



ACADEMICS

CCU holds grand opening for its new Community Garden and Food Waste Drop-Off

Coastal Carolina University held a grand opening celebration for its new Community Garden and Food Waste Drop-Off on Tuesday, April 2, on campus at 3803 Elvington Loop. The space, which is a collaboration between CCU's Grounds and Sustain Coastal, opened with enthusiastic support from the university's students, faculty, and staff.

Made possible through the Sustainability Grant program, the Community Garden and Food Waste Drop-Off promotes sustainability, food access, education, wellness, and togetherness. It is open Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Friday, from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

"This project contributes to the institution's commitment to sustainability by encouraging members of the campus community to engage in sustainable practices, including small-scale gardening for personal food production and waste mindfulness," said Cassandra LaValley, CCU's assistant director for Sustain Coastal. "It's our hope that this space will increasingly become a part of campus life and encourage students to adopt more sustainable practices early on, creating lifestyle habits they can carry with them beyond their time at CCU."

The Community Garden offers individuals and groups the opportunity to secure garden beds for seasonal planting. Available to all students, faculty, and staff, the Community Garden has basic garden tools and water available for use on site. The garden beds are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The managing team in Grounds provides seasonal plant recommendations for all growers who secure garden beds.

"We are so excited to open the Community Garden for our campus community," said Dominique Werboff, Ph.D., CCU's director of arboriculture. "As part of the CCU Arboretum, this garden supports our mission to be a place of education, research, discovery, and wellness for CCU students, faculty, staff. We look forward to watching

this garden blossom into a beloved space on campus through its promotion of community engagement, collaborative learning, and sustainable living."

The Food Waste Drop-Off offers receptacles for personal food waste and certified compostable materials. CCU students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to grab a personal compost bin (offered free through Sustain Coastal), separate food scraps and waste from regular trash, and empty the bins once a week at the Food Waste Drop-Off. Sustain Coastal provides complimentary compostable bag liners to keep all compost bins clean.

HGTC honors Colonel Buddy Styers with Legacy Endowment

Horry-Georgetown Technical College (HGTC) and the HGTC Foundation recently established and presented the Colonel Thomas C. "Buddy" Styers Legacy Endowment for Workforce Development award. This endowment, totaling \$250,000, is a testament to the profound impact of Colonel Buddy Styers on the HGTC community and his unwavering dedication to progress and development in the Myrtle Beach area.

Styers, executive director for the Myrtle Beach Air Force Base Redevelopment Authority, is a visionary leader whose name has become synonymous with innovation, resilience, and commitment. His transformative efforts in the redevelopment of the former Myrtle Beach Air Force Base property have left an indelible mark on our community, reshaping its economic landscape and providing opportunities for growth and prosperity.

In recognition of his monumental contributions, HGTC is proud to honor Styers by establishing an endowment. The Colonel Buddy Styers Legacy Endowment for Workforce Development will serve as a lasting tribute to his commitment to empowering individuals and building a brighter future for our region.

President of HGTC, Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, expressed her profound ap-

From bottle caps to prize-winning art

FROM A RELEASE
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North Myrtle Beach Middle School students know how to turn trash into treasure.

The school submitted an entry to the Horry County Solid Waste Authority's annual POP (Protect Our Planet) art recycling contest.

Sixth grader Stella Prince and friend Barrett Turecki created a bottle cap watermelon, entitled "Sweet as Watermelon," which was selected as the grand prize winner in the Solid Waste Authority's POP art contest.

As grand prizewinner, Prince received an electronic reading device, a medal and a prize pack of recycled-content items, including school supplies.

This was the 19th year the Solid Waste Authority offered the POP art contest. It is designed to promote environmental awareness and highlight the creative talents of students. The contest was open to all middle school students in Horry County.

The students were required to create a work of art using at least 70% of a specified material chosen by the Solid Waste Authority. This year's material was bottle caps.

"Sweet as Watermelon" will be on display through April 2024 at the Horry County Solid Waste Authority, located at 1886 Highway 90, Conway.



From left, Victoria Johnson from the Horry County Solid Waste Authority with Stella Prince and Barrett Turecki as they display their prize-winning art, "Sweet as Watermelon," made of bottle caps.

