

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.

Bloody But Boring

'Conan' is filled with bloody gore and action but still fails to satisfy according to critic Joseph Garris Jr. Read his review of the movie on page 8 of today's edition.



Kershaw THE NEWS-ERA

VOL. 83 NO. 50 Wednesday, September 14, 2011 50¢ COPY

LC OKs budget requests with no tax hike

By Joseph Garris, Jr.
News Editor

After months of waiting, Lancaster County Council members accepted the rollback millage rate at Monday night's meeting and agreed to move ahead with funding requests by the Sheriff's Department, Fire Commission, and the University of South Carolina at Lancaster.

Requests by the different groups had been on hold since final reading of the 2011-2012 County Budget was approved during the last meeting in



Farris

June. Council members opted to pass a basic budget, which is required to do prior to July 1.

Some data from the countywide assessment needed to set millage rates in accordance with state law was not available, council members opted to hold off on making crucial funding decisions until final

millage rates would be set. With assessment data now available, Council moved forward with budget amendments and officially established the tax millage rate.

The good news for county residents is the amendments approved will be funded with no property tax increase.

According to law, each governmental group is responsible for computing a roll-up or rollback millage rate and a proposed millage. The rollback millage is the tax rate that the taxing authority uses as a

basis for computing an increase in the annual budget. The rollback rate is calculated to provide the same tax revenue to the taxing authority as was received the previous year.

County Administrator Steve Willis said Monday the state's rollback formula is recommended for use by all counties in determining the tax rate. The state's formula generated more money than county staff determined the county needed to operate. Therefore, Willis suggested council adjust the rollback millage rate for the General Fund from the state's

formula result of 71.3 mills to 69.4 mills.

"This would allow Council to fund the budget as adopted and the discussed programs with no tax increase based on growth," Willis said in the county packet.

The items that had previously been discussed included funds for USCL, which have been earmarked for a new academic building, a career ladder at the Sheriff's Office, and various equipment needs at the

See County, page 7

Big Thursday in K Town set Sept. 22

Downtown Kershaw should come to life Sept. 22 as classic cars, good food and special music live up the evening in Big Thursday in K Town.

The event, sponsored by the Town of Kershaw, will be held 5 to 9 p.m. on Sept. 22 in the green area south of the Kershaw Fire Department. In addition to food from local restaurants, Kershaw Tavern will be on

See K Town, page 7

Gold Rush Days parking areas picked

Stevens Park will be the place to be Saturday as Gold Rush Days in the Park, sponsored by Horarco Minerals, Inc. and Hall's Gold Mine, offers the community a day of fun and fellowship.

The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday in Stevens Park. In its second year, Gold Rush Days will expand to cover nearly the entire 18 acres of the park property, according to Hall's Gold Mine.

"We want to make sure people walk around to the swimming pool and perform arts, because we'll have

See Gold, page 7



Honor Flight Reunion Guest Speaker Ronald Williams introduces brothers, from left to right, Kenneth, Keith, Ronald, Mark, and David, during the morning service at First Baptist Church Sunday. The event

doubled as a celebration of the Two-Year Anniversary since the Kershaw Honor Flight, and the 20-year Anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks on America. Photo by Joseph A. Garris, Jr.

Honor Flight vets remember 9-11

By Joseph Garris, Jr.
News Editor

Sharing memories and honoring both veterans and those lost during the Sept. 11, 2001, World Trade Center disaster was the theme of Sunday morning's First Baptist Church service.

Gathering to celebrate two years since the Kershaw Honor Flight in which 99 veterans, 24 guardians and their families headed to the World War II Monument in Washington, veterans enjoyed a special

morning service at the church. The event featured choir performances of recognizable patriotic songs, a moving performance by Chris Whitaker of the song, "Where Were You", and words from guest speaker Ronald Williams.

He talked about the incredible sacrifices made by New York City firefighters in their efforts to save people from the towers just before the buildings collapsed. Williams said their determination is what America is all about.

"Their actions that day

recapitulated what is American," he said.

Williams noted that 243 firefighters lost their lives trying to save others.

The focus was shifted to the countless sacrifices made by war veterans throughout history. Williams recalled stories of four men in various wars that made similar sacrifices.

Detailing each man's story, Williams pointed out the cost of freedom. "Freedom is not free. It wasn't for those that fought for it and it's not for us," he said.

The Williams brothers performed various patriotic songs including each branch of the military's service song. Following the service, which also included a short Sept. 11 video, veterans and guests were treated to a barbecue lunch in the First Baptist Life Center.

After the meal, David Williams praised the efforts of the church to continue hosting reunions for such a special trip as the 2009 Honor Flight.

See Veterans, page 7

LC school incumbents face redistricting changes

By Bonnie Wall
Staff Writer

The winds of change are blowing for the Lancaster County School Board. Not the winds of hurricane season, but the winds of redistricting of Lancaster County's School Board Districts.

Reorganizing of voting districts for school board members happens every 10 years in the year following a new census. The 2010 census revealed nine Lancaster County citizens in the northern 'panhandle' of Lancaster County, compared to the southern part of the county.

Since the southern part of the county has fewer people than the panhandle, the southern area will have one fewer School Board member after 2012.

In the past 10 years, School Board members from Districts 5, 6, and 7 served the southern part of the county. Proposed new districts show the southern part of the county being served by Districts 4, 5, and 6, with the old District 7 being removed. A new District, using the number 7, will be added in the panhandle to increase school board representation for the

See Changes, page 7

Tight budgets create challenges for officials

By Bonnie Wall
Staff Writer

In recent years, Lancaster County School Board members have been most concerned with tight budgets, but they continue to look forward.

"We've been pretty good stewards of the budget," said Margaret Gamble, District 6 School Board member, and currently Vice-Chair of the Board, in a recent interview. "We fought hard to decrease class sizes, and increase salaries in



Gamble

comparison with surrounding counties." Now, she says, is difficult budget times, the Board is "trying to provide more with less money."

Part of providing more with less money includes refurbishing older schools such as Andrew Jackson High School, which underwent a large project over the past summer to replace air conditioning, heating, lighting and windows, among other items.

See Budget, page 7