

PAWLEYS ISLAND

Two owners endorse plan for historic preservation

BY CHARLES SWENSON  
COASTAL OBSERVER

If Bruce Bailey decides to paint the Pawley House green, he hopes the town of Pawleys Island will stop him.

The house was built in the late 18th or early 19th century and is one of nine historic properties that the town Planning Commission wants to protect.

Town Council said the idea needs further review, particularly since historic preservation came on the heels of the creation of an architectural review board that must approve plans for new houses.

Bailey and his wife bought the Pawleys House, also known as the Joseph Blyth Allston House, in 2013 as a second home and have since made it their primary residence. He understands that people want to use their property as they see fit, but he said historic properties are different.

"We wouldn't want that for the Pawley House," Bailey said. "There should be an exception that you don't change the character of the island."

Bailey and Connie Bull, whose family owns Liberty Lodge, met with the commission last week and endorsed the idea of historic preservation.

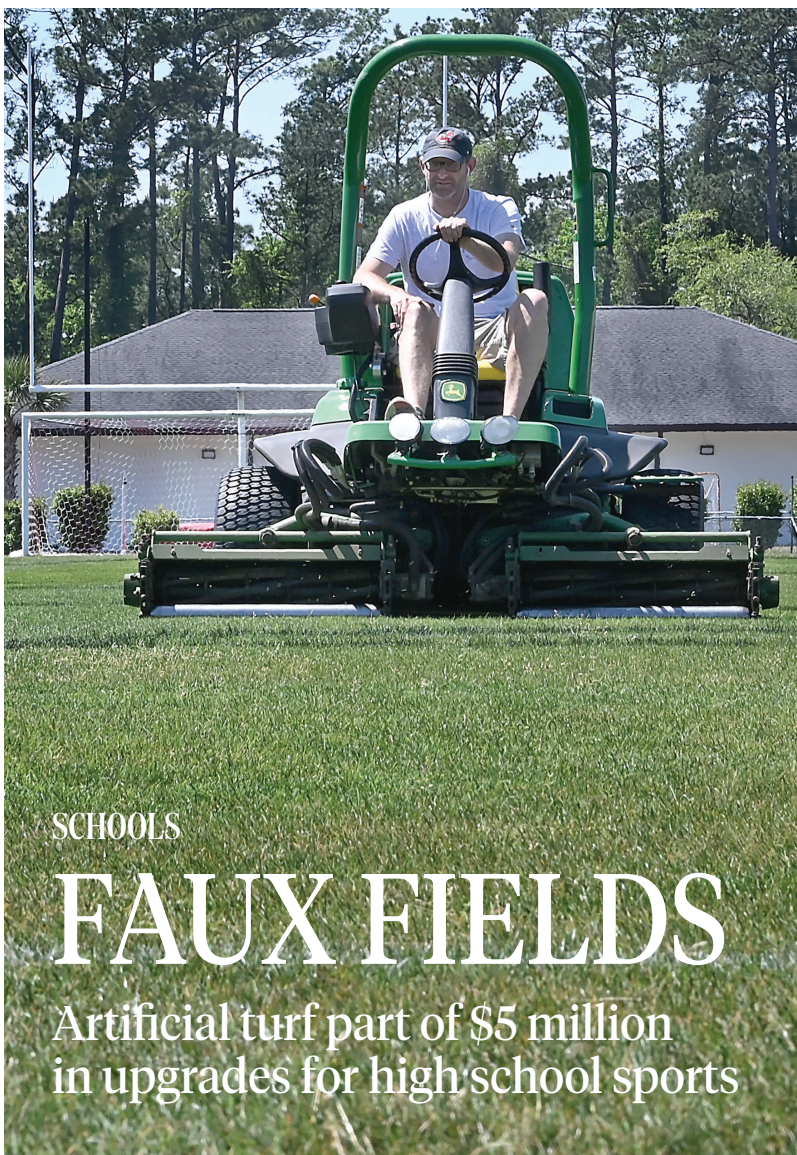
Liberty Lodge, also known as the Joshua John Ward House, and the Pawley House contain some of the oldest architectural elements on the island, according to Katherine Richardson, the historian whose work was the basis of historic markers placed at eight sites.

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Charles Swenson/Coastal Observer

Roman numerals mark location of pegs in the beams under the Pawley House, one of the oldest on the island.



SCHOOLS  
FAUX FIELDS  
Artificial turf part of \$5 million in upgrades for high school sports

Charles Swenson/Coastal Observer

At Waccamaw High, eight teams play on the field in the spring.

BY CHRIS SOKOLOSKI  
COASTAL OBSERVER

The football fields at Georgetown County's four high schools are being converted from grass to synthetic turf.

"I think it's a very visible addition to each of our high school campuses," Superintendent Keith Price said. "It's something our community can be proud of and it's going to touch each corner of our attendance area."

