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**Shoes**

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Filson, administrative assistant in the college’s Student Health Center and organizer of the walk.

“Walk a Mile in Her Shoes” is an international event that aims to stop rape, sexual assault and gender violence. Men around the world often take part in the walk while wearing a pair of high heels.

Many men embraced this challenge at Coastal Georgia’s walk. They hobbled slowly along in pairs of extra-large red heels, alongside students who carried signs and community members who came on campus for the event.

Sexual assault, domestic violence and sex trafficking affect all communities. Every 98 seconds, it’s estimated, a person is sexually assaulted, said Andrea Belton, volunteer coordinator and community prevention specialist at the Connie Smith Rape Crisis Center in Brunswick.

“Just let that sink in for a minute,” Belton said. “Just think about the amount of time that we’ve been out here today. Every 98 seconds, there is a victim of sexual assault.”

Yet, resources to help survivors in Georgia are lacking.

“In the entire state of Georgia, there are 159 counties. Out of all those counties, there are only 31 rape crisis centers in the entire state,” Belton said. “Of those 31, only five of them are full-service, and we have one here in Glynn County.”

The Connie Smith Rape Crisis Center, operated by Safe Harbor and a sponsor of the “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes” event, became a full-service center in Janu-



**Bobby Haven/The Brunswick News**

College of Coastal Georgia head men’s basketball coach Jesse Watkins, left, and CCGA police department Lt. Johnny Davis put on red high heels as they prepare to join others for the the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event Thursday at the college.

ary.

“We can meet just about all of your needs,” Belton said. “But we can’t do everything. What we can do is give you a referral if it’s something that we can’t do.”

Some of those other services were represented at the event Thursday. Several organization set up booths on campus, to provide a chance for students to learn more about local resources.

Other sponsors of the event included the Glynn Community Crisis Center, which serves domestic violence survivors, and Faithful Love, an organization that reaches out to women in the community who are victims of sex trafficking.

Sex trafficking is happening in Glynn County, said Judi Riccio, executive director of Faithful Love. To stop sex trafficking, she said, more community members need to learn how to notice the signs.

“We can’t stop anything if we don’t know what to look for,” Riccio said. “It’s important that we know the signs of domestic violence, of intimate partner violence, of sex trafficking.”

Survivors come in all forms, she said. They’re men

and women of all races and all socio-economic backgrounds.

“It’s happening on college campuses. College students are being groomed for sex trafficking,” Riccio said. “It is happening in our schools — middle schoolers and high schoolers are being groomed. And they don’t know it.”

Deborah Haley, a SANE nurse, or Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner, at the local rape crisis center, thanked police officers for the role they play in helping survivors.

“I know it doesn’t seem like we appreciate law enforcement, since we’re torturing them in red shoes today, but I would like to let them know our appreciation for how much they support us and support the community,” Haley said.

The shoes scattered across campus served as a visible reminder, though, of how many lives have been taken due to this violence and the work that still needs to be done.

“Domestic violence and sexual violence often go hand in hand,” Haley said. “We need to confront this problem as a community issue and a national issue and bring an end to it.”

total of \$474. The stormwater utility fee is sent annually, not monthly, and is part of shown on the city’s property tax bill.

The money collected from stormwater utility fees can only be spent on drainage and stormwater-related items. For example, the city can use the money to clean or improve storm drains, or it can purchase things like streetsweepers. The money can also be spent on regulator items like water quality testing or Environmental Protection Agency compliance.

Anyone with questions about the revised stormwater

utility fees should call Edwards at the number listed above.

City property tax bills may be paid:

- In person at City Hall, 601 Gloucester St., Brunswick;
- At drop boxes outside the front and rear entrances of City Hall; or
- Online at [www.brunswickpayments.com](http://www.brunswickpayments.com) (a 3 percent fee applies).

Partial payments are prohibited. Payment is due by Nov. 15, assuming all bills are mailed Sept. 15. Interest and penalties begin accruing Nov. 16.

