



The Georgetown County Chronicle



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

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Calendar

Oct. 13 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse

Oct. 15 – Georgetown County Planning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse

Oct. 15 – "Hail and Farewell event at Veterans Affairs office. See page 3

Oct. 24 – Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day in Pawleys Island, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. See page 4

Oct. 27 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse

Oct. 30 – Trick-or-Treating event for kids at the county Judicial Center, 4-5:30 p.m. See page 2

Oct. 31 – Bike path and Sidewalk Sweep in Pawleys Island, 9 a.m. to noon. See page 3

Volume 4, Issue 2

October 2015

County reels in major pro fishing tournament

If you recognize the names Casey Ashley, Kevin VanDam or Michael Iaconelli, Georgetown is probably exactly where you want to be April 7-10 of next year. That's when Georgetown County will host a Bassmaster Elite Series tournament, bringing some of the nation's top professional bass anglers to Winyah Bay and the rivers that feed into it.

The Elite Series is known as the premier fishing tournament series in the world and has been shown to generate economic impacts of more than \$2 million in other host cities. The recent announcement of the tournament is already generating buzz locally and around the state as fishing fans start making plans to attend, watch the weigh-ins and see their favorite pro anglers at work.

"To fishing, this series is what the PGA Tour is to golf," said Georgetown County Administrator Sel Hemingway. "Being selected to



host an event of this caliber is a huge achievement for our community and an honor. This is the chance the county has been looking for to prove we can host a large scale, national event and not only compete with but outdo other jurisdictions that are competing for this type of event."

If that's not enough of a draw for area outdoors enthusiasts, the 2016

Winyah Bay Heritage Festival will be scheduled to coincide with the tournament, making it a weekend not to be missed for anglers and other outdoorsmen. Introduced in 2007, the festival celebrates the area's rich outdoor heritage. While it traditionally brings together wildlife artists, conservationists and all manner of people with a love for the

See "Bass Fishing," Page 9

County achieves Certified Work Ready Community designation

Georgetown County is now a certified Work Ready community through the S.C. Work Ready Communities Initiative. The announcement was made by Gov. Nikki Haley's office in September and demonstrates Georgetown County has a robust workforce development initiative in place that links education and workforce development together, and aligns them to economic development and job placement.

To receive Work Ready Community status, a county must meet population-based criteria set by the state regarding workforce and supporting employers. Georgetown County exceeded its goals on every level, with a total goal of 681 potential employees who have taken the WorkKeys assessment, and 93 supporting

employers. Georgetown County had 1,455 potential employees complete the assessment and registered 96 supporting employers.

"Receiving our certification as a Work Ready Community is further evidence that Georgetown County is serious about recruiting businesses to our community," said Brian Tucker, director of the county's Economic Development Department.

Achieving certification required collaboration between county government, existing businesses in the county, Horry-Georgetown Technical College and Georgetown County School District.

"This level of partnership signifies our united effort to move the county forward," Tucker said. "Having a qual-

See "Work Ready," Page 9



Hip-hop dance program for kids comes to Pawleys

Georgetown County Parks and Recreation has added "Street Beat Kids," a hip-hop dance program for boys and girls to its lineup on the Waccamaw Neck.

The program is for kids in third through fifth grades and provides a fun, positive environment where youth can learn hip-hop dance combinations, while developing rhythm, coordination and social skills. It is intended to build self confidence and help kids develop a love for dance.

Classes are every Wednesday from 4:30 -5:30 p.m. at the Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center. A \$10 registration fee includes a Street Beat Kids T-shirt. Classes are \$45 per month.

For information, contact instructor Gina Chapman at (843) 655-0196 or streetbeatkids@yahoo.com. Visit www.gtcounty.org/parks_recreation for more programs.

