

COASTAL OBSERVER

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50 cents

Oil drilling opponents focus attention on governor

BY CHARLES SWENSON
COASTAL OBSERVER

Gov. Henry McMaster vowed Wednesday to take "appropriate steps" to protect South Carolina's coast from oil and gas drilling. His remarks to reporters in the statehouse followed the removal of Florida from a new leasing proposal at the request of Gov. Rick



McMaster, watched by Rep. Lee Hewitt, at an event last year.

Tanya Ackerman/Coastal Observer

Scott. Leasing could begin as soon as 2020 for oil and gas exploration and drilling of tracts off the South Carolina coast under a pro-

posal announced last week by the U.S. Department of the Interior. A citizens group that has spent the last three years fighting offshore drilling believes the shortened time frame will help it generate opposition to the plan.

"This could seriously happen," said Peg Howell, a leader of Stop Offshore Drilling in the Atlantic. "That lease sale is literally

around the corner."

But drilling opponents were buoyed this week by the Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's announcement that he will remove Florida from the leasing proposal at the request of Scott. "I support the governor's position that Florida is unique and its coasts are heavily reliant on tourism as an

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MARLIN QUAY

County attorney disputes claim that rezoning equals a 'taking'

BY CHARLES SWENSON
COASTAL OBSERVER

Claims that a zoning change to allow the rebuilding of a store and restaurant at Marlin Quay Marina amount to an unconstitutional "taking" of a neighboring restaurant are baseless, the Georgetown County attorney said this week.

Wesley Bryant gave County Council a briefing in executive session about potential litigation. Last month, an attorney for the Gulfstream Café put the county on notice that the restaurant would sue for damages if the zoning change is approved.

But Bryant said Gulfstream doesn't have anything to take. The café has an easement to use the parking lot at the marina. "I don't know how you can have a

SEE "MARINA," PAGE 3



Tanya Ackerman/Coastal Observer

Warm memories from a winter storm | Sierra Wenrich, 7, rides a boogie board down a hill at the Founders Club after last week's snowfall. The storm closed schools for four days. More photos from the storm, Page 5.

CHUCK MURPHY | 1947-2018

Former All Saints rector founded Anglican Mission in America

As executive director of the Anglican Mission in America, Chuck Murphy helped shepherd the founding of 260 churches over a dozen years. But never founded one of his own.

"I thought it was a great irony that I led the whole thing and had never planted a church," he once said.

That changed two years ago when he became rector of The Abbey at Pawleys Island. It was a coming home, a gathering, for

many worshippers he had served in 23 years as rector of All Saints Church. "I see God's hand moving through all of it," he said. "I'm actually having fun. Thank you, Lord."

Bishop Murphy died Tuesday at his home in Litchfield Plantation. He was 70.

As the rector of All Saints, he led a growing Episcopal Church parish whose history predated the founding of the United States. But in the late 1990s,

there was a growing rift in the national church. Bishop Murphy was among those who believed the church was straying from fundamental aspects of Christian belief.

He started a movement called First Promise in 1997 to work toward the reform of a church that, he said at the time, "has repeatedly and unrepentantly departed from the doctrine, discipline and worship of Christ."

He was consecrated as a

bishop in the Anglican Church of Rwanda in 2000 in Singapore by a group of Anglican archbishops concerned about the state of the Episcopal Church. "We are committed to lead the church, not leave it," Bishop Murphy said.

He was a founder and leader of the Anglican Mission in America, which was headquartered at All Saints even though the church remained part of the Episcopal Church. He was named

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SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Women's stories beyond the hashtag

BY EMILY TOPPER
COASTAL OBSERVER

Bernadine "Berni" Bader didn't tell her parents what happened. She didn't tell her friends. She went to confession, told her story in quiet whispers and asked for forgiveness.

She was in the living room with her uncle, a man in his 30s. Alone on the couch, he unzipped his pants, grabbed her hand and forced her to touch him.

Bader was 14.

"I thought, 'There must be something wrong with me that he did this.' And I think women do that, we just want to blame ourselves so quickly," she said.

She kept her story to herself for over 40 years until the #MeToo movement began last fall in response to revelations about sexual harassment in the entertainment industry. She felt empowered. So did other women, also members of an advocacy group with Bader. They agreed the stories need to be told; they kept quiet too long, out of guilt or fear.

The only person Bader told at the time of her abuse was a cousin, just a few months older. The uncle had done the same thing to her. Don't worry, Bader's cousin told her at the time. He's getting married soon and that will solve his problem.

"I believed her," Bader said. "I had no reason not to, being very inexperienced in that area."

Bader is now 67. She's since abandoned Catholicism — "I'm a recovering Catholic," she says — but still finds herself caught



Tanya Ackerman/Coastal Observer

Sharon Huber, Lauren Cholette, Peg Howell, Berni Bader and Andie Pluto-Smith.

in the guilt from the incident. Though she eventually went on to tell her husband, she still hasn't told her parents.

"You hold these things in all these years," she said. "And I so admire the women who came forward with these high-profile people."

Bader said she empathizes with the women who she says were "lambasted" for not coming

forward sooner.

"We women don't like to make waves," she said. "We're not wave makers. And I come from a family who is very tight-knit. I've been carrying this around and the other person involved, there's never been any repercussions for him at all. But I think I'm just tired of carrying this. Let the chips fall where they may, I'm just ready to be done with that."

DRINKING COFFEE on the couch in her Litchfield home, Bader points at a canvas photo hanging on the wall in her living room. Her daughter, Kimberly Love, is pictured in her wedding dress, posing with her husband on the beach.

"While raising her, because of my experience, I told her, 'If

SEE "ME TOO," PAGE 4

PAWLEYS ISLAND

Town Hall bidding starts again in search of cost savings

BY CHARLES SWENSON
COASTAL OBSERVER

A list of architectural details that town officials couldn't do without in October will now be on the block as Pawleys Island starts a new round of bidding for its new Town Hall. Town Council this week rejected the four bids received last month. The lowest was about \$150,000 above the \$650,000 project estimate.

"When I read that first one, my jaw dropped," Mayor Jimmy Braswell said. "We need to look to try to get that down."

"That would be my goal," Council Member Sarah Zimmerman said. "I have a hard time spending \$800,000 on what is a 1,700 square foot building."

The town agreed last year to replace the current Town Hall, which was flooded by Hurricane Matthew in 2016. It had 450 square feet and was converted to the town's use in 1988 from a vacant beach rental office. The town has set up a temporary office in the Nature Park as it plans the new facility. The raised one-story, wood-frame design by architect David Graham has about 2,000 square feet, including porches. The council originally agreed to spend \$450,000 on the building. Then it agreed to raise \$600,000 from private donations for the project.

Graham told council this week he will prepare a new set of bid documents that list alternative materials. The principal cost savings will come from the foundation, brick work, roof and windows, he said.

One item that's already off the list is a generator. That was an important feature in the wake of three hurricanes in the last three years. But at \$10,000, the town will look for funding for the generator through a federal hazard mitigation grant. "We don't have anything that would require a generator," Administrator Ryan Fabbri said.

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The Crown: For the first time since 1985, there is a Miss Georgetown County.

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