**JWSC changes backflow preventer requirements**

By **TAYLOR COOPER**  
[tcooper@thebrunswicknews.com](mailto:tcooper@thebrunswicknews.com)

The Brunswick-Glynn County Joint Water and Sewer Commission voted Thursday to amended its rules on backflow preventers which, among other things, means low-risk businesses will be able to get by with more inexpensive preventers.

Prior to the change, the utility had to charge a fee to install a backflow preventer — a device that allows water to flow to a customer but prevents it from flowing back into the public water system.

In cases where there is a sudden drop in pressure in the water system or a sudden increase on the customer’s end, dangerous chemicals and pollutants can get sucked into the public system, utility Administration Director Jay Sellers said in an interview earlier this month with The News.

The utility divides businesses into categories from low to high risk, but required all businesses to have complex and, in some cases, costly “testable” preventers. In contrast, residences can get by with simple, inexpensive mechanisms called dual checks.

“We were being overprotective,” Sellers said Thursday.

Sellers proposed a change to the rules that would allow the utility to waive the requirement for businesses like an accountant or attorney’s office, which he said usually pose no more threat than a residence.

The commission voted 5-0 to remove the backflow preventer installation fee requirement from its water and sewer rate resolution. Utility commissioners Cornell Harvey and Steve Copeland were absent.

By removing the installation fee, Sellers said the JWSC’s backflow compliance coordinator can waive the requirement if he so chooses. It also places the burden of installing a testable device on the customer, should the coordinator require one.

“Where the risk warrants the installation of a testable device, the backflow compliance coordinator would require the customer to contract with a licensed plumber or certified backflow preventer tester to install the appropriate device,” Sellers said at the meeting.

He added that the change will save utility workers’ time because they won’t have to install backflow preventers, and it will save many businesses money by removing the need for a testable device.

Commissioners also voted unanimously to increase the budget for a project to extend the sewer system to the under-construction Friendly Express gas station at the corner of highways 303 and 341 from \$200,000 to \$220,000 and accept new additions to the public sewer system from three residential developments.

Commissioners heard an update on its three wastewater treatment plants and an end-of-month financial report.

In other business, the commission discussed necessary improvements to the Academy Creek and Dunbar Creek treatment plants. Executive Director Jimmy Junkin said utility staff trimmed down the list of essential upgrades to around \$9-12 million.

The next meeting of the utility commission is scheduled for Nov. 1.

**County**

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less if you don’t have a place for the folks to park their trailers and their vehicles and get them in and out of the water. I want to heavily emphasize to this board that we need to urge our legal team to jump on this tomorrow and get this thing closed out,” Coleman said.

In response, Commissioner Mark Stambaugh called John McQuigg, attorney for Village Creek Landing LLC, to the podium.

“Are you willing to stand here in front of the public, right here, right now, and go on the record to say you and Village Creek (Landing) LLC will negotiate in good faith for a mutually beneficial parking area for that dock with Glynn County?” Stambaugh said.

McQuigg agreed, adding “We are already doing that.”

McQuigg told The News in an interview earlier this

month that he sent a lease to the Glynn County attorney’s office for review late last month.

Senior Assistant County Attorney Will Worley said at an Islands Planning Commission meeting Tuesday that the lease was under review. Other county departments aside from the attorney’s office needed to evaluate the lease before bringing it to the county commission for approval, he said.

The commission voted to approve Village Creek’s rezoning request 5-0. Commission Chairman Bill Brunson and Commissioner Peter Murphy were absent.

The primary goal of the rezoning request was to allow the owners to continue using the land the same way they had been for years, Leif said.

Leif said the owners operate a small commercial dock and social gathering center on the property. The gathering center has existed since before Glynn County adopted a zoning ordinance and has hosted restaurants, parties

and weddings, among other things, according to McQuigg.

