

# COASTAL OBSERVER

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## School superintendent will leave for Midlands district

BY CHRIS SOKOLOSKI  
COASTAL OBSERVER

Georgetown County School Superintendent Keith Price was named this week as the superintendent-elect of the Lexington County 1 School District.

"It's a great opportunity but also bittersweet to be saying goodbye to so many great people, colleagues and friends that I've made in my time here. It's a bundle of emotions," Price said. "My experience in my four years here has been so rewarding and I'm so

### By the numbers

GEORGETOWN

19 schools

546 teachers

8,429 students

LEXINGTON 1

31 schools

1,901 teachers

28,031 students



blessed to have been able to be here."

"We regret that Keith Price is leaving us," School Board Chairman Bill Gaskins said. "He has done so many great things for the Georgetown County School District. Lexington 1 is fortunate to have him."

Board Member Lynne Ford said it is a loss for the district because he has done so much.

"I value the work and effort that Mr. Price has given to us these past four years, and I've enjoyed working with him," she added. "In my travels across

the state, I have observed that Mr. Price is held in high regard among his peers and other educators. I pray for his continued success in his next endeavors with the Lexington 1 School District."

Gaskins said the board was preparing a formal statement.

Price will work for a year with Gerita Postlewait, Lexington 1's current superintendent, and then take over for her in July 2025. Postlewait is the former Horry County superintendent.

"I think it will be invaluable to SEE "SCHOOLS," PAGE 3



Charles Swenson/Coastal Observer

Rock groins covered by sand after a renourishment in 2020 are starting to emerge along the Pawleys Island beachfront.

### PAWLEYS ISLAND | Rebuilding the beach

## Town lays the groundwork for new easements

BY CHARLES SWENSON  
COASTAL OBSERVER

Pawleys Island Town Council this week took the first step toward acquiring three easements it needs to be eligible for federal funds to renourish 1.3 miles of beach on the island's south end.

Mayor Brian Henry said he hopes the town, the Army Corps of Engineers and three property owners who challenged the easements in court can reach an agreement to let the project move forward.

"This is the best way forward," he said.

The easements are required by the Corps for construction and maintenance of the renourished beach. As a federal project, the south end of the island will be eligible for funding to repair storm damage and place sand on the beach periodically over 45 years.

The town completed a \$14.8 million renourishment project in 2020 using its own funds and a state grant. It later signed an agreement to allow the Corps to participate with installation of dune plants and sand fencing on the south end, which made it a federal project.

But the town needed ease-

ments from 113 beachfront property owners. It had 110. It tried to condemn the three easements in 2020, even though they were not required for the town-funded project. The property owners succeeded in having the condemnation quashed in Circuit Court. Appeals are still pending over the award of legal fees granted to the property owners and whether the court should have allowed them to continue to seek an order enjoining future condemnations.

The resolution adopted this week sets four criteria the council will use in deciding whether to condemn the easements in

the future:

- whether the project can be done and funded by the federal government without the easements;
- whether the cost of acquiring the easements will be less than the amount of federal funding;
- whether the easement area required by the Corps "is reasonably necessary";
- whether the language required by the Corps' standard easement could be altered in a way that would be acceptable to all parties.

"No single factor shall be SEE "PAWLEYS," PAGE 2

### SALES TAX

## County trims \$20M from request for dredging

BY CHARLES SWENSON  
COASTAL OBSERVER

The biggest project proposed for a share of a capital projects sales tax got a little smaller this week.

Georgetown County doesn't need \$21 million to dredge channels in Murrells Inlet.

"That number now is \$1 million," Ray Funnye, the county director of Public Services, said.

He told the Capital Project Sales Tax Commission that numbers were transposed on the application.

The change drops the total amount of requests to under \$200 million. When applications were received earlier this month, they topped \$250 million.

Requests from Coast RTA for buses and from the town of Pawleys Island for solar powered trash bins were ruled ineligible because they were not considered infrastructure.

The county submitted permit applications last year to state and federal agencies to dredge over 750,000 cubic yards of material from 16.5 miles of creeks and canals in Murrells Inlet to improve boat SEE "SALES TAX," PAGE 4

### PALMETTO GIVING DAY | Fellowship of Christian Athletes

## Teens living their faith out loud

BY CHRIS SOKOLOSKI  
COASTAL OBSERVER

Every Thursday about three dozen Waccamaw High School students gather in Chris Overbeek's classroom to eat lunch and share their faith.

"I just love it because it's so cool to see these kids at this age, with all the insecurities kids have, living their faith and being bold enough to do that," said Overbeek, boys basketball coach and faculty advisor for the school's chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. "It's just remarkable."

The goal of FCA is to serve communities around the globe by "engaging, equipping and empowering coaches and athletes to unite, inspire and change the world through the Gospel."

The school's FCA leadership team meets on Mondays to figure out what the discussion will be that week. Lunch meetings



Chris Sokoloski/Coastal Observer

Fields of Faith moved into the Waccamaw High School gym last year because of bad weather.

start with one student giving a message, followed by worship and prayer.

Overbeek said students pick a topic they're passionate about and then find Bible verses to back it up.

"It tends to be teenage related. Things like anxiety and stress," he added. "We touch on a lot of different subjects."

Todd Harms represents FCA at Waccamaw High and Middle SEE "FCA," PAGE 3

### ENVIRONMENT

## Wetland consultant's claim of investigation disputed by Corps email

BY CHARLES SWENSON  
COASTAL OBSERVER

A property owner on Pawleys Creek refuted claims made to Georgetown County Council last week that a wetlands violation on her property is under investigation.

Kathy Reid said the claim made by a partner in the wetlands consulting firm who worked on a proposed development next to her home was false.

That was confirmed by an email sent by the project manager in the Conway office of the Army Corps of Engineers.

"You are not under any kind of investigation," Jennifer Roberts told Reid and her husband, Don.

That contradicted Charles

Oates, a partner in the Brigman Co., who told the council "the violation being investigated is actually on her property."

Reid and Oates were among several people who spoke to County Council in advance of its vote to rezone a portion of 19 acres between Pawleys Creek to allow a 27-lot development. The property is currently shown on the future land use map as "conservation preservation" although 8.3 acres of uplands are zoned for residential and commercial use. The rest of the property is marsh.

The council is due to give final reading next week to a zoning change that will create a "flexible design district" on the upland property and change the future land use map SEE "WETLANDS," PAGE 2

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE



**On a roll:** The Vibe Time festival had people flipping for Onewheel skateboards. **SECOND FRONT**



**Festivals:** Arts Under the Oaks attracted humans and canines. **PAGE 8**



**Sports:** WHS baseball team one win away from region title. **PAGE 12**

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