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Calendar

Jan. 10 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse. Oath of Office ceremony for new council members precedes at 5 p.m.

Jan. 12 – Opening of Juel Owens exhibit at the Georgetown County Museum. See page 6

Jan. 14 – The Beatles tribute concert at the Waccamaw Library, 6:30 p.m. See page 2

Jan. 16 – County offices and facilities are closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Jan. 20 – Georgetown County Planning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse

Jan. 24 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse.

The Georgetown County Chronicle



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

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EnviroSep to expand, create 100 new jobs

EnviroSep, located in the Georgetown County Airport Industrial Park, is expanding its existing operations, it announced last month. The expansion will include at least a \$5.2 million investment in Georgetown County and the creation of 100 new jobs over the next five years.

Specializing in modular chiller, boiler and pump packages in the industrial and commercial markets, EnviroSep designs and manufactures integrated solutions with automation and controls for fluid handling, heat transfer, and energy recovery. EnviroSep is a full-service, engineering and manufacturing firm that specializes in producing Modular Central Utility Plants and skidded fluid handling and heat transfer systems for virtually any industrial or commercial applications

Well recognized as a community leader with a focus on economic development, Tim Tilley, CEO of EnviroSep, is committed to growing his company and pushing new frontiers in the industry. EnviroSep's expansion is fueled by recent double-digit annual growth in factory-built, Central Utility Plants and Skidded Mechanical Equipment.



Tim Tilley, right, is pictured with staff at EnviroSep's manufacturing facility.

"Our customers realize economic advantages from our factory-built solutions in lieu of traditional con-

See "EnviroSep," Page 10

Emergency Management team offer winter safety tips

Forecasters at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center predict drier and warmer than normal conditions this winter across the entire southern United States. That being said, there is always a chance for severe winter weather including snow and ice storms anywhere in the U.S., as we saw early this month.

Annually, there are dozens of Americans who die due to exposure to cold, according to NOAA. When you include vehicle accident fatalities and fires due to use of heaters and other winter weather deaths, winter weather is a serious threat, even in the South, said officials with Georgetown County Emergency Services. Some of the dangers include hypothermia and frostbite, heavy snowfall, high winds, freezing rain and sleet. People can become trapped in their home or car. Walking on slippery pavement can lead to injuries and death. Exposure to cold can cause frostbite or hypothermia which can be life-threatening.

In the South, near freezing temperatures are con-



The Georgetown Harborwalk is shown covered in ice after a winter storm in January 2014.

sidered extreme cold. Pipes can become frozen and burst. Snow and ice can paralyze a city by stranding motorists, stopping flow of supplies and disrupting emergency and medical services. Roofs can collapse and trees and power lines can be knocked down.

See "Winter Weather," Page 5

Beatles tribute concert headed to library

Musician George Devens will perform classic tunes by The Beatles at the Waccamaw Library this month, and all fans of the legendary group are invited. The free concert will take place on Saturday, Jan. 14, from 6:30-8 p.m. in the library's DeBordieu Auditorium, 41 St. Paul Place, Pawleys Island.

Devens has been a working musician all his life. In his 20s he joined The George Shearing Quintet, playing vibraphones and timbales. He then worked as a studio musician in Manhattan for 35 years. He has recorded with Burt Bacharach, Barbra Streisand, Frank Sinatra and Barry Manilow, as well as laying countless commercial and film soundtracks. He also wrote, produced and performed musical theatre and cabaret in Manhattan, Massachusetts and Vermont.

Upon moving to Little River in 1995, he began performing a series of 90-minute one-man shows at nearby colleges and museums in North and South Carolina.

"It's hard to imagine John Lennon and George Harrison gone," he said. "But the songs, at least, are immortal. Ringo reminded us that four was the magic number. Paul reminded us that he's still a genius. The early songs -- 'She Loves Me,' 'I Want to Hold Your Hand,' a bit later 'Eleanor Rigby,' 'The Long and Winding Road,' 'Lady Madonna.' And finally, just Paul -- 'Maybe I'm Amazed,' 'Let 'Em In,' 'Live and Let Die.'"

The concert is sponsored by the Waccamaw Library and Friends of the Waccamaw Library.



Devens

Council member Oath of Office ceremony will take place Jan. 10

One new member will join Georgetown County Council this month and three others will be sworn in for an additional term in a ceremony at 5 p.m. on Jan. 10.