Club donates toys for children affected by violence



Caitlin Elliott and Alma Sierra, victim advocates with the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office, spoke to the Pawleys Island Kiwanis Club last month. Sierra discussed changes in domestic violence laws and increased protections for children involved in these incidents. Since 2006, Pawleys Island Kiwanis Club members have donated stuffed animals each year to the sheriff's office to be used by deputies and victim advocates who encounter small children going through traumatic experiences. "We are thankful for the continued support that the Pawleys Island Kiwanis Club extends to the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office and the crime victims we serve," said Sheriff Lane Cribb. From left are Elliott, Sierra, Kiwanis president Rick Hosler, and Kiwanis members Mike Diem and Gene Gilfilin.

Trick-or-Treat event for kids

Elementary school-age children are invited to show off their costumes, collect candy and enjoy a fall festival in front of the Georgetown County Judicial Center.

Cost: Free! (Sponsored by the Georgetown County Court Offices at the Judicial Center)

When: 4 - 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 30

Where: 401 Cleland St., Georgetown

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

Murphy to lead Veterans Affairs Office

The Georgetown County Veterans Affairs Office will get a new manager this month. David Murphy of Florence will begin work at the office Oct. 12, replacing Natrenah Blackstock, who has been in charge of the office for five years.



Blackstock

Blackstock, who led the office through a period of tremendous growth, announced her plans to resign earlier this year after her husband accepted a new job. The couple is moving to Michigan. Blackstock will work with Murphy for his first week on the job, assisting with the transition and helping her clients to get comfortable with her successor.

"Many of the veterans here have become almost like family to me and I will miss each and every one dearly," Blackstock said, adding that she hopes to keep up with many of them via Facebook.



Murphy

Murphy spent 20 years in the Air Force before retiring in 2005 as a technical sergeant. He worked for the S.C. Employment Commission from 2006-2009, and is an adjunct instructor for Limestone and Virginia colleges. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina and has a masters degree in human resource management from Webster University. He also has a master of divinity degree from Shaw University Divinity School and has served as volunteer chaplain at McLeod Regional Medical Center since 2001.

The VA Office, at 537 Lafayette Circle, has more than 16,600 active case files and offers a wide range of services for veterans and their families. A "hail and farewell" day is planned at the office Oct. 15 to allow veterans meet Murphy and say their goodbyes to Blackstock.

Participants sought for Veterans Day parade

The Georgetown Veterans Day parade will leave from East Bay Park at 4 p.m. Nov. 11, with assembly at the park at 3 p.m. Organizers hope to make this the largest parade in the event's history and are asking local groups to participate.

The parade will recognize all veterans, including those who served in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf Wars and more recent conflicts.

Major Gen. James Livingstone, a Vietnam veteran and Medal of Honor recipient, will be the parade's grand marshal. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Vietnam War and parade organizers said they hope many of our area Vietnam veterans will participate this year and be recognized for their service.

More information will be made available as the event nears.



Georgetown County Parks and Rec. announces open registration for

YOUTH BASKETBALL

Youth ages 5-17 are invited to register for the 2015 Youth Basketball League. The last day for registration is Nov. 30.

Fee is \$25 per child.
Check with staff to see if you qualify for a discounted rate.

Call (843) 545-3275 for information or visit www.gtcounty.org.

Waverly Road Bike Path and Sidewalk Sweep!

Join volunteers from our community as we clean from Kings River Road to Highway 17 in Pawleys Island.

Bring your rakes, brooms & hand tools. Litter collection supplies to be provided.

Meet: Waccamaw Elementary School

**When: Saturday, Oct. 31
9 a.m. to noon**



Rain Date: Saturday, Nov. 7

Bike the Neck  

PalmettoPride
Litter Trashes Everyone

Canine Carnival set for Halloween

Saint Frances Animal Center will host its ninth annual "All Treat, No Trick Canine Carnival" from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Oct. 31 at Francis Marion Park in Georgetown.

The event is promised to be a fun way for families to spend part of their Halloween, with activities for children and fun things for pets as well. A costume contest will be included and some of Saint Frances' sweet and adorable adoptables will be on hand, looking for their forever homes.

The animal center will also be collecting donations of pet treats.

For more information about the event, how to adopt an animal, or how you can help Saint Frances, call (843) 546-0780 or visit the center's website, sfanimals.org.

