

# COASTAL OBSERVER

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## District names interim as superintendent search begins

BY CHRIS SOKOLOSKI  
COASTAL OBSERVER

The Georgetown County School Board named deputy superintendent Bethany Giles as the district's interim superintendent this week.

"The board is confident in Dr. Giles' ability to serve as interim superintendent," School

Board Chairman Bill Gaskins said in a statement. "She is very familiar with GCSD, and we look forward to working with her as we move through



Bethany Giles

this transition period and work to identify the next permanent superintendent."

Giles will take over for Keith Price on July 1, which is the first day of the 2024-25 school year. Price is leaving to become the superintendent-elect of the Richland 1 School District.

The board also approved a contract with the S.C. School

Boards Association to find and identify candidates as Price's successor – both within the district and outside the district – for the board to consider.

Scott Price of the school boards association, who is no relation to the current superintendent, told the board he expects the work to cost \$15,000, plus up to another \$7,000 for

administrative costs.

The district plans to seek input from employees, families, students and the community about the next superintendent.

The board hopes to name the next superintendent by the end of October.

Giles is a graduate of Andrews High School who joined  
**SEE "SCHOOLS," PAGE 4**



Charles Swenson/Coastal Observer

WACCAMAW HIGH SPORTS | Soccer playoffs

## Two tickets to state championship

Boys break through for first title challenge as girls return to defend their 2023 title

BY CHRIS SOKOLOSKI  
COASTAL OBSERVER

Eleven times in the last 23 years the Waccamaw High School boys soccer team advanced to the Lower State final and lost.

The 12th time was the charm as the Warriors beat Hanahan 3-1 on Monday and will play for the Class 3A state title on Friday. That will be right after Waccamaw's girls play for their second straight state soccer title.

"It's a relief," boys' coach Joel Sapp said. "It's about time."

"It's something we've been waiting for all four years," said Trey Jones, one of the team's 12 seniors. "It's probably the best feeling in my life."

"It feels absolutely amazing. Words can't describe it," said Truman Miller, a senior. "We've been working so hard towards it these past three years, it feels so great to finally be here."

Sapp was a member of the first Waccamaw boys soccer team to play for a Lower State title in 2001. He was also a player, assistant coach or head coach for 10 of the other losses.

Waccamaw's girls beat Camden 7-3 in the Lower State final on Tuesday.

"It's awesome. This is special," Warriors coach Mark Sanchez said. "I told the girls, 'I did not want it to end here.' If we're going to lose our

**SEE "SOCCER," PAGE 2**



Chris Sokoloski/Coastal Observer

Chris Jones, top center, opens the score in the Lower State title match. Above, the girls celebrate their return to the state finals.

SALES TAX

## County considers bond issue to speed projects

BY CHARLES SWENSON  
COASTAL OBSERVER

With voter approval, work on tens of millions of dollars of capital projects could start sooner rather than later. The commission that is due to present a list of projects to County Council this month is also expected to recommend that the county issue bonds to fund some of the work.

That's a change from the proposal outlined last year, when the capital projects sales tax was seen as a pay-as-you-go proposition. It is expected to generate about \$10 million a year and the revenue would be applied to projects in the order they appear on a referendum ballot that will be placed before voters in November.

The county received 63 requests for a share of the tax revenue totaling more than \$200 million. A six-member commission began meeting in January to solicit projects, rank them and draft the ballot question.

The commission members are due to review their preliminary rankings at a virtual meeting Friday.

"We've got lots of agreement at the top," said Mark Hawn, who chairs the commission. "There's a ton of debate to have in the middle."

The county staff was still reviewing the results at midweek.

By issuing bonds, the county may also be able to fund more projects because it will reduce the impact of inflation.

**SEE "SALES TAX," PAGE 4**

LAND USE | Updating the comprehensive plan

## Changing maps raise questions about the future

BY CHARLES SWENSON  
COASTAL OBSERVER

Heavy equipment started work this spring clearing 8.8 acres at the corner of Martin Luther King Road and Petigru Drive for a 22-lot subdivision.

Seen from the street, it's an example of the growth that many residents feel is overwhelming the community.

Seen from the proposed maps that show how the area will grow in the future, it's a sign of growth yet to come.

A draft of Georgetown County's future land use maps proposes changing the designation of that tract and a handful of adjacent lots from "medium



This tract on Petigru Drive, now being developed with 22 single family homes, is shown in the future as suited to a mix of residential and commercial uses.

Charles Swenson/Coastal Observer

density residential" to "village center."

The current designation indicates the area is suitable for 2.1 to 5 dwellings an acre. The development under way by the national homebuilder Toll Brothers will have 3.9 units an acre.

As a village center, a  
**SEE "LAND USE," PAGE 3**

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE



**Special days:** Two nonprofits let people with disabilities show off their skills.  
**SECOND FRONT**



**Mothers Day:** Moms celebrate their child's independence.  
**PAGE 8**



**Sports:** WHS golf team finishes third at Lower State.  
**PAGE 10**

Obituaries ..... 2  
Crime..... 5  
Opinion ..... 6  
Crossword ..... 10  
Classifieds ..... 11  
Property transfers ..... 12  
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