Everett Carolina Sr. was elected to his first term on County Council in November and will represent Council District 3, which includes the Sampit area of Georgetown. Also being sworn in are re-elected Council Members Ron Charlton of District 2, Lillie Jean Johnson of District 4 and Austin Beard of District 5.

The ceremony will take place at County Council Chambers in the historic Georgetown County Courthouse at 129 Screven Street, Georgetown.

Following at 5:30 p.m., these council members will officially begin their new terms of service with the calling to order of the year's first County Council meeting. The public is welcome to attend the ceremony and the meeting.

Please join us in welcoming Mr. Carolina aboard and welcoming Mr. Charlton, Ms. Johnson and Mr. Beard back for another four years.



Is getting in shape part of your new year's resolution?



Georgetown County Parks & Rec. has plenty of programs to help!

- *Weight and cardio rooms* • *League sports* • *Zumba*
- *Barre Fit* • *Line dancing* • *New programs added regularly*

We have facilities located throughout the County, and more facilities coming online.

Freelance program instructors are always wanted. Call to inquire.

Call (843) 545-3275 for information

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

Sheriff's Office makes holiday donation to American Cancer Society



The Georgetown County Sheriff's Office was proud to present a check for \$875 to the American Cancer Society on Dec. 27. The funds came from donations raised the previous month when deputies participated in "No Shave November." The event is one of many events that unite communities across the world to help those affected by all types of cancer. Pictured above, from left, are Deputy M. Miles, Sgt. B. McCray, Deputy K. Knowlin, Tiffany Anselmo of the American Cancer Society and Lt. C. Geno. At right, Deputy Joseph Kosydar and K-9 Blitz were among the fundraiser participants.



County offers thanks to Myers-Miller for years of service on County Council

After two terms and eight years of dedicated service, Leona Myers-Miller left her seat on Georgetown County Council last month with much to be proud of.



Myers-Miller

Perhaps most notably, she saw the county through nearly a full decade of the current phase of its long-range Capital Improvement plan, which is nearing completion. Under this plan, the county opened numerous new recreation facilities and embarked on a successful mission to become a destination for sports tourism. Among new facilities that opened under the plan are Eight Oaks Park and the Carroll Ashmore Campbell Marine Complex. With facilities like these, the county has hosted roughly 100 tournaments in recent years, with a combined economic impact exceeding \$4 million.

Among those tournaments was the hugely successful Bassmaster Elite Series tournament last spring, which attracted more than 27,500 fans and generated national attention for the county as a fishing destination. Live coverage of the event received more than 93,000 video plays. Bassmaster will return to Georgetown this spring with its College Series enjoying a regional tournament on Winyah Bay March 2-4.

Under the Capital Improvement Plan, the county also opened two new state of the art libraries, made renovations to two other branches, and is preparing to build a new branch in the Sampit/Santee area — a project Miller has been very involved in. Construction has also started on a new Northwest Regional Recreation Center and renovations to the North Santee Community Center are on the way.

During Miller's last term, the County also put into effect a 1 percent Capital Project Sales Tax, which is in the process of funding more than 100 road resurfacing projects throughout the county, as well as fire and rescue service enhancements, and dredging in Murrells Inlet.

Georgetown County is sincerely grateful for the dedication and hard work of Mrs. Myers-Miller over the last eight years and we wish her well in all her future endeavors.

The libraries are hosting FREE tax help!



Need to file your state and federal taxes?

Are you an individual filer making \$65,000 or less a year?
 Are you a joint filer making \$95,000 or less a year?
 File your taxes at no cost with SC Thrive!

Visit scthrive.org to:

- Access safe, secure, confidential filing at no cost
- Submit your taxes electronically to ensure quick filing
- File up to three years' back taxes
- File your own taxes at scthrive.org or find a local SC Thrive tax site

One-on-one tax help dates:

GEORGETOWN	ANDREWS	CARVERS BAY
February 8 & 9 12:30—6 pm 405 Cleland Street Georgetown	February 10 9 am—5 pm 105 N. Morgan Ave Andrews	February 7 12:30—5:30 pm 13048 Choppee Rd Hemingway



Free French Course at the Waccamaw Library

Learn a new language with a 6-week Beginners Practical French course taught by Gabrielle Griggs, a native of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Learn introductions, numbers, and vocabulary focusing on family, clothes, food, household items and the body, as well as several songs in French.

Wednesdays, Jan. 11—Feb. 15 at 3:30 p.m.

