



The Georgetown County Chronicle



A monthly e-newsletter produced by Georgetown County, S.C., for its residents and visitors.

Inside this Issue

- Fire Dept. to have stuffed animal drive, Page 2
- Remembering Robbie Owens , Page 3
- Residents advised to review new flood maps, Page 4
- Bromberg named Tennis Pro of the Year, Page 5
- Howard Center celebrates soft opening, Page 7

Calendar

May 7 – Fire Dept. has smoke alarm blitz in Plantersville. See Page 2

May 7 – Farmers Market opens in Georgetown, see page 9

May 10 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse. Budget workshop begins at 4

May 14 – Last day to register for adult soccer league. See page 4

May 17 – Groundbreaking ceremony at Northwest Regional Recreation Center in Choppee

May 19 – Georgetown County Planning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse

May 24 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse

May 30 – County offices and facilities closed for Memorial Day

Volume 4, Issue 9

May 2016

Mercom expansion is catalyst for new tech park

Mercom, a premier technology firm in Georgetown County, will expand its existing operations, investing nearly \$6 million and creating more than 150 jobs over the next five years, the company has announced.

As part of the expansion, the company will construct a new headquarters facility across the street from its existing complex in Pawleys Island. The 20,000-square-foot building will be located in a new technology park at 313 Commerce Drive, Georgetown County's Economic Development Department said. The technology park will be situated on 22 acres

with Mercom as the anchor company. The master plan for the technology park has more than 100,000 square feet of additional office space spread out over the entire campus, which will be available to serve other technology and back office sector businesses. The technology park is a direct result of the economic development focus and support of Santee Cooper in Georgetown County, along with efforts by the county's economic development staff.

"This new technology park along with Mercom's decision to stay and grow here shows that

See "Mercom," Page 8



Bassmaster ranks Elite Series at Winyah Bay in top 5

Over the course of four days, an estimated 27,500 people participated in events surrounding the Bassmaster Elite Series at Georgetown County's Carroll Ashmore Campbell Marine Complex.

That's a number so impressive, it makes the event one of the top five best attended Elite events since the series' beginning, Bassmaster officials said. Additionally, they reported that the Elite LIVE show broadcast online over three days generated more than 93,000 video plays and more than 3.2 million minutes of viewing time. Fans were highly engaged and spent an average of 34 minutes watching LIVE.

It's the kind of national spotlight Georgetown County officials envisioned when they began making plans to build the Carroll Ashmore Campbell Marine Complex a decade ago. When the 20-acre facility opened in 2010, it was anticipated that it would take at least another decade to work up to that level.

"Things progressed a little quicker than we expected, but that just



Fans hold up signs and wave on the final day of tournament weigh-in as anglers arrive at the main stage on their boats.



Watch the tournament coverage premier on ESPN2 on May 8 at 8 a.m. An encore show will be May 15 at 7 a.m. It airs on ESPN Classic June 12 and 19 at 9 a.m.

shows we were on the right track," County Administrator Sel Hemingway said. "There are a lot of communities out there competing for these tournaments, but with our appeal

as a tourist destination and everything we have to offer in addition to our rivers and bays — the beach, great hunting, opportunities to enjoy

See "Bassmaster," Page 8

County Fire Dept. to give out free smoke detectors May 7

Georgetown County Fire/EMS and the American Red Cross are teaming up on Mother's Day weekend to make sure as many families as possible in the Plantersville area have working smoke detectors in their homes.

The two groups will be working from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on May 7 to install free smoke detectors in what they call a "Smoke Alarm Blitz." The American Red Cross will provide the free smoke detectors and firefighters will coordinate volunteers and install the alarms in homes, said Harry Avant of Georgetown County Fire/EMS.

"We want to make this a successful event and get these alarms in every home that needs one, but we really need at least 50-75 volunteers to do that," Avant said.

Volunteers willing to help out during the blitz are asked to call Avant at (843) 545-3140 or Deborah Johnson at (843) 241-5537. Volunteers may help with installations, education efforts for residents receiving alarms and/or assist with completing paperwork for each alarm installed. Volunteers will report to the Plantersville Fire Station at 14326 N. Fraser Street at 8:30 a.m. May 7.



Lt. Robbie Williams of Georgetown County Fire/EMS.

The fire department is also looking for Plantersville residents in need of smoke alarms to sign up for installations. There will be no fee for the alarm(s) or installation, Avant stresses.

"Working smoke detectors save lives every day," Avant said. "We're making it as easy as we can to put them in homes, and we encourage any family who needs smoke detectors to take advantage of this opportunity," he said.

Some detectors should be installed inside every bedroom in a home," Avant added.

During the Smoke Alarm Blitz, firefighters will also work to educate residents on the importance of having a family escape plan for their home in case of a fire.

Midway Fire to have stuffed animal drive

During the month of May, Midway Fire Rescue will collect stuffed animals for injured and traumatized children.

