

# 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 kershawnews-era.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

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## Starnes steps down as town administrator

By Jim McKeown Jr.  
Editor/Publisher

Kershaw Town Administrator Tony Starnes has announced his resignation as the town's top administrative employee effective April 30.

Starnes informed Kershaw Town Council members of his decision during a special meeting called last week. He said he and his wife had been discussing the possibility of his stepping down for the past few



Starnes

months and that his resignation was not due to any issues or conflicts with his job or town officials.

"I feel like I'm burned out. I believe it's time to go and do something else," Starnes said.

The town hired Starnes in

September 2003, giving him nearly nine years on the job. Now 62 years old, he will try to find other work, even if it is part-time or will stay at home and enjoy his family, which now includes a young grandson.

"I would like to do something else. I don't have anything lined up and haven't talked to anybody else," he said.

Kershaw Mayor Wayne Rhodes said Starnes' decision comes at an inopportune time

for the town as it enters budget time and is wrestling with negotiations with the Lancaster County Sheriff's Department over the terms of its contract with Lancaster County for law enforcement protection. The town is also exploring forming its own police department - projects Starnes was taking a critical role in.

"I hate Tony is leaving. He did a good job and kept things running smoothly. He made things easier for council,"

Rhodes said.

Rhodes said work on forming a town police department will likely be put on hold until a new administrator is hired. He hopes that Starnes can have the bulk of the 2012-2013 budget done before he leaves.

For his part, Starnes said he will leave with a sense of accomplishment. He is most proud of the new Kershaw Town Hall building, which was

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## Meeting on mine draws crowd

Community meeting held to provide information on Haile Mine

By Ronnie Wall  
Staff Writer

The people of the Kershaw area turned out again Saturday to learn more about Haile Gold Mine and the plans Romarco Minerals Inc. has for mining gold.

David Thomas, Vice President and General Manager of Haile Gold Mine, said Saturday, "We want to have opportunities like this for people to come and ask questions and get information."

About 90 people signed the guest book Saturday at the Andrew Jackson Recreation Center, where the staff of the mine hosted the event from 1 to 5 p.m. Even though 90 signed in, well over 100 came and went during the afternoon, which featured the opportunity for visitors to talk with geologists, environmentalists, mining engineers, and representatives from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC).

Maps on display showed the areas where mining will be done and how environmental reclamation will



Kershaw residents Dr. Jim Timmons and his wife Beverly discuss planning for the Haile Gold Mine with Romarco Minerals, Inc. geologists Saturday during a

town informational meeting held at the Andrew Jackson Recreation Center. Photo by Ronnie Wall.

be accomplished as mining operations are concluded in a step-by-step process. Information was available on the process of seeking permits for the mining of gold to begin.

"The Army Corps of Engineers is in charge

of the permitting process now," said Marianna DePratter of DHEC. "We cannot issue a permit for mining until they complete their environmental impact study process."

The Corps of Engineers uses a third party

contractor to evaluate the Environmental Impact Study submitted by Romarco Minerals, parent company of Haile Gold Mine. The staff of HGM works with the third party contractor when there are questions to be

answered. All of this happens with the oversight of the Army Corps of Engineers.

The goal in this process is the creation of a 'Draft Environmental Impact Study' which

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## County presented award for design of building

By Joseph Garris, Jr.  
News Editor

Four years ago, Lancaster County was left in shambles and unsure about the future of its historic Robert Mills' designed courthouse. After significant remodeling and restoration, the building is now the recipient of 2012's Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation Honor Award.

Mike Bedenbaugh, executive director for Palmetto Trust, presented the award to Lancaster County

Chairwoman Kathy Sistare, Council member and former chairman that served in 2008 Rudy Carter, and courthouse architects Jody Munnerlyn and wife Ginger Munnerlyn.

Ginger noted in an email to County Administrator Steve Willis in March that the nominating committee that reviewed the courthouse submission was awestruck as they viewed the images of the fire damage and eventual improvements.

Ginger stated that Boykin and Munnerlyn Architects



Carter

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## Murder, child predator arrests made in LC, KC

By Jim McKeown Jr.  
From Release

Lancaster County Sheriff's Deputies have arrested a third suspect in the January shooting death of Jenika Jones.

Al Martinez Green, 21, of 813 1/2 East Dunlap St., Lancaster, was charged with murder Friday. He is currently being held at the Lancaster County Detention Center.

Deputies made two arrests March 9 in shooting death of Jones — Devatee Clinton, 24, of 1911 Roseanna Ln., Lancaster, and Wayne Blakeney, 21, of 5987 Taxahaw Rd.,



Green

at the Lancaster County Detention.

Deputies were dispatched to 1963 Roseanna Ln., Lancaster, on Jan. regarding some type of disturbance reported by a neighbor who called 911

after a child came from the residence beating on their door. Three people were seen running from the residence.

When Deputies arrived they found the door to the residence open and located the victim, 23 year-old Jenika Jones, dead on the couch. She appeared to have been shot to death.

"This has been a long and tedious investigation. We are thankful that we were able to remove these violent criminals from the street and hopefully bring some closure to the Jones family," Lancaster County

Barry Faile said.

### Internet Sexual Predator Arrested in Kershaw County

Kershaw County Sheriff's Office deputies arrested Isaac Claude Flynn, 38, of Gastonia, NC was arrested March 28 on a warrant charging him with two counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor 2nd degree.

Flynn is accused of coming to a location in Lugoff, with the intent to have sexual relations with a young girl who he believed to be 14 years of age.

Kershaw County investiga-

tors began their investigation into Flynn in February following a report that he had travelled to Kershaw County from North Carolina and had sexual relations with a 15 year-old girl during December 2011 to January 2012.

Investigators began "chatting" with Flynn on the internet and on the telephone, portraying themselves as a 14 year-old female. Flynn, who was very explicit in his phone communications with a female Kershaw County investigator, posing as a 14 year-old girl,

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