## County recruits new plant to Andrews area

MPW Industrial Services will open a new industrial water regeneration plant in the Georgetown County Business Center, located in Andrews. The plant, a $10 million project, is expected to begin operations next summer and create 32 jobs, in addition to temporary construction jobs.

The company has purchased an existing building constructed and owned by Georgetown County and will re-fit it to suit their needs.

“We are delighted that MPW Industrial Services has chosen to locate in Georgetown County and make an investment of this size here,” said Georgetown County Council Chairman Johnny Morant. “The jobs the company will bring will have a lasting impact and greatly benefit our community and the Andrews area in particular. We are committed to working with and attracting businesses that provide more opportunities for Georgetown County residents, and we consider MPW’s decision a great success.”

The site purchased by MPW is located at 373 Technology Drive, in the same industrial park where SafeRack operates. Construction is expected to begin this fall. State and local officials are providing $225,000 in incentives for the project.

The new plant will enable MPW to meet the needs of its growing customer base in the Southeast, said Jared Black, general manager for MPW’s Industrial Water division.

“In addition to being business friendly, Georgetown County is a great location because we can easily reach clients from Florida to Alabama, all of whom depend

See “New Business,” Page 5

## Sign-up open for redfish tournament

The Inshore Fishing Association Redfish Tour and Kayak Tour is headed back to Georgetown County this month, and it’s not too late to register. Both competitions are open to all anglers — no competitive fishing experience needed.

The top prize in the Redfish Tour, a one-day event, is a $26,000 boat package. Big cash prizes will also be awarded. Even 20th place can net up to $500 (assuming 100 boats registered).

The Redfish Tour will take place at Georgetown County’s Carroll A. Campbell Marine Complex on Aug. 29 with boat launch at dawn and weigh-in scheduled for 3 p.m. Both are open to spectators. Registration is from 5 -7 p.m. Aug. 28 at the marine complex and will be followed by a meeting and dinner for participants. The marine complex is located at 101 River Walk Dr.

A $30 membership to the IFA is needed to sign up for the competition and can be purchased at registration. Participants fish in two-person teams. Entry fee is $250 per boat.

The Kayak Tour takes place on Aug. 30, with registration at the marine complex beginning at 5 p.m. Aug. 29, following Redfish Tour weigh-in. This competition is also open to everyone. Entry fee is $50 per angler and requires a $10 IFA membership.

See “Redfish,” Page 3

## Camp closes with a splash

Georgetown County Parks and Recreation ended its 2015 youth summer camp with a day of wet, messy fun at the Beck Recreation Center on July 30. See more photos on page 6.
Environmental Services reports significant jump in county recycling rate

Georgetown County’s recycling rate has increased for the third consecutive year, according to the Environmental Services Division of the Georgetown County Public Services Department.

This year’s 6 percent increase is the largest year-to-year increase the county’s recycling rate has seen, and brings Georgetown County’s total recycling rate to 30.8 percent, said Fred Davis, the division’s superintendent. Davis credits the Georgetown County Green Business program/partnership and landfill management waste diversion efforts for the increase.

“Our commercial and industrial partnerships, along with our nearly 200 Green Business Commercial Recycling program participants helped to increase the total amount of material we are able to recycle,” Davis said.

The county has also expanded its yard waste collection efforts, and has begun recycling pallets and clean wood as a fuel source. Ray Funnye, Public Services Department director, is pleased to see such a significant increase this year, he said.

“When you hear 6 percent, some people might not think it sounds like much, but it’s an increase of more than 4 million pounds of recyclables,” Funnye explained. “As a county we continue to make progress and with the support of the business community and the continued efforts of the public, we will continue to increase our recycling rate.”

The County has a goal of a 40 percent recycling rate by 2020. To learn more about recycling programs and initiatives in Georgetown County, including a free paper and cardboard recycling program for businesses, visit www.gtcounty.org/recycling. The commercial recycling program provides businesses with recycling containers that are picked up weekly via recycling truck route. To enroll, download an application from the web page listed above, or contact James Coley at (843) 545-3483 or jcoley@gtcounty.org. Completed applications should be mailed to the Environmental Services Division at P.O. Drawer 421270, Georgetown, S.C. 29440.