For details or to register, email sbremner@gtcounty.org

The Waccamaw Library and the Poetry Society of SC
are pleased to announce the



2017 Litchfield Tea and Poetry Series

The Waccamaw Neck Library, 41 St. Paul Place
First Thursday, January-April, 3 p.m.



Four convivial meetings,
each featuring thought-
provoking poets



Homemade confections
and tea provided



Book signing following
each reading



Free and open to
the public

February 2



Jennifer Bartell teaches at Spring Valley High School in Columbia. She has an MFA from the University of South Carolina, and her poetry has appeared in "Callaloo, Pluck!", and "The Museum of Americana," among others.



Len Lawson is the author of the chapter book "Before the Night Wakes You" (Finishing Line Press) and co-founder of the Poets Respond to Race initiative. Recent honors include a fellowship from Callaloo Creative Writing. He teaches writing at Central Carolina Technical College.

March 2



Jonathan K. Rice of Charlotte is a poet and visual artist. His most recent poetry collection is "Killing Time" (Main Street Rag, 2015). He is also the founding editor of "Iodine Poetry Journal."



Open Mic. For our March event, everyone in the audience is invited to read a short poem that he or she has written. (Please keep your reading to a single poem no longer than a page.) We all look forward to hearing a variety of voices, including yours. Please join in and encourage others to do so as well!

For more information, contact Susan Laughter Meyers at bardow12@aol.com
or Libby Bernardin at libbypoet@gmail.com.

Visit the Litchfield Tea & Poetry Series page on Facebook.

Annual French film festival returns to Waccamaw Library

The Pawleys Island area's annual French Film Festival will return to the Waccamaw Library this month for its 13th year, with sponsorships from the library's friends group and the Institut Français. Dates for the festival are Jan. 27-29 and Feb. 3-4 in the library auditorium.

The program includes six films, offering a wide variety for all ages and all tastes. All the films are in French with English subtitles and all are recent — some not released yet in the U.S. Admission is \$3 at the door. A limited number of passes to see all films for \$8 are available at ART WORKS in the Litchfield Exchange, daily from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The schedule is as follows:



Jan. 27, 7 p.m. — *The New Kid (Le Nouveau)*, 2015. The story of Benoît, 14, whose first week in his new Paris school does not go as planned. Roughed up and barely tolerated by the popular crowd, he is forced to settle in with the school's outcasts. On his uncle's advice, he gives a party and invites the entire class but only three oddballs show up. Moments of jubilation, huge disappointments, first love, fits of laughter and half-baked plays. Not released in the U.S.

Jan. 28, 2 p.m. — *In Harmony (En Équilibre)*, 2015. Based on a true story, this film addresses the impact of disabling and seemingly irreparable injury, thwarted ambitions, the questionable practices of insurers and the connection between two dissimilar yet both frustrated characters. Marc Guermont is a stuntman on horseback in films. One day his horse steps on his back after a stunt, damaging his spine and condemning him to be in a wheelchair for the rest of his life. In addition the insurance company tries to rip him off. The insurance "advisor" happens to be a seductive woman sharing his love of music. His burning desire to ride again inspires her to dredge up old ambitions to be a concert pianist and both of them will fight relentlessly against all odds to fill their true passion.

Jan. 29, 2 p.m. — *Belle & Sebastien: The Adventure Continues*, 2015. The sequel to a film shown last year. Set in 1945, Sebastien is now 9 years old. With his huge, white fluffy dog Belle and his adoptive grandfather César, he is celebrating the end of the war along with the village in the Alps mountains. All are eagerly waiting for the return of Angelina, César's niece and Sebastien's surrogate mother, from the Résistance in London. When news reaches them that her plane has crashed, setting ablaze an enormous forest fire, everyone's joy turns to sadness as they mourn her. Except César who, with Sebastien, believes she is still alive and recruits Pierre, a cantankerous pilot and maybe Sebastien's long lost father, to do a fly-by of the crash site to search for her. Not released in the US.

Feb. 3, 7 p.m. — *Samba*, 2014. Samba (Omar Sy) migrated to France 10 years ago from Senegal and has since been plugging away at various lowly jobs. Alice is a senior executive recovering

See "Film Festival," Page 5

Winter Weather

Continued from Front Page

Most injuries due to snow and ice happen to males over 40 years of age. Seventy percent result from vehicle accidents, and 25 percent occur in people who get caught in a storm.

Ice can bring down trees and topple communication towers and utility poles. Bridges freeze before other surfaces so they can cause very dangerous driving conditions. Winter storms can also cause coastal flooding and severe beach erosion.