The IPC recommended tightening up the language in the planned development text to remove what IPC member Desiree Watson characterized as an ambiguous list of potential services the owner may offer at its marina. She said the rather open-ended, and that if the owner wanted to limit the use of the property, it should list everything it wanted to use the property for.

County commissioners did not implement the IPC’s recommendations, however.

In other business, the commission signed off on an \$8.5 million bond issue by the Housing Authority of Brunswick, waived \$3,400 in Selden Park Gym rental fees for the Navarati Festival, adopted it 2018 comprehensive plan and deferred a nomination to the Glynn-Brunswick Memorial Hospital Authority.

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**Taxes**

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impervious to rain on their property. One equivalent residential unit, or ERU, is 2,200 square feet of impervious surfaces like roofs, parking lots or driveways. The rate payer is assessed one ERU for each 2,200 square feet. For example, if the property has 22,000 square feet of impervious surface, they would be assessed 10 ERUs every month. Annually, that comes to 120 ERUs. The 120 ERUs are rated \$3.95 for an annual

**Champ**

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front and center in the student section tonight, keeping the crowds loud and cheering for the players on the field.

The spirit of the crowd inspires the players, said Memphis Churchwell, a senior at Glynn Academy and a cheerleader for the school.

“The more excited the fans and the students are, the more the players want to win,” she said.

The cheerleading squad at Glynn Academy has been preparing for this game for two weeks. They’ve mixed their own music to go with the routines they’ve created and taught the whole squad.

The Spirit Club has been hard at work as well, decorating signs and getting the word out to students about the festivities taking place before the game. They’ve also created skits that they’ll debut at the game on the sidelines in between quarters.

“This is our biggest game of the year, so this is when our student section is the biggest,” Hartman said.

Grayton Eckerd, co-president of the Spirit Club at Glynn Academy, said his class hopes to continue promoting school spirit the way the seniors have before them.

“Four years ago, when we were freshman, we had a really solid senior class, and they did a really good job of organizing the student section and the Spirit Club,” he said. “School spirit was really good ... We’re just trying to recreate that.”



**PUTTING THE PUBLIC BACK IN PUBLIC EDUCATION**

*“Parents and Teachers throughout Glynn County are in dire need of new leadership on our School Board. We have reviewed the qualifications of the candidates and wholeheartedly support Dr. Markisha Butler for the At-Large Post.*

*Our children, and those who educate them, deserve School Board members who are competent, qualified and eager to help make our school system the best it can be. We encourage you to vote for Dr. Markisha Butler!”*

Parents for Dr. Butler, left to right: Whitney Long, Grace Nudd, Dr. Markisha Butler, Greer Anderson, Tallie Pipkin.



ON NOVEMBER 6, ELECT  
**DR. MARKISHA BUTLER**

*For Glynn County School Board  
At-large Post 1*

[DrMarkishaButler.com](http://DrMarkishaButler.com)

Early Voting: Oct. 15-Nov. 2

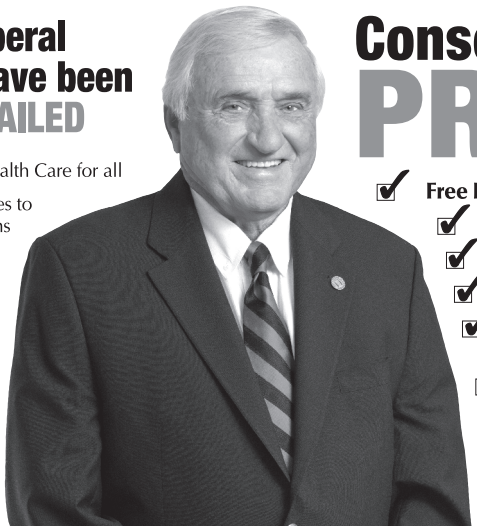
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- ✗ Sanctuary Cities for Illegal and Criminal Immigrants
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