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
ship, available at registration. The tours stopped in Georgetown County in April and were very successful, attracting 73 boats and many anglers from Georgetown and surrounding counties, as well as out-of-state visitors, creating a significant economic impact for area businesses. Many participants from the April event said they plan to return in August, bringing their families and turning the event into a vacation.

“We’re happy to welcome the IFA Redfish Tour back again, and we’re looking for an even bigger success this time around, with more anglers and some new faces,” said Georgetown County Administrator Sel Hemingway. “We worked hard to make sure all those who participated in April and during the IFA’s first visit in 2014 would want to come back, and we’re hearing that we were very successful in that. They do want to come spend more time with us.”

The April Redfish Tour in Georgetown had the largest participation of any event in the Atlantic division in the event’s history, said Eric Shelby, IFA tournament director. The division stretches from Florida to Virginia.

“We had a great time again and we’re looking forward to coming back,” Shelby said. “The hospitality is great and I’m really impressed with the organization of the County. You can tell their goal is to get better every time and that’s impressive for us to see and to work with. We couldn’t ask for better than what we’ve experienced in Georgetown County.”

Find information and online registration at www.ifatours.com.

The Summer of Teen Tech
August Programs:

Adult Soccer League
Registration open for Men’s and Co-ed Teams
- 7 v 7 format
- Ages 16 and up
- All games on Saturday mornings at Stables Park

Registration ends Sept. 4 at 5 p.m.
Opening day is Sept. 12
Cost is $250 per team for Men’s League and $150 for Co-ed League

For information, call Justin, (843) 545-3319 or e-mail jblomdahl@gtcounty.org
Emergency Management Division selected as Weather-Ready Ambassador

The Georgetown County Emergency Management Division has been named an ambassador for NOAA’s Weather-Ready Nation initiative. The initiative formally recognizes National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration partners who are improving the nation’s readiness against extreme weather, water and climate events.

As a Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador, the Georgetown County Emergency Management Division is committed to working with NOAA and other ambassadors around the country to strengthen national resilience against extreme weather, said Cindy Grace, the county’s emergency management coordinator. Extreme weather events could include hurricanes, floods, tsunamis, or even heat and cold.

“Our designation as a Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador will give us access to more information and better tools to inform the public on how to prepare for, respond to and minimize the impacts of extreme weather, water and climate events,” Grace said. Ambassadors work to inspire others to be better informed and prepared, helping to minimize or even avoid the impacts of natural disasters, and empower community residents to make life-saving decisions that also prevent devastating economic losses.

According to NOAA, the United States is becoming increasingly vulnerable to weather events due to societal changes represented in demographic trends, growing infrastructure threats and an increased reliance on technology. Trends such as urban sprawl and conversion of rural land to suburban landscapes increase the likelihood a tornado will impact densely populated areas. More overlap in the U.S. economy means that a single weather event can have a significant effect on several industries.

For more information about the Weather-Ready Nation initiative, visit www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation.

Extreme weather could include a wide range of threats. Ambassadors help residents be as prepared as possible.

Helping Our Children Find Their Way

Building Parent & Child Relationships for Success in School and Life

August 27, 5:30—7 pm
Waccamaw Library, 41 St. Paul Place

Jim R. Rogers, nationally certified parenting and family life educator, member of the National Council on Family Relations, and author of The Incredibly Important of Effective Parenting, will talk to current and future parents about the most important job they’ll ever have. Learn the process of building relationships of love, care, encouragement, guidance and support that help your child move through life’s stages in the most successful ways.

To register: call Stacie Bremner (843) 545-3363
Or email sbremner@gctcounty.org

Coming soon

to the Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center!

Classes on Mondays, 6-7 p.m.
$10 per class
Ages 15 and up only

For information or to sign up, call (843) 545-2330

Barre Fitness

Tuesdays and Thursdays
8:15-9:15 a.m. at the
Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center
$10 per class
Instructor: Gina Clapham
Call (843) 655-0196 for information
or email ginaclapham@yahoo.com

Georgetown County Parks and Rec. Presents

BILLY BLANKS®

TAE BO®

Classes on Mondays, 6-7 p.m.
$10 per class
Ages 15 and up only

For information or to sign up, call (843) 545-2330

Georgetown County Parks and Rec. Presents

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Volunteer fair at Beck Rec. Center

The local United Way will host a volunteer fair in Georgetown on Wednesday, Sept. 9, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The fair is intended to link potential volunteers with local nonprofits from throughout the county and help find the best volunteer opportunities for everyone from youth and senior citizens to busy, working adults. Food will be available.

