Council votes to continue search for new Administrator

Georgetown County Council members met individually on Nov. 7 with representatives from a consulting group that will assist the county in locating and hiring a new County Administrator.

The County entered a contract that day with Slavin Management Consultants, which will conduct an administrator search for a cost of $14,050 plus expenses.

Council’s first pick for the job, Abbeville County Administrator David Garner, declined the offer on Oct. 28, before negotiations could be completed. He cited “personal circumstances beyond anyone’s control.” Council had agreed 4-3 to hire Garner, with Council Chairman John Thomas and Council Members Lillie Jean Johnson and Louis Morant opposed. After Garner turned down the job, Council had a special meeting Oct. 30, during which they voted — again 4-3 with the same members in opposition — to engage a professional recruiter to continue the search rather than hiring one of the other top three finalists.

Librarian to speak at prestigious international conference

Julie Warren, the Georgetown County Library system’s digital librarian, will join an exclusive circle this month. She will become one of just a handful of Americans who have ever been invited to speak at the prestigious United Kingdom National Archives Conference, Discovering Collections Discovering Communities.

Better known as the DCDC Conference, the event will take place in Birmingham, England, Nov. 12-14 and Warren is one of just two Americans on the program. The second is the archivist for the University of Maryland. Prior to this, the only Americans who have spoken at the conference have been from the Smithsonian and the New York Public Library.

“It’s a big honor,” Warren said. “You have all these huge international-known institutions, and then you have the little Georgetown Public Library up there with them.”

It’s a lot to live up to, but Warren is determined to show the world that great things are happening in little Georgetown County when she takes the stage on the conference’s final day.

She’ll be discussing how the Georgetown County Library system created its Digital Library back in 2007 with a grant from the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, and its evolution from that point.

Available at gcdigital.org, the Digital Library is an online archive of local historic photos, newspapers and other documents that are important to our area’s history. These files are frequently accessed by people all over the nation and abroad. Warren has singlehandedly developed and overseen the Digital Library since its inception.

“We are immensely proud of Julie’s work in creating the Georgetown County Digital Library which has an online collection of more than 50,000 photographs, documents, newspapers and other items accessed annually by more...
In Memoriam
County mourns Parks & Rec. staffer who was also a volunteer Firefighter

Steve Abner Johnson passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, Oct. 26, at Tidelands Georgetown Memorial Hospital. He was 49. He was an employee of the Georgetown County Board of Disabilities and Special needs, and was a part-time employee of Georgetown County Parks and Recreation and a longtime volunteer firefighter with Georgetown County Fire/EMS. He had also worked with the City of Georgetown Fire Department and Agru America, and was a CPR and concealed carry permit instructor.

Born on Dec. 27, 1969 in Myrtle Beach, Steve was a son of Bobby and Mozella Johnson. He was educated in both Horry and Georgetown counties, and was a proud graduate of Georgetown High School’s Class of 1987.

He began his firefighting career with the Columbia Fire Department, then came home in 1994 and worked with Georgetown County Fire Department. He served as a career member, then became a volunteer in later years. Positions held included firefighter, station officer, volunteer station coordinator, and for many years he played a huge role in training at all stations for volunteers. He served the communities of Dunbar, Browns Ferry, Choppee and Rhems. He was a recipient of the Firefighter of the Year Award on two occasions.

Steve was a man of deep faith, and his love for people was contagious and worthy of emulation. To his friends, he was always smiling, joyful and willing to lend a hand. His humble qualities drew many to him as a loyal, dedicated friend and brother. His unconditional love was demonstrated toward family, friends, neighbors, and in various aspects of the community. He never met a stranger, and his genuine care and compassion for others was obvious at the first hello. Names were often replaced with nicknames only Steve could create, and these memories will live on forever.

Steve possessed many talents and abilities. All who had the honor of knowing him became familiar with his impeccable talents in carpentry and design, flooring, landscaping, mechanics, grilling, and his award-winning barbecue sauce.

