

Georgetown Times

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Beard's ex-wife's letter tells of living arrangements

BY TOMMY HOWARD AND DAVID PURTELL
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Embattled Georgetown County Councilman Austin Beard will have his day in court on May 16 when he appeals a ruling that he is not properly registered to vote in the county.

Beard has been at the center of a controversy over whether he should continue to serve on council ever since it was revealed that he has, for years, not lived in the district he represents. In March, the Georgetown County Board of Voter Registration and Elections ruled that beard cannot vote in the county because he does not live at the

Andrews address listed on his voter registration.

Beard's residency was challenged by the Georgetown branch of the NAACP, which argued that Beard does not live in County Council's District 5 — state law and county ordinances require elected officials to live in the district they represent. In recent weeks, county officials have come under fire for not attempting to hold Beard accountable for his actions.

As part of her testimony to the Elections Board, Beard's ex-wife, Susan Beard, submitted a letter detailing the places he's lived since he was first elected to County Council in 2008. She said he moved out of their An-

draws home in January of 2012 and lived with his mother in Murrells Inlet until around April of that year. After that, Beard rented a home on S. Poplar Avenue in Andrews, according to Susan, where he remained through the election the following November.

The couple's divorce was finalized in January 2013. Sometime between November 2012 and January 2013, Susan said, her divorce attorney told her Beard was "living with" Lori Low-

ell in Lowell's home in the Country Club Estates neighborhood of Georgetown. The attorney, Laura Moyer, lived near Lowell and had a clear view of her home.

During the divorce proceedings, Moyer's husband testified that Beard was staying in Lowell's home.

Susan Beard said she asked her ex-husband multiple times to remove her Andrews address from his profile on the county's website. As of Wednesday's, Beard's profile says he lives in Andrews. An Andrews P.O. Box is listed as his contact address.

By 2014, Susan Beard said, the house on South Poplar Avenue was vacant and she no longer saw Beard's car

there. "... to my knowledge, once he moved out of the (Poplar Avenue house) sometime in 2014, Austin Beard has lived continuously with his current wife in her residence in Georgetown," the letter states. Beard and Lowell married in June 2018.

During the past few years, Susan said, she's been approached numerous times by people asking how Beard can continue to serve on County Council for District 5 even though he doesn't live in the district. Susan's letter says she confronted Beard about the issue in March of 2017. "Eventually, people were going to find out the truth,"

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Beard

Talking trash in Pawleys Island

BY TOMMY HOWARD
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"I told you they talked trash at these meetings," Henry Thomas joked near the end of Monday's regular monthly meeting of Pawleys Island Town Council. Thomas often speaks to council members during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Sure enough, the Town Council of Pawleys Island got to talking about trash during the meeting. Town administrator Ryan Fabbri told council that he had been contacted by Georgetown County waste management about recycling.

"All of our recycling is not being recycled, because it's not done properly. It's got to be all loose stuff. The bags have got to go," he said.

Fabbri went to the county's recycling center to see how the process works. He shared a photo with council showing that the way the town has been sorting its trash or recyclables just does not work. Apparently, Councilwoman Sarah Zimmerman said, at some time in the past town officials were told to place recyclables in clear plastic bags. Included in those bags would be aluminum cans, a variety of plastics, plastic grocery bags, cardboard and sometimes other paper.

When the company that collects Pawleys Island's recyclable trash would take it to the landfill, Fabbri said, staff used to slice open the bags and hand sort the contents into plastics, aluminum and the various papers. The time it takes to do that process, however, makes it more expensive to recycle than the county gets from selling the sorted materials.

Since that is the case, Fabbri told council, the county simply compacts all the trash into one block or bale and it goes to the landfill.

The bottom line of the trash situation is recyclable materials should be placed in the blue bins available to town residents and renters, Fabbri said. No plastic bags of any sort should be placed into the blue bins. The recyclable materials need to be loose in the blue bin.

No cardboard or other paper should be placed in the blue bins.

He noted that the county has a recycling center about a mile away

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Re-entry program called a 'blessing'



RICHARD CAINES/SOUTH CAROLINA

Anthony Lewis with this wife, Tamika, and their children Payton Lewis and Jamareon Johnson. Lewis graduated from the Georgetown County jail's re-entry program and now runs his own electric company.

County jail initiative gives participants training for a new life

BY RICHARD CAINES
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Anthony Lewis had nowhere else to turn. That changed, however, when he joined the Georgetown County Sheriff's Re-entry Services program.

During the final years of his prison sentence, Lewis was held at the Georgetown County Detention Center as he went through the re-entry program. He graduated in 2013. Today, he runs his own electric company: Dream Electric.

"It's been a blessing to me. Before I came here, I didn't know what I was going to do before I got out. Had no clue," Lewis said. "Probably the same thing I was doing to get in here. I came here and Ms. Barr convinced me to do electrical. I got my license here then started my own company.

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The Tin Man (Katie Attias) tells Dorothy of his need for a heart during a rehearsal of the "The Wizard of Oz." Students at The Georgetown School will present the play on April 18 at Winyah Auditorium.

School to perform 'The Wizard of Oz'

BY LINDA MAXWELL
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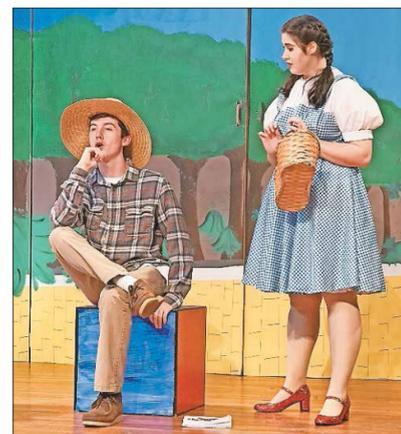
The Yellow Brick Road is making its way to the Winyah Auditorium.

All grade levels of The Georgetown School of Arts and Sciences will be presenting the condensed stage version of the L. Frank Baum classic on April 18 at 7 p.m.

The cast and technical crew have been at work for over six weeks putting together sets, finding props, practicing songs, synchronizing dances and repeating lines with Director Josie Thames.

"Rehearsals are going really well," Thames said. "Our main cast Dorothy, the Scarecrow, Auntie Em, Uncle Henry, Tin Man, Lion and Toto, they've become such a tight-knit group. Their chemistry is just amazing. From the moment they read, it was just spot-on and I just knew that I had my core cast.

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PHOTOS BY LINDA MAXWELL/SOUTH STRAND NEWS
Scarecrow (Grayson Sossamon) and Dorothy (Cathryn Thames) in a scene from "The Wizard of Oz."



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