The department has organized a Teddy bear drive in honor of Emergency Medical Services



for Children's Day, which is

May 18, said Todd Blomdahl, division chief and fire marshal with Midway.

Members of the public are asked to donate new stuffed animals, which will be stored on Midway's ambulances and used to comfort children during pediatric medical transports. Stuffed animals may be dropped off at any of Midway's three fire stations (located in Litchfield, Pawleys Island and DeBordieu).

The Teddy bear drive is sponsored by Midway, Georgetown County, Emergency Medical Services for Children — South Carolina, and the S.C. PIER team. For more information, call (843) 545-3620.

Attention, Beekeepers!

If you are a beekeeper and live in Georgetown County, please call (843) 545-3619.

In an effort to protect the local bee population, the Georgetown County Department of Public Services' Mosquito Control Division keeps a list local beekeepers and their contact information. This allows the Division to give beekeepers advance notice of aerial spraying in their region, which could harm hives. Beekeepers will then be able to cover and protect their hives during the spray. For further information, call the number above.

Get the Chronicle

At Georgetown County, we want our residents and property owners kept abreast of what's going on inside their local government. That's why we created the Georgetown County Chronicle. It's a vehicle for information about county services and events, important messages from county officials and behind-the-scenes glimpses at how government works.

You can find the Chronicle on our website at www.gtcounty.org or through our Facebook page. If you'd rather have it delivered to your inbox, e-mail jbroach@gtcounty.org with the subject line "send me the Chronicle."

That's also the place to send questions and comments about this newsletter and its content. We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

www.gtcounty.org

IN MEMORIAM

Georgetown County says goodbye to longtime communications director

Robert G. "Robbie" Owens, 48, passed away Saturday, April 16, in a Georgetown Hospital after a heart attack.

Robbie was born in Hemingway, the son of Gerald G. and Barbara "Bobbie" Kiesel Owens. He graduated from Pleasant Hill High School and obtained his bachelors degree from the University of South Carolina. He was the Director of Georgetown County 911 Communications Services. He was a member of Union United Methodist Church and was affiliated with the National Weather Service of Wilmington, N.C.

Robbie was an avid South Carolina Gamecock fan and he most enjoyed playing board games with his daughters. He is survived by his parents, Gerald G. and Barbara "Bobbie" Owens; daughters, Shelby Owens and Jaime Owens; and grandmother, Eva Pergram. He was predeceased by a brother, Jamie Lee Owens.

Remembering Robbie...

Robbie was a valued employee of the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office and his unexpected death was met with disbelief and great sorrow. His hard work and dedication elevated Georgetown County Central Communications to high standards through implementation of cutting edge technology. Past works enabled efficient and effective response by Georgetown County first responders to the citizens we serve.

Robbie had many friends in his workplace and is missed dearly. Below, some of them share thoughts and memories of Robbie.

"I've known Robbie since he was a baby. He was well-respected by everyone he worked with and he was a huge part of the Sheriff's Office. He will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him and by those who worked with him. Robbie was a dispatcher and then later was promoted to director. He has been here through all of our major transitions. He is the guy who got us to where we are today. It was his hard work and dedication that elevated Georgetown County Central Communications to high standards."

— Sheriff Lane Cribb

"Robbie was always dedicated to his job, and attentive and courteous to anyone who called the communications center. His loss is one that will be felt at all reaches of the community and that will be mourned by many."

— County Administrator Sel Hemingway

"Robbie was a kind soul who gave great effort in his works at central communications. He was instrumental in transforming emergency dispatch from paper and pen recording to computer aided dispatch. His thoughtfulness and calm demeanor will be missed by all."

— Carter Weaver, Assistant Sheriff

"I knew Robbie since he was a dispatcher to becoming the director of 911 for many years. I didn't come to know Robbie personally until he became the director. I will miss Robbie's calls about supplies for 911 as well as walking by my door waving and smiling that quirky smile of his. I will miss the talks about his children and family. Robbie's father is like a father to me as well, Mr. Gerald. The Owens family are just good hearted people and I have



Robert G. "Robbie" Owens

been blessed to know Robbie over the years. He will be missed by all of us at the Sheriff's Office."

— Sabrina Player, administrative assistant to the Sheriff

"Robbie will always be in our thoughts and forever in our hearts. We will miss hearing his stories, laughter and Donald Trump impersonations. He made us all laugh even on rainy days. He was part of our 'family' and will be greatly missed by all."

— Tracey Howle, Emergency Services administrative assistant

"Robbie was always Robbie. Cool on the outside. Never seemed to be bothered. Leadership by example. He will be greatly missed. I hope dispatch can find someone that can be half the person he was. RIP Robbie. We will take it from here. Never forgotten."

