

COASTAL OBSERVER

Vol. XXXVIII No. 22

Pawleys Island, South Carolina ~ November 21, 2019

50 cents

ELECTION 2019

Weaver raises \$142K in campaign for sheriff

BY CHARLES SWENSON
COASTAL OBSERVER

Carter Weaver has spent more than twice as much as his opponent in his race to remain Georgetown County sheriff. And the former assistant sheriff has over \$122,000 on hand as he approaches the Dec. 3 Republican Party primary with Darryl Carr, a former deputy.

The winner of the GOP primary will be the only candidate on the ballot for February's special election to fill the unexpired term of Lane Cribb, who died in September after 27 years as sheriff.

The county Board of Voter Registration and Elections sent a letter Wednesday to the county and state Democratic Party chairs saying that their candidate, Birt Adams, failed to file his affidavit of qualifications on time. State law requires candidates for sheriff to have law enforcement experience.

"We won't put his name on the February ballot," said Dean Smith, who chairs the county election board.

The county attorney and the attorney for the state Election Commission agreed with the decision, he said.

Weaver, who has been acting sheriff since Cribb's death, has spent \$19,752 on the race, his first run for public office. Carr has spent \$9,727, according to filings with the state Ethics Commission.

Carr has funded his campaign himself, according to the filings.

Weaver has raised \$142,085 from 372 donors.

"Obviously, a lot of people in Georgetown County feel I'm the best candidate," Weaver said. "I'm pleased the followed up with a donation."

He got \$1,000 donations from 74 donors, 20 percent of the total.

"Money is extremely important in a campaign," Weaver said, but he added "it means nothing if you cannot equate that to a vote."

Carr, who has run for sheriff twice as a Democrat and once as a petition candidate, said he is "going door-to-door doing grassroots campaigning."

He said the response has been good. Voters he as talked to "want change. They feel the sheriff's office needs change."

Carr resigned from the
SEE "ELECTION," PAGE 2



Photos by Tanya Ackerman/Coastal Observer

Up, up and away
Waccamaw Intermediate students see their dreams soar during a visit from a RE/MAX balloon last week. It is one of 110 in the real estate company fleet. Students nominated teachers and staff for flights. Above, Charles Reed, the building manager, goes aloft. At right, Jordan Kennington, an intern, joins Jessica Mueller, a fourth-grade teacher, and pilot Tom Lattin, who later gave a talk on the history of flight. Below, Jaden Moody, 12, captures the thrill of liftoff.



PAWLEYS ISLAND

Town puts hold on tax bill for beach

BY CHARLES SWENSON
COASTAL OBSERVER

The newly-elected Town Council this week scrapped plans to change state law to allow Pawleys Island to collect a property tax to fund beach renourishment. Instead, the council agreed to review all its options to raise money for future projects.

A contractor has pumped about 100,000 cubic yards of offshore sand on to the island's south end beach in the last month, part of a \$14.3 million renourishment project that will extend 3 miles north to Third Street. The town is funding the project with \$6.1 million accumulated from local accommodations tax, a \$2.8 million loan and a grant from the state.

Pawleys Island doesn't have a municipal property tax, and it cannot create one to fund operations without approval of the state legislature. The town hired a Columbia law firm to craft an amendment to state law that would allow a "coastal municipality" to adopt a property tax for beach renourishment and exempt it from the state's cap on tax rates. The idea was the only one to emerge from an ad hoc finance committee that looked at ways to fund beach projects.

But changing state law would
SEE "PAWLEYS," PAGE 4

Council candidate won't appeal election ruling

BY CHARLES SWENSON
COASTAL OBSERVER

A candidate for Pawleys Island Town Council will not appeal a decision by the county elections board to dismiss his protest.

"It's really disappointing that, based on the votes of residents, I won by 12 votes," said Josh Rickner, who finished fifth in the race for four council seats.

He was referring to the votes cast at the poll on Nov. 5, which gave him a 66-54 lead over Guerry Green, who was seeking a second term.

SEE "ELECTION," PAGE 3

ENVIRONMENT | USC's Baruch Institute turns 50

Education seen as critical in addressing climate change

BY CHARLES SWENSON
COASTAL OBSERVER

Education is the key to dealing with a changing climate, according to the head of the federal agency responsible for coastal science. "I think the top-down solution ultimately starts with the bottom-up solution in the education process," said Neal Jacobs, acting administrator of NOAA.

And that includes the University of South Carolina's Baruch Institute for Marine and Coastal Scientists, where Jacobs was once a student and was among the speakers on hand to mark the institute's 50th anniversary over the weekend. "I am definitely a friend of Baruch," where NOAA funds the North Inlet-Winyah Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, he said.

The reserve, one of 39 in the country, is headquartered with the institute's field lab on Hobcaw Barony. "It's the site I basically grew up on," Jacobs said, calling it "a living laboratory to study the effects of both the natural causes and human-induced causes on the environment."

Jacobs became assistant secretary of commerce for environmental observation and predic-

tion last year. This year he was named acting administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

He earned a bachelor's degree in physics and math at USC, but had a minor in marine biology. He earned a doctorate in atmospheric science at N.C. State.

"My true passion is surfing," Jacobs said. "I realized real quick that if I wanted to figure out when the waves were going to be good I had to understand air-sea interaction, ocean swells. It's really just applied math."

He did research at the Baruch Marine Lab from 1992 through 1994 as an undergraduate.

"There are not a lot of universities that have that kind of research experience at the undergraduate level. I can't tell you how critical that is," Jacobs said.

While the institute acquired an international reputation over five decades, equally important is its collection of data that is approaching 40 years, said Dennis Allen, who retired this year after 40 years as director of the lab.

SEE "BARUCH," PAGE 2



Neil Jacobs, center, tours a monitoring station on North Inlet with Erik Smith, second from right, the reserve manager.

Tanya Ackerman/
Coastal Observer

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

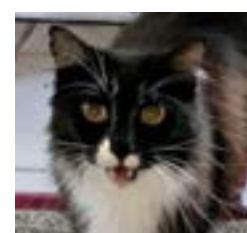


Breakfast casts a spell: The Waccamaw High Acting Troupe puts on a show for children of all ages.

SECOND FRONT

Pets: Suffering succotash! The search continues for Sylvester, a cat that disappeared as mysteriously as it arrived.

PAGE 7



Note to our readers: The Nov. 28 edition will go to press a day early to accommodate printing and postal schedules for Thanksgiving.

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Crime..... | 9 |
| Opinion..... | 10 |
| Crossword..... | 14 |
| What's On..... | 15 |
| Classifieds..... | 16 |
| Sports..... | 18 |

Online
coastalobserver.com

