

COASTAL OBSERVER

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Celina McGregor Vaughan, right, casts her ballot in the incorporation referendum. She wrote a history of the island whose title became a theme for both sides: "Pawleys ... As it Was."

PAWLEYS ISLAND | A town turns 40

Incorporation, Pawleys style

BY CHARLES SWENSON
COASTAL OBSERVER

Plans called for hundreds of new homes. Residents showed up at hearings to voice their opposition. Georgetown County approved them anyway.

There was a lawsuit. There was talk of a moratorium on new construction. Some people said the Waccamaw Neck needed to form a town to control its own destiny.

It was the summer of 1984. There would be three incorporation efforts over the next year. Only one would gain traction. The town of Pawleys Island turns 40 next week, just as residents across the creek make another bid to incorporate. Proponents say Pawleys Island is their model. This is how Pawleys did it.

■
"WHENEVER I come back from Myrtle Beach, I always say one thing: Thank God for Pawleys," Bill Hancock, the presi-



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dent of the Pawleys Island Civic Association, said that summer.

He didn't like the idea of forming a town. He remembered when islanders went to Marlow's store on Highway 17 to make phone calls. He didn't have a television or a radio in his beach house.

But Hancock was concerned about growth and he was con-

cerned that folks in the Litchfield area would try to form a town that would include Pawleys Island.

And something else happened that summer. South Carolina implemented a 2 percent tax on short-term rentals. On an island where most of the 500-plus homes were summer

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The count of paper ballots is watched by Red Turbeville, left, who opposed the measure.

ENVIRONMENT

County takes gentler approach to mosquito control

BY MADISON SHARROCK
COASTAL OBSERVER

The smell of the warehouse where the mosquito control division stores its equipment is strong enough to make your nose scrunch. It isn't pesticide, it's garlic.

Georgetown County Mosquito Control is the first agency in the country to use an organic truck spray that contains essential oils – including rosemary, mint and garlic – to battle mosquitoes.

"It's not a chemical. It's not a pesticide. It's actually essential oils you find every day," said Roban Mears, the mosquito control supervisor.

There are over 60 species of mosquitoes across the state, but four species are considered predominant in the Lowcountry. The species can be identified by the markings on a mosquito's legs through a microscope. All are potential carriers of the West Nile virus.

"We do not spray for people's comfort. We SEE "SKEETERS," PAGE 4



Garlic oil is the main ingredient in one spray.

HURRICANES

Preparedness includes plans for changes at FEMA

BY MADISON SHARROCK
COASTAL OBSERVER

Georgetown County is already working to fill gaps for next year's hurricane season due to anticipated cuts to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"We've had our fair share of time with FEMA and working through the process and the programs," said Brandon Ellis, the county's Emergency Management director.

The county will see indirect impacts as Hurricane Erin moves up the East Coast, including increased rip currents. Ellis advised the public to avoid going into the ocean until conditions improve.

"We're extremely thankful that it turned and did not pay Georgetown a visit," he said.

Although Tropical Storm Chantal made landfall at Litchfield in early July, causing no significant damage, the hurricane season peaks along the South Carolina coast in late August and early September.

SEE "FEMA," PAGE 4

EDUCATION | Waccamaw High

Friends pass the baton one more time in principal change

BY MADISON SHARROCK
COASTAL OBSERVER

Even though he won't be the principal of Waccamaw High School, Hunter Eddy will still be around.

"You'll see me around sporting events, band events, chorus. I'll still be around. We're not leaving the community," Eddy said.

Eddy was the assistant principal of Waccamaw High in 2018 and became principal in 2024.

When he became principal, Eddy replaced David Hammel, who was the interim principal that summer after Adam George was removed from the position following a senior prank that involved students entering and vandalizing the



Madison Sharrock/
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school overnight.

Hammel is now stepping in for a second term effective Sept. 2, but this time for Eddy.

"Now it's come full circle because I'm ending my career with Dr. Hammel here and coach [Tyronne] Davis with me, both. That's also a blessing because not only are they great to work with, but they're also people I consider my friends," Eddy said.

An Erskine College graduate, Eddy landed his first job with the Georgetown County School District as a social studies and psychology teacher at Carvers Bay High School. Prior to the education field, he was an Army helicopter pilot.

He made the sudden SEE "WHS," PAGE 3

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