— Lt. Lindy McRae, Georgetown County Fire/EMS

"It was nice having another Gamecock in the building. He definitely had his opinions on sports, especially Gamecock football. Robbie was usually a nice, funny, quiet man, but when the Gamecocks lost, look out! We had some 'enthusiastic' discussions about our team, which I will miss. You never knew what he'd say or do next. I, along with the rest of our 'family,' will miss seeing him every day and hearing his stories and laughter."

— Cindy Grace, Emergency Management Coordinator

"Midway enjoyed working with Robbie over the years. He was always pleasant and helpful. He took his role in the continuum of care very seriously and always tried to make sure his priority was how best to ensure the person asking for help received it as quick as possible."

Chief Doug Eggiman, Midway Fire Rescue

"Robbie Owens was a great guy who loved to talk about the old times, history, weather and the S.C. Gamecocks. If Robbie was ever around and there wasn't a smile on your face, he'd try his best to put one there. He certainly enjoyed making others laugh. He would make sure to take time out of his day to check on his peers to make sure everything was going well."

Sabrina S. Causey, lead 911 center telecommunicator

Resident advised to review new flood maps

Most Georgetown County residents consider themselves blessed to live in an area with so many natural water resources, but the down side is that those resources put much of the county in flood zones.

New federal flood maps released this year updated the flood risk level for many properties in the county. That will have a significant impact on insurance costs for some. And though the new maps are still out for public review and won't be adopted until next year, county officials have been instructed to start enforcing new flood guidelines and zones now.

"Making sure buildings are built to flood regulations is a huge part of what we do because so much of Georgetown County is effected," said Boyd Johnson, the county's planning and zoning director. "It's our job to make sure buildings — commercial and residential — meet these regulations. The regulations might add a little bit to the construction cost up front, but it's worth it in the long run. A house that's not in compliance might still get insurance, but it will be a lot more expensive."

Requirements vary by flood zone and are tailored to threats ranging from waves to rising water.

"With the new maps, many of the boundaries have changed, so some homes that weren't in flood zones before, now they are and they'll have to have flood insurance if they have a mortgage. There are also a few places that were in flood zones and now they've been taken out," Johnson said.

He encourages every property owner to review the new flood maps so they know what the changes may mean for them, and to call the Planning Department with any questions at (843) 545-3158. Members of the public can access the maps via the county's website. Navigate to www.gtcounty.org/building and click on "GIS Mapping" from the box at the top left of the page. From there, select "Flood Maps" and enter your location information. Note that the map that comes up first is the existing flood map. Unclick the box and click on "2016 Flood Zones Proposed Unofficial" to view the new maps.

In regard to changes to regulations, Johnson said one of the biggest for Georgetown County residents is a new county requirement that adds an additional foot to the required federal minimum elevation. That change should go a long way in lowering the county's flood rating, which would mean a county-wide discount for residents on flood insurance premiums.

Young takes over as county's new building official

After 16 years with the Georgetown County Building Department, Mike Young has been named the county's new building official.

He was named to the position on an interim basis in December after the retirement of Robert Cox. His promotion wasn't made permanent until months later, but Planning Director Boyd Johnson, who is responsible for the building department, said he always suspected Young was likely to prove the best man for the job.

"I knew from Day One I wouldn't have to go far — just walk down the hall — for a good candidate," Johnson said. "Mike was already here when I came to work for the county 10 years ago, so I've had plenty of opportunities to work with him and watch and listen. I knew his experience wasn't a question and I had seen his work on some controversial and complicated projects. I knew Mike was a straight shooter and had the background, the people skills and technical knowledge for the job."

A Georgetown resident, Young hails from New York and spent much of his life in New Orleans before finding his way to South Carolina 32 years ago. He owned a seafood market in Surfside Beach before taking a job as a dock manager, then using a history in construction and remodeling to transition to a job at the building department. He started with the county as a general residential inspector before being promoted to senior building inspector in 2002. He held that position until his promotion this year.

"I was already very familiar with the job, having worked so closely with Robert in my role as senior inspector," Young said. "That job involves basically acting as a deputy and serving in that capacity when the building official is away."

Young's new position will include enforcing all building codes, including international codes, and federal flood regulations. He is also over the Community Rating System program and has lowered the county's flood rating from a 10 to an 8, earning property owners a 10 percent decrease on flood insurance premiums. He hopes to see the rating drop to a 7 this year, lowering premiums an additional 5 percent. The discounts should automatically be applied by insurance companies.

Young is a member and past president of the Coastal Code Enforcement Association of South Carolina. His wife Lori works with Mitech Industries.



Mike Young

Adult Soccer League

Summer League Registration

open now through May 14

- 7 v 7 format
- League play begins May 21
- All games on Saturday mornings at Stables Park
- Fee is \$260 per team

Do you think you have what it takes to bring home the cup?



For information, call Justin, (843) 520-9621

or e-mail jblomdahl@gtcounty.org

Waccamaw Regional Tennis Center head named State Pro of the Year

David Bromberg, head of the county's tennis programming at Stables Park, has been named the S.C. Tennis Professional of the Year by the U.S. Professional Tennis Association.