Semi-annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection is Oct. 24

The Georgetown County Public Services Department will accept unwanted paint, batteries, pesticides, fertilizers and other hazardous household materials during a four-hour collection event on Saturday, Oct. 24, in Pawleys Island. The collection is set for 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Palmetto Ace Home Center, located on Highway 17.

The first 20 people in line with at least five items to dispose of will receive a free rain barrel.

The Public Services Department and its Stormwater and Environmental Services divisions schedule collection events for household hazardous waste materials every fall and spring on the Waccamaw Neck, to make safe disposal of items more convenient. At the last event, 2.6 tons of hazardous household materials were collected. Prior collections exceeded three tons, but the goal is to have numbers drop gradually as residents clear out stockpiles of old — often decades old — materials and become better educated about household hazardous waste and the importance of its proper disposal. The events also generally include distribution of educational information from the Stormwater Division.



A resident drops off materials at a past event.

"These events are a matter of convenience for residents, but for us, it's not only an opportunity to make sure these materials are being handled the right way, but to share our message and talk to people about recycling and stormwater, and why they should be concerned about these things," said Tracy Jones, Stormwater Division manager.

For more info, visit www.gtcounty.org/stormwater or call the Georgetown County Stormwater Division, (843) 545-3524.

NEW!

Georgetown County Parks and Recreation presents

Start Smart Tot Soccer



Parents and kids will learn the basic fundamentals of soccer while kids develop motor skills, have fun and get active. Parents will be required to assist their child in this program.

Each child receives a free T-shirt!



**For kids ages 3 & 4
Tuesdays, through Oct. 13
5:30 - 6 p.m.**

at South Island, Andrews, Pawleys Island and Northwest Region
Cost is \$10 per child

Call (843) 545-3275 or (843) 545-3202, or register at www.gtcounty.org/parks_recreation

Come Experience a Taste of Georgetown

FROM SHRIMP TO STEAK, ART TO MUSIC AND MINI-PARKS TO MUSEUMS...



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2015

12:30PM - 3:00PM

FRONT STREET IN GEORGETOWN

A Taste of Georgetown is a fundraiser for the Family Justice Center, a non-profit organization providing collaborative services for victims of domestic violence.

To obtain advance tickets for the Taste of Georgetown contact

FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER: 546-3926

BANDS

Jessie Wilson, Jr. & Friends,
John Lammonds/Holly Cervini,
Highliners

SPONSORED BY



RAFFLE

Main Tent at 3 p.m.

PARTICIPATING FOOD SPONSORS:

Alfredo Georgetown Bistro	Big Tuna & Raw Bar	Moe's Original BBQ	Thomas Café
Atlantic House	Buzz's Roost	Pawleys Island Bakery	Town House
Aunny's	Chacon's	Peedee Q	Wild Fish Grill
Beef O'Brady's	Coffee Break Café	Rustic Table	700 Modern Grill & Bar
Bethel AME Church	Di Angelo's	Sabella's	
	Groucho's	Sweeties	

VISIT WWW.TASTEOFGEORGETOWNSC.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER, VISIT:
WWW.FJCGEORGETOWN.ORG

Library to host genealogy workshops

During the month of October, the Georgetown County Library system will help residents with an interest in genealogy discover tools to track down their family history and preserve their past.

Beginning Oct. 13, library staff will conduct a series of four one-hour workshops focusing on different aspects of genealogy research. All workshops are free and will take place from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the Waccamaw Library, located at 41 St. Paul Place in Pawleys Island. The workshop schedule is as follows:

Oct. 13 — “Finding Your Family Tree: It Begins with You.” Presenter Patti Burns will guide participants through how to begin creating and researching a family tree, using online and print resources.

Oct. 15 — “Cemeteries: More Than Granite and Marble.” Presenter Patti Burns will shed light on how much can be learned about local history and genealogy from cemeteries.

Oct. 20 — “Saving Your Family Photos.” Presenter Julie Warren will discuss techniques for digitizing and preserving old family photos.

