

By the Grace of God
AMERICAN



Kershaw THE NEWS-ERA

Smalls
inserts inside

Proudly Serving Lancaster and Kershaw Counties, and Town of Kershaw - Published in the Interest of the People of South Carolina

VOL. 79 NO. 26 Kershaw, SC 29067 Wednesday, February 18, 2026 803-475-6096 75 cents and worth more

Town of Kershaw honors Ann Marie Green



The Town of Kershaw awarded the Town's first "Sweetheart Award" to Ann Marie Green at its meeting on Monday evening, Green was recognized by Mayor Mark Dorman and Councilwoman Wendy Duncan for her devotion and her selfless service to the community. Green has been a long-time volunteer with KARE, Youth Serve, and the Kershaw Community Park Council. (See Proclamation on page 7)

ANDREW JACKSON BASKETBALL VOLUNTEERS: 2026 REGION 4-AA REGION CHAMPIONS: Both Ladies & Mens Teams



Gwynn Leaird Photography



Gwynn Leaird Photography

Week Five: Legislative Update

Raising Standards, Protecting Communities, and Delivering Results

Last week, House Republicans delivered strong, commonsense results for South Carolina families — raising standards in our schools, strengthening public safety, cutting burdensome taxes on small businesses, and restoring transparency and accountability to our judicial selection process.



Cody Mitchell

Here's a quick look at what you should know! Raising Standards & Tenure Accountability

The Tenure Accountability Bill (H.4761) promotes transparency and fairness in higher education by requiring annual performance evaluations for all public university faculty and regular post-tenure reviews for tenured professors. This legislation guarantees that taxpayer-funded educators continue meeting measurable professional standards throughout their careers. Every South Carolinian deserves confidence that public universities are operating with integrity and high expectations. In subcommittee, we advanced the Public School Grading Reform Bill (H.5073) to ensure grades reflect what students actually earn, not provide shortcuts that hurt long-term success. Parents deserve an honest picture of how their child is performing. This bill restores integrity to GPAs and graduation data, reinforces strong academic standards, and helps ensure our children are truly prepared for college, careers, and real life. Real accountability today creates real opportunity tomorrow.

Tough on Crime & Juvenile Reform
The House Judiciary Committee advanced a comprehensive juvenile crime reform package, the Juvenile Crime Reform Bills (H.5117, H.5120, H.5121) to protect families, hold violent offenders accountable, and keep communities safe. These measures ensure due process when considering whether serious juvenile offenders should be transferred to adult court, improve communication between schools and law enforcement when serious offenses occur, and invest in prevention programs such as mentoring, job training, recreation, and family support services. This balanced approach prioritizes both accountability and prevention. Public safety comes first, and serious crimes will carry serious consequences, regardless of age.

Supporting Small Businesses

On the House floor, we passed

Cody Mitchell Update
continued on page 6



**Kershaw Chamber
of Commerce
Annual Banquet
Tuesday, March 31st
at 6 PM
at the Kershaw
Country Club
301 Club House Dr.,
Kershaw, SC 29067
Call Sheila Hinson
(803) 243-0195 or
Kelley Boone (803)
427-3838 about
tickets.**

**Glen Ward -
Motivational Speaker**
Semi-Formal Dress Code

Welcome Deputy Madison Reed



Last week, Deputy Madison Reed was officially sworn in by Sheriff Barry Faile to serve the citizens of Lancaster County. She was joined and supported by Sergeant Training Coordinator Craig Lilly and Corporal Rob Marshall. Originally from Kentucky, Deputy Reed brings with her a strong background of service. She proudly served in the United States Army and has 2.5 years of prior law enforcement experience in the state of Georgia. Her dedication to serving others is evident, and we are excited to have her as part of our LCSO family. Next week, Deputy Reed



Hoping You All Had A Happy Valentines Day

will attend the academy to complete her half-day written exam, along with firearms and driving proficiency testing. Upon successful completion of all three, she will be certified as a Class 1 Officer and begin patrolling nights in District 3.