Now is the time to prepare yourself and your family for colder weather and all the possibilities it creates, said Sam Hodge, Georgetown County Emergency Manager. He advises the following actions to help families be ready for whatever this winter may bring:

- Stay informed by listening to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio and television newscasts for winter storm warnings, watches and advisories.

- Create an emergency kit for yourself, your family and your pets to include a flashlight and extra batteries, extra food and water, extra medications and baby items, first-aid supplies, heating fuel, a fire extinguisher, a charger/battery for your cell-phone, blankets/sleeping bags, windshield scraper and brush, battery booster cables for your vehicle, and food, water and shelter for your pets.

- Dress for the season by wearing loose, lightweight, warm clothes in layers to include a hat and mittens.

- Avoid overexertion since the strain from the cold and hard labor can cause a heart attack. Sweating can also lead to a chill and hypothermia.

- If you do get caught outside during a winter storm, find shelter to stay dry, and cover all exposed body parts. If there is no shelter available, build a lean-to to protect yourself from the wind; build a fire for heat; and if applicable, melt snow for drinking water.

- If you get caught in your vehicle during a winter storm, stay in your vehicle running the motor about 10 minutes each hour for heat, and open the window for fresh air to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Be visible to rescuers by turning on the dome light at night when the engine is running, tying a colored cloth to your antenna or door, and raising the hood to show you need assistance. From time to time, move your arms, legs, fingers, and toes to keep the blood circulating and to keep warm.

- If you get caught inside during a winter storm, stay inside using fire safeguards and proper ventilation. Close off unneeded rooms. Cover windows at night. Eat and drink to produce heat and provide your body energy. Wear layers of clothes that can be removed to avoid overheating, perspiration, and chill.

As residents try to stay warm, county firefighters also ask that they follow all operating directions for electric, gas, kerosene, wood-burning and other types of heaters.

Residents should also check all smoke alarms to make sure they work, and replace any smoke alarms that are more than 10 years old. Carbon monoxide detectors should be installed in homes that have a fireplace and/or gas appliances.

All heaters need space, so keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, including furnaces fireplaces, wood stoves or portable space heaters.

French Films

Continued from Page 4

from burnout and working pro bono to help her recovery as she aids immigrants to Paris apply for visas and jobs. When they meet there is an immediate connection.

Feb. 4, 2 p.m. — *Seasons (Saisons)*, 2015. The latest work of Oscar nominated Jacques Perrin and Jacques Cluzeau who gave us "*Winged Migration*." This time they go to Europe to do for the beasts of the land what "*Winged Migration*" and "*Oceans*" did for those of the air and the sea. At the end of the Ice Age, a tiny oscillation in the Earth rotation provoked a sudden warming, the ice retreated, trees found their way in waves and the cycle of seasons was established. The beasts occupied their new kingdom, the forests. It was a world of life and survival, one of astonishing beauty. But man intruded in this earthly paradise and proceeded to alter and sometimes devastate all forms of life. Four years in the making the film is the beautiful thought-provoking tale of the long, tumultuous history that binds man to the animals.

Feb. 4, 2 p.m. — *Irreplaceable (Médecin de Campagne)*, 2016. A no-nonsense, middle-aged country doctor is diagnosed with a disease that forces him to take on a replacement with little experience. Natalie, a former ER nurse just completed her medical studies in a big city hospital. Will she adjust to the demanding life of a country doctor, especially one who thinks he is irreplaceable?

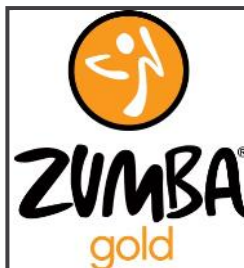
Ladies Stretching Classes at Beck Recreation Center

**Mondays, Wednesdays
and Fridays**

10:30-11:30 a.m.

*Classes are \$1
Walk-ins Welcome*

2030 Church St., Georgetown



**Join the party
at the Murrells Inlet
Community Center!**

**Tuesdays & Saturdays
10-11 a.m.**

**Zumba fitness
classes customized
with lower intensity
moves for active
older adults.**

**\$3 per class.
Walk-ins welcome!**



Library to host 'Meditation and Mindfulness'

An eight-week series at the Waccamaw Library will have wellness advocate Isabelle Boyd introduce participants to styles and techniques of meditation. The styles come from different lineages and allow Boyd's students to experience "oneness and wholeness" in traditions ranging from Ashtanga to Zen, Boyd said.

