From World War II era planes to cutting edge business and modern military aircraft, the Georgetown Airport will be the place to see them all on Aug. 24 and 25. A free static aircraft display will be at the center of the county’s biggest National Aviation Week Celebration ever.

The airport will also be site of Young Eagle Flights that weekend, where children can experience their first plane ride, free of charge, on a first-come basis with proper paperwork submitted in advance. For teens and adults 14 and up, they can actually have their first piloting experience, taking an introductory flying lesson from Seven Rivers Aviation for $99. There will also be seminars for pilots, fire truck rides for kids, and a festival environment with food and lots of fun. Admission will be free.

Aviation Week is recognized and celebrated in Georgetown County every year. But with a new airport manager and a new long-range strategic plan in place for growing the Georgetown Airport, staff decided a bigger celebration was merited.

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This is all about getting kids and families out to the airport to see and learn," said Jim Taylor, who was hired this spring as the airport’s new manager. "I’ve driven past the airport back home so many times and seen kids lined up along the fence, looking in. They’re already excited about aviation. Kids love airplanes. I want to get them inside the fence and let them experience it.”

It’s a mission that falls in line with a large component of the airport’s long-range plan, which calls for increased public outreach and education about careers in aviation. There is a huge pilot shortage right now, Taylor said. Kids need to know there are ample opportunities right here for good paying jobs in the aviation field — many that don’t require a 4-year college degree.

Among the planes on display for kids and families to see during the celebration will be a P-51 called the Swamp Fox, a T-35, a tree-cutting helicopter from RotorBlade, an Air Methods ship and a Bristol light sport aircraft. The airport will also host a C17 Globemaster out of Charleston for several hours on Aug. 25. Look for more aircraft to be announced as the event nears.

Bassmaster Elite series will return to Georgetown in 2019

Shortly after Georgetown County hosted an incredibly successful B.A.S.S. Nation tournament this summer, Bassmaster announced officially that it will bring its Elite Series back to Georgetown next year.

The Bassmaster Elite Series is the highest level of professional bass fishing tournaments. It will return to Winyah Bay April 11-14, 2019.

Georgetown County last hosted an Elite Series — its first — in 2016. That tournament drew one of the largest crowds in Elite Series history, with 27,500 people in attendance, according to Bassmaster. Additionally, the Elite LIVE show — broadcast online over three days — put Georgetown County in the national spotlight, generating more than 93,000 video plays and more than 3.2 million minutes of viewing time. Georgetown County officials hope to top those numbers next year. 2019 will be the county’s fifth consecutive year hosting a Bassmaster tournament. In addition to the Elite series, it has hosted two B.A.S.S. Nation regional tournaments and a college tournament.

The county expects to again see a significant economic impact from the Elite series, as anglers and fans alike pack into town, filling hotels and restaurants, said County Administrator Sel Hemingway.
National leadership expert to speak on increasing community impact

Anton J. Gunn, a nationally recognized leadership development and healthcare reform expert who served under President Barack Obama, will deliver a presentation at the Waccamaw Library on how individual accountability can transform community direction.

Gunn works with organizations that want to help their leaders embrace change, overcome adversity, and increase outcomes by using his Presidential Leadership Principles. The event is sponsored by the Frances P. Bunnelle Foundation and the Georgetown County Library system. Refreshments will be provided.

Gunn’s talk will mark the 10th anniversary of the Bunnelle Foundation’s “Common Issues/Common Threads” public discussion series that explores community building on a local level. The event will take place on Thursday, Aug. 16, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Waccamaw Library auditorium. The Library is located at 41 St. Paul Place, Pawleys Island.

Both the lecture and the refreshments are free and open to the community. However, seating is limited, so reservations are required. To register, please RSVP at: bit.ly/AntonGunn or by calling Jamie Jayroe at (843) 237-1222.

There is a wealth of experiences behind Gunn’s vision of how individuals can become difference-makers on a local level. He played football in the Southeastern Conference for the University of South Carolina, and then became the first African-American to be elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives from District 79. Beginning as a grassroots community organizer and Hip Hop activist, he emerged as a leader in the movement to reform America’s health care system, serving as an advisor to President Barack Obama.

“I have a long history of doing community work here in South Carolina,” Gunn said. “And I’ve distilled down [my experiences] into four important points that will help all of us have a bigger impact in our communities and be the difference-maker that matters to ourselves and to other people.”

Sharing these four key points — what Gunn terms his “Raising C.A.I.N” leadership model for empowering community members to create a lasting legacy — will be the theme of his presentation.

