

# COASTAL OBSERVER

Vol. XLIII No. 31

Pawleys Island, South Carolina ~ January 9, 2025

\$1.50



Photos by Charles Swenson/Coastal Observer

Paving and marked spaces at the south end of Pawleys Island. Below, a tennis ball awaits its owner in a new handicapped-accessible walkway.

## BEACHES

### New look for popular access

BY CHARLES SWENSON  
COASTAL OBSERVER

The parking lot has stood for decades on the shifting sands at the south end of Pawleys Island where the Atlantic Ocean and Pawleys Creek flow around, and occasionally over, it. Since the start of the new year, the lot has offered a firmer footing.

"It's a big improvement," said Karin Canjura, who came with her family from New York to stay at Litchfield Plantation over the holidays.

She pointed to her bare feet. "I wouldn't have done this before," she said. The parking lot is now paved.

The work was part of a \$417,133 upgrade by Georgetown County, which has owned the property at the end of Springs Avenue since 1969. It was paid for by a combination of federal disaster funds and the county's road user fee.

Along with asphalt and pervious concrete

SEE "BEACH," PAGE 2



The lot before renovations in September, left, and this month.

## MURRELLS INLET

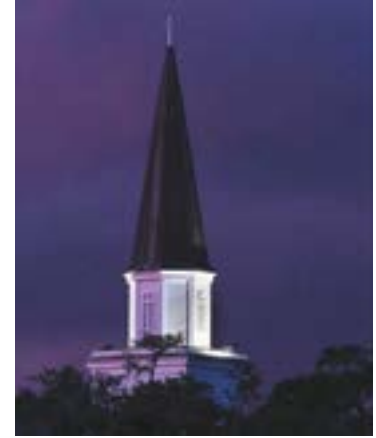
### At Belin centennial, members debate split with United Methodists

BY CHRIS SOKOLOSKI  
COASTAL OBSERVER

A ruling by the Judicial Council of the United Methodist Church last year seems to have stopped the process of "disaffiliation" which thousands of individual churches have used to leave the faith.

However, a group of parishioners at Belin Memorial United Methodist Church tried once again this week to get Belin's Church Council to allow parishioners a vote on whether they wanted the church to seek a way to leave.

A resolution that would have allowed a "binding" vote on whether to remain a United Methodist Church was defeated on Monday by a Church Council



Belin is a landmark inlet institution.

cil vote of 27-23 after a lengthy debate with council members speaking for and against it.

SEE "BELIN," PAGE 3

## PAWLEYS ISLAND

### Town told local action key to historic preservation

BY CHARLES SWENSON  
COASTAL OBSERVER

Even if the town gets federal funds to assess its existing structures and expand its historic district, preserving historic houses on Pawleys Island will require local action.

"It's all going to be at the local level," said Brad Sauls, who is in charge of local government assistance programs for the State Historic Preservation Office.

The town has debated ways to protect the 10 19th century structures listed in the 1972 National Register application that created the historic district and to extend protection to other traditional houses with the "Pawleys look."

Sauls told the town Planning Commission this week that National Register status "is only honorific" and that there are no "mythical preservation police."

The town's historic district was created six years after

Congress passed the National Historic Preservation Act. "It doesn't say that the places have to be preserved. It says they are worthy of preservation," Sauls said.

That's something the town learned after two of the National Register properties came up for sale. After creating architectural guidelines for new homes, it began looking at ways to protect the old ones.

Last year, the town approved a variance that allowed a 1940s house that shared a lot with the historic Liberty Lodge to be torn down and replaced in exchange for an agreement that the exterior of the older home be preserved. The town is now considering whether to grant a variance at another site that would allow a 1939 beach house to remain after the property it sits on is subdivided into three lots. Two members of the town Board of Zoning Appeals sat in on Sauls' presentation to the Planning Commission.

SEE "PAWLEYS," PAGE 4

## EDUCATION | Magnet schools

### Midway through grant, district looks for ways to sustain rural program

BY CHRIS SOKOLOSKI  
COASTAL OBSERVER

Just before Christmas, principal Lee Glover got a surprise when he walked into a kindergarten class at Pleasant Hill Elementary STREAM Academy.

The 4-year-olds were eating salads with greens that they'd grown themselves.

He was amazed.

Pleasant Hill is one of the five district schools that are part of the Magnet Schools Assistance Program which started with a \$14.9 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education three years ago.

"I was really excited when it started and I have learned so much in three years," Glover said. "There were things that I kind of figured on and there were things that have just kind of blown me away. I'm excited about what we've done and I'm

Jaelyn Cooper, left, talks to Deanna Stone about using straws to study frequency at Pleasant Hill Elementary.

Chris Sokoloski/Coastal Observer

excited for what is to come."

A partnership with Green Our Planet has helped put large tanks used to grow vegetables in the school cafeteria and smaller tanks in classrooms.

"It's a huge resource for us for hydroponics," Glover said.

The school has plans to raise chickens and goats and build a greenhouse and raised beds.

"Those are what we're really focusing on this year, getting those items so we can just about go full on with environmental science projects," Glover said.

In anticipation of raising

SEE "MAGNET," PAGE 2



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE



**Sports:** Waccamaw High wrestlers keep school record in the family. **Second Front**



**History:** Revolutionary War veteran provides lesson for 250th anniversary. **PAGE 4**



**Business:** Startup manufacturer has big plans for small space. **PAGE 8**

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

**Online**  
 coastalobserver.com