The fair will take place at the Beck Recreation Center, located at 2030 Church Street in Georgetown. For information, contact the Black River United Way, (843) 546-6317.

Additionally, the United Way is promoting Sept. 24 as the “Day of Caring.” On that day, people are asked to spend a few hours showing their community that they care by picking a favorite nonprofit organization and asking to spend the day helping out. Community members are also asked to encourage family, friends, co-workers and others to get involved.

More information will be available as these great opportunities to get involved draw closer.

Working toward reaccreditation

Georgetown County Public Services staff is hard at work on achieving reaccreditation for the department from the American Public Works Association. The reaccreditation process is a lengthy and difficult one. Staff has been working on reaccreditation for the last 11 months and is looking forward to completion in September. The department first received APWA accreditation in 2011. To keep accreditation, it must reapply every four years. From left are Tracey Jones, Dan Eckis, Sharon Moultrie, James Coley, Hal Moon and Jennifer Dirks.

New Business

Continued from Front Page

on us for prompt and timely service,” Black said. MPW’s regeneration facilities serve clients within a 500-mile radius, restoring the exhausted resin from the company’s mobile deionization systems back to an ionic form capable of purifying more water. Clients requiring pure water for their processes include the automotive, power generation, petrochemical and refining, and pulp and paper industries.

Brian Tucker, director of the Georgetown County Economic Development Department, has been working on bringing MPW to the county for nearly a year now and said he’s happy to be able to officially welcome the company.

“Our entire team has worked hard for months to get to this point,” Tucker said. “I’m excited about this new plant and I’m even more excited about the jobs coming to Georgetown County and Andrews. This is a great win for the county and the broader community.”

In addition to Tucker’s office, the team that worked to bring MPW to the county included County Council, the S.C. Department of Commerce, the North Eastern Strategic Alliance [NESA], Georgetown County Water and Sewer District, Santee Electric, and the Georgetown County Alliance for Economic Development.

“Today’s announcement isn’t just important because of the number of jobs or the level of investment that a great company such as MPW Industrial Services is making in our region,” said Yancey McGill, chairman NESA’s executive committee. “It’s important because they, as a company, know they can be successful in our region. They know that our workforce, infrastructure and overall business environment provide them with everything they need to be successful.”

The Georgetown facility will be MPW’s fifth regeneration plant. The others are in Newark, Ohio; Port Arthur, Texas; Sedalia, Mo.; and Wilkes-Barre, Pa.
New playground opens at Stables Park

Officials with Georgetown County and the Kiwanis Club of Pawleys Island were joined by about a dozen kids last month when they cut the ribbon on a new playground at the Stables Park Field Complex.

The playground was installed through a community partnership between the County and the club, which raised the funds to purchase the playground equipment as a community service project. The playground is designed for pre-school age kids and is open to the public.

“We were very happy when Kiwanis came to us and asked to partner for this project,” said Beth Goodale, the county’s Parks and Recreation Department director. “We’re always happy to partner with nonprofits and civic groups, and I think this was a great fit for Stables Park. It’s been a dream to get this done.”

County Council Member Steve Goggans agreed, calling the partnership a wonderful experience and a great example of a civic group living up to its mission.

“Play might seem like a frivolity, something that simply occupies children, but in reality, it’s where the socialization process begins. It’s where they learn to interact,” he said. “Kudos to the Kiwanis Club for taking this on.”

The Kiwanis International Foundation provided $12,000 in seed money for the project. The Kiwanis Club of Pawleys Island raised more than $25,000 total for the project. Club Member Mike Diem, who emceed the ribbon cutting ceremony, encouraged club members to continue collecting money for the playground and commit to improving it and meeting future needs that may arise. The club plans to construct a walkway of engraved bricks leading from the parking lot to the playground. The club is selling bricks for $50 each. For information, visit: www.kiwanispawleys-island.org

Successful, but messy end for county summer camp

Georgetown County Parks and Recreation ended another successful summer camp season with a day of water games and Double Dare-style challenges on July 30. Kids played slip ‘n’ slide kickball with swimming pools as bases, pushed watermelons across a surface coated in chili and cole-slaw dressing, and enthusiastically got soda, chocolate syrup, mashed potatoes and pudding poured over their heads and pies in their faces. Look for more photos on our Facebook page.
County teens go to USBA Nationals