The Frances P. Bunnelle Foundation’s vision is of a diverse community with abundant opportunity for work, recreation and sustainable living. The Foundation’s five focus areas are encouraging positive youth development, addressing the root causes of poverty, meeting basic human needs, promoting economic vitality, and preserving the environment.

View a one-minute promotional video for Gunn’s upcoming Bunnelle Foundation lecture at bit.ly/AntonGunnYT.

Georgetown County Farmers Market

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
**Midway welcomes new fire marshal**

Midway Fire Rescue is pleased to announce Mark Nugent, a veteran first responder with more than 40 years of experience in the fire service and emergency management, will join the department as its new Fire Marshal and Division Chief of Fire and Life Safety.

A resident of Murrells Inlet, Nugent was most recently employed as Public Information and Education Officer for Horry County Fire Rescue. Prior to that, he retired as Battalion Chief for Chesterfield County Fire and EMS in Virginia. In his 40-plus-year career, he has also served in roles including emergency services coordinator, deputy fire marshal and director of community relations.

He has a Master of Public Administration degree, with an emphasis on Emergency Services, from Columbia Southern University. He also holds degrees in fire science, EMS management and organizational management and development.

Additionally, he is a nationally recognized speaker and a longtime contributor to Firehouse Magazine.

“We’re very lucky to have someone with his extensive experience in all aspects of fire prevention joining our department,” said Midway Chief Doug Eggiman. “He already has a great reputation in the community. On top of that, he has an infectious personality and a strong history of team building, project management and educational program development. I believe he will be a great addition to our team.”

Nugent will fill the vacancy left by longtime Fire Marshal Todd Blomdahl, who retired last winter after more than 20 years with the department. Nugent’s first day on the job was July 23.

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**Sheriff says new competitive wage structure will strengthen agency**

The Georgetown County Sheriff’s Office has deputy and detention center openings for certified and non-certified officers.

Applicants must be at least 21 years of age, have a high school diploma or the equivalent, be a U.S. citizen and meet all minimum hiring requirements.

Once certified, Georgetown County deputies will receive an annual salary of $40,000. Patrol deputies get the use of a take-home car as a benefit of employment. All deputies are provided uniforms and equipment.

Georgetown County Detention Center officers, once certified, will receive an annual salary of $36,212. They are also provided uniforms and equipment.

Georgetown County Sheriff’s Office employees receive excellent benefits, including subsidized health and dental insurance through the State Health Plan, group life and disability insurance, workers compensation, upon qualifying, a pension through the South Carolina Police Officers’ Retirement System, 401(k) retirement plan, sick leave, paid vacation and 12 holidays.

“Georgetown County is a great place to live and raise a family,” Sheriff A. Lane Cribb said. “The county’s willingness to increase the pay for officers will make it possible for them to put down roots here. We are combatting that by giving those looking for a career in law enforcement a chance to work at an accredited, pro-active agency that recognizes the need for paying its employees a competitive wage. Georgetown County provides a quality of life that is unique among South Carolina coastal counties. We want our employees to be part of this great community for a long time.”

For a job application go to www.gcsheriff.org/employment.

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**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!

Georgetown County Parks & Recreation • (843) 345-3275
2031 Church St., Georgetown, SC • www.gtcparks.org

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**Now Hiring**

**LAW ENFORCEMENT DEPUTIES**

Currently Hiring Certified/Uncertified Positions

To be a part of our team you must:
- Be at least 21 years of age
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent
- Be a U.S. citizen
- Meet all minimum hiring requirements

As part of the GCSO Team, you will enjoy:
- Excellent Benefits and a Salary of $40,000

Compensated wages for all cadets while attending the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

Apply online today at gcsheriff.org/employment or visit at the Georgetown County Detention Center.
SCDOT gives update on Yauhannah bridge replacement

Aerial view of the new Great Pee Dee River bridge next to the old one. Note the new bridge is wider, with greater clearance.

Work crews have been busy in recent weeks, striping traffic lanes and finishing other work necessary to switch traffic onto the new Great Pee Dee River and the Great Pee Dee Overflow bridges, according to the S.C. Department of Transportation.

Motorists should look for single lane closures with flaggers directing traffic just prior to the traffic switch. These temporary lane closures are necessary to perform roadway tie-in work between the new bridges and existing 701 approaches.

Once traffic has been switched on these two bridges, demolition of the old Great Pee Dee River and Great Pee Dee Overflow bridges will begin.