For additional information, contact the Horry County

Solid Waste Authority at 843-347-1651 or visit them on the

web at www.SolidWasteAuthority.org.

preciation, stating, "We pay tribute to a visionary leader whose foresight and dedication have transformed the landscape of our community. It's with great honor and admiration we celebrate the remarkable achievements of Colonel Buddy Styers, a true champion for the Myrtle Beach area. On behalf of our College, Foundation, and community, I extend my deepest gratitude to Colonel Styers. May his legacy continue to remind us of the extraordinary things we can achieve when we dare to dream and work together."

"The Colonel Buddy Styers Legacy Endowment for Workforce Development will enable HGTC to invest in the education and training of the local workforce, providing scholarships and resources to students pursuing careers critical to our region's prosperity. Through this endowment, Colonel Styers's legacy will live on as we carry forward his vision with passion and determination," said Shannon Detzler, president of the HGTC Foundation.

For more information about the Colonel Thomas Buddy Styers Legacy Endowment for Workforce Development, please contact the HGTC Foundation at 843-477-2105, foundation@hgtc.edu, or visit the website.

Robinhood Money Drills program to provide CCU students with sound financial education

Coastal Carolina University introduced new financial education coursework with support from Robinhood Money Drills. This four-year program will provide funding for financial education, including courses and speaker series, for CCU's students and student-athletes.

Robinhood aims to support fundamental financial education to help prepare student-athletes, early on, for a sound financial education future before, during and after their athletic career. Through this partnership, the goal is to impact the lives of students beyond graduation.

"Financial literacy has become a more critical skill for collegiate athletes with the advent of NIL," said Matt Hogue, vice president for intercollegiate athletics and university recreation. "We are grateful and excited that

Robinhood Money Drills is being added to our curriculum, and this asset will help advance the fiscal knowledge and understanding of our athletes."

Mary Elizabeth Taylor, vice president of international government and external affairs at Robinhood Markets Inc., said: "By helping open doors to resources and education for college students early on in their financial journey, we hope to better equip them for the future."

Erika Small, dean of CCU's E. Craig Wall Sr. College of Business Administration, echoes the excitement of the Robinhood Money Drills partnership.

"We are thrilled to partner with Robinhood's Money Drills program to champion financial literacy campus-wide," said Small. "With appreciation to Robinhood, we are eager to empower our campus community with the knowledge and tools needed for lifelong financial wellness."

CCU is one of eight schools from across the country using the Robinhood Money Drills program. The others include Duke, Florida State, Kansas State, Memphis, Texas Christian, UC Berkeley and West Virginia.

Summer hiring event geared toward high school students

Partnership Grand Strand, the community foundation for the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce, is partnering with Horry County Schools to host the sixth annual summer hiring event for high school students on Saturday, April 20, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The job fair will be held at Myrtle Beach High School's gymnasium at 3302 Robert Grissom Pkwy. in Myrtle Beach.

Any Horry County student in grades 9 through 12 who is at least 14 years old is eligible to participate. Students should come prepared to complete job applications, conduct interviews and receive employment offers. Some positions may have age requirements.

Approximately 40 local businesses such as attractions, retail stores, resorts and restaurants will be on site with numerous employers expected to hire students on the spot.

More information and registration can be found online at MyrtleBeachAreaChamber.com/events.

DRAGON BOAT, FROM PAGE 3

time to race, they will be called to the dock to get in a boat and get into position for their first race of the day.

Each team races twice and the goal is to get the fastest time. Teams who are the fastest and reach their fundraising goal by the finals are able to compete in the championship race. Each team has a fundraising goal of \$5,250 (\$250 per person).

"It's a family friendly festival and they can enjoy the festival," Sebring-Wilson said.

The family fun zone offers fun activities for kids of all ages and there is a separate section for children three years and younger.

There will be food trucks



The 16th Annual Dragon Boat Festival is set for Saturday, April 27, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Grand Park at The Market Common.

and other local vendors at the festival.

Vines Restoration Plumbing and HVAC is the platinum sponsor of this year's Dragon Boat Festival. Typically, there are between 15-20 local sponsors who sponsor the event.

"It really is a local give-back," Sebring-Wilson said.

"It's a local event."

If you or your business are interested in being involved in the Dragon Boat Festival, visit www.mygroundzero.com/dragonboat or call Sebring-Wilson at 614-270-7707. Sponsorship opportunities for the 2025 festival will be available starting on festival day this year.

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