The "Meditation and Mindfulness" series begins Tuesday, Jan. 10 at 7 p.m. in the library Auditorium, 41 St. Paul Place, Pawleys Island. The audience will be simultaneously entertained and educated as Boyd weaves mythology, psychology and humor into her talks.

"During the class, we will explore the wisdom of the masters from ancient to living examples of peace and love," Boyd said. "Come experience this exciting series of learning mantra, creative visualization and empowerment."

Boyd, owner and creator of Bella Luna Healing Spa in Pawleys Island, is a local leader in the community. She established a Yoga and Massage Wellness Department at Kingston Plantation after her 1991 training in the art of massage and meditation in motion at Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health in Lenox, MA. Her commitment to the mind, body and spiritual unity fuels her passion as the owner of Bella Luna Healing Spa.

"My daily practice as a Quantum Reiki II Healer, massage therapist and yoga instructor has allowed me to experience a sense of peace and oneness I had never imagined," she said. "It is my joy to introduce to people the value and power of meditation, using breath work and postures of yoga that are simple, easy and bring great rewards. Body awareness profoundly affects the mind."

This seven week meditation will take place on Tuesday evenings on the following dates: Jan. 10, 17, 24 and 31, and Feb. 7, 14, 21, and 28. To reserve a seat or for more information, email sbremner@gtcounty.org.



Boyd

Community loans collective works by local artist for special exhibit



Pictured is an oil painting by Julius "Juel" Clyde Owens that will be a part of the January exhibit at the Georgetown County Museum on Broad Street.

The Georgetown County Museum will host a celebration this month in honor of the opening of a new exhibit of work by Lowcountry artist Julius "Juel" Clyde Owens. This will be the first time the works have been featured. The celebration will take at the Museum at 120 Broad Street from 5-6:30 p.m. on Jan. 12 and will open the exhibit.

Owens was born April 1, 1919, on a farm wedged between Choppee Creek and the Black River. He was the youngest of nine children, and was extremely talented in music, carpentry and especially oil painting, among many other gifts.

During World War II, Owens joined the Navy and served on US Tanker Guadalupe. After that, he joined the Merchant Marines and was able to visit many different countries. His work is scattered all over the world, but primarily here in the Lowcountry.

Many Georgetown County residents own at least one painting by Owens and a number of these have been loaned to the museum this month for the exhibit, which will run through Jan. 28. The museum will have more than 30 of Owens' paintings in all for residents to view.

Owens is buried near his parents at Rose Hill Baptist Church, where he had painted a baptismal mural at the request of his mother.

Refreshments will be served. Cost to attend the opening is free for museum members and \$5 for the general public.

Georgetown County Parks and Recreation presents

Tot Basketball



Parents and kids will learn the basic fundamentals of basketball while kids develop motor skills, have fun and get active.



For kids ages 3 & 4
5:30 - 6:15 p.m.

Dates and locations as follows:

Beck Recreation Center — Tuesdays, Jan 10 - Feb. 7

Andrews Recreation Center — Mondays, Jan 9 - Feb. 13 (no play Jan. 16)

Waccamaw Recreation Center — Wednesdays, Jan 11 - Feb. 8

Pleasant Hill Elementary — Mondays, Jan 9 - Feb. 13 (no play Jan. 16)

Cost is \$15 per child. Parent participation is required.

Call (843) 545-3275 or register online at www.gtcounty.org/parks_recreation, or at any regional recreation center.

Dougan named Employee of the Quarter

Bill Dougan, a firefighter/paramedic with Midway Fire Rescue, was named Georgetown County's Employee of the Quarter for the fourth quarter of 2016. He has been employed with the department for four years.

In addition to the normal duties of a firefighter/paramedic, Dougan is an instructor for the department's EMS in-service training and for DHEC's required continuing education program for fire/rescue staff. He also stepped up to be Midway's infection control coordinator, ensuring staff receives appropriate vaccinations and making sure appropriate steps are followed in cases of exposure to infectious illness.

Dougan came to work for Midway in January 2013 from a busy, hospital-based EMS system in New Jersey. Midway's leadership was immediately impressed with his wealth of knowledge and experience as a paramedic, which has since proven to be "invaluable to his shift, department and the community," said Midway Chief Doug Eggiman.

