

# THE ISLANDER

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Published by  
Pernar Publications

www.theislanderonline.com

Established in 1972

theislander@bellsouth.net

Vol 44 Issue 27

June 20, 2016

## County says no to Harrington abandonment

By Pamela Pernar-Sharling

After about an hour and a half of discussion from those who agreed with a request that Glynn County abandon a portion of the South Harrington right of way as well as those who disagreed with the proposal, County Commission Rob Coleman (At Large #2) asked to see a show of hands for and against the abandonment.

Those "against" attended the meeting in larger numbers than those "in favor."

Coleman made a motion to deny P&M Cedar Products' request and the vote was four yes and three no. Voting yes to deny the request were Commissioners Coleman, Mark Strickland, Allen Booker, and Mike Browning. Those voting against the motion were Commission Chairmen Richard Strickland, Dale Provenzano and Bill Brownson.

P&M Cedar Products, Inc. (P&M) proposed an agreement with Glynn County for the abandonment of a small section of South Harrington Road on St. Simons Island in exchange for property interests, easements, and improvements to the public boat launch, parking, trails, and walkways at Village Creek.

This agreement would have protected the continued use of the Harrington boat ramp-around, and truck and trailer parking in perpetuity, thus eliminating the risk that the access could be diminished or eliminated through termination of the issue to the parking area.

Com. Booker asked attorney Austin Catts, who is representing P&M, why his client wanted the property.

Catts responded for safety and security in the area. Catts

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Abandonment

## In memory of fellow classmates



Last Thursday night, June 16 the Glynn Academy Class of 1969 presented 18 year old Riley Donnellan (Glynn Academy Class of 2016) with their annual scholarship award. This is the 9th year the Class of 69 has awarded a scholarship "in memory of our classmates who are gone but not forgotten." Presenting the scholarship were committee members Myra Friedman (right) and Stewart Pitman, while Riley's mother Mara Richardson looked on. Riley will attend the College of Coastal Georgia in the fall and while she is as yet undecided in her major, she expressed an interest in journalism and writing. Riley currently works at the Sea Island Beach Club and will continue to work when school starts. Friedman said he and classmate Tannis Parker opened the club's bank account with \$500 five years ago. Looking to reach an endowment amount and through Pitman's pursuit of grant funding, the Class of 1969 has accumulated about \$50,000 to ensure their scholarship awards will continue well into the future.

Islander Staff Photo - Pernar

## JWSC approves rate resolution and capital tap fees

By Matthew J. Pernar

The Brunswick Glynn Joint Water and Sewer Commission voted to approve their budget for the upcoming 2016-17 fiscal year.

In addition, they also approved their rate resolution that will increase local water and sewer rates.

The rate resolution's proposed increase in Capital Improvement Fees (CIF) brought concern from the local development and real estate community during two town hall meetings sponsored by the JWSC.

The JWSC chose to vote separately on the portion of

the rate resolution regarding (CIF), which are often called tap fees.

The current CIFs for water are \$625 in the Brunswick District and \$925 in the Glynn District.

The current sewer CIFs for sewer are \$625 in the Brunswick District and \$1,200 in the Glynn District.

Based on the master plan and a rate survey, both performed by outside parties, the proposal, which was recommended by staff, was to increase the CIFs to \$2,400 for

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JWSC rates

## Correction

Due to a reporting error, in last week's edition (June 13) in a front page article titled "Dollar General eyes St. Simons for new store" we incorrectly stated the property at 1810 Frederica Rd. was the former home of veterinarian Dr. David Schaefer. Dr. Schaefer and his family lived on the property immediately to the south, which is now the Hanover Square commercial area.

We apologize for this error. ☐

## County passes substandard lot ordinance amendment

By Pamela Pernar-Sharling and Matthew J. Pernar

The Glynn County Commission passed an amendment to Section 507 of its zoning ordinance that affects height and number of sleeping rooms for single family homes on substandard lots of record on St. Simons Island.

Substandard lots are lots that do not meet the existing zoning requirements for lot size.

For example the county's "R-6 Single Family" zoning classification requires a 6,000 square foot lot. A 5,000 square foot lot of record that is noted R-6 is a substandard lot of record.

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Substandard lots

## County defers on SPLIT by Pamela Pernar-Sharling

The Glynn County Commission voted unanimously last week to defer a decision on an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the City of Brunswick.