At an early age, Steve developed a love of music, which led to his success as a DJ, respectfully known as DJ Steve.

He dedicated 100 percent to any project he undertook, and many who worked with him recall his commitment to extreme excellence. Even at death, he continued giving as an organ donor.

Steve was preceded in death by a son, Gianni Johnson, and is survived by his parents of Georgetown; four devoted children, Kristina, Steve Jr. and Khadajah, all of Columbia, and Justice of Georgetown; a granddaughter, A’Niayah; three loving sisters, Cathy of Columbia, Barbara Burroughs of Clarksville, Tenn., and Robin of Charlotte; three adoring nieces, Alexis and Aahyah Burroughs of Clarksville, Tenn., and Ermani R. Johnson-Holmes of Charlotte; in addition to aunts, uncles, and a host of numerous relatives and friends.

Library Friends groups offer great holiday shopping opportunities

On the morning of Nov. 1, the Friends of the Waccamaw Library store turned into Santa’s Workshop. Throughout this month and December, it is beautifully decorated and brimming with unique hostess gifts, inspiring cookbooks to help you start the holidays off right, and so much more. As the season progresses, Friends volunteers will be introducing new items and replenishing stock to make sure there are lots of goodies. Volunteers will also be on hand to help shoppers find the perfect gifts.

The Friends are also in the process of planning their annual Holiday Book Sale, which will take place Dec. 6 from noon to 4 p.m. in the DeBordieu Auditorium.

At the Georgetown Library, its Friends group will for the third year have its annual Santa’s Shoppe on Dec. 14 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the library auditorium. Ten specially selected craftspersons will display and sell their crafts — perfect for holiday gifts. Look for more information coming soon.

This will take place during the library’s annual Yuletide Home Tour. A limited number of tickets for the tour are currently available at the front desks of all county library branches. Cost is $20 for Friends members and $25 for all others.
Two Republicans and one Democrat have filed to run for the office of Georgetown County Sheriff, hoping to fill the unfinished term of the late A. Lane Cribb, who passed away unexpectedly in September.

The candidates include Carter Weaver, Cribb’s Assistant Sheriff, who is serving as Sheriff until an election can take place. Weaver will face Darryl Carr in a Republican primary election on Dec. 3, with a runoff on Dec. 17 if needed. The winner will go on to face Democrat Birt Kevin Adams on Feb. 4.

The term will expire Jan. 2021, meaning the seat will be on the ballot again in Nov. 2020.

Weaver of Murrells Inlet served as Assistant Sheriff for 18 years under Cribb and has spent his entire career in law enforcement. Prior to serving as Assistant Sheriff, he was a special agent with the S.C. Law Enforcement Division. He also has a law degree.

“I’m committed to community-oriented policing, ensuring our deputies are well trained, well equipped, and earn a competitive salary,” Weaver said. “Keeping our schools safe, and creating more preventative programs to protect our school-age children from the evils of bullying and internet predators will be a priority.”

Carr of Pawleys Island grew up in a military family and has a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice administration. He was employed with the Georgetown County Sheriff’s Office for 10 years, during which time he was a shift sergeant, traffic supervisor and narcotics investigator. He and his wife, Sharon, own a charter bus company and a driving school.

“Keeping our school safe, ensuring our students are well educated, and working with the community to foster a safe environment will be a top priority,” Carr said. “I want a safe community where families find a friend in their police officers, and churches and businesses have faith and trust that the Sheriff’s Office is for the people.”

Adams of Georgetown is a native of Brooklyn, N.Y. He spent 20 years as a corrections officer at Rikers Island in New York City. He has a degree in criminal justice and after moving to Plantersville to be closer to his mother and sister, he was hired as a deputy for the Sheriff’s Office and also worked for the City of Georgetown Police Department.

Adams said he believes there needs to be more connection with the community.