The award is given to USPTA members based on contributions to their local tennis organizations and the USPTA, as well as volunteer work, career development, playing record and professional rating. The award came as a surprise to Bromberg, who said he doesn't know who nominated him, but was given reason to believe he received more than one nomination for the honor. It's a reflection of how much work he has put into the program and how much the residents who learn and play on his courts appreciate his efforts.

With more than 25 years as a tennis professional, Bromberg has a 5.0 USPTA ranking and has successfully coached many juniors to high state and southern division rankings, with many of his students going on to have successful collegiate tennis careers.

He was hired by Georgetown County Parks and Recreation in 2012 when the County opened the Waccamaw Regional Tennis Center at Stables Park in Litchfield. With his hire, Bromberg was tasked with developing and growing the county's tennis program on the Waccamaw Neck. In the three years since, he has had tremendous success.

"We started out with maybe five USTA adult teams and maybe 10 kids coming out regularly," Bromberg recalled.

It was a far cry from today when the center's 10 lighted courts are nearly always full. The center now has 18 USTA adult teams with many state titles, and averages 60-70 kids per week.

"We have a lot of young juniors that have started their tennis careers with the 10 and under program here," Bromberg said. "That's probably the age group I like working with best. These days you have low compression balls and smaller nets, so these younger kids can learn to play tennis at a much higher level than you could 20, 30, 40 years ago. With the smaller equipment, these kids get really good, really fast. You would be amazed at how well some of our little 8-year-olds are hitting the ball."

Beth Goodale, the county's director of Parks and Recreation, said programming and usage at the center has exceeded expectations under Bromberg's direction.

"It happened much more quickly than we projected and that is largely due to David and the team he has in place at this facility," Goodale said. "David truly lives and breathes tennis, and his love of the game is obvious. He loves teaching to all ages and abilities and he believes everyone should play tennis. As such, he is reaching out to schools to offer to come in and introduce tennis and he is working to develop programming to introduce and expand play at courts across the county."

Bromberg's passion for tennis and growing the sport is clear when he talks about his job and the people who come in to learn and play. From the 10-and-unders on up to senior citizens, the center sees players of every age and welcomes locals and vacationers alike. A free introductory clinic is offered every Wednesday at 9 a.m. to help people figure out if tennis is something they'd like to pursue. Bromberg estimates about 40-50 percent of those who participate in introductory sessions make the conversion into regular players. He hopes the addition of signage along Highway 17 and the eventual addition of 10 more courts called for in the county's capital plans will offer an even bigger boost for the program.

"We've got a great staff and a great facility and we want to get as



David Bromberg is pictured with his award on the courts at Waccamaw Regional Tennis Center.

many people in here as we can to take advantage of it," Bromberg said.

As pleased as he is with his new title as S.C. Tennis Pro of the Year, Bromberg said it's seeing happy people come and go from the Tennis Center that he considers his real measure of success.

"I just want to be able to get up and do my thing," he said. "I try my best every day to do a good job and get people in here playing tennis and having fun. If I'm doing that, I can go home at night proud of what I've accomplished."

Bromberg said he and the rest of the staff are wholly devoted to making the Waccamaw Regional Tennis Center a family-friendly, fun environment for everyone.

"We have highly ranked junior and adult players, but that's not all it's about," he said. "It's also about families and everybody being able to come out here and have a good time, and to see a nice, clean facility. It's easy to have fun and feel good when you win, but we also challenge ourselves to make sure people feel good when they leave here even when they lose. We stress that it's not all about winning. It's being out there doing and participating and competing – that's the real fun of it."

Bromberg has been involved in tennis nearly his whole life. He started playing at age 10 at the urging of his mother. After a busy junior career in Chapel Hill, N.C., he attended Appalachian State University. Upon graduating, he was hired as assistant tennis pro at Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach and then as director of tennis at DeBordieu Colony, where he spent 14 years. Before coming to Stables, Bromberg spent six years in Charlotte as tennis director at TPC Piper Glen.

Bromberg is proud now to be part of introducing tennis to a whole new segment via Georgetown County's public tennis center at Stables Park. The center also houses a full-service pro shop and is regularly host to annual junior sanctioned tournaments, adult special events, and high school and college tournaments.

Waccamaw Regional Tennis Center is open seven days a week and is located at 302 Gilman Road in Pawleys Island. For more information, call the pro shop at (843) 545-3450, or check out the center's Facebook page for hours, upcoming programs, photos and much more.

Tips for controlling mosquitoes and associated threats around your home

Though the first case of Zika virus was confirmed in S.C. just last month, the Department of Health and Environmental Control emphasized that mosquitoes in S.C. do not currently carry the virus. The person infected was bitten in a country where the virus is prevalent.