Oct. 22 — Open Genealogy Lab. Patti Burns will offer one-on-one assistance to participants as they research their ancestry using various online resources.

Fall sports in full swing



Fall sports hosted by Georgetown County Parks and Recreation are under way throughout the county. See more photos throughout the season at facebook.com/gtcountysc.

Georgetown County FARMERS MARKETS



Find fresh produce, baked goods and more!

- Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
at 122 Screven St. (in Downtown Georgetown)
- Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
at 10593 Ocean Hwy. in Pawleys Island
(beside the Island Shops)

Last day for farmers markets is Oct. 31



GOING WILD photo contest

Georgetown County is accepting images of wildlife for its latest photo contest. This contest focuses on mammals of Georgetown County. Wild animals only.

No pets. Deadline for entries is Nov. 15, 2015.

Send entries to jbroach@gtcounty.org.

Details and contest rules at www.gtcounty.org.



**Join the LEGO team at your library!
Ages 6 - 9**



**Georgetown Library
(843) 545-3310**

**Waccamaw Library
(843) 545-3349**

Firefighters urging residents to make sure they can 'hear the beep' where they sleep

Location matters when it comes to smoke alarms. That's the message firefighters in Georgetown County are spreading this month as they recognize Fire Prevention Week Oct. 4-10. This year's campaign slogan is "Hear the beep where you sleep: Every bedroom needs a working smoke alarm."



Georgetown County's emergency responders, along with firefighters across the nation, will be spreading this message far and wide this month, reminding people everywhere about the importance of having working smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement, said Todd Blomdahl, a fire marshal with Midway Fire Rescue.

"In a fire, seconds count," Blomdahl said. "Half of home fire

deaths result from fires reported at night, between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when most people are asleep. Home smoke alarms can alert people to a fire before it spreads, giving everyone enough time to get out."

According to the latest research from the National Fire Protection Agency, working smoke alarms cut the chance of dying in a fire in half. Meanwhile, three out of five fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

This year's Fire Prevention Month campaign includes the following smoke alarm messages:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home.
- Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. This way, when one sounds, they all do.
- Test alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or sooner if they don't respond properly.
- Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound of the smoke alarm and understands what to do when they hear it.

- If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.

- Call the fire department from outside the home.

Emergency responders also recommend homeowners replace their older smoke alarms with combination smoke/carbon monoxide alarms that have a 10-year lithium battery.

HALLOWEEN Kickball Tournament

Come enjoy food, drinks, cornhole, music and a double elimination tournament

Games start at 9 a.m.; championship at 4 p.m.
 Teams are co-ed with max of 10 teams
 10-12 players per team
 Ages 18 and up only

Registration open through Oct. 23

*Registration is \$150 per team through Oct. 2.
 Fee increases by \$10 each week after. Includes T-shirt.
 Food sponsored by Moe's Original Bar B Que*

**To register, call (843) 545-3319
 or (843) 520-9621
 or email jblomdahl@gtcounty.org**

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL

WOODEN BOAT SHOW

GEORGETOWN
SOUTH CAROLINA

OCTOBER 17 & 18, 2015
ON THE WATERFRONT
AT FRONT AND BROAD STREETS

WWW.WOODENBOATSHOW.COM

Georgetown County Sheriff's Office earns reaccreditation



Jarrold M. Bruder, executive director of the S.C. Sheriff's Association, presents Sheriff Lane Cribb with a certificate of reaccreditation. Next to Cribb is County Council Chairman Johnny Morant and on the far right is Inspector Tyler Monroe, accreditation manager for the Sheriff's Office.

The percentage of law enforcement agencies that achieve accreditation is small, and the number that receive reaccreditation is even smaller, said Jarrod M. Bruder, executive director of the S.C. Sheriff's Association. The Georgetown County Sheriff's Office was proud to join that elite group recently.

The Georgetown County Sheriff's Office was recently awarded reaccreditation by the S.C. Law Enforcement Accreditation Agency. Less than 20 percent of law enforcement agencies in the state are accredited. The Georgetown County Sheriff's Office was only the 19th agency in the state to receive accreditation when it was originally awarded in 2012.

