

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.



Area Volleyball Team Wins Title

A local club volleyball team comprised mostly of North Central students won a regional title recently in a Charlotte competition. Catch up on spring sports on page 6 of today's edition.

Kershaw THE NEWS-ERA

VOL. 62

NO. 27

Wednesday, April 7, 2010

50¢ COPY

Kershaw CAP Squadron may get home

Local unit earns squadron charter; plans unveiled for major headquarters

By Joseph Garris Jr.
News Editor

The Civil Air Patrol's (CAP) Kershaw Composite Squadron might soon have a home.

The group has been meeting each Thursday at Andrew Jackson Middle School but thanks to efforts by local CAP officials, Kershaw will become home to upstate South Carolina's CAP headquarters.

Last Thursday, the Kershaw group was officially established as a squadron with the presentation of the charter from the National Civil Air Patrol in Alabama. The Kershaw squadron joins 20 other squadrons in South Carolina's CAP wing.

Having now officially claimed the status of squadron and boasting around 25 members, the Kershaw organization is expected to have their own building to call home. The 11,585 square foot facility could begin construction in the fall.

Kershaw resident Gary Sowell, a CAP senior volunteer, has donated property for the construction of the facility along Kershaw Highway between Kershaw and Westville. Sowell said he believes a higher power was involved in his purchase of the land over 10 years ago.

"I don't believe in coincidences. I think the Good Lord wanted me to make this place something good for the community," he said.

According to Sowell, he became interested in the property and through another source, found the contact number for the landowner who was living in North Carolina. When he called the man and told him he wanted to purchase the land, he learned that the man had just decided to sell the property the day before and made contact with a local real estate agent for marketing.

Sowell contacted the agent and found out about the price of the property. He admits it was more than he anticipated spending but felt led to go ahead with the purchase since he had



Col. Jay Lindler, left, Wing Commander of the SC Civil Air Patrol presents to Lt. Commander Joe Tirado, Commander of the Kershaw Civil Air Patrol and Kershaw Mayor Wayne Rhodes the charter designating the Kershaw group as a CAP Squadron from . Top photo by Joseph Garris Jr.

This artist rendering, right, shows the plans for a CAP headquarters for upstate South Carolina and possibly an aviation school near Westville on property donated by Kershaw resident Gary Sowell.



managed to get an early jump on the chance to buy.

Sowell said he always hoped the land could be used to bring something positive to the area. In fact, another moment that can only be considered fate helped kick this project into gear.

Former York County Squadron

Commander and current Upstate South Carolina Group Commander Maj. Ceryl Johns, who had worked with Kershaw Squadron Commander Joe Tirado, became interested in constructing the building and an air base on Sowell's property.

Johns houses his helicopter at the

Lancaster County Airport and frequently flies out of the facility. Johns says while speaking with Lee Harrell Jr, who also frequents the Lancaster County Airport, he learned that Harrell is an architect.

See CAP, page 10

KCHC seeks gardeners; meeting set

District 6 councilman unopposed

Kershaw Community Health Education Center (KCHEC) is looking for area residents who might be interested in participating in a Community Garden.

KCHEC has sponsored a garden in the past and would be happy to help with this project again if there is some interest. Please call KCHEC at 803-287-1565 and speak with Frances Moreland for more information.

Playground equipment reset in Stevens Park

Kershaw Community Park Council is pleased that the playground equipment that was formerly sited where the new Haile Gold Mine Playground was built has been reset near the Pavilion in Stevens Park.

The Pavilion play area includes a merry go round, several climbing structures, spring rocking structures, a sliding board and a new swing set. Picnic tables and benches are also available.

Mulch is being added under some of the structures and beautification efforts will

See Park, page 10

Lancaster County candidates can begin their campaigns after filing closed last Tuesday for several political positions across the area.

District 6 Representative Jack Estridge is unopposed in his bid to be reelected for the seat he has served for two terms.

Estridge said he is humble to see that his constituents are comfortable with what he has

tried to do on County Council and for the area he represents.

"It's good to see the people trust me enough to call on me to serve again," he said.

Estridge asserted no opposition doesn't mean he'll sleep



Estridge

walk into his third term. "Even though I don't have any opposition don't mean I won't work just as hard," he said.

Estridge said the current effort to construct a brand new courthouse is the biggest issue he has faced during his two-term tenure on County Council. He said though the construction didn't come under the best circumstances following the damage of the old courthouse in the Aug 2008 fire, it was a definite need for

the county.

"That will be the biggest one item Lancaster County will ever build, I hope," Estridge said.

He is looking forward to the building being complete this year and said it will be something residents of the county can be proud of.

Several obstacles will face Estridge and County Council throughout the next several years but none more obvious

See Elections, page 10

Lions provide screening for students

Kershaw Elementary School welcomed the South Carolina Lions Charitable Services' Mobile Screening Unit last week to screen third and fifth grade students for any eyesight or hearing concerns.

Across South Carolina, the Mobile Screening Unit screens about 10,000 students at local elementary schools each year. It is funded entirely through donations. The Mobile Screening Unit offers free glaucoma, visual acuity, hearing and blood pressure screenings.

Kershaw Elementary School Nurse Susan Plyler

said this is the first year the Lions Club has provided the screenings. Generally, health screenings are required yearly and are done at each school by the nurse.

About 172 kids were screened last week.

Plyler said it's never too early to have vision or hearing problems. She said some students in kindergarten have been identified as having reason for concern in the past. Plyler said several standards are established in each screened area, which is where he student at that age should fall under.



Frank Steen of the Heath Springs Lions Club tests a KES student for vision. Photo by Joseph Garris Jr.