Dougan has developed a reputation as a strong, informal leader who is always teaching others and has a tactful, helpful manner. He often provides useful input that helps enhance shift and department operations, and he works well with all senior leadership to accomplish goals. His teaching manner is not only confident, but he has an ability to make otherwise dull topics relatable and relevant, and keep his students engaged. His method of teaching builds confidence and skills in new hires.

For his excellent work, Dougan was also selected as the Emergency Services Department's Employee of the Quarter this quarter and was previously named Midway's Paramedic of the Year in January 2015.



Dougan

Young honored as Manager of the Year



Mike Young, center, is pictured with Georgetown County Council Chairman Johnny Morant, left, and Human Resources Director Walt Ackerman during a presentation last month.

Georgetown County is pleased to announce that Mike Young, our Building Official, has been selected as the county's Manager of the Year for 2016. He has been employed with the county for 16 years and at the beginning of this year was promoted from Senior Building Inspector to Building Official. In that time he has made several significant improvements that benefit the Building Division as well as county residents.

Among the most noticeable of those for the public, Young led the effort to improve the County's national Flood Insurance Program rating from an 8 to a 7. As publicized last month, this improvement will result in a 5 percent decrease in flood insurance premiums for county residents. He is already working on additional actions to further improve the rating.

Young also led the most successful damage assessment process to date this fall after Hurricane Matthew.

As part of his job duties, Young oversees eight employees and creates the Building Division's budget for review and approval by the Planning Director. He also volunteered this year to initiate a review of the contractor certification process. He is a state certified plans reviewer, state certified commercial and residential building inspector, and provisional certified building official.

He also serves as the County's Floodplain Manager and is on the Plan Review Committee. He is active in the SC Coastal Code Enforcement Association, serving two years as its president, and is a key participant in an ongoing departmental improvement program. He has made many improvements in a very short time and proven he was the right pick for this job, said his director Boyd Johnson.



Showings begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Waccamaw Library,
41 St. Paul Place, Pawleys Island

January 6: "Citizen Kane"

Following the death of a publishing tycoon, news reporters scramble to discover the meaning of his final utterance. Directed by and starring Orson Welles.

January 13: "Dead Poets Society"

Robin Williams stars as English teacher John Keating, who inspires his students to look at poetry with a different perspective of authentic knowledge and feelings.

January 20: "2001: A Space Odyssey"

In this 1968 film starring Keir Dullea and Gary Lockwood, humanity finds a mysterious, obviously artificial object buried beneath the lunar surface and, with intelligent computer H.A.L. 9000, sets off on a quest.

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 Georgetown County Emergency Management Division via email or phone. Sign up for this free service at www.gtcounty.org (look for the link near the top of our home page) or call (843) 545-3213.

County recognizes Stone, Avant as Volunteers of the Year

Barry Stone and **George Avant Jr.** were recognized in December as Georgetown County government's 2016 Volunteers of the Year. Stone is a volunteer with the Parks and Recreation Department, while Avant is a longtime volunteer with Georgetown County Fire/EMS.

Stone has worked as a volunteer within the Parks and Recreation Department for more than five years. He is the husband of Rhonda Stone, an employee in the department.

In 2012, the Parks and Recreation Department opened the first of its many new tournament-level facilities and began attracting tournaments from near and far. This created a new workload for department employees as they strove to ensure visiting groups had successful events at county facilities and would want to come back. The county has already developed an impressive reputation as a destination for tournaments, attracting events such as the Dixie Youth World Series, Top Gun Baseball Winter Nationals, Top Gun Softball World Series, the Bassmaster Elite Series, and the IFA Redfish and Kayak Tours. Many of these groups come back year after year.

Beginning with the very first large event the county was host to at one of these facilities, Stone became a fixture for Parks and Recreation events. He has been a part of every major event the county has hosted since 2012, going so far as to review the department calendar at the beginning of each year and schedule his vacation time at work around it.

Not only does he assist with the events themselves, acting as an unpaid member of the staff, he also helps with set up and breakdown of equipment prior

to and after the events.

Though the number and scope of events hosted by the department has grown with each year, Stone's assistance can always be relied on, as he has continued to be a major asset at each and every event held to date -- even though some keep staff and volunteers busy for several days at a time. He does all of this while also managing a successful full-time career.

Even more notable is that he always seems happy to be of assistance, no matter what job he is assigned. He has worked in all positions, including manning the gate, running concessions, parking and traffic control, trash collection and more.