However, mosquitoes are known to carry and spread many illnesses, including dengue, chikungunya, West Nile virus and malaria. One of the best ways to lower risk of mosquito borne illnesses is to avoid being bitten, said Tim Chatman, who is in charge of Georgetown County's Mosquito Control Division.

"Homeowners can do a lot to protect themselves around their homes and help prevent a lot of big mosquito problems," Chatman said. "Just emptying water from containers around the exterior of their homes — any container holding stagnant water — can do a lot to cut down the mosquito population."

Standing water is a breeding ground for mosquitos. Females lay several hundred eggs on the walls of water-filled containers. Eggs stick like glue and remain unless scrubbed off. When water covers the eggs, they hatch and become

adult mosquitos in about a week. Just a few infected mosquitos can produce large outbreaks in a community, the Center for Disease Control warns.

Mosquitos are a bigger concern than normal this year, because of the lingering effects of last fall's historic flooding, combined with an unseasonably warm, wet winter. Those factors created ideal breeding conditions for the insect.

To help control mosquitos around homes, Chatman recommends homeowners empty and scrub, turn over, cover or throw out items that hold water, such as tires, buckets, planters, toys, pools, birdbaths, flowerpots or trash containers. This should be done weekly.

Tightly cover water storage containers, such as buckets and rain barrels. For containers without lids, use wire mesh with holes smaller than an adult mosquito. Repair cracks or gaps in septic tanks and cover open vents or plumbing pipes. Use screens on windows and doors to keep mosquitos out of the home.

The Mosquito Control Division regularly conducts ground and aerial spraying. To request services in your area, call (843) 545-3615.

County collects nearly 10 tons of waste at one-day event



A semi-annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection hosted last month by Georgetown County Public Services resulted in the collection of 5.8 tons of hazardous household materials.

That represents an increase of more than 19 percent over the amount collected at the April 2015 event, according to staff. Additionally, a paper shredding event held in conjunction with the event resulted in the collection and destruction of 2.5 tons of paper documents.

Though the county regularly hosts such events, many residents said they were unaware these services are offered by the county. At least two residents said they had kept paint stored in their homes for nearly 20 years because they were unsure where to properly dispose of them.

The next collection event will be scheduled for the fall.

Shoebox Memories: Preserving Your Family Treasures



Archivist Julie Warren will help you convert old documents into digital format and store the originals in the best archival products.

**May 10 at 5:30 p.m. in the Georgetown Library
and May 17 at 5:30 p.m. in the Carvers Bay Library**

**This program is FREE!
But please register at (843) 545-3316**

Find us online!

Whether you're looking for jobs, the latest news or to contact a specific department, online is a great way to stay updated or get in touch with us.

Visit our website at www.gtcounty.org. You can also find us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram. Just search for GtCountySC.



Community celebrates soft opening of renovated Howard Center



Georgetown County Council Member Lillie Jean Johnson, surrounded by other local officials, prepares to cut the ribbon during a ceremony on April 1. See more photos from the ribbon cutting event at www.facebook.com/gtcountysc. The final renovations to the gym at Howard were made in late April. Plans are to open the facility for normal operations this summer.



Many attendees proudly wore their Howard High T-shirts and hats in honor of the facility's history as a school. Howard High memorabilia is being collected for a special display.



Northwest Regional Recreation Center Groundbreaking Celebration

Tuesday, May 17 at 5 p.m.
8259 Choppee Road, Georgetown

For information, call Georgetown County
Parks and Recreation, (843) 545-3275.

Georgetown County Parks & Rec. announces
2 great opportunities
for young soccer players



**BRITISH
SOCCER
CAMP**

July 18-22 at Stables Park

First kicks, 9-10 a.m., \$93	Ages 3-4
Mini Soccer, 10:15-11:45 a.m., \$107	Ages 4-6
Half Day, 9a.m. to noon, \$142	Ages 6-16
Golden Goal, 1-3 p.m., \$50	Ages 7-16

* Golden Goal bonus session only available to registered half-day campers. June 3 is deadline for free jersey.

**BRAZILIAN
SOCCER
CAMP**



**June 13-17, 9 a.m. to noon
at Stables Park**

Ages 7-9 and 10-14, \$150.
There will be a \$10 late fee after June 3.

Register at www.challengersports.com
or contact Justin,
jblomdahl@gtcounty.org

Mercom

Continued from Front Page

Georgetown County is working and succeeding at growing and diversifying its economy from one end of the county to the other," said County Administrator Sel Hemingway. "We want to especially thank Santee Cooper and the S.C. Department of Commerce for their efforts in supporting the County and Mercom in this expansion and the development of the surrounding technology park."

"This is good news for the Georgetown community," said Lonnie Carter, president and CEO of Santee Cooper. "Mercom continues to demonstrate tremendous commitment to Georgetown County, and Santee Cooper is pleased to support their efforts. It is our mission to improve the quality of lives of all South Carolinians, and the highly-skilled jobs generated by this expansion will do just that."