"It takes a tremendous amount of loyalty and dedication to this process to receive accreditation," Bruder said.

"Accreditation ensures that a law enforcement agency is dedicated to the best possible practices in the law enforcement community."

The Sheriff's Office voluntarily complied with nearly 300 standards of accreditation to maintain this prestigious status. Maintaining accreditation requires a detailed on-site inspection of both policies and procedures to ensure compliance.



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY FALL FESTIVAL SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 10 AM TO 2 PM

Book sale, crafts, special story time, food, games and more! For all ages!

Want to be part of the fun?
Volunteer to help us out. One or two hours of
your time will be greatly appreciated.
Call (843) 545-3621 for details



Want to help, but can't commit the time?
We'd love donations of gently used books, movies,
music, games and puzzles.
Please drop off donations at the library before Nov. 1.

10-digit dialing now in effect

Phone numbers with a new area code, 854, will begin being assigned to people signing up for new phone service in the Lowcountry this month. As a result, callers in the area are now required to dial all 10 digits for local calls.

Emergency and informational numbers, including 911 and 411 will still work as they always have.

Residents and regular visitors to the area should check any equipment that may have been programmed with seven-digit phone numbers and update them with the requisite area code. This may include contact lists, medical monitoring systems, security systems or auto-dialing equipment on fax machines and voicemail services.

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.



Georgetown County Parks and Recreation presents

Line Dancing Classes in Georgetown

You never need a partner! Classes are at the Beck Recreation Center

Mondays & Wednesdays — Soul Line Dancing with instructor Claudette Morrison
4-5 p.m., \$3 per class or 6-7:30 p.m., \$5 per class

Active Older Adults Class — every other Tuesday starting Sept. 8 — 4-5 p.m., \$3 per class

Call (843) 359-0840 for information or register at www.gtcounty.org/parks_recreation

IN MEMORIAM | Public Services Department mourns passing of long-time employee

Jerry Tancil, a heavy equipment operator and highly valued employee at the Georgetown County landfill, passed away on Sept. 21 at Georgetown Memorial Hospital. He was 62. Better known as "Tiny," he will be missed deeply by his colleagues.

"He was a ray of sunshine no matter what was happening and his positive attitude was contagious," said Ray Funnye, director of the Georgetown County Public Services Department.

Tancil was responsible for maintaining and operating the landfill's compactor, a 40-ton, spike-wheeled, all-steel machine responsible for com-



Jerry "Tiny" Tancil is pictured with the compactor he operated at the county landfill.

pacting all solid waste disposed

of at the landfill. The job required both constant focus and physical agility. He was well known for his work ethic and for always doing his job with a smile.

Born in San Diego, Tancil was a son of the late Joe Tancil and the late Mary Pietz Tancil. He was an Army veteran, having served in the Vietnam War, and was an accomplished power-lifter. He also worked at Castaway's Bar and Grill as a bouncer. He was a former member of Winyah Fitness and was a big San Diego Chargers fan. He will be remembered by his friends for his text messages that always ended in, "Tank You" and

"Lub You."

Survivors include a sister, Maryangela Rippberger; one brother, Joe Tancil; one niece, Becky Tancil; two nephews, John Tancil, Jack Tancil; a God daughter, Desiree Fox (Perry) and their children, Tyler Fox and Branden Fox; God son, Jack "Butch" Valentine; his Georgetown family, Preston Hill, Adrienne Blake, Izzy Gause, Hunter Byrdic, Heather "Lil Bit" Pope, Darlene Grantham, Pam Lambert and Harris Carter; and many dear friends. He was preceded in death by a brother, John Tancil.

A Celebration of Life was held Sept. 24.

Stormwater, GIS division employees receive Innovation Award for joint project

Employees in Georgetown County's stormwater and GIS divisions noticed recently they were spending a lot of time together. Too much time, in fact.

