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## Calendar

**July 11** – Georgetown/Horry County Annexation Committee meeting, 3 p.m. in Conway. See page 6.


**July 11** – Adult Flag Football pickup games start at Beck Recreation Center. See page 9.

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

**July 24** – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse. (Council only meets once a month during the summer.)

**July 25** – County sponsored blood drive at Beck Recreation Center, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Aug. 3** – Music in the Park, featuring Jim Quick and Coastline, 6-9 p.m. in Francis Marion Park on Front St. Free, but bring a lawn chair.

### Georgetown man wins Bassmaster tournament

In a field of nearly 400 anglers from 17 states and Canada, Gary Pope was the only one from Georgetown County — the host site for the B.A.S.S. Nation Eastern Regional Championship. The home field advantage paid off and he won the tournament’s non-boater division on June 22, earning him a spot in the National Championship.

Pope led the field from start to finish, hauling in a three-bass limit on each of the tournament’s three days. During the final day’s weigh-in, however, it looked like the championship could go to another S.C. resident. Stacey Jefferson Proctor of Conway had been in the hot seat – the area on stage reserved for the current tournament leader – since nearly the start of the weigh-in process.

Pope was the last non-boater to weigh in. He regained the lead and took the prize, but both anglers will fish again in the championship, earning a chance at a spot in the Bassmaster Classic. The date and location of the national championship has not been announced.

An employee at International Paper, Pope said he was lucky to have been paired with a boater on Day 1 who was willing to take some suggestions from a local in regard to fishing location. He and his partner fished the Pee Dee River.

"I managed to pick the right baits and the right times..."  

See “Bassmaster,” Page 8

### County promotes fire safety with family festival, meeting

July 10 was Fire Safe Day in Georgetown County, and local fire departments celebrated by reaching out to the community.

The day started with a community meeting in which local leaders and members of the public were invited to join local fire departments and the S.C. Office of the State Fire Marshal to discuss the need for collective efforts for fire and life safety programming. Led by Fire Safe South Carolina, a community risk reduction program, the meeting was at Howard Auditorium and attracted about 50 people. Audience members included emergency responders, county and city leaders, charitable groups, churches and others.

The purpose was to bring stakeholders together to discuss specific factors in communities that lead to fire deaths and how people in those communities can work together to address those issues.

"We in the fire service are aware of what the problems are and where those problems are, but we don’t always know what programs are out there in the community to help us," said Midway Fire Rescue Chief Doug Eggiman. The meeting connected him with several sources of assistance for tasks such as helping low-income and elderly residents install smoke detectors in their homes.

For community members and groups, it highlighted problems many didn’t know existed and showed areas where they could step up to help.

The meeting was followed by a free family festival outside Howard gym.  

See “Fire Safe,” Page 4
Fiscal Year 19 budget calls for tax, road fee increases

Georgetown County Council members gave final approval on June 26 to a budget that will increase property taxes countywide by up to 4 mills and increase the county road user fee by $20.

County staff explored numerous options for closing a significant deficit this year. But with a serious need to increase law enforcement salaries, plus increased costs for retirement contributions, property insurance rates, workers compensation premiums, utility rates, fuel costs and health care coverage, a tax and fee increase was the best option without cutting essential services.

No members of the public addressed council regarding the budget during any reading of the budget, including the final reading. The exact amount of the tax increase will vary by fire district. A countywide millage increase of 3.1 mills was passed, with an additional .8 mills proposed for property owners in the County Fire District, .3 mills for property owners in the Midway Fire District, and .1 mill for property owners throughout the county — with the exception of the City of Georgetown and the Town of Andrews — for solid waste collections and recycling services.

For residents in the County Fire District, the increase will total 4 mills, which would amount to an increase of $16 on a $100,000 primary residence. In the Midway Fire District, the increase will total 3.5 mills, or $14 on a $100,000 primary residence. The total will be 3.2 mills or $12.80 on a $100,000 residence in the Murrells Inlet Garden City Fire District.

For residents in the incorporated areas of Andrews and Georgetown, the increase amounts to 3.1 mills or $12.40 on a $100,000 residence.

