

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Note: this page -blast from past - is a picture, so you will not see the story continued from here elsewhere in this 2023 paper. It is a snapshot of a page 1 from this same week but many, many years ago in the News-Era.....you can always go to kershawnewsra.com and go to Archives at the top left for papers in the 2000's. For the 90's and earlier, a trip to the library and microfiche would be your option.



Kershaw THE NEWS-ERA

VOL. 61 NO. 32 Wednesday, May 20, 2009 50¢ COPY

AJHS hires new head football coach

By Elin Roberts
Sports Writer

Andrew Jackson wasted little time in naming the 10th head coach for the Volunteers. Elmer K. Bench was named the head coach of the Volunteers from a field of 85 applicants.

Bench made the final cut of three coaches who were called back for a second interview. A nine-member interview committee, which included administrative members, teachers, former coaches, booster club members, community members and a senior athlete interviewed 10 applicants before calling the first three back to AJ.

"We are delighted that Coach Bench will be part of our family," said principal Mary K. Barry. "It was a very difficult decision by our search committee, but we strongly believe that coach Bench will be an asset in the classroom, as well as an outstanding coach."

Bench, a four-year lineman at Clemson, was the defensive coordinator for Class AAAA West Florence last year. He graduated in 1999 and will coach



Coach Bench

in the AJ Social Studies department. Bench also holds a Master's degree from the University of South Carolina in Administration.

Bench, a Manning native, coached nine years at Manning High as an assistant coach where his teams compiled an 86-33 record, including four conference championships. The other five years the Monarchs were conference runner-ups.

Bench is married to the former

AJ Boosters set Meet The Coach event

The Andrew Jackson Athletics Booster Club is hosting a Meet The Coach event Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. in the AJHS cafeteria.

Community members will get a chance to meet new Vol. Head Football Coach Elmer Bench, followed by a hamburger and hot-

Susan Aycock of Manning. The Benches have three children, a

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Festival ushers in spring time in Kershaw

By Joseph Garcia Jr.
News Editor

Kershaw Chamber of Commerce officials are saying weather held off just long enough for local residents to get in a full day of Spring-a-thon. An Saturday to follow-up a large turnout that enjoyed last Friday night's activities.

Chamber of Commerce member Sheila Hinson called Friday night's Kershaw Legends event "absolutely wonderful". Hinson said event organizer Yanny Reynolds did an outstanding job organizing and residents enjoyed the performances.

"Kershaw is just full of local talent and that was just a way to show it," she said.

The winner of the Kershaw Legends event was the Oak Ridge Boys who took home the \$200 cash prize. The group consisted of residents Barry Stridger, Ritchie Seegers, Rachel Reynolds, Wayne Jagers, and Brandon Paulsenberry. Second place in the event went to the Skippy Station Boys and third place went to the Dobe Chicks.

Reynolds said residents could expect Kershaw Legends to be an annual event. She is looking forward to making improvements to next year's Legends and hopes it will get the same turnout.



These youngsters get into the spirit of the 30th Annual Spring-a-thon as they kick up their heels dancing to the entertainment at the main stage Saturday. Organizers were pleased with the event. Photo by David Kellin.

annual event. She is looking forward to making improvements to next year's Legends and hopes it will get the same turnout.

"I was impressed with the level of creativity that people put into their acts and that's what it takes for the show to be good," Reynolds said.

Rain held off until about 5pm, says Hinson, which offered Spring-a-thon.

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County to consider bus. license

By Joseph Garcia Jr.
News Editor

Business licensing was again the topic of discussion at Monday night's Lancaster County Council meeting as members continue to spar over whether the issue is feasible.

It's an easy question to answer for District Three Councilman Cotton Cole who said he owns three businesses and understands the impact the economy has had on the small business owner.

"I'd like to see us strike this down and table it until we are in better economic times," Cole said.

The item was not originally on the agenda until Cole requested it be added prior to the agenda's approval. At the May 4 meeting, council discussed the issue and decided to form a committee chaired by District Five Councilman Rudy Carter that would take a look at the

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Proposed budget includes tax hike

By Ken McKeown Jr.
Editor/Publisher

The Kershaw Town Council gave first reading approval to a 2009-2010 fiscal year budget that includes a 4.4 mill increase in property taxes.

Citing a growing concern with the town's practice of balancing the General Fund budget over past years by transferring money from Water Department revenues, council

noted to raise taxes the full 6.9 percent allowable under the state formula that restricts local government tax increases that total no higher than the Consumer Price Index



McKeown

plus the local growth rate.

Kershaw Town Administrator Tony Starnes said that the 6.9 percent figure was unusually high as the town showed around three percent growth last year. The town has generally recorded little or no growth since the state enacted the restrictions on tax levying by local governments.

The 4.4 mill increase will generate about \$18,000 in revenue for the town in 2009-

2010. It will increase town taxes on a home valued at \$100,000 by about \$18 over the year or \$1.50 per month.

Starnes presented council a balanced budget calling for \$1,096,900 in General Fund expenditures, \$1,271,974 in Water Department expenses, \$283,360 in Golf Course and Ballroom expenditures and \$141,865 for the Kershaw

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Leaders named for Youth Serve

By Joseph Garcia Jr.
News Editor

Kershaw's Youth Serve 2009 is preparing for work this summer and two local residents have already jumped onboard as leaders for this year's event.

Stephanie Hunter and Sean Neal, both Andrew Jackson High School graduates, will be leading the youth, ages 13-19, during the summer work sessions and events. Hunter is a senior at Winthrop University studying Early Childhood Education.

Neal is a junior at Clern-

son University majoring in Mechanical Engineering.

Both have participated in Youth Serve in the past and say they enjoyed their experiences and hope to influence more young people this summer. Neal was a member of the work staff last year.

The cost to participate



Neal



Hunter

in Youth Serve is \$65. The fee includes all meals and activities. There is a discount for signing up early for

ing participation (15% off). Director Carol Armbrust said packets have already been sent out to local churches and she is expecting youth to be signing up immediately. She is encouraging everyone to sign up early.

"It makes our job easier if you sign up in advance," Armbrust said.

However, locals can still register up until the first workday. Normally, Armbrust said, Youth Serve takes about 45 participants.

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