The system the Stormwater Division used to collect and manage data required the staff to seek frequent assistance from the GIS staff. A specialist from GIS was needed to convert data collected in the field to a layer that could communicate with the county's mapping system. The user would then have to make changes to the data where necessary, again requiring GIS staff assistance.

Essentially, two employees from two departments had to be involved in the work to make the data useful. This made tasks more time consuming and costly than the employees thought they needed to be. So, the Stormwater and GIS divisions decided to put their time to a better use, teaming up to find a solution.

The effort, led by Stormwater Division manager Tracy Jones and Chip Balthis of the GIS Division, resulted in a more efficient process that will save time and money for their departments, and may be able to help other departments in the future. Their efforts led them to receive the county's Innovation Award in September and be recognized by Georgetown County Council.

The Innovation Award is presented to recognize innovative and cost saving processes and projects initiated by county employees, and to encourage and motivate employees to develop and implement such processes and projects. Jones and Balthis were nominated for the award by Ray Funnye, director of the county's Public Services Department, which houses the Stormwater Division.

The new system they implemented for collecting and managing data in the Stormwater Division eliminates the need for a specialist to convert data. The data collection process has been stream-

lined and simplified, making better use of county resources and creating a better product. The option for incorporating photos to data collected was added and employees in multiple locations now have instant access to data collected in the field, Jones explained. The Public Services Department is using this new system in many ways across several divisions.



Jones



Balthis

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

**Saturday, Oct. 24
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**at Palmetto Ace,
8317 S. Ocean Hwy.,
Pawleys Island**



Please join Georgetown County Public Services, Midway Fire Rescue, Palmetto Ace and Habitat for Humanity in keeping pollutants out of our drainage system!

*The following materials will be accepted:
Paint, oil, batteries (alkaline and rechargeable),
incandescent bulbs, household cleaners,
non-commercial pesticides and fertilizers.*



**The first 20 people to drop off 5 items
receive a free rain barrel!**

**For more information,
call (843) 545-3524**

Bass Fishing

Continued from Front Page

outdoors, many of its activities and displays are geared toward the interests of those with a passion for fishing and hunting.

Festival activities including a dock diving competition for dogs, a duck calling clinic and contest, retriever trials and much more are expected to return for 2016.

More details about the tournament and festival will be made available as the events draw nearer, but there will be plenty of volunteer and sponsorship opportunities. Staff with the Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce will be working with local businesses to help them make the most of the influx of visitors that will result from the tournament and festival. Additionally, B.A.S.S. will continue its popular marsh program during the Georgetown tournament, which will allow some lucky fishing fans to ride along and observe the Elite pros during competition.

The county will likely start seeing economic impacts from the tournament well in advance of April. Official practice days for the anglers will be April 4-6, but many participants are expected to make trips to the area months earlier to get familiar with the local fishery.

While this is the kind of tournament Georgetown County hoped to someday begin hosting when it conceived plans to construct the Carroll A. Campbell Marine Complex, Hemingway said he expected it to be at least



John Proctor of won a B.A.S.S. tournament in Georgetown this April.

another two years before the county took on an event of this magnitude. Over the last year and a half, the county has had great success hosting smaller tournaments, including the Inshore Fishing Association Redfish Tour and the B.A.S.S. Nation Southern Divisional Championship, which took place in Georgetown this spring.

"We were working our way up to something like this," Hemingway said. "The plan was to prove what we're capable of as an event host with these smaller tournaments and I guess we did a good job, because we were encouraged by B.A.S.S. to accelerate our timeline. Tournament officials and participants from the beginning have been impressed with our facilities at the Campbell Complex, our water resources and with how they've been received by the community when they come into Georgetown County. We wanted to make sure they would want to come back and we were very successful."

The Campbell Marine Complex will be the

site for the tournament's boat launch and weigh-in. Tournament waters will include all rivers that are reachable from the launch facility, including the five rivers that converge in Winyah Bay: the Sampit, Santee, Waccamaw, Great Pee Dee and Black rivers.

