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Charles Swenson (above)/Madison Sharrock (below)/Coastal Observer

ELECTION | School Board District 6

Ownbey wins vacant seat in light turnout

BY MADISON SHARROCK
COASTAL OBSERVER

Jarrold Ownbey will sit in the audience today at the Georgetown County School Board retreat. He will take his seat with the board members next month.

But he is ready to build relationships with the other eight members. "That's the important part. To do that, we have to start from the ground floor," he said.

Ownbey will fill the District 6 seat on the board, following Tuesday's special election. He must wait 10 days after the election is certified today to be sworn in.

The election drew 648 voters, 7.8 percent of those registered. Ownbey, an attorney with two children in Waccamaw schools, won 49.1 percent of the vote over Jon Tester, a retired district administrator, who had 40.3 percent. A third candidate in the non-partisan election, Alex Belser, got 10.4 percent of the vote.

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By the numbers



Ownbey
318

Tester
261

Belser
67

Source: Office of
Voter Registration
and Elections
unofficial results

TRADITIONS | Three on the Fourth

Pawleys Island | For one couple it was a parade of firsts. **PAGE 2**

Murrells Inlet | Not all the water stays in the creek during boat parade. **PAGE 3**

North Litchfield | New generation keeps family traditions alive. **PAGE 4**



Celebrating the freedom to protest

Steve Pritchett, above right, created a float for the Pawleys Island Fourth of July Parade to protest the county's proposed limits on surf fishing, and suggested penalties for violations. A couple at the North Litchfield parade, left, shared similar thoughts.



Charles Swenson/Coastal Observer

One pickleball player brought his own fan to the gym this week.



Charles Swenson (left), Madison Sharrock/Coastal Observer

While the fishing limits were a response to shark fishing, parade floats at Pawleys Island, left, and North Litchfield also celebrated the 50th anniversary of the release of the film "Jaws."

Rec center A/C repairs linger like summer heat

BY CHARLES SWENSON
COASTAL OBSERVER

Whether exercising your right to vote or just exercising, it was hot in the Waccamaw Regional Rec Center, where the repair of the HVAC system for the gym extended into its third week.

But the building was open for voters in Tuesday's special election for School Board District 6 and for pickleball players, even though a sign on the door warned that people used the gym at their own risk.

A three-day closing was planned in June to repair the two 30-ton HVAC units that cool the gym. A crew from the county Facility Services division replaced the compressors and thought they were on track.

"Something blew," said Beth Goodale, the Georgetown County Parks, Recreation and Community Services director. "They were trying to

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ELECTION 2026 | S.C. Attorney General

Goldfinch takes on history in statewide campaign

BY CHARLES SWENSON
COASTAL OBSERVER

Stephen Goldfinch is the only declared candidate to replace Alan Wilson as South Carolina's attorney general, so he is running against the government.

"As attorney general, I will get between the citizenry, the people out there and the bureaucrats," Goldfinch told supporters this week. "I'm going to get in the way."

The Murrells Inlet Republican who was elected to a third term in the state Senate in November, made his formal announcement to a packed room at Inlet Affairs, the same place he began his political career 14 years ago with a race for House District 108.

Goldfinch wants to become the first candidate from Georgetown or Horry counties to win election to statewide office.

"It's never happened in the history of South Carolina," he said.

In 2014, another Murrells



Charles Swenson/Coastal Observer

State Sen. Stephen Goldfinch said he has the experience and connections to win statewide office.

Inlet attorney, Parnell Diggs, won the Democratic nomination for attorney general. He lost to Wilson by over 20 percentage points.

Wilson announced last month that he will run for

governor next year rather than seek re-election.

As he made his way around the state this week, Goldfinch said he was focusing on his experience as a lawyer in private practice and as an officer in the

National Guard's judge advocate general's corps.

"As a JAG officer, I've prosecuted hundreds of cases," he said.

His law practice, "is focused on suing the government," he told supporters. "That's what I do. I sue the government because they don't look out for you."

Goldfinch was a biochemistry major at The Citadel when he started a company to harvest umbilical stem cells for research. He and a partner created another biotech company after graduation.

"From Day 1, I recognized the government, it's not a stepping stone, it's not a building block, it's not a helper, but a hindrance to entrepreneurship, a hindrance to growth, a hindrance to economy, a hindrance to wealth," he said.

He enrolled at the Charleston School of Law with the goal of serving as corporate counsel, but sold the company before earning his degree. He decided

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Sparks of liberty: Fireworks on the Fourth.

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