



PHOTOS BY RICHARD CAINES/SOUTH STRAND NEWS

A computer lab that is part of the Re-entry Services program at the Georgetown County jail.

Re-entry

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"It prepares you for life outside the jail. Pretty much writing resumes and keeping up with budgets as far as paying bills," he said. "You got to have some kind of discipline when getting out to keep up with everything. It is an awesome program."

Lewis also believes the program changed his mind set for the better when he graduated.

"It was a bunch of old friends I had to stop associating with. In 10 years, you get out and they are doing the same thing, haven't bettered themselves," he said. "You go back hanging with them, and then eventually falling into the same thing. You have to change your environment."

The executive director of the program, Debbie Barr, could see early on that Lewis would do something special with his life.

"You can't even imagine. He had so much potential while he was here," Barr said. "He's been married since he has been out, had his little girl and now owns his own company. Just living the dream."

One of the instructors, Donny Cummings, believes that the program has been successful because of the caliber of the trainees.

"The people like (Lewis). People who didn't care about anything, and turned out successful," said Cummings. "I've met a few like Lewis."

The Re-entry Services program was started in 2008 by the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office. Its mission is to give inmates both job and life skills to become productive members of society.

The program is registered as part of the National Apprenticeship Program through the Department of Labor and the Apprenticeship Carolina S.C. Technical College System.

The participants have the opportunity for hand on field training through Georgetown County Public Works, followed up with additional hands on and classroom study. Each Occupation offered must meet all requirements and standards of apprenticeship established by the state's Secretary of Labor.

According Barr, 301 inmates



The new GCSO Re-entry Services barbershop where students learn to cut hair.



One of the spaces in the new GCSO Re-entry Services building.

have graduated the program over the course of its 11 years — none of them have been jailed again.

From its humble beginnings in a double wide trailer, the Re-entry Services program has opened a state-of-the-art education center on the detention center property. In the building, program participants can take classes in Art Therapy, Auto Body, Barber Shop, Carpentry, Custodial, Equipment Operation, HVAC, Landscaping, Life Skills, Painting, Plumbing and Roofing.

Technology is evident in every phase of the program from a computer lab, flat-screen televisions and computer-aided carpentry equipment.

The Re-entry Services program is funded by Amazing Journey Inc, a non-profit organization that does fundraising and community education for the program and facilities.

One of the board members, Annette Perreault, said that she came in with preconceived notions but was mesmerized after meeting and spending time with the participants.

"It is such a privilege to be

associated with an incredible program," she said.

Barr believes the re-entry program has come a long way since its inception.

"It's been unbelievable. One of the big things is that Sheriff Lane Cribb and Chief Carter Weaver have both always been right there," said Barr. "When the board was formed and all these guys came on, that's when the whole game changed. The support the board gives this program and these inmates; I don't know what I would do without them. Bunch of good-hearted people volunteering a heck of a lot of time and effort. We are hoping to add more certification courses and add volunteers in the future."

Even with funding through Amazing Journey Inc., the Re-entry Services program has many needs. They will be one of the non-profits who will be participating in the Palmetto Giving Day online fundraiser on May 7.

"Supplies are needed for our barber shop in terms of electric shavers, if the public has anything to donate."

Council hears concerns about shootings

Austin Beard residency issue also raised

BY TOMMY HOWARD
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Concerns about recent shootings in Georgetown County and the ongoing issue of Austin Beard's residency dominated remarks made during public comments at Tuesday's Georgetown County Council meeting.

Two men died in a shooting at a club in Pawleys Island on March 29. The next day, two people were shot during a party at Sampit Community Park.

Several speakers brought their concerns before County Council. In addition, several others continued to ask why Councilman Beard is participating and voting on issues before council. Those remarks are in the wake of a unanimous vote by the Georgetown County Board of Voter Registration and Elections that Beard does not live in the district where he was elected to serve.

Wesley Gibson said "I'm here once again about Mr. Beard. Now he has appealed the Elections Board decision. They voted 8-0. Four blacks and four whites. They all came to the same decision, that he is not properly registered to vote in Georgetown County."

"Despite the decision that Mr. Beard is not a registered voter, he is there with you. He is making a mockery of the system. This is preposterous," Gibson said.

Beard "should recuse himself from all decisions until his appeals have been exhausted," he said. "People are concerned about spending millions of dollars" voted on by a non-registered voter. "You guys don't even respond," he said to the seven council members on the dais. Gibson directly asked Council Chairman John Thomas for a response. "I'll talk to you later," Thomas said.

Councilman Everett Carolina said he was open for a discussion. None of the other council



PHOTOS BY TOMMY HOWARD/SOUTH STRAND NEWS

Georgetown County Council during the April 9 meeting.



Georgetown NAACP branch President Marvin Neal addresses Georgetown County Council on April 9.

members offered a comment at that time.

It is normal practice for County Council meetings that individuals may offer comments for up to five minutes, but generally speaking no Council members will engage in a conversation at that time.