Check your voter registration at scvotes.org

Special Election
Georgetown County Sheriff

FIELD HOCKEY CLINICS
LEARN FUNDAMENTALS OF THE SPORT OF FIELD HOCKEY

NOVEMBER 15
10AM-12PM
SOUTH ISLAND PARK
SOUTH ISLAND RD.,
GEORGETOWN

NOVEMBER 20
10AM-12PM
SOUTH ISLAND PARK
SOUTH ISLAND RD.,
GEORGETOWN

Fall Book Sale
Friends of the Georgetown Library

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21
8:30 AM - 7 PM
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22
8:30 AM - 5:30 PM
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23
8:30 AM - 5:30 PM

405 Cleland Street, Georgetown
Hardcovers $1, paperbacks 50 cents

Visit Lowcountry Field Hockey
Lowcountryfieldhockey@gmail.com
Facebook: Lowcountry Field Hockey
Twitter: @LcFhockey
Instagram: @lcfhockey

Lowcountry Parks & Recreation
200 Church St, Georgetown, S.C., 29440
(843) 546-2975
www.514parks.org
than 93,000 persons worldwide,” said Georgetown County’s Library Director Dwight McInvaill.

Warren has been following the DCDC Conference since its inaugural year in 2012. She had always wanted to attend, but with it being overseas, knew the expense would make that extremely unlikely. Then, when this year’s conference was being organized, she saw on social media that the 2019 theme was closely related to her current work. The theme is “Navigating the Digital Field: Practices and Possibilities.” Professionals were being asked to submit papers on topics that could be presented during the conference.

With permission from McInvaill, Warren sent in a paper, thinking it was a longshot at best. Several months later, she was notified that her paper had been accepted and the conference wanted to include her as a speaker on its program.

“All I can do is practice it between now and then,” she said. “It’s done; I can’t tweak it anymore. But that’s really kind of nice, because now I get to focus on the exciting part, which is getting ready to go.”

Warren said she is just a little nervous about speaking in front of a group at the level seen at the DCDC Conference. But as her presentation had to be sent in to the conference by the end of October, she doesn’t have the option of continuing to finesse it.

“The South isn’t always portrayed in a positive light nationally and internationally, so I want to start by talking a bit about Georgetown, where it’s located and our history, then go into our preservation efforts,” Warren said.

She’s proud that the Digital Library works to preserve the history of all the county’s residents, with special collections focusing on African-Americans, Lebanese residents, Jewish residents and many other groups. Warren also plans to talk about the Digital Library’s work with small museums.
Midway Fire Rescue receives award for excellence in public fire safety education

During the recent State Association of Fire Chiefs Annual Leadership Conference, Midway Fire Rescue was awarded the 2019 Richard S. Campbell Award for Excellence in Public Fire Safety Education. Fire Chief Doug Eggiman proudly accepted the award on behalf of the organization.

The Campbell Award is a competitive award given to recognize a Fire Rescue Department for their fire service commitment and dedication to public education in fire and life safety for the community they serve, as well as the residents of South Carolina.

Midway Fire Rescue is proud of their organizational commitment to fire and life safety initiatives, which are demonstrated by the staff and volunteer members of the Division of Fire and Life Safety and the members of the Operations Division. These collective members are involved in a wide-spectrum of Fire and Life Safety and Community Risk Reduction initiatives. Several examples include building construction inspections, commercial fire safety inspections, fire and life safety education programs, and social media programs.

Utilizing real-time data to identify the fire and life safety issues facing their district was the foundation to developing several new initiatives aimed at eliminating the factors responsible for structural fires in commercial businesses, as well as single and multi-family homes. This proactive approach resulted in two self-inspection programs, one for commercial occupancies and another for single and multi-family homes.

Midway Fire Rescue is proud to have received the award this year, as well as five other times over the past two decades. For information on Fire and Life Safety education for your family, group, or business, please contact the Division of Fire and Life Safety at mnugent@gtcounty.org
Midway recognizes outgoing Administrator

Midway Fire Rescue paid tribute last month to retiring County Administrator Sel Hemingway, thanking him for all he has done over the years for the Fire Service. Pictured from left are: James Christian, Midway Board Vice Chairman; Julie Noie, board member; Richard Faulk, Board Chairman; Hemingway; Doug Eggiman, Midway Fire Chief; and Lissa Byrd, board member.