The County projects that it will be able to maintain a little more than $10 million in fund balance reserves in its General Fund for emergencies, such as recovery from a natural disaster, per policy.

The increase of the annual $30 road user fee to $50 is expected to generate an additional $1.2 million. With the change, the county will for the first time distribute some of the fee revenue to incorporated areas of the county, and will be in a position to contribute approximately $388,000 to Coast RTA to fund a more equitable amount of the public transportation service.

The possibility of using some accommodations tax revenue for fire and law enforcement needs was discussed, but officials decided there was too much risk in depending on those funds for recurring expenses.

A copy of the budget is available on the county’s website at www.gtcounty.org/finance/. Residents can also find detailed information about ongoing revenue and expenditures via the county’s new online Interactive Financial Analysis Portal, which is also available on the Finance section of the county’s website. Look for more information on this new feature in the future.

Find fresh produce and more!

Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
at 122 Screven St., Georgetown
across from the historic courthouse

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 in 2012. 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
County Sheriff’s Office receives state reaccreditation

Georgetown County Sheriff Lane Cribb accepted his agency’s third Certificate of Accreditation from the S.C. Law Enforcement Officers Association in Columbia on June 15.

During the accreditation process, all areas of the sheriff’s office were inspected to determine if the policies, standards and performances were in line with recognized best practices. The final step was an inspection where South Carolina Law Enforcement Accreditation Inc. assessors visited the sheriff’s office to see the operations firsthand and solicit public input on the agency’s performance. The Georgetown County Sheriff’s Office is one of 19 law enforcement agencies in South Carolina to receive state accreditation.

The certificate reads, “Georgetown County Sheriff’s Office has demonstrated dedication to excellence and professionalism in South Carolina law enforcement through voluntary compliance to specific standards designed to enhance the professional delivery of law enforcement services and is recognized as a leader in South Carolina law enforcement and is hereby awarded this Third Certificate of Accreditation.”

Cribb says reaccreditation allows his department to measure itself against the highest standards in law enforcement and improve its delivery of services to the citizens of Georgetown County.

Find updates on Georgetown County

www.facebook.com/gtcountysc
County teaches youth about local government through camp

Georgetown County teamed up with The Mitney Project this summer to teach youth in Georgetown’s West End about how their local government works. The county hosted about 40 children ages 8-14 during the week of June 25. The kids toured county facilities, learned what different departments do and received information about careers available in county departments.

The first morning of the camp was spent in County Council Chambers, in the historic county courthouse, where County Administrator Sel Hemingway talked with them about the structure of the county’s government and the role of County Council. The kids later toured the county’s new Judicial Center, where they learned about the court system, then went to Emergency Management, where they participated in a tabletop exercise to learn how the department works to mitigate disasters.

The kids spent an entire day with the Sheriff’s Office, learning about their operations. They also toured the Georgetown airport and the recycling center, spent a morning at the library participating in programs, went canoeing with the Parks and Recreation Department, got up close and personal with some plants and wildlife at Environmental Services, and learned all about fire safety, CPR and more with County Fire/EMS.

The county offers an array of programming and tours to help youth and adults learn more about its functions and facilities. For more information, contact Jackie Broach-Akers at (843) 545-3164 or jbroach@gtcounty.org.

Visit our website to find a complete schedule of summer reading program activities for each library branch!

Georgetown County Library Summer Reading Program!
June 11—July 26, 2017
Libraries Rock!

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Fire Safe
Continued from Front Page

where kids enjoyed food, games and fire truck rides, while adults had the opportunity for blood pressure checks and a chance to talk with firefighters, EMTs and law enforcement officers. And, of course, everyone went home with important fire safety information.

This year, South Carolina has already seen more than 45 deaths resulting from fire. If the trend continues, the state will exceed last year’s number of 102 fire deaths. This is why it’s so important to communicate fire safety messages in communities, and why events such as Fire Safe Days are so vital. For more information, visit www.firesafe.sc.gov.
With vehicle break-ins on the rise, Sheriff says ‘lock it or lose it’

With tourist season’s arrival, Sheriff Lane Cribb is reintroducing an awareness campaign called “Lock-It or Lose-It”. The Georgetown County Sheriff’s Office and Sheriff Cribb would like to make everyone aware of the rise in thefts from unlocked motor vehicles recently.