"He always goes above and beyond what is expected of him," said Beth Goodale, Parks and Recreation Director. "He shows up early, always has a great sense of humor, never complains about working conditions such as heat, cold, rain and long days, and he has used his personal tools and resources when needed."

She calls him a major asset to the department.

"His willingness and ability to assist with all aspects of major events in a volunteer capacity is invaluable," she said. "His personality combined with his genuine love of people and Georgetown County makes him an unforgettable ambassador, emphasizing the message that Georgetown County is a welcoming, unique and memorable place."

Avant, an employee of the Georgetown County Public Services Department, was for his outstanding volunteer service to the county, rendered in its Emergency Services Department.

Avant came to work for the County 22 years ago, but was



Stone, left, is pictured with County Administrator Sel Hemingway.



Avant, center, is pictured with County Council Chairman Johnny Morant, left, and Walt Ackerman, the county's human resources director.

volunteering decades before that. He works daily on special projects in the Public Works Division and after clocking out, he volunteers with Georgetown County Fire/EMS.

He is dedicated to both roles and his passion for the fire department has never negatively impacted his work in the Public Works Division. He may be called to an accident scene in the wee hours of the night, but will still be on time and at his best when he reports to work the next morning, said his boss, Public Services Director Ray Funnye.

Avant is a National First Responder, National Child Safety

Seat Technician, and certified instructor of topics including: CPR, first Aid, AED use and dealing with blood borne pathogens.

He devotes significant time to training required for this volunteer position. It is his passion and he takes it seriously. He is very generous with his time, very dedicated and very proud of Georgetown County Fire/EMS.

"If I needed emergency help, there is nobody I would rather have on the scene," said Ray Funnye.

Please join us in offering thanks to these two outstanding volunteers.

News from our Veterans Affairs Officer

By David Murphy

Happy New Year to all our Veterans! I hope that everyone will be prosperous this year. The Staff of the Veterans Affairs Office would like to thank all those gave us Christmas cards and great cheer for the holidays.

I also would like to thank our great veterans who allowed me to serve them during the year. It's a great privilege to be able to serve the residents of Georgetown county.

Our office is in the early stages of planning an event for this summer. Please keep up with this column as more information on that will follow in the future.



Murphy

To all our **veterans who are receiving 100 percent service connected compensation**, there are some benefits that are afforded to you that I want to make sure you're aware of. For example, have you completed a form PT-401 to see if you are eligible for county tax exemptions on your property and/or up to two vehicles?

Veterans who served at **Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.**, between August 1953 and December 1987 were potentially exposed to contaminants present in the base's water supply. Various scientific organizations have associated the contaminants found in the water with the possible development of certain chronic diseases.

The service information Veterans Affairs requires to decide a claim for SC for diseases resulting from a veteran's exposure to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune includes: Proof of service at Camp Lejeune and details about service, including the length of time the veteran worked at the base, duties performed and the locations on base where he or she worked, as well as whether the veteran resided on or off base.

Secretary McDonald has determined there is sufficient scientific and medical evidence available to propose establishing a presumptive connection for the following conditions: Kidney cancer, liver cancer, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, adult leukemia, multiple myeloma, bladder cancer, Parkinson's disease and aplastic anemia/myelodysplastic syndrome.

If you were assigned to Camp Lejeune during the dates mentioned and have any of the above listed disabilities, please come by to see me to discuss filing a claim for compensation.

Pawleys Island American Legion Post 197 was excited to conduct its first ever high school scholarship speech competition recently. Post Commander Glenn Hero explained the purpose of The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program as follows: "A Constitutional Speech Contest" is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States on the part of high school students. Other objectives include development of leadership skills, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and preparation for acceptance of the duties and responsibilities, the rights and privileges of American citizenship."

The contest was open to all Waccamaw Neck high school-age students, including home school students under age 20.

The contest is comprised of two parts. The first is an 8-10 minute prepared oration and must be about some aspect of the Constitution. The second is a 3-5 minute ad-hoc speech about a Constitu-

Georgetown Memorial Wall dedicated



After five years of fundraising, the community finally had a dedication ceremony in December for a veterans memorial wall built in the City of Georgetown. The wall honors all U.S. veterans, dating all the way to the Revolutionary War and progressing to present day, said Ron Gilbert, chairman of the project. The wall is located at 715 Church Street, between the American Legion building and the VFW building, where commanders of the organizations say the wall is the finest in our state and compares to some of the best in the nation. In addition to the inscribed names of those from Georgetown County who gave their lives, the memorial also features detailed graphics and summaries of each war or conflict.

tional amendment. In advance of the competition, four amendments were chosen at possible topics. Contestants did not know which one would be selected until the night of the contest.