Working with the Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge, the contractor is constructing bat towers similar to those pictured at left in the Suwannee National Wildlife refuge in Old Town, Fla. These will provide housing and maternity roosts for Rafinesque’s Big-Eared bat, an endangered species in S.C. At right, beams are erected for the new Yauhannah Lake bridge.

Working side-by-side, two cranes are required to execute the critical engineered lifts necessary to erect the precast concrete beams for the new Yauhannah Lake Bridge. Each beam is 135 feet in length and weighs 130,000 pounds. After the beams are erected, crews will begin installing formwork and placing concrete for new bridge deck.

Progress at Rocky Point boat landing

Despite heavy rains at the end of July and beginning of August, progress is coming along quickly at the Rocky Point boat landing. Completion of the boat launch and an adjacent kayak launch is scheduled for the end of summer. Plans are to eventually add multi-use trails for biking, hiking and horseback riding, as well as camping areas.

COMMUNITY PAPER SHREDDING

Saturday, August 18
9 a.m. to noon
Georgetown High School
2500 Anthuan Maybank Dr.,
Georgetown (Senior parking lot)

Securely shred any personal documents from your home.
Any paper documents with staples, rubber bands or clips but no 3-ring binders.
For more info or to volunteer:
call (843) 545-3443 or email recycle@gtcounty.org
Sponsored by Georgetown County Department of Public Services
(no commercial businesses)

A program of the Environmental Services Division

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.
Astronomer Ron Revere returns to library for 4-part lecture series

Ron Revere, an astronomer with 35 years of teaching experience, will present a four-week lecture series titled “The Wonders of Our Universe” at the Waccamaw Library next month.

The lectures are free and open to the public. The series will shed light on some of the most mysterious matters in our universe, Revere said. His talks engage audiences old and young, amateur and experienced, in exploring an array of astronomical subjects, expanding from the star closest to us (the Sun), to the stars above in the night sky, to the Milky Way galaxy, and finally to the vastness of the Universe.

His passion lies in clarifying the complexities of space and correcting common misunderstandings for the public.

The lectures will take place on Fridays at 2 p.m. in the library’s DeBordieu Auditorium. Dates and topics are as follows.

- Sept. 7, “Our Star: Sol”
- Sept. 14, “Starry Night: What We Know about Stars”
- Sept. 21, “Our Galaxy: The Milky Way”
- Sept. 28, “The Universe”

Revere was recently appointed one of NASA’s Solar System Ambassadors. The Solar System Ambassador program was established in 1997 as a public engagement effort that works with motivated volunteers across the nation to communicate the science and excitement of NASA’s space exploration missions and discoveries in their communities.

Find updates on Georgetown County

www.facebook.com/gtcountysc
The Georgetown County Stormwater Division installed rain barrels at all four library branches this summer, while also finding a fun way to teach families about the benefits of capturing and reusing rainwater.

The division partnered with libraries to host a family rain barrel painting contest at each branch. The winning rain barrel from each library was installed on the library grounds, where they will be used to water plants, nurture community gardens at the branches that have them, and perhaps encourage creation of community gardens at branches that don’t have them.

“When I saw the finished barrels, I was amazed. I’m so glad I didn’t have to choose the winner,” said Rose Lewis, branch manager at the Andrews Library. Winners were selected by popular vote, with ballots cast by visitors at each library branch.

The program was so popular, there is already a waiting list for participants if another contest or rain barrel workshop is launched.

“The families appreciated that the County recognized the need for this type of program, especially in the outlying areas of Georgetown County,” said Terry Davis, a staff member in the Stormwater Division who introduced and led the rain barrel program. “I was glad to be a part of that initiative and am excited about the prospect of future programs.”

Rain barrels are a growing trend around the country for a variety of environmental and practical reasons, Davis said. While they can be freestanding, she recommends connecting them to a downspout for better water collection.

Benefits of using a rain barrel include saving on utility bills, boosting the health of gardens with chemical-free water, avoiding watering restrictions and helping the environment. Collecting rain in barrels also helps slow runoff and encourages rain to soak into the soil more efficiently, which is important to recharging groundwater supplies and protecting sensitive ecosystems. Using a rain barrel also reduces demand from community water supplies, helps avoid the consequences of overusing local water sources, and helps prolong the life of the homeowner’s well and well pump.

In addition to utility bill savings, conserving water can also extend the life of septic systems.
Colored Pencil Society to have contest, members of the public will choose the winner!

A show of original colored pencil artwork will be on display at the Waccamaw Library, and visitors to the exhibit will be allowed to vote for their favorite piece.

