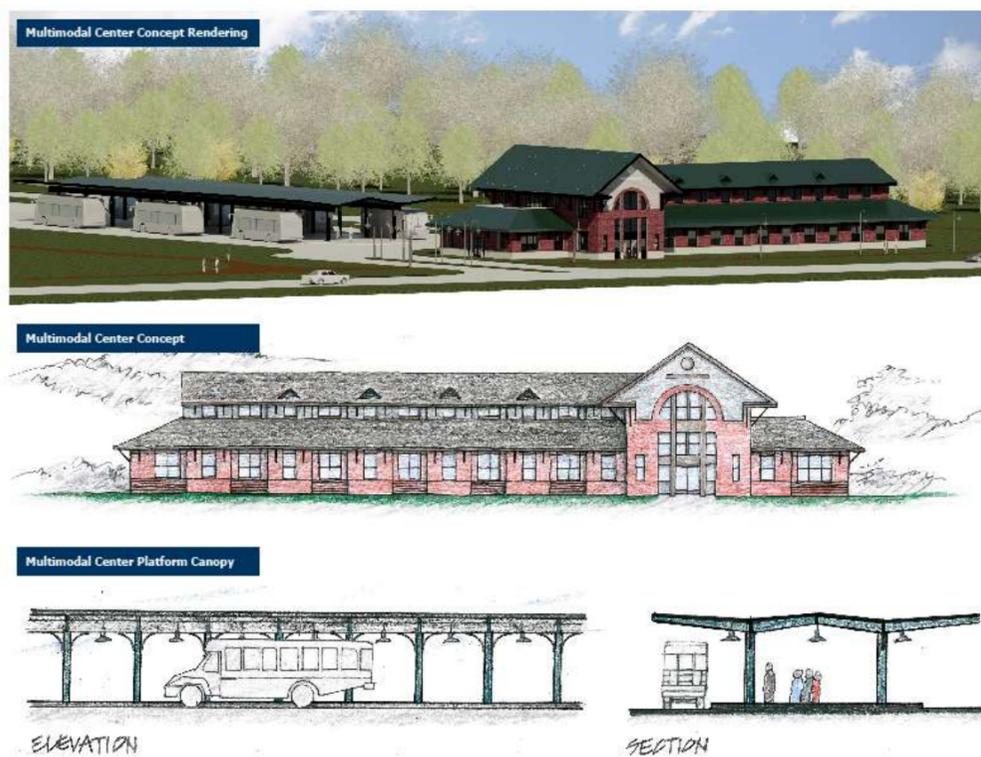


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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS A TEAM EFFORT!
Every community success and/or improvement helps Jacksonville/Onslow Economic Development (JOED) in marketing our community to potential new businesses.

Multi-Modal Facility coming to Jacksonville



Jacksonville was one of two communities in North Carolina to be awarded grant funds through the discretionary Bus and Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment Program, receiving \$4.5 million in Federal funding to construct the Jacksonville Area Multimodal Transportation Center. These funds, along with prior year grants, comprise a majority of the \$9 million project budget. The project is fully-funded for construction based on current estimates.

The Multimodal Center will connect multiple modes of transportation into one location including fixed-route transit, intercity bus, taxis, paratransit, regional rail, bicycle and pedestrian use. The facility will also provide public transportation users with amenities that do not currently exist creating a positive transit gateway for the City of Jacksonville and the community at large. Ultimately, the Center will improve the accessibility, convenience and safety of public transportation options for our community.

Marines Equipped by Local Manufacturer



Last month, gun magazine writers from around the country came to Swansboro, NC to join High Speed Gear and partner-guest Sig Sauer, to utilize and review High Speed Gear's equipment. High Speed Gear hosted the event in Onslow County because of the community's connection to the Marine Corps and the military. A shooting event married High Speed Gear's belts, TACOs® and pouches with the Sig Sauer MCX Virtus and P320X5 Modular Handgun System which is a version of the M17 being fielded by all U.S. uniformed services. The co-marketing event gave writers and Sig Sauer a chance to try on some of the 1300 different types of gear, which are made locally, and put the gear through its paces at Spartan Ranch, an area training facility.



JOED attended the multi-day event as part of its mission in supporting local manufacturers through the Business Retention and Expansion Program. High Speed Gear started as a very small cut and sew shop in Swansboro, NC and has grown into an international company selling to distributors and customers in more than 130 countries. Militaries, Law Enforcement, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and many other industries use High Speed Gear's patented TACOs® because of their quality and lifetime warranty. As VP of Sales Operations Bill Babboni, described "our commitment is to the customer and to respond to all customer needs as quickly as possible." Hollywood also uses High Speed Gear's equipment and can be seen in shows like Arrow and Quantico. The equipment has even been featured in the video game Ghost Recon Wilderness.

At close to 100 employees, High Speed Gear is one of Swansboro's largest employers. With a diverse workforce, the plant manager stated the team is more like a family. The age of the employees ranges from 19 to 65 with over three quarters of the workforce being women. The company recently added laser and conveyor belt cutters to increase efficiency and cut down on waste, which is critical since the company produces upwards of 3000-4000 pieces of gear daily. High Speed Gear truly appreciates being a global brand; yet it's rewarding to know that their equipment is utilized by Marines right here at Camp Lejeune.

High Speed Gear's equipment can be found online and at Dealers and Distributors, including local businesses Extreme Outfitters, Safe House Tactical, Detonation Technologies, Nick's Guns and Gear and now up the street from the plant at Stumpies Custom Guns, Inc. in Swansboro.

Coastal Carolina Community College and its history of excellence



As one of the 58 community colleges in the North Carolina system, Coastal Carolina Community College has served approximately 6,382 credit-seeking students and 8,418 continuing education students over the past year. Coastal student success starts with the 665 faculty and staff members who hold educational quality and student success at the forefront. Through their support, Coastal students' performance is unsurpassed.

Since the State established performance measures in 2001, Coastal has received the highest marks fourteen times. As an accredited member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, colleges are evaluated for reaffirmation every ten years. Under the leadership of Dr. Ronald K. Lingle, the college was reaffirmed with no recommendations a little over a decade ago; something Dr. Lingle described as one of the high points of his career. In the fall of 2017, under the leadership of President David L. Heatherly, the college went through the reaffirmation process again, which involved a visiting team of experts from six states. After three rigorous days, the committee recommended that the college be reaffirmed for full accreditation, once again with no recommendations.

It is through the many partnerships throughout the county that the college is one of the best performing community colleges in the state.

Jacksonville Onslow Economic Development hosts 2018 Annual Meeting



Chris Chung and Frank Emory, Jr. (Economic Development Partnership of NC) Joey Carter and Sheila Knight (JOED), Jack Bright and Royce Bennett (Onslow County Board of Commissioners)

JOED hosted its 2018 Annual Meeting on May 17th at the Onslow County Government Center. The business meeting included the election of six new Board members Mike Alford, Jeff T. Clark, Christopher Classen, Matt Ray, Mat Raymond III, and Randy Thomsic. Following the election, "The State of Economic Development in North Carolina" was summarized by two officials with the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC).

Frank Emory Jr., Chairman of the Board, described the nature of the EDPNC public-private partnership, and how that translates into a comprehensive economic development platform. Chris Chung, CEO, outlined state and regional Economic Development successes--particularly in non-metro areas. Their insights and expertise provided attendees some great "food for thought"!

And speaking of great food-- hats off to Golden Corral for another terrific meal!

[Watch Annual Meeting video](#)

For previous issues of JOED News, please click [here](#).