The question is, “could thefts have been reduced if the doors were locked?” Trends in breaking into motor vehicles reveal offenders prefer unlocked cars because they are an easier target. A locked car with valuables left within eyesight is an inviting target too.

Listed below are a few simple suggestions that can be used to discourage a thief from breaking into your vehicle:

• Lock your doors! If a thief is on a mission, he/she is far more likely to try his luck elsewhere if your doors are locked.
• If possible, remove all valuables; thieves will search for other vehicles that are easier targets if they do not see anything of value in your car. If you choose not to remove valuables from your vehicle, conceal them from view by securing them in a glove box, center console, or, even better, the trunk.
• Be aware of where you park. If it is during daylight hours, park where it is constantly being seen by somebody. Don’t try to hide it because the place you may choose will be a perfect location for a break-in. During the night, if possible, park in an area with a lot of light; light is an enemy of thieves.
• If you park your vehicle at home in a garage with a door, keep the garage door closed and locked.
• Be aware of anyone who looks suspicious roaming your neighborhood. Call the sheriff’s office at 843-546-5102 if you suspect someone or call 911 if you see a crime in progress.

“I would like to encourage the citizens and visitors of Georgetown County to be more cautious when leaving their vehicles unattended by locking their doors and removing their valuables,” Sheriff Cribb said. “By doing this, I feel that the amount of motor vehicle break-ins will reduce dramatically.”

Summer Reading Program in full swing

Whether it’s a rainy day, or you want to beat the heat, bring the kids to any of our four library branches for fantastic summer fun! Upcoming programs for July include a puppet show, movies, fun with Fossil Frank, a summer reading party, arts and crafts, games and a magic show by Gerry the Great. There are also Lego days, storytimes and plenty of other activities, plus all the library’s regular daily programs! Programming differs slightly from one branch to another. To see all the events at the branch nearest you, visit the library website at: georgetowncountylibrary.sc.gov.

FREE SUMMER MOVIES
Howard Auditorium • 1610 Hawkins St., Georgetown
Tuesday & Thursday mornings at 10am
Thursday evenings (6/28, 7/26, 8/16) at 6pm
ALL AGES ARE WELCOME! CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE!

Bee Informed
Georgetown County beekeepers, please call (843) 545-3615.
In an effort to protect the local bee population, Georgetown County’s Mosquito Control Division maintains a list of contact information for local beekeepers, so they may receive advance notice of aerial sprays in their areas and cover their hives.

Georgetown County Parks & Recreation • (843) 545-3275
2060 Church St., Georgetown, SC • www.gtcparks.org
facebook.com/GTCParks Instagram.com/GTCParks

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2060 Church St., Georgetown, SC • www.gtcparks.org
facebook.com/GTCParks Instagram.com/GTCParks
Annexation meeting on July 11 will address county line issue

A commission to investigate annexation of certain areas of Horry and Georgetown counties along the county border will meet on July 11 at 3 p.m. in Conway.

The meeting will take place at the Horry County Council Conference Room, located at 1301 Second Ave. The commission is comprised of the county administrator and county attorney for each of the two counties, as appointed by the governor.

Following selection of a commission chairman, the group will discuss statutory requirements and an executive order related to annexation and begin the process of moving toward a referendum that will allow affected residents to decide which county they wish to be part of.

The meeting is open to the public. Look for an update in next month’s newsletter.

County Fire/EMS, Red Cross team up to save lives with smoke detectors

Local fire departments, the Palmetto SC Region of the American Red Cross and Fire Safe SC announced July 10 that 53 lives have been saved through the efforts of the Home Fire Campaign in South Carolina. Two of the lives saved were in a home on Jerome Drive in Georgetown County.

“It was very scary, but I know for a fact, if it hadn’t been for the smoke alarms, I was going back to sleep,” said Janette Washington. “[They] saved our lives. We would have been gone, honestly.”