Local Chapter 124 of the Colored Pencil Society of America (CPSA) will have its Fourth Annual People’s Choice Awards this fall, and during the months of September and October, the public is invited to visit the Library and peruse an array of fine art pieces and vote for their favorite. Works are submitted by the 12 members of the local CPSA chapter.

For this year, the theme of all entries is “The Grand Strand.” The exhibit is free and open to all. Chapter 124 was formed in Myrtle Beach in 2012 and is the first district chapter in the state. The small but productive group provides the greater area of South Carolina with educational and supportive opportunities, such as hosting workshops on new techniques and materials, inviting guest artists to illustrate their style and focus, holding studio time for artists to work together, and displaying the results locally and online. The national CPSA promotes colored pencil art as a fine art form. Founded in 1990 it has about 1,600 members worldwide and over 25 district chapters. CPSA sponsors the “International Exhibition,” a juried show for works of colored pencil, and “Explore This,” an online show.

Above is the winner of last year’s contest. The work, by Paula Getty, is titled “See Me.”
News from our Georgetown County Veterans Affairs Officer

By David Murphy

Hello, veterans of Georgetown County! We are in August — please remember that our children will be starting back to school this month. And we have many great programs to tell our veterans about!

Medical Records

Many veterans have asked me about obtaining copies of their medical records. There is a website that veterans can use for this. It’s called My HealtheVet and you can access it at www.myhealth.va.gov. My HealtheVet is your personal Health Record and can benefit you in the following ways:

• Five ways My HealtheVet can benefit you
  • Pharmacy – Refill your VA prescriptions and track delivery.
  • Secure Messages — Use the Secure Messaging feature to communicate about non-emergency matters.
  • Appointments – Keep track of your upcoming VA Medical appointments.
  • Health Records – View, print or download your VA notes, lab test results and other health information with the Blue Button feature.
  • Veteran Health Library – Visit this online library of trusted health education to learn more about health and wellness.

If you have problems with the HealtheVet website, call 1-877-327-0022. I also have flyers in my office with information about My HealtheVet and the VA Blue Button features if you need a copy.

Women Veterans

On Friday, July 27, I had the pleasure of attending a Women Veterans Health and Resource Fair at the Myrtle Beach Veterans Center. I have brochures from Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center in Charleston concerning women’s health.

The Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center and its Community Base Outpatient Clinics are committed to providing timely, high-quality health care to women veteran patients at each stage of life. Comprehensive and personalized health care options are available to address gender specific needs of women veterans and women in the military. The services they provide include: Primary care, pregnancy, reproductive care, wellness, healthy aging, long-term health care services, mental health services and homelessness. The Women Veterans Program Manager at Ralph H. Johnson VAMC can be reached at (843) 789-7260. For more information about the services available for Women Veterans visit www.womenshealth.va.gov.

Military Sexual Trauma

I would like to address something that is very serious — Military Sexual Trauma, or MST. MST is sexual assault or sexual harassment that occurred during military service. MST can occur at any time or place during your military service, such as while you’re on or off duty, and on or off base. MST can affect veterans from all types of backgrounds.

If you feel that you were exposed to MST, please talk to someone. You are not alone! If you have any question about MST please come see me or call our office at (843) 545-3330. I have brochures with phone numbers to other resources that can help.

Vets for Jesus

Monthly meetings of Vets for Jesus are on the second Tuesday of each month. This month’s meeting is on Aug. 14 at 5:30 p.m. Vets for Jesus monthly meetings consist of prayer, PT, fellowship and Bible study. Meetings take place at the YMCA, 529 Browns Ferry Rd., Georgetown. The group also has two new shirt designs (T-shirt and polo), and is accepting feedback and interest in purchasing before they place an order. The American flag will be placed on the right sleeve of both shirts. Price will depend on the number of orders placed. View the shirts at https://www.customink.com/designs/blackvert2/bra0-00bg-d236 and https://www.customink.com/designs/polovert2/bra0-00bg-d203.

Lowcountry Veterans Group Fundraiser

The Lowcountry Veterans Group will have a chance drawing this month. Ticket holders will have a chance to win one of two refurbished desktop computers. Tickets are $10 for each drawing. The first drawing will take place Aug. 10 at 1 p.m. and the second will be Aug. 11 at 11 a.m. The location for both is The Meeting Place, 2921 Highmarket St., Georgetown. Each refurbished computer includes Windows 10 and Microsoft Office 2016. There is no need to be present to win. The group will also accept donations of any amount from those who want to help, but don’t want to participate in the drawing. All proceeds will go to benefit the Lowcountry Veterans Group’s Homeless Veterans Program and Medical transportation for veterans. For more information or to buy a ticket, call Ernest Cole, (843) 318-4925.

