

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. 27 Kershaw, SC 29067 Wednesday, February 25, 2026 803-475-6096 75 cents and worth more

Burned Churches in the American Revolution program Tuesday March 17

BURNED CHURCHES
IN THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION
A Public History Lecture with **Bill Segars**

During the American Revolution, churches throughout the Carolina backcountry were far more than places of worship. They served as centers of community life, gathering places for Patriots, and symbols of shared faith and identity. As the war intensified, many of these sacred spaces became deliberate targets, burned by British and Loyalist forces seeking to weaken resistance and intimidate local populations.

EVENT DETAILS
March 17
7:00 p.m.
Lancaster Cultural Arts Center
307 W Gay St, Lancaster, SC
Lancaster, South Carolina
Free and open to the public

WHY IT MATTERS
The burning of churches was not only an act of war, but an assault on belief, identity, and community life. Understanding these events offers deeper insight into the civilian experience of the American Revolution and the lasting legacy of sacrifice and perseverance in South Carolina history.

Presented in partnership with:
LANCASTER COUNTY 250 AMERICAN REVOLUTION
\$250 ANNUAL BANQUET American Revolution

Churches in South Carolina Burned During the American Revolution: A Pictorial Guide

Jim Neal and Bill Segars
Foreword by Charles B. Baxley

The Lancaster County 250th American Revolution Anniversary Committee presents a program on churches burned during the American Revolution at the Cultural Arts Center on Tuesday, March 17 at 7 pm. The Cultural Arts Center is located at 307 West Gay Street in downtown Lancaster.

During the American Revolution, churches throughout the Carolina backcountry were more than places of worship – they were centers of community life and gathering places for militia training. Often soldiers and civilians wounded during conflicts were brought to churches to be nursed. As the Revolution intensified,

many churches were targeted by British and Loyalist forces trying to intimidate the population and weaken centers of rebellion.

Many “Dissenter” church pastors such as Presbyterian parsons preached support for the rebellion. England had an official church – the Anglican Church. Everyone had to pay taxes to support the official church and its priests and were fined if they didn’t attend services. Religious rites such as marriage were only recognized if they took place in an Anglican Church. Anyone who wasn’t Anglican was a “Dissenter.”

Burned Churches
continued on page 5

Kershaw Elementary Principal Honored at Statehouse



Rep. Ritchie Yow, Kershaw Elementary Principal Kelli Overcash, SC House Speaker Murrell Smith and Rep. Cody Mitchell.

COLUMBIA — Kershaw Elementary School Principal Kelli Overcash was recognized Wednesday at the South Carolina Statehouse after being named the 2026 South Carolina Elementary School Principal of the Year.

Rep. Cody Mitchell presented a House resolution honoring Overcash for her achievements and service to public education. He was joined by Reps. Ritchie Yow and Brandon Newton, who also represent Lancaster County in the South Carolina House.

SC House Sergeant at Arms Mitch Dorman hosted Overcash and Kershaw Elementary literacy coach Dabney Brice during their visit.

The statewide award, presented annually by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators, recognizes one principal each at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Overcash was selected from a field of administrative leaders by a panel of judges.

Lawmakers commended her people-first leadership style, citing her support for teachers and staff and her commitment to ensuring students are seen, heard and challenged to reach their full potential.

During her nearly decade-long tenure, Kershaw Elementary has improved staff retention and earned three consecutive “Excellent” ratings from the South Carolina Department of Education. Legislators also noted her focus on academic growth and community engagement.

The honor marks the first time a Lancaster County Schools principal has received the statewide elementary award. Overcash was previously named the district’s inaugural Principal of the Year in 2025.

A copy of the resolution was presented to Overcash in recognition of her achievement.

Lancaster County Transportation Committee (CTC) Meeting Agenda for February 25, 2026

The Lancaster County Transportation Committee (CTC) will hold a meeting on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers on the 2nd Floor of the Lancaster County Administration building located at 101 N. Main Street, Lancaster, SC 29720.

A copy of the agenda is posted in the lobby of the County Administration building and on our website. To view the meeting agenda, please copy and paste the link below:

<https://lancastercsc.portal.civiclerk.com/event/804/files/agenda/2406>

Non-Profit Grant Review Committee Meeting Agenda for February 25, 2026

The Non-Profit Grant Review Committee will hold a meeting on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. in Council Chambers on the 2nd floor of the Lancaster County Administration building located at 101 N. Main Street, Lancaster, SC 29720.

A copy of the agenda is posted in the lobby of the County Administration building and on our website. To view the meeting agenda, please copy and paste the link below:

<https://lancastercsc.portal.civiclerk.com/event/803/files/agenda/2405>

Week Six: Legislative Update

Protecting Parental Rights, Supporting Our Farmers, & Putting South Carolina First.

Last week, the House delivered meaningful results for South Carolina families. We passed major legislation reinforcing parental rights, standing with our farmers and agricultural community, and advancing policies that put South Carolina workers, businesses, and taxpayers first.

Here’s what happened during week 6!

Protecting Parental Rights

The House passed the Parental Rights Act (H.4757) with overwhelming support, 105 – 1 vote, reaffirming a simple but powerful principle: parents have the fundamental right to direct the upbringing, education, and healthcare of their children. This legislation strengthens transparency, reinforces accountability, and ensures parents remain in the driver’s seat. South Carolina families deserve clarity, confidence, and the assurance that their rights are respected and protected.



Cody Mitchell

Supporting Our Farmers & Agricultural Industry

The House passed the Ban on Fake Meat bill (H.5096) unanimously, taking action to protect South Carolina’s agricultural industry and consumers by banning the sale of lab-grown “fake meat” in our state. This legislation defends our farmers from being undercut by synthetic, lab-produced products. It also ensures honesty and transparency for families who deserve to know exactly what is on their dinner table. The House also passed the Roadside Markets bill (H.5097).

Cody Mitchell Update
continued on page 5



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

Celebrating Heritage and Harmony: Andrew Jackson Middle School Announces Annual Black History Month Program

KERSHAW, SC — Andrew Jackson Middle School (AJMS), a premier FOCUS school for the Arts, invites the community to a vibrant tribute to history and culture. The school’s annual Black History Month Program will take place on Friday, February 27, 2026, at 10:00 AM in the Andrew Jackson Visual and Performing Arts Center.

The event will showcase a unique collaboration of education and expression:

Artistic Tributes: The AJMS Fine Arts Department and ELA/History classes will present moving tributes to the African-American experience in the United States.

Personal Reflections: AJMS faculty members will serve as guest speakers, sharing personal insights on the significance of Black History and its impact on today’s students.

Award-Winning Excellence: As a Certified Arts in the Basic Curriculum School and a 2025-26 Distinguished Arts Program recipient from the South Carolina Arts Commission, AJMS continues its tradition of excellence in arts-integrated education.

All community members are encouraged to attend this celebration of history and student achievement.

The ABC Institute is funded in part by the South Carolina Art Commission which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts.