

COASTAL OBSERVER

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Photos by Charles Swenson/Coastal Observer

PAWLEYS ISLAND | Rebuilding the pier

Damaged in 2022, replacement not expected until late in 2026

BY CHARLES SWENSON
COASTAL OBSERVER

Work to replace the Pawleys Pier that was damaged in 2022 by Hurricane Ian isn't expected to start until after the 2025 tourist season. And it isn't expected to be completed until the end of 2026.

"It's amazingly detailed and complicated," said John Felton, a member of the board at Pawleys Pier Village, which owns the structure.

The private community is seeking federal and state permits for the work. The state
SEE "PIER," PAGE 4



Owners inspect the shortened pier after Hurricane Ian. At top, broken pilings at the end of the pier. The replacement will be the fourth pier to occupy the site on Pawleys Island.

LAND USE | Inlet Point South

Rezoning of water plant site prompts second suit from neighbors

BY CHARLES SWENSON
COASTAL OBSERVER

Two property owners at Litchfield Beach who went to court to challenge a zoning change in their neighborhood filed a second suit this week against their community association claiming it failed in its duties by not opposing the change.

Ray Tanner and Salty Rims LLC, owners of two marshfront homes at Inlet Point South, say the zoning change to allow two new homes will block their ocean view and reduce the value of their homes by at least

\$100,000, according to court filings.

The Inlet Point South Community Association "has, without notice or a formal vote, allowed the plan to convert the land to residential lots for two new houses to proceed uninhibited," according to the suit filed in Circuit Court. It says four of the five association board members had a conflict of interest because they would benefit from the sale of those lots.

Georgetown County Council approved a change to the Inlet Point South "planned development" zoning in 2023 to

allow a tract used for a water treatment plant to be used as two homesites. Tanner, who is the athletics director at the University of South Carolina, and Salty Rims, filed suit earlier this year to overturn the rezoning.

A hearing in the zoning suit is scheduled today on a motion from the property owners to force the county to turn over records from the 1980s when the planned development was created. The owners claim in court documents that those records don't exist.

They say the planned development could not be amended
SEE "SUIT," PAGE 5

EDUCATION

District cellphone ban has positive impact, principals tell board

BY CHRIS SOKOLOSKI
COASTAL OBSERVER

Since the Georgetown County School District started restricting the use of personal electronic devices at the start of the school year, only 200 students have faced disciplinary action.

"That's pretty good, I would say, for a first semester rollout," Superintendent Bethany Giles told the school board this week.

Of those 200 students, only 50 were involved in more than one incident.

A proviso in this year's state budget bans students from having "personal electronic communication devices" during the school day, which is usually defined as being between the tardy bell and the dismissal bell.

If the district did not adopt and enforce a policy, it was at risk of losing its state funding.

Waccamaw Intermediate School principal Travis Klatka,



Charles Swenson/Coastal Observer

The district this year required students to put away all electronic devices during the school day.

who was representing elementary school principals, told the board the implementation has "gone well."

SEE "PHONES," PAGE 2

PAWLEYS ISLAND

Town approves design for new beach house next to historic home

BY CHARLES SWENSON
COASTAL OBSERVER

A new home that drew inspiration from the 1940s beach house that it will replace won approval from the Pawleys Island Architectural Review Board, but still drew criticism for bringing a modern look to the island's historic district.

An earlier version was rejected by the board in September, the first to face that fate since the town adopted architectural guidelines for new houses in 2021.

The house is one of two on a lot at 520 Myrtle Ave. The other is the 19th century Liberty Lodge. The owners, Brian and Stacy Inskeep, got a variance to replace the 1940s structure in exchange for preserving the façade of Liberty Lodge, one of nine structures included in a district listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

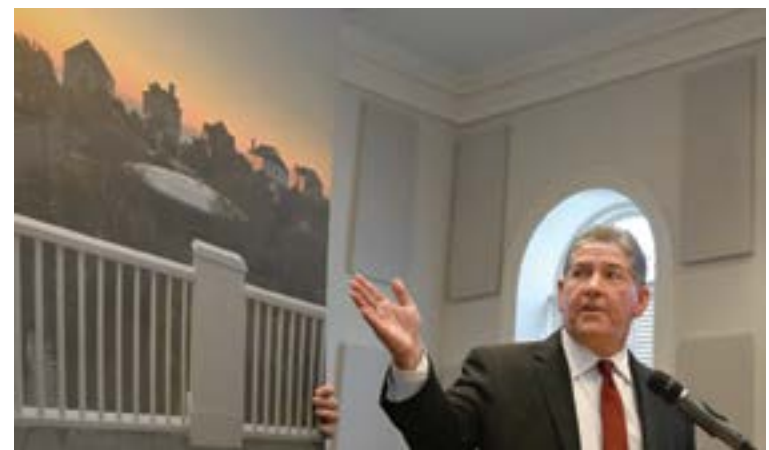
The old house, known as Port Arthur, was demolished over the objection of several members of the Planning Commission, who have been working to protect the National Register houses and others that reflect "the Pawleys look."

The ARB decided in September that the new house didn't have that look, and they were concerned that the house was larger than the structure allowed under the variance approved by the Board of Zoning Appeals in April.

Lina Marcantoni, who designed the new house, removed some architectural elements, such as brackets that supported porches and roof overhangs, and simplified the roof lines in the revised plan.

She showed the review board photos of Port Arthur and renderings of the new house.

"We're taking all those
SEE "ARB," PAGE 4



Charles Swenson/Coastal Observer

Ray Tanner shows County Council in March 2023 how the rezoning will alter his view.

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