Several months ago, firefighters from Georgetown County visited the church where Janette attends. They talked to the congregation about their ability to install free smoke alarms from the Red Cross. Janette asked for several alarms to be installed. Firefighters also talked to Janette and her son, Timothy, about having a home fire escape plan.

“Anytime we can get to a community event and talk about fire safety and smoke alarms, we’re there,” said Georgetown County Fire Chief Mack Reed. His department will be participating in an event on the afternoon of July 10 at Howard Recreation Center to do just that.

Little did Janette know, those alarms would soon save her and her son’s lives. In April, as she was falling back asleep after storms woke her up, Janette heard the screech from those newly installed alarms.

“When I looked down the hall, all I could see was the fire coming from the ceiling,” Janette remembered.

She screamed for Timothy to wake up. The two escaped just as the power went out in their home. Red Cross disaster-trained volunteers helped the Washington family in the days after the fire by providing financial assistance and helped them replace medications ruined in the fire.

“They were fabulous. They helped us out real good,” Jannette said.

Since the start of the Home Fire Campaign, more than 57,000 smoke alarms have been installed in South Carolina by Red Cross and its partners. Lives have been saved throughout the state, including in Greenville, Dalzell, North Charleston and Myrtle Beach.

“Home fires continue to be the number one disasters South Carolinians face every day,” said Louise Welch Williams, chief executive officer, Palmetto SC Region. “We are thankful to our partners who help us tremendously in our efforts to save lives and educate residents.”

To learn more about the Red Cross Home Fire Campaign, visit [www.redcross.org/sc](http://www.redcross.org/sc).

Residents can contact their local fire department to ask about programs to help them get new smoke alarms or ask for help testing or replacing batteries in their smoke detectors.
Hello, everyone, and happy summer! We are now beginning to face some of the hottest days of the year. Please remember to drink plenty of water.

Here are some good safety tips from our Georgetown Safety office:

**Sun**

Sunlight contains ultraviolet (UV) radiation, which causes premature aging of the skin, wrinkles, cataracts and skin cancer. There are no safe UV rays or safe sun tans. Be especially careful in the sun if you burn easily, spend a lot of time outdoors, or have any of the following physical features: numerous, irregular or large moles; freckles; fair skin; or blonde, red, or light brown hair.

Here’s how to block those harmful rays:

- **Cover up.** Wear loose-fitting, long-sleeved shirts and long pants.
- **Use sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 30.** Be sure to follow application directions on the bottle or tube.
- **Wear a hat.** A wide brim hat, not a baseball cap, works best because it protects the neck, ears, eyes, forehead, nose, and scalp.
- **Wear UV-absorbent sunglasses (eye protection).** Sunglasses don’t have to be expensive, but they should block 99 to 100 percent of UVA and UVB radiation. Before you buy sunglasses, read the product tag or label.
- **Limit exposure.** UV rays are most intense between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

**Happy Birthday U.S. Army!**

The Army celebrated its 243rd birthday on June 14, commemorating the date in 1775 when the Continental Congress authorized enlistment of expert riflemen to serve the United Colonies for one year.

The **Low Country Veterans Group** held a flag burning ceremony on June 14. It was a beautiful event. Please remember if you have any flags that need to be destroyed, bring them to our office for proper disposal.

Mr. **Bob Hawkins**, USA (Ret) shared with us that the Military Appreciation Committee (MAC) has wrapped up its review of May’s very successful events, and initiated planning for our 2019 Military Appreciation Days. I wish to say thanks and well done! All those who were not able to attend this year’s events really missed a good time.

In other business, **Vets for Jesus** is looking forward to kicking off its first summertime meeting on Tuesday, July 10, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Georgetown YMCA. August, September, October VJPT meetings are scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the YMCA meeting room.

**Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing** is a national nonprofit charity in all 50 states that teaches fly fishing skills to disabled veterans and active duty service members who receive treatment for a disabling condition. Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing also organizes fishing trips — both one-day and multi-day — for disabled veterans. Everything is provided to all participants at no cost. Volunteers teach regularly scheduled classes in fly fishing basics, fly casting, fly tying and rod building.