Hemingway also noted that Mercom's announcement was the second expansion announcement in the last six months from one of Georgetown County's existing businesses. Late last year, SafeRack, located in the Andrews area, announced its plans to expand and create more than 100 jobs.

The Alliance for Economic Development of Georgetown County

also played a significant support role in bringing the new technology park to the county. The Alliance is comprised of professionals that support economic development efforts that improve the county through industry recruitment and business expansions.

"We rely on a number of partnerships to be successful in economic development, and in Georgetown County we are fortunate to have great relationships," said Brian Tucker, Georgetown County Economic Development Director. "The Alliance's support in this expansion and in the vision of the Technology Park is greatly appreciated; and is a true indicator of how effective collaborations can advance mutual gains for private and public sectors."

Georgetown County Council Chairman Johnny Morant said economic and job growth in the county are always outstanding news.

"We're delighted not only that Mercom chose Georgetown County for its headquarters, but also to see it thriving here and making an investment like this," Morant said. "This is a company that could operate anywhere in the world and we consider Georgetown County extremely fortunate that they choose to grow and expand their operations here. We're certainly hopeful that this new technology park will encourage location of other tech-based businesses here, and help grow even more jobs."

Bassmaster

Continued from Front Page

art and history — that sets us apart from the competition. This is a place that anglers want to come, but their wives and children, other family members who otherwise might stay home for a tournament, they want to come along for a trip here."

The crowd at the final day's weigh-in was excited to see a South Carolina resident win the championship. Britt Myers took home the trophy and a \$100,000 prize with a four-day weigh-in total of 56 pounds, 3 ounces.

Brett Hite of Phoenix, Ariz., finished second — just four ounces behind Myers.

There were many wives, girlfriends, children, parents and grandparents accompanying anglers throughout the tournament.

Lori Myers, sister of championship winner Britt, sent a note to the county after the tournament to say thank you for "such great hospitality and for the great support" of Britt.

"Everywhere we went, we would meet people telling us they were pulling for him and the crowd of cheers grew bigger by the day. You made him, and us, feel special. We will be back," she wrote.

Hemingway worked with Bassmaster and ESPN staff to make sure the footage that will air on the national TV broadcast reflects all Georgetown County has to offer. While the anglers were on the water, the championship trophy took a tour and was filmed in some of the county's scenic locations. It visited the beach at Pawleys Island, the Harborwalk, the Big Tuna restaurant, the Kaminski



Above left: Britt Myers with his championship trophy. Top right: an aerial view of the crowd during weigh-in. Above right: one of the big bass that was weighed in during the tournament.

House lawn, Caledonia golf course and Front Street. The result is that audiences will get a more comprehensive look at the county.

Though Hemingway nor other county officials couldn't predict or have any say in what anglers would say about the county on stage, comments were positive and anglers repeatedly said they want to come back.

Want to see more photos from the tournament and Winyah Bay Heritage Festival?

Check out our albums at www.facebook.com/gtcountysc.

Citizens Academy graduates 11



A new group recently graduated from the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office's eight-week Citizens Academy program. Sgt. Gary Todd discussed the importance of using the taser as a non-lethal means of protection for officer safety, as well as suspect safety. Sheriff Lane Cribb presented each participant with a challenge coin and a certificate of completion. From left are: (front row) Ashlee Wragg, Patricia Melson, Sheriff Lane Cribb, Miguel Escalante and William Bashor; (back row) Robert Ziegler, Judith Ziegler, Arnie Cribb, Joyce Parker, Thomas Walsh, Barbara Walsh, and Ken Fetzner.

Donation to benefit Child Safety Council



Merritt Sturgeon, Grand Knight of the Precious Blood of Christ Catholic Church Knights of Columbus, recently presented Sheriff Lane Cribb with a donation to benefit the National Child Safety Council. The NCSC mascot, SafetyPup, has become a safety hero and serves as a reminder to children to stay safe and drug free. In addition, the council's educational materials reach children at their age level and target topics which can and do affect their everyday lives. The Georgetown County Sheriff's Office is grateful to the Knights for their generous contribution to child welfare.

Georgetown County FARMERS MARKET



**Find fresh produce,
baked goods and more!**

**Saturdays beginning May 7
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**at 122 Screven St.
in historic Georgetown**



Thursday evenings
Francis Marion Park
Broad and Front
Downtown
Georgetown
6:00pm - 9:00pm

<p>LIVE MUSIC ON EVERY 1ST & 3RD THURSDAY KARAOKE ON EVERY 2ND THURSDAY MAY-JUNE & SEPT-OCT</p>	<p>05/05 <i>Bruce Tereó</i></p>	<p>05/19 <i>Will Ness Band</i></p>
	<p>06/02 <i>Sand Sharks</i></p>	<p>06/16 <i>Jericho Creek</i></p>
<p>09/15 & 10/20 <i>Carolina Midnight</i></p>	<p>10/06 <i>John Lammonds</i></p>	

#29440



'Authors' Table' features poets of the Rough South

Southern writers reel off wild-blooded verses full of spit, grime and gristle

Getting at the dirt beneath the flowers, two very contemporary poets – Adam Vines and Hastings Hensel – will engage listeners on May 12 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. with readings from a brand new anthology pulsating with imagery both lyrical and visceral.