County Elections Board

Midway recognizes outgoing Administrator

to have protest hearing
over Pawleys election

The Georgetown County Elections Commission will have a protest hearing on Tuesday, Nov. 12, at 10 a.m. in Georgetown County Council Chambers at the historic county courthouse on Screven St. The hearing regards the Town of Pawleys Island Town Council and Mayoral election and is a result of two separate protests issued by Josh Ricker, who was a candidate for Town Council, and Jimmy Braswell, who was a candidate for Mayor.

Though the protests were issued separately, their letters listed the same nine points. In letters to the Commission dated Nov. 7, Ricker and Braswell formally contested the Nov. 5 municipal council election and requested a hearing take place. They claim:

• Protests of the ballots of absentee and polling place voters by poll workers lacked due process of law in that witnesses could not be cross-examined.
• Inappropriate laws were considered in the ballot challenge hearing that took place earlier in the week.
• The ballot challenge hearing failed to consider certain legal standards.
• Evidence to property ownership was ignored.
• The Commission considered statements from individuals who did not appear or provide evidence at the hearing.
• The Commission failed to make their decision based on applicable election law governing conduct of challenge hearings.
• Other failures to consider certain facts and laws.

The hearing will be open to the public.

Winter Youth Basketball & Cheerleading

*EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION: OCT. 8 - NOV. 15, 2019*
*LATE REGISTRATION: NOV. 16 - DEC. 13, 2019*

Skills & Drills Clinics: Mon/Wed Nights, 5:30pm-6:30pm
Nov. 4 - Nov. 20 at Beck, Choppee, Andrews & Waccamaw Rec Centers

Open to Ages
4-17 (Basketball)
4-12 (Cheerleading)
Early Bird Fee: $20
Late Reg. Fee: $25
AGE CONTROL DATE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

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 GitCountySC.
South End Parking lot temporarily closed

The South End parking lot on Pawleys Island is closed while it is used as an equipment and materials site during beach renourishment being conducted by the Town of Pawleys Island. This closure is likely to last several months.

Georgetown Library Book Club
November Selection

KAREN WHITE

Join us
Tuesday
November 12, 2019
11:00 am
Georgetown Library Auditorium

dreams of falling

Check out your copy now at the Library!
For information about the book club, call Patti Burns at (843) 545-3388.

Sign up for emergency alerts!
Don’t miss out on important information that could keep you and your family safe. Sign up to receive emergency alerts specific to your address from the Georgetown County Emergency Management Division via email or phone. Sign up for this free service at www.gtcounty.org or call (843) 545-3213.

Library to host free Christmas concert featuring Jill Trinka

The Waccamaw Library will resound with glad tidings of the Christmas season on Dec. 17. This is thanks to the beautiful vocals and lovely strains of a variety of acoustic instruments — including the Appalachian dulcimer, Autoharp, guitar and piano — all played masterfully by Jill Trinka, Ph.D. Trinka will perform a free concert, with a special focus on traditional carols from the Southeastern United States and the Deep South, as well as Christmas music from Appalachia and the British Isles, with a classic holiday song or two for all to sing. The show will begin at 5:30 p.m.

The performance is part of the FOWL Musicians Series, a free concert series sponsored by the Friends of the Waccamaw Library (FOWL). The program is open to the public. The Library is located at 41 St. Paul Place, Pawleys Island.

When Trinka moved to Pawleys Island from St. Paul, Minn., in 2010, she did not know there was a university in Conway, and little imagined that she would be working there from 2011-2019 as a Professor of music education teaching elementary music methods, ear training, classroom instruments, world music, and American music. She is now retired from that post, but she continues to enjoy teaching workshops for music teachers, serving as an artist-in-residence in elementary schools, and performing folk music concerts for adults and children. Passionate about keeping traditional folk songs alive, she has traveled throughout the United States and Canada for the past 40 years, promoting this music as a foundation for teaching music literacy skills. Trinka is a Master Teacher of the music education philosophy promoted by Hungarian composer, educator, and ethnomusicologist, Zoltán Kodály.