Waccamaw and Georgetown have the most varsity and junior varsity sports teams that use the football field in the spring, so their stadiums will be converted by the fall of 2022. Andrews and Carvers Bay will be completed by fall of 2023.

Tyronne Davis, the district's assistant superintendent for facilities and transportation, said conversion work will start right after graduation and take about 90 days. That will likely mean the Warriors and Bulldogs football teams will have to play games on the road at the beginning of the 2022 season. Playing home games at Andrews or Carvers Bay is also an option.

Each field costs between \$850,000 and \$900,000 and comes with a 10-year warranty, Davis said.

The work is part of a \$5 million upgrade to sports facilities that will be paid for with funds from a \$165 million bond referendum approved by voters in 2016.

Waccamaw football coach Amondre Johnson appreciates everything the district has done to upgrade athletic facilities in the past few years.

"I think it's going to be more efficient for us as far as field maintenance," Johnson said. "I think it's also going to draw a lot of attention to the county and our schools. It's more appealing for outside resources to come and want to play on turf."

Chris Bergeron, Waccamaw's boys lacrosse coach, said the new turf will make for a "better game experience," especially since the lacrosse balls will have "true" bounces.

"The tempo gets a little faster because the ball runs a little faster and kids can run a little faster on a pure synthetic surface," Bergeron said. "You don't have

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BEACHES

Group asks court to block groin project during permit appeal

BY CHARLES SWENSON  
COASTAL OBSERVER

An environmental group has asked the state Court of Appeals to halt a proposed beach renourishment project at DeBordieu until it rules on a challenge to the state's permit for the work.

The DeBordieu Colony Community Association plans to start work next month on a project that will place up to 650,000 cubic yards of offshore sand on 1.5 miles of beach and construct three rock and concrete groins to help hold the sand in place.

The Coastal Conservation League says the project doesn't meet the state law that allows groins to be built only in areas where the erosion rate is high and where structures are threatened by that erosion.

A state Administrative Law Court judge upheld the permit in January. The league appealed that decision. The group then asked Judge Ralph K. Anderson III to stay the permit for groin



Chris Sokoloski/Coastal Observer

The beach in front of the DeBordieu seawall is impassible at high tide.

construction until the Appeals Court can rule.

Anderson ruled last month that the \$1 million letter of credit that DeBordieu is required to obtain for remediation of any impacts from the groins is sufficient to pay for their removal if the

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LAND USE

Hagley tract proposed for mixed-use development

BY CHARLES SWENSON  
COASTAL OBSERVER

A proposal to add 16 townhouses to a dormant commercial development along Highway 17 would be the first time that commercial property has been converted to residential use in Hagley Estates since the area was first developed in the 1960s.

The Planning Commission will hold a hearing today on a request to change the "planned development" zoning of the site to allow residential use.

"So far there has been no residential use of the commercial properties facing 17," said Tom Stickler, president of the Hagley Estates Property Owners Association. "This would be the first time."

The 2.5 acres is just north of the Quality Inn and faces the

ninth hole of the Founders Club golf course. The site was approved as a commercial planned development in 2000 for Winyah Concrete. It allows up to 20,215 square feet of office space.

The property is owned by Darryl Price of Murrells Inlet, who bought the property through a partnership in 2006.

"The PD has received numerous extensions at the request of the owner," Holly Richardson, the county planning director, noted in her report to the Planning Commission.

In 2010, the state Supreme Court ruled that planned developments, which are zoning districts with their own rules, must be a mix of residential and commercial uses.

"This project is being revised conceptually for the purpose

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HOUSING | Oak Tree Farm

Inlet-based nonprofit fills need for independent living

BY CHRIS SOKOLOSKI  
COASTAL OBSERVER

Horry County is bursting at the seams with new homes, but only one neighborhood is geared toward people with disabilities.

Oak Tree Farm is currently home to five residents between the ages of 25 and 35, but within the next few years that number could be closer to 100.

The development, near Conway High School, is a project of SOS Care, a Murrells Inlet-based nonprofit serving children and adults with autism and intellectual disabilities.

"Most people with disabilities are living at home forever," SOS Care CEO Sarah Pope said. "There's no plan in our nation for what happens to people with disabilities. There's a plan for every other population that needs caregivers, like seniors."

Justin Borrero, left, Mark Flannery and Lee Neatherly in the living room of their home at Oak Tree Farm.

Chris Sokoloski/Coastal Observer

The first five residents moved into the house in late-January. It's the first time any of the men have ever lived on their own.

"I like living independently and learning to live independently and the camaraderie that we have here," said Mark Flannery, a resident. "We get to hang out, we get to make meals together or we get to go to the park or the gym."

"I've never lived on my own, so being out here for the first time, living on my own, being able to depend on the other guys and have them depend on me, and

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