B.A.S.S.'s last stop in Georgetown County had an economic impact of about half a million dollars, with many anglers bringing their families with them for the trip. For the Elite Series, anglers will be in the area for a longer period as they get to know local waters and practice fish in advance of the tournament.

B.A.S.S. CEO Bruce Akin called the 2016 Elite Series location lineup one of the best the organization has ever put together.

"Our Elite anglers will find a lot to love about it, and we are expecting to attract new fans in new places this year. That's the key to growing the sport," he said.

Akin noted that the Elite Series has set new attendance records each of the past three years. The current record, set in August, is 156,765, up from 128,600 in 2014. The record is likely to be broken again before this year is over.

"There's no question this is a great opportunity for Georgetown County and I have no doubt the community and our local business owners will embrace it and keep these groups wanting to come back," Hemingway said.

For more information about the tournament, volunteer opportunities and more, contact Jackie Broach at (843) 545-3164 or jbroach@gtcounty.org.

Work Ready Community

Continued from Front Page

ified workforce is the driving factor in the recruitment process and we will continue to work with our partners to provide our citizens with the needed skills to compete for quality jobs."

The Work Ready Community program utilizes WorkKeys assessments and the National Career Readiness Certificate to measure an individual's foundational workplace skills, such as math, reading for information, and other skills required for the majority of today's jobs. WorkKeys assessments measure "real world" skills that are highly valued by employers and that are critical to job success.

Employees score platinum, gold, silver or bronze. Supporting employers specify the level they are looking for when hiring and can be assured by an employee's assessment rating that candidates have the skills they need. South Carolina's Certified Work Ready Communities initiative aims to ensure the growth of South Carolina communities by creating an environment conducive to business and workforce development. The Work Ready Community initiative enables community leaders to rally behind the concept of a ready-to-work workforce. County Council members, superintendents, principals,

teachers and business leaders play a part in this effort, creating a team approach to workforce development and attracting businesses to South Carolina and their community in particular.

Kershaw and York counties were also recently certified, joining 33 others in the state. South Carolina leads the nation with the most Certified Work Ready communities.

"We have always said that our state's greatest asset is our workforce because of the hardworking, skilled people who call South Carolina home," said Gov. Nikki Haley. "The fact that [these counties] have now joined 33 other counties by being certified as work ready proves that all of Team South Carolina is hard at work toward providing our citizens with opportunity and our companies with the best workforce in the world."

"We celebrate what this means for these counties and our state," said Cheryl M. Stanton, executive director for the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce. "With the Work Ready initiative, and a continuing commitment to skilled workforce development, it is not surprising that employment numbers have been at historic highs over the last year and companies continue to expand and choose South Carolina as the place to do business."

For more information, visit www.workreadycommunities.org/sc

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



County trains with Coast Guard to improve rescue times

Agencies in Georgetown and Horry counties that are part of the local Maritime Emergency Response Team (MERT) participated in training exercises on Winyah Bay on Sept. 15.

Hosted by the Coast Guard's Georgetown station, the training brought together emergency response and law enforcement officers from both counties to practice water rescue and search procedures. Members of the Coast Guard worked with representatives of other agencies to help them practice how to begin operations if they are the first to arrive on the scene during a water rescue.

"The idea is to teach them what we do when we arrive, and if they get there first, they can get things started while we're on the way.

That saves us time and can lead to a faster response, and could help save a life," said Travis Park, Officer in Charge at the Coast Guard's Georgetown Station.

Among participating agencies were the Coast Guard, Georgetown County Emergency Management, Midway Fire Rescue, Murrells Inlet-Garden City Fire Rescue, the City of Georgetown and the Horry County Police Department.



Lowcountry Rice Culture Forum draws enthusiastic crowd



The Lowcountry Rice Culture Forum, which took place in Georgetown County last month and was co-sponsored by the county library system, included several sold-out events and attracted large, enthusiastic audiences to several locations throughout Georgetown and the Pawleys Island area. Above, featured artist Jonathan Green poses with Fans. At top right, Ron and Natalie Daise perform. At right, the Freedom Readers Children's Choir performs on the Kaminski House lawn.