

# COASTAL OBSERVER

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## SCHOOLS

### Free meals for everyone will end at 3 Waccamaw cafeterias

BY CHRIS SOKOLOSKI  
COASTAL OBSERVER

The days of free meals for all students at every school in the county are over.

Students at Waccamaw Intermediate, Waccamaw Middle, Waccamaw High and Georgetown High schools who don't qualify for free meals will once again have to pay.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Department of Agriculture waived all fees for meals. That waiver expired on July 1.

"We really battled and fought at the state level, and national level in school nutrition to try to get those waivers extended," said Brent Streett, the district's executive director of food service. "It's been two years. How are you going to ask people to come back now after two years to start paying for lunch again?"

Students at the 14 other schools in the district will still eat free under the federal government's Community Eligibility Provision, which the district has participated in for about a decade.

Streett stressed that the district would never refuse to give a child food because their family couldn't and didn't pay. There are also no plans to follow some other districts that give different food, like a peanut butter and

SEE "MEALS," PAGE 2

## Check, please

Here is the cost for meals in the Georgetown County public schools for the coming year.

**\$1.25**

Breakfast

Reduced breakfast: 30 cents

**\$2**

Elementary and intermediate lunch

**\$2.25**

Middle and high lunch  
Reduced lunch: 40 cents

**\$2.50:** Adult breakfast  
**\$4:** Adult lunch



Photos by Charles Swenson/Coastal Observer

Megan Stackhouse leads the march along Highway 17.

## ELECTION 2022

### Abortion ruling fuels march for pro-choice candidates

BY CHARLES SWENSON  
COASTAL OBSERVER

Megan Stackhouse didn't consider the weather when she organized a march in support of abortion rights.

She led a group of 25 people carrying signs and chanting

"my body, my choice" through the midday heat as they trekked just over a mile along Highway 17 through Pawleys Island.

"If you're angry, the heat doesn't matter," Stackhouse, 19, said. "You've got to get out there and march."

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Jessica Newell staged a counter protest. Scott Brown stood in her way.

## LAND USE

### Plans call for 109 units in townhouse projects at Parkersville sites

BY CHARLES SWENSON  
COASTAL OBSERVER

There are 36 vacant tracts larger than 7 acres on the Waccamaw Neck that would be subject to a proposal under review by Georgetown County to reduce the density of residential development. A Charleston developer is proposing a total of 109 townhouses on two of those sites in the Parkersville community.

The projects on 6.9 acres off Petigru Drive and 7.9 acres off Parkersville Road will be up for review by the Planning Com-

mission this month. Because the property is already zoned "general residential," which allows multi-family units, the commission's review is to ensure projects comply with county regulations.

The Parkersville Road project shows 56 two-story, three-bedroom townhouses, the maximum number allowed.

There are 53 townhouses proposed for the Petigru Drive project in two phases. That is three less than the maximum.

Under a proposed change to the "general residential" zoning

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## ENVIRONMENT

### Goals grow for county plan to protect natural resources

BY CHARLES SWENSON  
COASTAL OBSERVER

Restrictions on single-use plastics along with limits on pesticides and fertilizers are among the ideas added to Georgetown County's plan for maintaining and enhancing its natural resources following comments from citizens groups. It also calls on the county to consider a committee review large-scale developments to assess their impact on natural resources before they get review by the Planning Commission.

The draft plan recommends a 50-foot buffer between wetlands and adjacent development as part of an ordinance to protect the critical habitat. It recommends extending tree protections to longleaf pines. And it calls for creating more access to the county's beaches and waterways.

"At least 90 percent of this is fresh, new information," said Matt Millwood, the senior planner who has been working on the draft.

Natural resources is one of 10 required elements in the comprehensive plan that local governments are mandated by state law to adopt. Georgetown County is updating its plan. The current natural resources element was approved in 2010.



Charles Swenson/Coastal Observer

A 50-foot buffer is recommended between development and wetlands.

The county is also at work on the land-use element, which dates from 2007. That process started in 2019, but was delayed by the pandemic and then paused after complaints about a lack of public input. A survey of land-use issues conducted by the planning staff last year found that natural resources were considered the county's more important feature by 96 percent of respondents and that nearly

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## PRINCE GEORGE | The challenge to renourishment

### Agency seeks to dismiss suit over town's beach project

BY CHARLES SWENSON  
COASTAL OBSERVER

A state agency has moved in Circuit Court to dismiss claims from Prince George property owners that a beach renourishment project on Pawleys Island caused erosion on their beachfront.

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism helped fund the \$14.8 million project, which was completed in the spring of 2020. It was named along with the town of Pawleys Island, the state Department of Health and Environmental Control and two private firms in a suit filed in May by Bud and Melissa Watts seeking to have Pawleys Inlet restored to its location

before the renourishment as well as payment for damages.

In a motion filed last week, attorneys for PRT said the couple failed to follow the procedure outlined in state law for challenging the permit for the renourishment that was issued in 2018. They also waited too long to file suit, the agency said.

"Because Plaintiffs did not challenge the permit at issue in this case and do not allege that they challenged said permit in the Complaint, their claims are therefore barred for failing to exhaust their administrative remedies," according to PRT's filing.

It said the Wattses knew of the purported damage to their property.

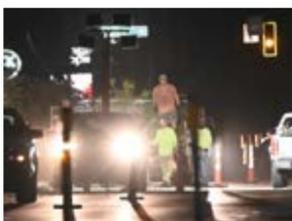
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Charles Swenson/Coastal Observer

Pawleys Inlet migrated south by 300 feet in the two years following the renourishment.

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