

# 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 2026 paper. It is a snapshot of a page 1 from this same week (or close to) but many, many years ago in the News-Era.....you can always go to kershawnewsera.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.



## Local Youth Take On Hunger

North Central and Andrew Jackson students participating in the YIELD program sponsored a food drive recently to help battle hunger in the difficult economy. See the story on page 7.

# Kershaw THE NEWS-ERA

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## Four seeking seats in Town Election

By Jim McKeown Jr. Editor/Publisher

Town residents in two election districts will go to the polls next Tuesday to vote in the 2009 Kershaw Town Election.

Polis will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Kershaw Recreation Center for eligible voters. Kershaw Town officials remind local residents that the only people who will be eligible to vote in the March 17 Town Election are those who reside in District 3 and District 4.

There are three seats up for election in the March 17 vote -

one At-Large seat and the District 3 and District 4 seats. Since incumbent Eddie Coates is running unopposed for the At-Large seat, that race will not be on the ballot.

There will be ballots for the District 3 race pitting Randy Seegars and Jody Connell and



Connell



Seegars



Catoe



Russell

for the District 4 race featuring Morris Russell running against Pat Catoe.

District 3 council member Mark Dorman and District 4

the town council. Profiles of the candidates in the two contested races follow:

council member Harold Williams both decided against seeking reelection this spring, ending lengthy tenures of service on

**John S. "Jody" Connell** - 58 years old. Employed as a technician by Ahlstrum Industries. This is his first foray into public service.

**Why are you running?** "I want to get involved in the town. I've lived here all my life and have a little girl and a boy and I want to look out for their future."

My father was on council and I've always been interested in government. I'd like to give it a chance."

**What challenges do you**

See Election, page 9

District 3



Brenda Holden picks up a few items as Dollar General employee Bertha Peay checks her out Monday. Shoppers will now have the opportunity

to make purchases on Sunday mornings before 1:30 thanks to Lancaster County's decision to suspend Blue Laws. Photo by Joseph Garris Jr.

## Kershaw businesses give lifting of Blue Laws by county mixed reviews

By Joseph Garris Jr. News Editor

Local business owners got their first chance to open Sunday morning following last week's 6-1 vote to abolish Sunday prohibitions until 2013, despite critics' assertion that repealing Blue Laws is an attack on the Sabbath.

After several attempts over the past several years, Lancaster County Council voted last Tuesday to abolish Blue Laws in favor of trying to stimulate the local economy. The vote was 6-1 with Councilman Jack Estridge casting the only dissenting vote.

Many pastors and Sunday prohibition supporters spoke out against the ordinance during the first two read-

ings, saying the repeal would cause problems with families and give county residents a reason to avoid Sunday morning church service. Still, council members decided the extra revenue would be beneficial to a struggling economy.

Local business owners gives mixed opinions last week about whether the extra three hours they can open would stimulate their business. Dollar General Assistant Manager Sherry Branham said the business has been



Estridge

opening at 9 am only Sundays for the past five weeks. However, the business could only sell food items.

Branham said she doesn't believe the extra hours will bring significant revenue increases.

"It's almost worthless for us to be open [Sunday mornings]," she said.

At Family Dollar, Manager Shely Loiseau had a different story. Loiseau said once the Blue Laws were abolished last week, Family Dollar Corporation officials informed her the store would begin opening immediately on Sunday mornings. Loiseau said she expects to three hours will help but would not speak specifically about

See Blue Laws, page 9

## State cuts in funding tough on LC budget

By Joseph Garris, Jr. News Editor

Lancaster County Administrator Steve Willis said that planning the upcoming budget while possibly facing a 42 percent cut in state funding won't be easy. He has informed agencies receiving local funding to plan for a continuation of last year's budget until further information comes out of Columbia.



Willis

"You just have to do the best you can," Willis said.

Willis' reaction comes after the state's proposed \$5.6 billion budget calls for a possible cut of about \$1.55 million in funding for Lancaster County. The news almost certainly would mean a property tax increase for county residents.

The problem, according to Willis, is even a increase there would not entirely account for the missed funding due to the cap on property tax increases state law requires. The County would only be able to generate about \$660,000 from county residents should property taxes be increased to the maximum level.

"It puts us between a rock and a hard spot," he said.

Willis said services would need to be cut but likely not across the board. Deciding what is of highest priority would be a difficult decision County Council would have to discuss.

"There's not anything that we're funding that's not essential," he said.

Currently, the Sheriff's Department is still under court order from Chief Justice Jean Toal to provide additional deputies for court security. On top of that, Public Safety is already struggling

See State Cuts, page 12

### Spring-a-thon needs talent to perform in May 17 festival

The Kershaw Chamber of Commerce Entertainment Committee is seeking local talent for their annual Spring-a-thon festival, May 16.

Organizers would like some local bands, singers, or dancers, to be in the line-up for the day's festivities, which will begin about 10 a.m. Even if you have already contacted a committee member, please contact them again to make sure your name is on the agenda.

For more information or to get on the list, call Sheila Hinson at 803-243-0195 or e-mail her at sheilahinsonrealty@yahoo.com

## 10 year-old Cassatt youth killed

Shot by 13 year-old brother during argument; father, brother charged

Kershaw County Deputies are still investigating the murder of a Midway Elementary Student last week by a gun wielded by his own brother.

Ten-year-old Gayloyd "PD" Roberts was buried this week but reportedly officers aren't ready to lay the investigation to rest just yet. Roberts, a third-grade student at Midway died last Monday when he was shot in the face following an argument with his 13-year-old brother. The brother's

name has not been released. The incident occurred at their 2132 Red Hill Circle home.

The report said Roberts was shot in the face with a .22 caliber rifle. The 13-year-old has been charged with murder. Father Gary Travis Roberts, 44, was also charged with unlawful neglect of a child for leaving the rifle unsecured and loaded where the two children could get to it.

Authorities are questioning why Travis Roberts had

possession of the gun. Reportedly, he was convicted of manslaughter after a 1991 incident in which Travis choked a man causing injuries that later led to his death. Convicted felons are forbidden from having any firearms.

Travis was released from the Kershaw County Detention Center last Tuesday on a \$15,000 bond.

Reports from the Kershaw County Sheriff's Department stated that two other siblings, a 15-year-old

sister and eight-year-old brother, were in the house at the time of the incident. The children have reportedly been placed in foster care.

The 13-year-old is still being held at the S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice in Columbia. Fifth Circuit Solicitor Barney Giese or Deputy Solicitor John Meadors are expected to make the decision of whether he will be tried as an adult sometime later this month.