



Photos contributed

Tucker measures for a window replacement.

## Local environmental engineer does pro bono work on Fort Caswell rifle pit

By **NORMA LEE ECKARD**  
 Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range

Okey Tucker, a local consulting environmental engineer, has offered his professional services, pro bono, to rehabilitate several Fort Caswell rifle pit projects.

Tucker was born and raised in West Virginia until 2019, when he moved full time to Oak Island. He and his wife of 38 years, Andrea, had vacationed on Oak Island over the years with their children, Sarah and Okey III. They even celebrated their marriage on Oak Island.

Tucker graduated from the West Virginia Institute of Technology in Montgomery, W.V., with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering in 1983. He was employed as an environmental engineer for the state of West Virginia. He currently serves as a consulting senior engineer working from home.

An assistant Boy Scout

master when his son was growing up, he and Andrea now volunteer for the Caswell Beach Turtle Watch program. He also has a long history of experience in all aspects of home building and improvements.

Initial projects for the rifle range include installation of a plexiglass window, step improvements and a gate system designed for the safety of visitors and animals.

Tucker's future plan is to consult with Friends of Fort Caswell and the State Historic Preservation Office concerning a roof system for the rifle pit's storage room, located on the east end of the pit.

No trespassing signs are positioned in various places around the property to protect and alert folks, especially children, that they are not to go into the property. There is much more work to be completed. The Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range thank Tucker for helping to save the 1918 rifle range.



Okey Tucker makes a retaining wall before placing the concrete steps down into the pit.



Steps placed down into pit



Tucker is shown sawing posts for securing the gate.