The book is "Hard Lines: Rough South Poetry," and their discourse is entitled "Hard Lines: Poets of the Rough South." Both the tome and the talk encompass verses that sting our senses into utter mindfulness of the wild, darker side of the Southern experience linked to the roughness of nature and the toughness of the human experience across this vibrant region.

An introduction to this free program at the Waccamaw Library, 41 St. Paul Place, will be provided by Daniel Cross Turner, who with William Wright co-edited the "Hard Lines" compendium of more than 200 poems by more than 70 poets — both living and dead.

Altogether this collection delivers a huge array of varied voices and diverse styles from the somewhat formal to the

completely off-the-wall feverish.

"These variations are important to get at the full range of roughness in the South from different people all across the scale," Turner noted.

Vines and Hensel are part of this movement reclaiming the idea of the rough South – outside of the modern, sterile, work cubicles, Turner added.

"We are proud to illuminate in 'Hard Lines' the great lights of these brilliant and beautiful writers, many of whom are living poets from our area," Turner said. "These guys are looking at the wilderness and writing about the raw experience of venturing into the backwoods to camp, fish, hunt and connect with animals and with the environment, especially in the vein of James Dickey."

Vines and Hensel are described as "up and coming poets who will bring a lot of energy to this presentation at the Waccamaw Library."

Vines is an Assistant Professor of English at the University of Alabama, Birmingham. Waccamaw Neck resident Hensel is the author of *Winter Inlet*, a poetry collection which garnered the 2014-2015 Unicorn Press First Book Prize.

Spend a day with Natalie Daise at the Waccamaw Library

Renowned performer Natalie Daise will give two free performances at the Waccamaw Library on Friday, May 20, thanks to the sponsorship of the Friends of the Waccamaw Library and retired teachers of Waccamaw Elementary School. The performances are family friendly and good for all ages.



Natalie Daise

Daise's first performance, titled "Comeyah Tales," will start at 10 a.m. Daise will spend two and a half hours sharing stories and songs that celebrate the history and culture of South Carolina. She'll share tales ranging from the Lowcountry Hag to the Bre'r Rabbit, and "Little Sister" may make an appearance.

Following at 6 p.m., Daise will perform "Becoming Harriett Tubman." The 60-minute theatrical presentation takes the audience through the development of little Araminta Ross into the heroine Harriet Tubman. Five characters, all played by Daise, share their perspective on the events that shaped Tubman.

Daise, along with her husband Ron, has spent many years studying, sharing and working to preserve the Lowcountry's Gullah culture. The couple has been awarded South Carolina's prestigious Palmetto and Folk Heritage awards. The couple also starred in the Nick Jr. television series "Gullah Gullah Island."

Natalie is also an artist and recently had a painting selected for the Artfields exhibit and competition in Lake City.

For information about Daise's upcoming performances at the library, call the Waccamaw Library, (843) 546-3623.

Sign up now for

Adult Co-ed and Slow Pitch Summer Softball Leagues!

A program of Georgetown County Parks and Recreation

Slow Pitch

Registration ends:
May 27, 5 p.m.

Opening Day:
Tuesday, June 7

Ages:
18 and up

Games on: Tuesday
and Thursday nights,

Location: 8 Oaks Park
and Olive Park



Adult Co-ed

Registration ends:
May 20, 5 p.m.

Opening Day:
Tuesday, May 31

Ages:
18 and up

Games on: Tuesday
and Thursday nights,

Location:
Retreat Park

Call Justin, (843) 520-9621
or email jblomdahl@gtcounty.org

Military families invited to participate in special event

The local chapter of Blue Star Mothers, Blue Star Mothers of Coastal Carolina, in conjunction with Grand Strand Blue Star Mothers, will host a special event for military families at 2 p.m. May 15.

The event will take place at the Myrtle Beach Moose Lodge, 479 Burcale Road, and will feature guest speaker Mark Kruea of the City of Myrtle Beach. Refreshments will be served, and there will be exhibits and information from area recruiters, the Red Cross, Blue Star Mothers, and a variety of veterans organizations and groups.

Dirks is Employee of the Quarter

Jennifer Dirks, an administrative assistant with Georgetown County's Public Services Department, was selected as Georgetown County's Employee of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2016.

The Employee of the Quarter Award was designed to recognize outstanding full- and part-time employees at non-managerial levels. Dirks is entering only her second year of employment with the county, but quickly made herself an invaluable member of the Public Services team. She worked for state government for 12 years and brought all the knowledge and skills learned through that experience to her current position.

