

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 ‘it is what it is’ budget approved

By Jim McKeown Jr.
Editor/Publisher

The Town of Kershaw gave second and final approval to a 2014-2015 fiscal year budget Monday night that “is what it is,” according to interim town administrator Tony Starnes.

The new budget totals \$3,567,727 after \$4,200 in late additions were approved during Mon-



Starnes

day’s town council meeting and public

hearing. The 2014-15 fiscal year budget is slightly higher than last year’s, which was \$3,507,762.

The General Fund budget was set at \$1,297,374 up from \$1,279,971 in 2013-14. It includes \$3,000 added to the Fire Department budget added Monday, and a 2.5 percent pay raise for town employees to help cover an increase in their insurance

rates.

The budget for the Administrative Department is \$221,791. The Town Court budget is \$43,335. The Police Department is \$471,033. The Fire Department is \$237,951. The Street Department is \$140,071. The Sanitation Department is \$171,193. The town has also budgeted \$12,000 for engineer-

ing studies, primarily connected to extending water and sewer service to Haile Gold Mine.

The \$3,000 added late to the Fire Department budget is targeted towards the purchase of approved turnout gear for three certified firefighters who don’t have the proper equipment.

“They’re up to 25 guys on the roster and have three ready

to fight fires who don’t have the right gear,” Kershaw Mayor Wayne Rhodes told council. “I don’t want to lose firefighters because we can’t give them the right equipment.”

Kershaw Fire Chief Tracy Caldwell said it costs about \$2,000 to equip a firefighter. Lancaster County will match the funds

See Town, page 10

Funding
for LCEDC
frozen over
rejection of
membership

By Joseph Garris, Jr.
News Editor

District 4 Lancaster County Councilman Larry Honeycutt said Monday night that a recent decision by a multi-county economic development cooperative to deny the county’s membership in the group has given the county a black eye. He called for council to freeze Lancaster County Economic Development Corporation (LCEDC) funding ahead of third reading approval of the budget until problems are resolved.

“We need to resolve this problem before we go forward. Once it is resolved, we will remove the frozen portion of this and give the money back to economic development,” he said ahead of discussion.

His motion was seconded by District 2 Councilwoman Charlene McGriff and was followed by some heated discussion.

Honeycutt is referring to the county’s recent membership submittal to join York, Chester, and Fairfield counties in the I-77 Alliance. The alliance is a group formed last year that pools economic development resources with state and private funds in an effort to better serve each county’s ability to attract industry.

Lancaster County had been invited to join the group and local state representatives, House District 45 Rep. Deborah Long, House District 44 Rep. Mandy Powers-Norrell, and Senator Greg Gregory pushed a budget proviso stating that the I-77 Alliance would receive an increase of \$100,000 in state funding if Lancaster County receives membership.

With the legislative session ended and the state budget approved, it appears the I-77

See County, page 10



Honeycutt

One Step At A Time...



These Youth Serve volunteers took a multi-step approach to starting repairs on this home during last week’s youth ministry. From the top down are: Laykin Bowers, Bridget McKinney, Rachel DeBruhl, Taylor Barrett, and Sydney Phillips Photo provided.

Body of missing area woman found in Richburg

The body of a Kershaw woman missing for several days was found in a hotel room in Richburg Sunday, according to law enforcement reports.

Donna Gale Robinson, 43, was reported missing last week by her family.



Robinson

Kershaw County Sheriff’s Office officials began investigating her disappearance on

June 19. Robinson was reportedly last seen June 16 and had responded to a text message from her boyfriend on that day.

Family members told police that a handgun was missing from Robinson’s home, but Sheriff Jim

Matthews reported last week that early evidence indicated that Robinson had left the home on her own accord.

Chester County law enforcement officials locat-

See Woman, page 10

Arrests made in bust of three meth labs

Kershaw News-Era
From Release

In three separate investigations by the Lancaster County Sheriff’s Office Drug Task Force, agents discovered three methamphetamine laboratories in the county in three days.

In addition to the discovery of the drug labs, four children were found at two of the scenes and had been exposed to the dangerous chemicals used to make methamphetamine.

On June 16, Lancaster County Sheriff’s Deputies served a bench warrant on

Thomas Franklin Wright, Jr. at his residence in an out-building at 2158 Douglas Heights Rd. Wright’s girlfriend, Tosha Bryson, also lives at the residence.

Knowing that Wright had been a suspect in methamphetamine activity, a subsequent investigation by

agents of the Sheriff’s Office Drug Task Force revealed a methamphetamine laboratory inside of his residence.

Agents found multiple items consistent with the manufacturing of methamphetamine inside of the resi-

See Meth Labs, page 10