Her performances bring new life to the musical and cultural treasures of American folk music. Her books and CDs are published by GIA Music and include “My Little Rooster;” “Bought Me a Cat;” “John, the Rabbit, and The Little Black Bull;” “Jill Trinka: The Bass Hall Children’s Concerts DVD (Ft. Worth, TX);” “Had a Little Rooster,” “There’s a Hole in the Bucket,” and “Old Joe Clark.”

Locally, Trinka has performed at Coastal Carolina University, Brookgreen Gardens’ Nights of Thousand Candles, Atalaya and Surfside Sunday Serenades, among many other venues. She also sings with the Carolina Master Chorale, when her schedule permits.

Jill Trinka

For more library programs and events, visit the Georgetown County Library page on Facebook.
Sheriff recognizes Citizens Academy graduates

Georgetown County Sheriff Carter Weaver presented graduates of this year’s Citizens Academy with certificates and a challenge coin at their final class on Nov. 5. Participants in the annual program toured facilities and learned about various facets of the Georgetown County Sheriff’s Office from deputies.

County Administrator receives Lifetime of Achievement Award from Chamber

Georgetown County Administrator Sel Hemingway received the Lifetime of Achievement Award from the Chamber of Commerce at its 102nd annual meeting on Nov. 7. In accepting the award, Hemingway said he never set out to be a leader, and talked about people he respected as leaders. Watch the presentation in full on the GtCountySC page at Youtube.com or the County’s Facebook page.

County votes to purchase Pennyroyal Road property for economic development

Georgetown County will purchase an industrial property on Pennyroyal Road at a cost of $3.79 million, but it won’t use funds from a Capital Project Sales Tax to do it. At its meeting on Oct. 22, Council approved purchase of the 948-tract with money from the county’s Economic Development Fund. The fund contains money from Fee in Lieu of Tax agreements, which is intended to be reinvested in Economic Development projects.

The county had looked at using excess funds from a Capital Project Sales Tax for the project, but reconsidered after objections from residents. The county also considered delay the purchase, but in doing so, it would have had to pay a considerably higher price for the property later.

The county has been looking at purchasing the property for about five years. The site has been tagged as one of the county’s best bets for attracting industry. The features at this site, including barge access, natural gas and rail, make the site unique and highly desirable to industrial prospects. There is not another comparable site anywhere in the state.

County Economic Development Director Brian Tucker said there are already multiple prospects interested in the site.

“Out of 900-plus acres, even if we only develop 400, we could still create hundreds of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in investments into the county,” Tucker said. “All this in a part of the county where we desperately need jobs and increased economic opportunities.
News from our Veterans Affairs Officer, celebrating Veterans Day

By David Murphy

Hello veterans! The U. S. Marine Corps will celebrate its 244th birthday on Nov. 10. Please give a hearty happy birthday and a well-deserved salute to our Marines.

On Nov. 11, we will celebrate Veterans Day. Let us pause to honor those who have served to protect and defend our great nation and also reflect on those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom we have.

On Nov. 28, will we celebrate Thanksgiving Day. Let us set aside a time to give thanks for all that we have been blessed with and let us not forget those who are still serving overseas and who can’t be with their families during this holiday season. Remember to be safe; many will be on the road traveling to various destinations.

The Andrews Veterans Day Parade took place on Nov. 2, with Grand Marshal Major Danisha McClary, retired. She served with the U.S. Army Finance Corps and Judge Advocate Generals Corps, and was a military representative to the U.S. Supreme Court. Her husband is Town of Andrews Mayor Frank McClary, who is a retired Army Colonel and “Infantry All the Way!” Both have done several tours in the War on Terror. The parade was followed by a Veterans Day Ceremony at the Pavilion, which included a POW-MIA remembrance reading by Commander Ed Jayroe of American Legion Post 69. Former Lt. Governor Yancey McGill was Master of Ceremonies. A meal was served courtesy of Ms. Sandra Tucker of Twice as Nice and Piggy Back.