Thank you for reading this column! You can also find information from our department on the Georgetown County Veterans Services Facebook page at www.facebook.com/gtcVeterans/.

Proud to Serve!

David Murphy,
Manager,
Georgetown County Office of Veterans Affairs

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.
Mobile Farmers market introduces Georgetown stop

The Waccamaw Market Cooperative’s Mobile Farmers Market has added a weekly stop in Georgetown to its route. The mobile market is scheduled to be at the Georgetown YMCA on Browns Ferry Road every Tuesday from 10-11 a.m., bringing fresh, locally grown fruits, vegetables and more. The truck is also at Inlet Yoga in Murrells Inlet (3552 Hwy. 17 Business) every Wednesday from 9:15-10:15 a.m. The Waccamaw Market Cooperative also manages Georgetown County’s farmers market on Screven Street, open on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

County plans groundbreaking for new Andrews Rec. Center

Georgetown County Parks and Recreation is planning a groundbreaking ceremony for a new Andrews Regional Recreation Center on Tuesday, Sept. 4 at 5 p.m.

The county recently awarded a bid for the new center, to be located on Maple Street, between the multi-purpose fields and tennis courts.

Bids came in over budget, which County Administrator Sel Hemingway said is a sign the economy is continuing to improve. The county received interest from 12 contractors and received five bids. The project was awarded to Hanco, Inc., which had the low bid at $5.5 million. The county is working with architects on minor changes to the facility that may shave approximately $100,000 of the cost. These changes will not impact functionality of the building or usable space.

The building should open by next summer.

Summer reading program closes with party, magic

The Georgetown County Library system ended a successful 2018 summer reading program last month with parties and other festivities at each of its four branches. Closing activities included face painting and a pirate-themed magic show by Gerry the Great. Above, kids are pictured enjoying the show and getting sprayed with water at the Waccamaw branch.
Public Services Dept. recognizes outstanding employees

In a recent ceremony, James Dorsey, a supervisor with Georgetown County Public Services, was presented with one of the department’s highest honors. Dorsey received the annual Leadership Award for his hard work and dedication. The award was one of three presented, including the Team Player Award and the Green Earth Award.

Dorsey has been with the department for four years and supervises two crews of full- and part-time employees. “He works to motivate staff members who have challenging jobs with respect and consideration,” said Tracy Jones, who presented the awards. “His number one goal is to provide the best service and have the best division possible.”

Dorsey has helped see the division through several transitions and led his sections with stability and consistency, she added. He is also very willing to help fellow supervisors when they are in need, by reallocating staff or equipment. These traits are important to the department’s overall success.

Receiving the department’s Team Player award was Gina Speight, who has worked in the Environmental Services Division for just two years, but who has already proven herself invaluable to its smooth operation.

Speight interacts on a daily basis with other departments, members of the public, suppliers and customers. She does this while always maintaining a calm, thoughtful manner, Jones said. Speight shares her knowledge with her colleagues by helping to train newer members of the team, and also provides assistance in covering for colleagues in other divisions when needed. Additionally, she helps plan and implement projects and events for the entire Public Services Department.

“She constantly works to build team spirit and staff recognition in her division by always having a card ready for everyone to sign to recognize staff birthdays and other milestones,” Jones said. “She is very dependable and is committed to helping out throughout the Public Services Department.”

The final award, the Green Earth Award, was presented to Alex Litz, who joined the department as its staff Environmentalist last year. In that time, she has gone above and beyond the responsibilities of her job, showing true dedication to the environment in all of her work.

Litz was hired to provide education and communication about the benefits of recycling, but she has taken on much more in her day-to-day role. She has worked to improve public engagement in the solid waste system, has increased programming and educational opportunities through non-traditional programs, and successfully applied for grants to expand the county’s recycling clean up.

Her creative thinking and personal motivation to recycle make her a great benefit to the county.

PAT CONROY’S GREAT LOVE OF POETRY

Presented by Tim Conroy

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
10 - 11:15 AM
WACCAMAW LIBRARY
41 ST. PAUL PLACE, PAWLEYS ISLAND

In this free lecture, Tim Conroy will explore his brother’s lifelong relationship with poetry as a reader, as a self-described “failed poet,” and as a writer celebrated for the rhapsody and rhythms in his iconic prose.