Jacob "Jake" Homan, a senior at Waccamaw High School, won first place and received \$200. **Riley Sollars**, a freshman, won second place and was awarded \$100. Jake will now move on to compete at the Legion's Quadrant level contest on Feb. 18 at 10 a.m. at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 61629 W. Palmetto St., Florence.

Significant scholarship money is at stake at the various levels of competition. The winner at the Quadrant level proceeds to compete in the department (state) level. The last step in the contest is the National Finals, held in April in Indianapolis.

Each State winner who competes in the first round of the national contest will receive a \$1,500 scholarship. Participants in the second round who do not advance to the national final round will receive an additional \$1,500 scholarship. The last step is the finals, which will carry scholarships in the amounts of \$18,000 for first place, \$16,000 for second place and \$14,000 for third place.

Commander Hero said that Post 197 wishes to thank Waccamaw High School officials and the many community volunteers whose support was critical in mounting this successful first contest. The group looks forward to next year, when it hopes that many more students will enter.

Wishing everyone a great new year!

David Murphy,
Manager,
Georgetown County
Office of Veterans Affairs

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



It's time for a revolution!

(the Small Business Revolution, that is)

Out of 14,000 nominations nationally, the Small Business Revolution team recently chose Georgetown as one of eight towns to visit in the process of narrowing the finalists to five, and eventually to one town that will win the honor of becoming the Small Business Revolution town.



The goal of the Small Business Revolution is to restore downtown cores and to tell the stories of America's most inspiring small businesses, using photography, film and written word. As the winning town, business owners would directly benefit from a \$500,000 investment. The funds go directly to the businesses, not to government or other groups, such as the Chamber of Commerce.

To learn more about the Small Business Revolution visit their website at smallbusinessrevolution.org to see the first season of the reality series that invested \$500,000 in small businesses in Wabash, IN. A team, made up of

SHARE WHY YOU LOVE GEORGETOWN, SC

#MyGeorgetown



Deluxe Corporation's Amanda Brinkman and a film crew, will visit Georgetown beginning on Jan. 5. The team walked into businesses to interview business owners and talk about what it is that makes Georgetown special.

Everyone can help to sell the team on Georgetown as the competition continues. Social media posts will be a contributing factor in the team's selection process. Facebook users should go to the Small Business Revolution's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/smallbizrev>), like their page, and post photos to their timeline with messages about why you love Georgetown. Be sure to tag photos with #MyGeorgetown and spread the word!

EnviroSep

Continued from Front Page

struction," Tilley said. "This has fueled a continued upward trend in the markets we service and our expansion will ensure improved lead times for these customers, increase manufacturing capacity, and accelerate the pace and scale of future growth."

"In Georgetown County, we benefit from a highly skilled, technical workforce specializing in the fields of advanced manufacturing. This played a major role in our decision to select Georgetown County for EnviroSep's expansion," Tilley added.

Founded in 1996, EnviroSep continues to expand engineering and manufacturing capabilities in the fluid handling and heat transfer system market. In 2002, EnviroSep constructed headquarters in Georgetown,

which has grown into a state-of-the-art facility. With this latest announcement, there is a plan to potentially double the facility square footage.

"EnviroSep, and Tim Tilley, have been a tremendous corporate partner in Georgetown County and an engaged participant in the county's growth and prosperity," said Brian Tucker, director of the Georgetown County Economic Development Department. "Supporting and facilitating growth for existing industries is key in developing economic sustainability for the county and for successful recruitment of new industry. EnviroSep is a prime example of a thriving company that has benefitted from — and actively cultivated — the strong workforce available in Georgetown for high tech engineering and metal fabrication. We are very excited for EnviroSep's

growth and congratulate them on their continuing success."

"Over the last decade plus, Tim has shown a remarkable ability to grow his business and be a committed leader in the community," said Georgetown County Council Chairman Johnny Morant.

"I am proud to see the continued confidence the company has in the area workforce. I am also very appreciative of Tim's advocacy of the Advanced Manufacturing Facility at Horry-Georgetown Technical College, his longtime efforts as Chairman of the Georgetown Port Task Force, and his involvement in local economic development efforts in general. With clients all over North America and a tenacity as an industry pioneer, EnviroSep's growth is truly a win for Georgetown County and its residents."