Marvin Neal, president of the Georgetown County branch of the NAACP, said "I'm pretty sure you are aware we are here for the same reasons."

"We ask County Council to ask Mr. Beard to recuse himself."

"For many years, District 5 has been taxed without representation," Neal said.

He knows that some people are wondering why the NAACP

is talking about Andrews. "I represent all of Georgetown County, including Andrews," Neal said.

"Andrews has received too much trauma," including from hurricanes, the thousand-year-flood, sewer issues, poverty and lack of opportunities, he said. "To not have a representative living amongst the people" is a problem.

"It is time to end the foolishness. Stop wasting taxpayer's money to defend the indefensible."

"I would ask Austin Beard to step down," Neal said. "He has the right as a citizen to appeal, but we ask him to recuse himself"

"Brother Wesley Gibson asked the question, who can he speak to and who will answer? You all represent the citizens of Georgetown."

"I would ask you to act right now," Neal said. "Vote right now. Time is running out."

"I ask the question, 'Is anyone present?' And I would say I can't hear you, so I would assume County Council is AWOL."

Julie Smalls spoke on behalf of the Inland Community Group in the Sampit area of the county.

"I am here in relation to the shootings at the Sampit park," she said. "We have requested lighting at the county parks."

"We are asking you to please

Please see **COUNCIL**, Page A6

NOTICE OF ELECTION

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF GEORGETOWN

Notice is hereby given that the Municipal Primary Election for the CITY OF GEORGETOWN will be held at the voting precincts fixed by law in this County on Tuesday, June 11, 2019, this day being Tuesday following the first Monday, as prescribed by the State Constitution.

Any person wishing to register to vote in this election must do so no later than May 10, 2019.

The polls shall be open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the locations designated below. The Managers of Election shall see that each person offering to vote takes the oath that he is qualified to vote at this election according to the Constitution of this State and that he has not voted before in this election. **YOU MUST LIVE WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF GEORGETOWN TO BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THIS ELECTION.**

Voters who are blind, physically disabled, or unable to read or write are entitled to assistance in casting their ballot. This assistance may be given by anyone the voter chooses except his employer, an agent of his employer, or an officer or agent of his union. The Managers must be notified if assistance is needed.

Voters who are unable to enter their polling place due to physical disability or age may vote in the vehicle in which they drove, or were driven, to the polls. When notified, the Managers will help voters using this curbside voting provision.

In an effort to notify the voter who is physically disabled of inaccessibility to a polling place, an asterisk * is being placed after a polling place that is listed below. This asterisk indicates a polling place may be inaccessible to voters with a physical disability.

Registered electors who cannot vote in person may be eligible to vote by absentee ballot. Persons wishing more information concerning absentee voting should contact their County Board of Voter Registration (545-3339).

At 9:00 a.m. on Election Day, the County Election Commission will begin its examination of the absentee ballot return envelopes at 303 North Hazard Street, Georgetown.

On Thursday, June 13, 2019, at 10:00 A.M. the County Board of Canvassers will hold a hearing to determine the validity of all provisional ballots cast in these elections. This hearing will be held at 303 North Hazard Street, Georgetown.

The following precincts and polling places will be involved in this election:

Precinct #	Precinct Name	Location	Address	CITY
111	Georgetown 1	Georgetown County Library	405 Cleland St	Georgetown
109	Dream Keepers	Howard Center	1610 Hawkins St	Georgetown
112	Georgetown 3	Beck Recreation Center	2030 Church St	Georgetown
113	Georgetown 4	Georgetown Presbyterian Church	558 Black River Rd	Georgetown
114	Georgetown 5	Trinity Lutheran Church	1605 S Fraser St	Georgetown
127	Penny Royal	Fire Station #2	2900 S Fraser St	Georgetown
134	Winyah Bay	National Guard Armory	3777 S Fraser St	Georgetown
136	Barrier Free	Voter Registration and Elections	303 N Hazard St	Georgetown
750	Absentee	Voter Registration and Elections	303 N Hazard St	Georgetown

Donna Mahn
Director – Registration and Elections

Andrews to Designate April as Fair Housing Month FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION April 2019

WHEREAS, the Town of Andrews desires that all its citizens be afforded the opportunity to attain a decent, safe, and sound living environment; and WHEREAS, the Town of Andrews rejects discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, national origin, disability, and/or familial status in the sale, rental, or provision of other housing services; and WHEREAS, the State of South Carolina enacted the South Carolina Fair Housing Law in 1989; and WHEREAS, April is recognized nationally as Fair Housing Month; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Andrews does designate April 2019 as Fair Housing Month.

To be adopted April 30, 2019 by the Andrews Town Council

POLICY OF NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF DISABILITY STATUS

The Town of Andrews does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission, or access to, or treatment or employment in, its federally assisted programs or activities. Town Administrator Mauretta Dorsey, 101 N Morgan Street, Andrews, SC 29510, Telephone Numbers: 843-264-8666 (Voice) and 843-264-3961 (TDD), has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) regulations implementing Section 504 (24 CFR Part 8, dated June 2, 1988).