this summer.

In 2010, the census put the county population at 60,158. A 2017 estimate put the number at 61,607.

Staff at the Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments spent almost three months updating the address list for Williamsburg County by comparing the 2010 census list with the list used by 911 and added about 3,000 addresses.

Tom Britton, planning director with Waccamaw Regional, said people who do not get mail service at their address will get a visit from a census taker who will either drop off a form or speak with the resident.
SEE "CENSUS," PAGE 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Q&A: Waccamaw High defends its title in the district Academic Bowl.

SECOND FRONT

Murrells Inlet: Appeals board lifts 2006 restriction to allow deck at restaurant.
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NONPROFITS | Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation

Slime sells! Student fundraising effort can't keep the gooey stuff in stock

BY CHRIS SOKOLOSKI
COASTAL OBSERVER

Coastal Montessori Charter School classrooms have been filled with slime this month, but it's for a good cause.

Sophia Kirk, 10, and her classmates have been selling the homemade stuff to raise money for a good cause: the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

"Everybody at the school likes slime so it's easy to raise money," Sophia said.

The fifth-grader was diagnosed with the disease in 2013 when she was 5. Sophia has Type 1 diabetes, which means her body doesn't produce insulin and she has to wear an insulin pump. There is currently no cure for the disease.
SEE "SLIME," PAGE 5



Tanya Ackerman/Coastal Observer

Bailey Porter, 9, Anna Burrow, 10, Sophia Kirk, 10, and GG Smith, 11, make slime in the Kirk family garage.