Teen athletes from across Georgetown County went to the U.S. Basketball Association National Championship in Atlanta in July. These 14- and 15-year-olds were among more than 500 youth basketball teams consisting of boys and girls ages 8 to 18 that participated in the championship. The opening ceremony took place at Philips Arena, home of the Atlanta Hawks and the WNBA team the Atlanta Dream. The girls team from Georgetown County was able to attend a WNBA game while in Atlanta. The girls team finished with a 2-2 record and the boys team with a 1-3 record. The games were close, and the experience was an unforgettable one, the participants agreed. Coaches were Kenny Crosby, Mike Ford and Brandon Brown.

County introduces first local pickleball league

With the huge following pickleball developed at the Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center over the last year, Georgetown County Parks and Recreation has decided to introduce a league for the sport this fall.

The league is open to adults age 35 and older and will play on Monday mornings (start time is 9:30 a.m.) at the center in Pawleys Island beginning Sept. 14. Registration is open now through Sept. 4 with a $5 per person league fee.

Categories of play will include men’s doubles, women’s doubles and mixed doubles.

The Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center has had tremendous success with daily pickle ball open court play, which regularly attracts anywhere from 20 to upward of 50 people.

Pickleball is a “scaled-down version of tennis that is fun for all ages,” said David Cooper, coordinator for the center.

“When I started here, we had two people playing the game — a husband and wife team,” Cooper recalled. “I thought it looked like a great game and was something people would enjoy, so I found a lady in Myrtle Beach who is 91 years old and plays pickleball like you won’t believe to come down here and do a couple of clinics for us. After that, it started to take off and it has just snowballed.”

Interest has and continues to grow so much that Cooper said he has started offering addition open court times when gym space is available.

For more information about the league, or to sign up, call Justin Blomdahl at (843) 545-3319 or (843) 520-9621, or send him an email at jblomdahl@gtcounty.org. Online registration is also available at gtcounty.org/parks_recroduction.
Regional needs assessment under way

Two local agencies — Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments and the Waccamaw HOME Consortium — are asking area residents how they rank certain issues that affect our region. Those issues include:

- Affordable housing and homelessness prevention,
- People with special needs,
- Neighborhood revitalization,
- Economic development and jobs, and
- Community infrastructure and transportation.

Officials with these agencies are soliciting opinions to help determine how regional funding should be spent. Input from residents of Georgetown, Horry and Williamsburg counties is welcome.

To participate in this assessment, take a short survey online at www.wrcog.org, or attend a public hearing on community needs set for 5 p.m. Aug. 5 at Waccamaw Regional’s office in Georgetown, located at 1230 Highmarket St. Anyone in need of reasonable accommodations in order to participate is asked to call (843) 546-8502.

Murrells Inlet seeks volunteers for cleanups

Murrells Inlet 2020, a community revitalization group, is working to implement regular community cleanups beginning this fall. The group is considering either weekly or monthly organized cleanups that will address issues in various areas of Murrells Inlet.

The group is searching for volunteers interested in participating in these cleanups. For more information or to offer input on how often cleanups should take place, send an email to info@murrellsinletsc.com.

Lenker receives departmental honors

Justin Lenker, a firefighter and emergency medical technician with Midway Fire Rescue has been selected as the Georgetown County Emergency Services Department’s Employee of the Quarter for the second quarter of 2015. He has been employed with the county for one year.

Lenker “does a huge amount of behind-the-scenes work for our department and really makes all of us look good,” said Midway battalion chief Brent McClellan, who nominated Lenker for the award. Lenker’s savvy with technology and social media has helped the department expand its communication with the public, getting out important safety information and other messages. He also helped update and improve Midway’s website, making it fresher and more user-friendly.

“Justin truly does a great job, going above and beyond the normal daily duties, and it benefits all,” McClellan said.
Summer Academy graduates eight

Georgetown County Sheriff Lane Cribb’s third annual Summer Academy finished up recently, with eight high school students completing the week-long program.

