

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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Hit and run case becomes attempted murder

By Jim McKeown Jr.
From Release

Lancaster County Sheriff's Deputies arrested two men last Tuesday in a hit and run incident authorities now believe was an attempted murder.



Wright

Arrested were Brett Daniel Wright, 18, and Joshua Neal Barton, 19, both of 1174 Chase Madison Dr. Lancaster. They have been charged with and Attempted Murder.



Barton

The charges stem from an investigation that began on May 19 when two victims, Brandon Scott Maree and Ricky Christopher Jones, were struck by a vehicle on Ruth St. in Lancaster. Sheriff's deputies and the South Carolina Highway Patrol initially responded, and the SCHP began the investigation as a Felony Hit and Run accident.

On May 22, the sheriff's office received a tip regarding the possible location of vehicle involved in the incident. Deputies and Troopers followed up on the tip and were able to locate the vehicle involved in the incident. They then began locating witnesses and developing suspects.

During the course of the investigation it was then determined that the incident was in fact not an accident but an intentional assault on Jones and Maree. At that point the Sheriff's Deputies assumed control of the investigation and arrested Barton and Wright.

So far, the investigation

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Time For Remembering



Memorial Day is a time to remember the sacrifices the men and women who served in our Armed Forces have made for us. The Kershaw Civil Air Patrol and local Scouts placed American flags in the Kershaw Cemetery to honor our veterans. Photo by Joseph Garris Jr.

NCHS wins Text Pledge contest

By Joseph Garris, Jr.
News Editor

Students and faculty at North Central High School were awarded a free Subway sandwich lunch last week for being recognized as the Midlands region winner in the Subway Restaurants W8 2 TXT High School Pledge Competition.

Five winners were recognized in different areas across the state that promoted the wait to text message to students. Subway restaurants partnered with the South Carolina Department of Public Safety urging young drivers to avoid sending text messages until they are out of their vehicle and off the road.

North Central managed to get 98 percent of their student body to pledge on the campaigns website. The award was a six-inch sub sandwich, bottled water and apple slices for students and faculty last Friday. About 540 students and faculty received subs.

North Central Principal Worth Thomasson said the contest was all about making sure students are aware of the potential consequences should they decide to text while behind the wheel.

"It was all about letting them know the dangers of texting and driving," he said.

Students watched a 30-minute advertisement hosted by the Highway Patrol about the campaign in February.

Pledging began immediately after in the school's cafeteria.

Thomasson said the school has experienced some serious vehicle accidents amongst its students but have been very lucky to avoid fatalities.

"We just want to make sure we do everything possible to avoid anything like that," he said.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death amongst young people in South Carolina and throughout the nation. In 2011, 165 young drivers between the ages of 15-24 died in the state due to an automobile accident. A recent Virginia Tech study indicated that drivers sending text

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Former coach seeking KCSD board

By Jim McKeown Jr.
From Release

Retired North Central High School Football Coach and Student Activities Director Ron Blackmon is seeking election to the District 9 seat of the Kershaw County School District.



Blackmon

Blackmon is a former teacher and coach, with 29 years experience in public education, with 21 of those years as a Student Activities Director. He taught and coached at North Central High School in Kershaw County from 1998 to 2009 and he and his wife, Vicky, a native of Kershaw County, have lived in Kershaw County since 1998.

Coach Blackmon believes that his many years of educational experience will be of great benefit, if he is given the opportunity to serve on the Kershaw County School Board.

"I have seen a lot of changes in education during my career, some good and bad. During those years, I was always looking at things from the inside," he said. "Now that I am retired, I feel like I have a unique perspective on education and how the system works."

Blackmon said that due to the economic downturn over the past three years, Kershaw County Schools, as well as districts around the state, have taken a big hit financially. Blackmon feels that Kershaw County School District

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Leaders looking to help youth grow their faith

By Joseph Garris, Jr.
News Editor

Youth Serve 2012 is on its way and this year's leaders are excited about a summer of work and activities.

Andrew Jackson graduate Caitlin Blackwell, 19, will be participating in her first Youth Serve leadership role this summer. A University of South Carolina at Lancaster student majoring in English, Blackwell said she has been a participant in the summer

camp since the seventh grade.

The main purpose of the program, Blackwell says, is to glorify God. She fully supports that effort and looks forward to being a part of the program and leading youth.

"To have an organization centered on that and be able to be apart of that is what I desire to do," she said.

Megan Shaffer, 29, will also hold leadership duties for this year's Youth Serve. Shaffer and

her husband Jeff moved to Kershaw six months ago from Indiana. Jeff accepted a position as youth minister at First Baptist Church and Shaffer said she began having Bible study sessions with Youth Serve organizer Beverly Timmons.

Timmons asked Shaffer to begin praying about someone to lead the group this summer and later encouraged Shaffer to take on the task.

"I love working with

students. I'm really excited to get in there and get busy," she said.

Work sessions for this summer will include June 25-29 and July 16-20. Blackwell and Shaffer say they have not begun planning specific activities for this summer but are already taking applications for campers.

Applications, along with Medical Release Forms are available on the Youth Serve website

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Caitlin Blackwell and Megan Shaffer will serve as Youth Leaders for Youth Serve 2012. Photo by Joseph Garris Jr.