

# 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.

# *Kershaw* THE NEWS-ERA

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## Town moves on with skate park

By Jim McKeown Jr.  
Editor/Publisher

A sizable contingent of area citizens from opposite ends of the age spectrum was in attendance Monday night at the Kershaw Town Council meeting. Both groups got what they sought from council, but not without some ruffled feathers along the way.

A young group was there to support the Kershaw Community Park Council's (KCPC) request the town allow it to purchase a liability insurance rider to the town's insurance

that will cover a skateboard park at Stevens Park. A more mature group was there representing the Kershaw Lions Club, expressing concerns that the town planned to encroach upon one of its local fundraising efforts.

The Lions Club concerns centered around a decision by the town to purchase more American flags to space them more uniformly and cover more of the town during holidays than the current Lions flag project does. The Lions Club charges to place the flag in front of participating busi-

nesses, however, and uses the proceeds to provide vision care for needy children at Kershaw Elementary School.

"Fifty percent of the needy children examined at Kershaw Elementary School needed glasses," Ellen Robinson said, speaking for the local Lions. "We ask council to consider the impact on our ability to provide for needy children."

Mayor Wayne Rhodes quickly reassured the Lions that the town's foray into placing flags downtown was not meant to infringe upon

the group's ongoing project. He said the town is willing to partner with the club by providing flags and drilling holes to place them along the sidewalks.

"We aren't doing this to take away your funding," Rhodes said. "We just wanted more flags downtown."

Council asked the Lions Club to appoint members to meet with Kershaw Town Administrator Bryan Pettit and work out a partnership that would be agreeable to

See Town, page 10

## Former NC coach wins race for school board seat

By Joseph Garriss, Jr.  
News Editor

Former North Central Activities Director and Football Coach Ron Blackmon said he was concerned a rainy start and only one selection on the ballot might keep voters away from the polls during last week's primary and his bid to serve Kershaw County School Board Seat 9.



Blackmon

That wasn't the case. Final numbers showed that Westville area residents turned out strong support for Blackmon where the precinct registered a Blackmon victory by a vote of 124-19 over competitor Celia Boland. The final tally over the entire district was 237-118.

"I was so honored that our neighbors and the North Central Community came out in such a big way to cast one single vote. I think it says a great deal about Westville and our North Central Community," he said.

Blackmon thanked voters in the other Seat 9 areas, which include Malvern Hill, Cassatt, Whites Gardens, Shaylor's Hill, Airport, and Springdale. In those areas combined, Blackmon still registered a 113-99 victory over Boland.

Blackmon retired from North Central in 2009 having served there as teacher and coach since 1998. He is a graduate of Winthrop University with a Bachelor's Degree in History and a Master's in Edu-

See School, page 10



Approximately 35 bikers stopped by the Heath Springs Fire Dept. last weekend for rest and refreshments last Saturday. The group was participating in a charity bike run that was raising money for sisters Marley and Mallory Todd who both suffer from kidney disease. Photo by Tim Deaton.

## Proposed smoking ban has some council members hot

By Joseph Garriss, Jr.  
News Editor

Lancaster County could become the 48th county in the state to pass a public smoking ban after discussion during last week's council meeting tackled the issue.

A vote on the proposed ban could come as early as next Monday but at least two council members last week voiced their concerns. District 6 Councilman Jack Estridge said he hasn't smoked in 25 years but is still bothered by the ordinance.

District 3 Councilman Cotton Cole shared his stance. A restaurant owner, Cole said it should be up to the owner of a business whether they will allow smoking and not forced by law.

Members of the county's Health and Wellness Commission have discussed a ban in Lancaster for about two years. Many businesses around



Estridge

the county have already stopped allowing smoking inside but some have not.

District 2 Councilman Larry Honeycutt has been active with the Health and Wellness Commission and says the ordinance is necessary to protect the rights of people to be able to go out in public without the concerns of second-hand smoke.

Heath and Wellness Commission Chairwoman Vicki Parsons said the group had put a lot of time and effort into the ordinance.

"There needs to be protection for those that don't choose to smoke," she said.

Whenever the topic of a smoking ban has been discussed, the question of individuals' rights has always been brought up. Parsons says the right to smoke is not a protected but a personal choice. She asserted that another right should trump a per-

See Smoking, page 10

## Pair arrested in connection with Heath Springs house fire

By Jim McKeown  
From Release

Lancaster County Sheriff's Deputies have arrested a Lancaster man and Kershaw woman and charged them in connection with a May house fire in Heath Springs.

On May 5, deputies responded to a house fire at 1789 Dan Funderburk Rd. in Heath Springs. The residence, which was valued at \$20,000, was completely destroyed by fire. During the course of the initial investigation it was determined that the fire may have been intentionally set.

Criminal Investigators responded and began a detailed investigation that determined Josh A. Price, 28, of 1454 Winthrop Ave., Lancaster and Bobbie Lee Keiningham, 26, of 148 Catoe Rd., Kershaw, broke into the residence and intentionally started



Price



Keiningham

the fire.

Price was arrested and charged with Arson 2nd Degree and Burglary 2nd Degree on June 4. Keiningham was arrested and charged with Arson 2nd Degree and Burglary 2nd Degree on June 6. Both subjects remain incarcerated at the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office on a \$50,000 bond.

"We are thankful that no one was hurt during this incident and pleased that our investigators were able to solve the case so quickly," Lancaster County Sheriff Barry Faile said.

Lancaster County Sheriff's Office Makes Arrest in String of Burglaries

Lancaster County Sheriff's Deputies have arrested Timothy Eric

See Arrests, page 10