The agreement would have given the city 22.34% of SPLIT 2016 proceeds up to a maximum of \$13.9 million. By law the city is entitled to 10% based on population which would be \$13.5 million based on the estimated total SPLIT revenue of \$71.5 million.

The additional funds to the city requires the IGA between the two entities. The IGA comes with some restrictions. The county must collect the tax until the September 30, 2020 deadline, regardless of

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SPLIT 2016



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## Sea Island Company ownership consolidated under Anschutz Family

Sea Island Company announced last week that the ownership of the company is being consolidated under the Anschutz family of Denver, one of the four current owners of the company.

"We are extremely excited about this news and believe that this is the best possible scenario for the future of Sea Island - for our residents and club members, our team members, our guests, and for the Golden Isles community as a whole" said Scott Steffen, President of Sea Island Company.

"Being solely owned by the Anschutz family will once again bring a level of stability, continuity, and long term commitment of ownership to Sea Island."

Steffen also added that the ownership consolidation will not affect Sea Island's operation. "It will be business as usual for us. Our management team and staff will remain intact. In fact, we believe the strengthening of ownership

will enhance our operation."

This consolidation of ownership also brings together two iconic resort destinations in Sea Island and The Breakroom, located in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Both resorts are Forbes Five Star destinations that are known for their exceptional service and facilities.

"The complementary nature of our two resorts and, more importantly, the cultural similarities, will create an opportunity to enhance the guest experience at each of our destinations. I have long admired their operation and look forward to working together to elevate the brand array of offerings we each provide," Steffen said.

The family bought out Oaktree Capital Management of Los Angeles, Capital Avenue Group of New York, Starwood Capital Group of Greenwich, Conn. The four bought Sea Island out of bankruptcy in 2010 for \$132 million. □

## Beach House Restaurant on Jekyll scheduled to open July 1

Jekyll Island's Holiday Inn Resort's new restaurant and event space, Beach House, is expected to be completed in mid-June, in time for a July 1 opening. Beach House will be a full-service restaurant as well as a 3,000 square foot event space for meetings, reunions and weddings.

The culinary team is led by Food and Beverage Director Luke Kelly. He is a graduate of Brunswick High School, the College of Coastal Georgia and Georgia Southern University. Since he was 16 years old, Kelly has worked in the hospitality industry. His first restaurant job was at Executive Beach Resort in Jekyll Island, where he worked every position from the host to the head chef position at the resort.

He moved to Jacksonville to work in corporate restaurants, including Longhorn Steakhouse and Benjamin's, before returning to Jekyll to lead the food and beverage operations at the OceanSide Inn and Suites. In September 2013, OceanSide was closed for a complete renovation and opened March of last year as Holiday Inn Resort.

# BUSINESS UPDATE

## DDA awards contract for downtown building renovation

\$850,120 contract awarded

By Pamela Pemas-Shiering

The former Level 3 nightclub located at 1404-1406 Newcastle Street will be occupied by Richland Rum early next year giving Brunswick its first distillery and hopefully bringing tourists and locals to downtown for tours and to sample the rum.

The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is in the process of purchasing and renovating the building for Richland Rum.

Last week the DDA awarded a contract for \$850,120 to ECI Contracting Group, Inc. out of Macon to renovate the building.

Matthew Hill, DDA Director, estimates the work on the building should start in 60 days. The state is currently reviewing the plans for tax credits.

Since the DDA owns the building they will be eligible for up to 20% of the rehabilitation cost in tax credits which they can then sell.

Hill said they are currently talking to two banks regarding financing for the purchase and rehabilitation of the

building and hope to close by the end of July.

It was announced earlier this year that Richland Rum, located in Richland, GA, had chosen Brunswick to open a second distillery.

The downtown building will be renovated and refitted to Richland's exact specifications for the distilling of Virgin coastal Georgia Rum, an unaged or 'Virgin' variety of the Kotata's award winning Old South Georgia Rum distilled in Richland.

The Brunswick Distillery will apply the same time honored artisan techniques and the same hand built copper pot stills as the Richland Distillery to handcraft rum, but will not age the Virgin Rum multiple years in oak barrels.

Maintaining Richland Rum's Unique 'Single Estate' status, the Brunswick Distillery will strictly source pure, unrefined cane syrup from the company's own sugar cane plantation near Richland. □



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