Serving as the direct assistant to the director of public services, Ray Funnye, Her duties include fielding telephone calls and visitors; preparing meeting minutes and various types of correspondence; contract management; budget management; accounts payable and receivable; management reports; and helping staff personnel with requests in addition to a wide range of other tasks.

In a presentation to county directors,

Funnye described Dirks as an ideal employee — dedicated, dependable, eager to help make the department the best it can be and always willing to take on any task assigned to her with a positive attitude. He noted she has outstanding communication and people skills. She is courteous to customers and goes out of her way to answer their questions and concerns.

"She also is a great team player when working with other staff and is always willing to help and do more than her part. Her positive attitude and drive make her an integral part of the County team," Funnye said.

The quality of Jennifer's work was described as excellent.

"I can depend on her to produce show-worthy work the first time every time. The

level of job knowledge she has gained since working with Georgetown County is immense."

Dirks continuously takes on tasks that are above her paygrade and does what she is asked with enthusiasm and a smile. "She always gives 110 percent," Funnye said.

Among her recent accomplishments, Dirks Successfully completed the move and organization of the county's entire archives collection into a new facility. This was quite an undertaking which took organization, commitment, hard work and long hours of her own time.



From left: Greg Troutman, human resources director; Jennifer Dirks; County Council Chairman Johnny Morant; and Ray Funnye, public services director.

Georgetown County Parks and Rec. Presents
Adult BASKETBALL 5v5

League Begins: June 6 in Pawleys Island, June 9 in Georgetown
Registration Ends: May 27 for both locations
Games: Monday Nights in Pawleys Island, Thursday nights in Georgetown
Ages: 18+
League Fee: \$250 Per Team
Captains Meeting: June 1, 6 p.m.

To register, call (843) 520-9621
 or email jblomdahl@gtcounty.org

Georgetown County Parks & Rec. announces
Adult Co-ed League



At 8 Oaks Park in Georgetown, Retreat Park in Pawleys Island And Olive Park Andrews
Registration ends May 27
League begins June 6
Games on Monday nights

For information, call Justin at (843) 520-9621
 or e-mail jblomdahl@gtcounty.org

Georgetown County, South Carolina

County Government

Numbers to know

Animal Control, 546-5101

Assessor, 545-3014

Auditor, 545-3021

Clerk of Court, 545-3004

County Council, 545-3058

Coroner, 546-3056

Elections, 545-3339

Finance, 545-3002

Planning and Zoning, 545-3116

Probate Judge, 545-3077

Register of Deeds, 545-3088

Sheriff, 546-5102

Treasurer, 545-3098

P.O. Box 421270
129 Screven Street
Georgetown, S.C. 29440-4200

Phone: (843) 545-3063
Fax: (843) 545-3292



Georgetown wins Men's League Basketball Championship



Georgetown, above, defeated Pawleys Island, right, 47-32 in the Georgetown County Parks and Recreation Men's Basketball League Championship at the Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center on May 2. The league started with six teams, with four eliminated during the season and tournament play. Members of the winning team are, from left: Top row, Mike Ford, Queron Bryant, Dwayne Richardson, Devon Ford, Tony Ford and Brandon Brown. Bottom row, AJ Grant, Michael Davis, Tevin Gardner, Aryan Sparks and Travis Green. Kids are, from left, Queron Bryant Jr., Aaydn Grant and Grayson Grant. At top right is a scene from the championship game. The Pawleys Island team is, from left: Top row, Jamie Cooper, Trey Ward, Pat Ward, Travis Frye, and Trey Glenn. Bottom row, Jaz Greene and Sean Connel. Not pictured are Sam Greene and Joey Alba. Registration is open for the summer league through May 27. See page 11 for details.



IFA Redfish and Kayak tours make first of two 2016 stops



Ernie Wallace and Bryan Mims of Georgetown placed third in the IFA Redfish Tour on April 30.

Georgetown County was delighted to host the Inshore Fishing Association at the Campbell Marine Complex again, with its Redfish Tour on April 30 and Kayak Fishing Tour on May 1.

Winners included Ernie Wallace and Bryan Mims of Georgetown, taking third in the Redfish Tour. Right behind them were Eric Gobbett of Georgetown and Rob Beglin of Pawleys Island in fourth. Noah Lowenbach of Pawleys Island won Youth Angler for the Kayak Tour.

The IFA will be back in Georgetown for a televised event Sept. 24 and 25. Register now at www.ifatours.com.



The winners of the IFA Kayak Fishing Tour are, from left: Derek Engle of Florida, Big Trout; Youth Angler Noah Lowenbach of Pawleys Island; Dave Jaskiewicz of Wando, first place; Joe Komyati of Raleigh, second place and Big Redfish; and Nathan Roycroft of Townville, third place.



The youngest angler, Tripp Coker, fishing with his father, James, was just 3.