The Summer Academy introduces students to all aspects of the Sheriff’s Office and the daily duties of a sheriff’s deputy. Students participated in activities with the uniform patrol division, criminal investigations, crime scene analysis, judicial services, the detention center, the 911 communications center and the special operations unit. Upon graduation, each cadet received a certificate of completion and a Sheriff’s Office challenge coin.

“It was a huge success, and I wish we could have one every month,” Cribb said of the academy.

Right: Academy graduates are pictured with Cribb.

Program director receives service award

Debbie Barr, director for the Georgetown County Sheriff’s Office Re-entry Program, recently received a Community Service Award from the Rotary Club of Georgetown for her work in 2014.

Barr was recommended for the award by Chief Michael Schwartz, the Georgetown County Detention Center administrator, who said Barr shows great compassion for each inmate that she works with. In her job, she provides and coordinates trade courses and certifications for program participants, better enabling them to secure employment prior to their release from jail. She also assists each inmate in obtaining the documents needed for employment.

Sheriff Lane Cribb implemented the Re-entry Program in 2007 to encourage the rehabilitation of inmates prior to their release back into society with the goal of preventing recidivism. Of about 200 inmates who have completed the program, not one inmate has returned to jail.

County staff supervisor shares skills with inmates in Sheriff’s re-entry program

Bob Julian, a supervisor with Georgetown County Facility Services, is volunteering his time and expertise to teach a class on HVAC units to inmates in the Georgetown County Detention Center’s Workforce Re-entry Program.

The program provides inmates with training and job skills to help them rejoin society after their release from jail and avoid recidivism.

Julian started volunteering for the program about three months ago and offers his time after work one night a week to teach HVAC fundamentals and troubleshooting.

The program is always in need of new volunteers. For information, contact Debbie Barr, dbarr@gtcounty.org. Program information can also be found on the Georgetown County Sheriff’s Reentry Services page at Facebook.com

Bob Julian is pictured during one of the classes he teaches for the Re-entry Program. There are eight inmates in his class, learning skills to help them pursue careers in HVAC maintenance and repair.
Chatman, Puckett receive state Public Works awards

Two Georgetown County Public Services Department employees have been recognized by the S.C. Chapter of the American Public Works Association for outstanding work. Herb Puckett and Timothy Chatman were announced last month as 2015 state award winners. They will be recognized by the association’s awards committee at the group’s annual conference in November.

Puckett, manager for Georgetown County’s Facilities Services Division, was named the 2015 Outstanding Public Works Manager. Puckett has been employed with Georgetown County for more than 13 years. Currently, he and his division are near completing the remodeling of the 44,000-square-foot historic county courthouse on Screven Street. Puckett and his team saved the county more than $1.5 million by completing renovations in-house.

When Puckett isn’t improving county buildings, he is committed to the Georgetown County Sheriff’s Office, providing inmates with work skills training to give them the best opportunity for hire upon release from jail. His initiative and passion have made him an exemplary public works manager, said Ray Funnye, director of the Georgetown County Public Services Department.

Chatman, stormwater compliance inspector for the county, was named the 2015 Outstanding Public Works Employee. Chatman has been employed with Georgetown County for seven years. He began his career as mosquito control supervisor, and has since become the stormwater compliance inspector, as well.

Chatman is known in the county for his green thumb. He is a Master Gardener and assists Keep Georgetown Beautiful in developing landscape plans for parks and improved city projects. Chatman’s zeal and love for his community are beyond worthy of this award, Funnye said.

SCAPWA develops and supports the people, agencies and organizations that plan, build, maintain, and improve our communities. For more information about the SCAPWA, please visit http://southcarolina.apwa.net/ or email the chapter at scapwa.info@gmail.com.

Brave actions earn state recognition for Midway firefighter

Shane Kingsford, a firefighter/EMT 2 with Midway Fire Rescue, was recently presented with a Meritorious Action Award by the S.C. State Firefighter’s Association for his off-duty rescue of the two civilians from the ocean near the Litchfield Inn.

The award was presented by association president Will Vaignier during the 108th annual S.C. Fire-Rescue Conference, held in Myrtle Beach.

Kingsford performed the rescue last September. His actions also earned him the Medal of Valor from Midway during its annual awards ceremony.

Kingsford was having lunch in Litchfield on the day of the rescue. Though off duty and without equipment to aid in the rescue, Kingsford responded immediately, running toward the two victims, who were caught in a rip current.