Fly casting classes and fishing outings are hosted by the Charleston Anglers Club through the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center in Charleston. For information, contact Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Regional Coordinator Mr. Walter Shockley at walter.shockley@projecthealingwaters.org. Or you can go to www.projecthealingwaters.org. The organization also welcomes donations, which go to helping disabled veterans during a period of recovery from the mental and physical wounds of war.

Until next time, have a Happy and Safe Summer! If you have items you would like to share with Georgetown County area veterans, or if you would like information about programs and services available to local veterans, please contact me via email at dmurphy@gtcounty.org. You can also find information from our department on the Georgetown County Veterans Services Facebook page at www.facebook.com/gtcVeterans/.

**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](http://www.gtcounty.org). You can also find us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram. Just search for GtCountySC.
as the tide got lower and lower,” he said.

Over the next two days, he said, he had to scramble just to “eek out a limit.” A daily heat index topping 100 degrees surely didn’t help.

He threw Senko worms throughout the tournament, along with a blue crawfish lure he custom makes. As he accepted his trophy, he thanked his wife, Julie.

“She kept me supported, focused, and everything I needed the whole tournament. She helped me keep my head in the game,” Pope said.

In second place in the non-boater division, Proctor finished the tournament with a total catch weight of 15 pounds, 13 ounces.

Winning the Boater Division of the Championship was Mark Hogan of Delaware. He caught a five-bass limit on day 3 of the tournament that weighed a total of 15 pounds and 9 ounces. With a limit all three days of the tournament, his final cumulative weight for the tournament was 31 pounds, 15 ounces.

The Big Bass for the tournament was caught by Brad Bressler of the Pennsylvania team on Day 2. It weighed 5 pounds, 5 ounces.

This is Georgetown County’s fourth consecutive year of hosting Bassmaster tournaments, and it was the biggest yet in terms of the number of boats. It presented a challenge for staff as they showed up at the Carroll A. Campbell Marine Complex daily at 3:30 a.m. to get ready to start putting boats in the water at 4 a.m. But all in all, it was a success on several levels, said County Administrator Sel Hemingway. Not only did most tournament participants and their families offer compliments on everything from accommodations to their treatment by staff and the community, but they spent an estimated $1.5 million in the community and had a total economic impact of about $2.6 million, conservatively.

The county’s goal is to host a Bassmaster event every year, and it hopes to get another Elite Series event in 2019, Hemingway said.

The county will also host an Inshore Fishing Association Redfish Tour and Kayak tour in Georgetown Sept. 21-22. That event is open to all anglers. Register at www.ifatours.com.

For photos and videos from the tournament, visit www.gtcounty.org/gallery.html or the county’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/gtcountysc.
Exploring the Great Outdoors

Over the last several years, Georgetown County Parks and Recreation has stepped up its game in terms of variety of programming.

In addition to timeless staples, such as softball, basketball and football, the department has been working hard to incorporate more passive forms of recreation into its facilities and encourage kids to spend more time outdoors, getting dirty and enjoying nature.

So far, kids and parents are loving it. The department hosted a successful camping and fishing event in June at 8 Oaks Park. Families pitched tents near the ballfields, enjoying an evening of games, marshmallow and hotdog roasts, canoeing, ghost stories and summer fun.

The following morning kids and their families were invited to the pond at 8 Oaks for a youth fishing rodeo. Many kids — from toddlers on up to teens — had their very first fishing experience that day.

Parents said they were thrilled to see their kids outdoors and encouraged the department to have more such events in the future. The department hopes to have another family camping and youth fishing event this fall.

Competitive pickleball league introduced at two centers

With growing interest in pickleball at recreation facilities across the county, Georgetown County Parks and Recreation has introduced a competitive league for serious players.

The league is open to players who rate themselves at a 3.5 or better. League play will occupy one court at the Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center every Monday through July from noon to 2 p.m., and two courts on Fridays at Beck Recreation Center from 10 a.m. to noon.

Cost to play is $2 per day.

The league is a pilot program to measure interest in a competitive league and may become a regular fixture in the schedule if there is enough public interest.

Programs for beginning pickleball players, as well as games for players at all levels will continue to be offered. Call (843) 545-3275 for more information.

Tony Gaskin was among professional anglers who volunteered their time for the event.