The annual Georgetown Veterans Day Parade is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 11, with kickoff at East Bay Park. Parade participants will assemble at the park at 1 p.m. to march as a unit or ride in personal vehicles up Front Street to Wood Street. Participants are responsible for their own banners, flags and signs.

“We’re hoping for a large turn out, so please encourage all veterans to participate in the parade,” said American Legion Commander Rodney Ward. “We’re also asking for their families and friends to line up on Front Street and salute our veterans on this special occasion when our country remembers them and their sacrifices.”

To help create some rivalry and friendly competition between the high school bands and ROTC units, a panel of judges will award trophies to the band and ROTC unit that perform the best.

All bands participating are asked to perform patriotic music in front of the judges’ reviewing station and mixed in with other musical choices throughout the parade.

All civic clubs, Boy and Girl Scout troops, churches and other organizations are welcome to participate. Local merchants and residents are asked to display American flags, banners and bunting throughout the weekend.

To reserve space in the parade, contact Rodney Ward, (843) 833-3700 or Rodney.ward48@yahoo.com, or Paige Sawyer at (843) 546-3745 or paigesawyer@gmail.com.

After the Georgetown Veterans Day Parade, VFW Post 6444 will have a Barbecue dinner for veterans and a guest at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6444. All veterans and a guest are invited.

Please remember the Lowcountry Veterans Group and the Georgetown Housing Authority will have a Veterans Day event on Nov. 11 beginning at 10 a.m. at 1 Lincoln St., located off Merri-man Rd. The event is free and will include entertainment, music, giveaways and fun for the whole family. For information, call Theodore Russell at (843) 421-6013 or Christina Woodruff at (843) 546-9621, ext. 227.

Proud to Serve!

David Murphy, Manager, Georgetown County Veterans Affairs
Inlet Rotary Club installs AEDs in public facilities

The Murrells Inlet Community Center and the MarshWalk are both safer this month, thanks to a donation from the Murrells Inlet Rotary Club.

On Oct. 29, the group donated four automated external defibrillators, better known as AEDs to Georgetown County Parks and Recreation to be installed in public places. One has been installed at the Community Center and the other three will go in prominent locations at the MarshWalk.

AEDs are lightweight, portable devices that deliver an electric shock through the chest to the heart. The shock can potentially restore a regular heartbeat in cases of sudden cardiac arrest. The devices offer voice instructions, allowing people with no training to administer aid immediately, and saving lives. Having one nearby if a person’s heart stops can dramatically improve the chances of survival. According to the American Heart Association, a victim’s chance of survival drops by 7 to 10 percent for every minute that passes without the restoration of a normal heartbeat.

The club spent about $7,000 to purchase the devices, said Eric Gray, a club member and Assistant Governor for Rotary District 7770 Area 9. The county is extremely grateful for the donation, and the Community Center and MarshWalk are ideal locations for AEDs, said Beth Goodale, County Director of Parks and Recreation.

“There’s something going on here seven days a week,” Goodale said during a brief dedication ceremony for the new device at the Community Center. “On any given morning, we have 40-60 ladies here doing fitness classes, then there are events into the night.”

The MarshWalk, which runs along the inlet behind some of the community’s most popular waterfront restaurants, is constantly buzzing with activity.

Installation of AEDs is an activity that has been taken on by Rotary Clubs countywide, beginning with the Andrews Club in 2016. In 2017, the Georgetown Rotary Clubs got on board and the Pawleys Island Club followed. Though the Inlet Club is the last to begin installations, there was some benefit to that, Gray said. For example, prices have decreased and the technology has improved, making it easier to install devices in outdoor locations, such as the MarshWalk, and more affordable to install more devices in more locations.

To find AEDs wherever you are, download the AED Registry app on your phone. It shows nearby AEDs. Many of the devices shown at public facilities across Georgetown County are the result of donations from county Rotary Clubs.