

By the Grace of God
AMERICAN



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Notice From Lancaster County
Due to landfill closures in observance of July 4,
The Lancaster County convenience centers will be closed on
Saturday, July 4, 2026.

All sites will be open on Friday, July 3, 2026 from 9:00 AM –
6:00 PM and reopen on Monday, July 6 from 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM.

Have a Safe and Happy Independence Day!



**Happy
Independence
Day (1776)**

Smalls
inserts inside

Kershaw THE NEWS-ERA

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THWTB

Wednesday, July 1, 2026

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75 cents and worth more

FLAT CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH CELEBRATES 250 YEARS ON JULY 5TH - INVITES PUBLIC



Flat Creek Baptist Church will be having a very special service on Sunday, July 5th, 2026 at 10:30 AM to celebrate our church's 250th anniversary. This celebration is in honor of our Lord Jesus Christ in allowing His church to proclaim His Word for 250 years. God has blessed in a mighty way. Additionally, we will be having a catered meal immediately following the service. Everyone is cordially invited to attend. Rev. Miles stated that he is so thankful to those who had the vision to start Flat Creek Baptist Church but even more thankful for what God has done to sustain the church for 250 years. Rev. Miles is also thankful for all that have served faithfully over the years.

Flat Creek Baptist Church was organized on July 4, 1776, under the direction of Rev. George Whitfield Pope, and was at that time called Upper Fork of Lynches Creek Baptist Church.

Rev. Pope, who at that time was residing in Virginia, had a vision to go to Lynches Creek to preach. This being a dream, he ignored it. Time and time

again, he had this dream. One morning he went to his wheat field, and found it had been destroyed. Soon his stock began to die. Over the loss of his stock and wheat crop he called out, "Lord! Lord! What will you have me to do?" A voice as if from Heaven said, "Go to Lynches Creek to preach." Rev. Pope could no longer ignore his dream. He answered the call, and came to this place. He met with some friends who were holding services and stated that he was going to preach. This he did until his death in 1817, and was the first to be buried here.

Upper Fork of Lynches Creek Baptist Church was part of the Charleston Association early in its history. It later joined the Moriah Association as a charter member in 1834. The name was changed in 1881 to Flat Creek Baptist Church.

Many ministers have served the church as pastor during the 250 years of existence; including such names as Rev. George Pope, Rev. Charles Cook, Rev. John Cato, Rev. William Denman, Rev. Charles Ingram, Rev. John Kennington, Rev. Joseph T. Copeland, Rev.



Rev. W. Bart Miles

J. P. Thompson, Rev. Nathan Faile, Rev. Sam Huggins, Rev. Elder Ogburn, Rev. Jacob Faile, Rev. John S. Croxton, Rev. A. S. Willeford, Rev. W. F. Brasington, Rev. John E. King, Rev. D. P. Montgomery, Rev. T. A. Dabney, Rev. F. J. Blackmon, Rev. W. S. Gardner, Rev. J. B. Caston, Rev. W. F. Sutton, Rev. George E. Smith, Rev. Davis M. Sanders, Rev. Leslie W. Edwards, Rev. B. W. Pinson, Rev. Hubert S. Sinclair, Rev. Crawford Williams; Rev. Clegg B. Allen, Rev. Robert Jeske, Rev. Warren Jones, Rev. Robert Austin, Rev. W. Bart Miles, Rev. Bryan Rabon and the present pastor Rev. W. Bart Miles.

Fire Department's risk reduction program sees big impact in 1st year

The Kershaw Fire Department's Community Risk Reduction program is approaching its 1 year anniversary later in July.

Todd Duncan of Kershaw Fire and Rescue gave Council an update on the program's accomplishments in its first year.

Through the program, the department has installed 122 free smoke alarms and 34 carbon monoxide detectors in homes in the Fire district. The program has also made nearly 6,000 contacts with members of the local community including nearly 4,000 contacts with area students and nearly 2,000 contacts with adults in the community. "Each contact is an opportunity to teach safety," said Duncan.

Because of the department's efforts Kershaw Fire Rescue has been named a South Carolina Fire Safe Community Award for 2025. "We hope to achieve that designation again this year," said Duncan.



Kershaw approves budget for 2026-27

The Town of Kershaw approved its budget for the coming year at a special meeting Monday night. One of the challenges the Town had to navigate this coming year was reduced revenue in both the water department and general fund due to the closure of the ADM facility last year.

The Budget presented to Council Monday evening balanced \$7,538,609 in expected income against that same amount in expenditures. It included raises for staff as well as the return of the Town's Christmas bonus program for employees. Council members made several adjustments to the budget during the meeting to reflect some items they wanted achieved at the cemetery and Stevens Park.

In other business, Council heard from Deeda Coffey regarding a town ordinance affecting those who wished to renovate historic buildings. The ordinance references a fee schedule and application form for those wishing to engage in renovations to structures but there is no such form or fee schedule in the Town's records. Mayor Dorman advised Coffey, who is working to restore the Whitfield Hotel on Marion Street, to check with the County's planning and zoning department to see if they had any requirements. Meanwhile Council would address the issue at its next meeting.

Council also discussed some incongruities in its drought

response ordinance. The Town is still in a stage 2 drought response, meaning it must reduce water consumption by 5-10%. The Town's drought response ordinance referenced two different schemes for charging customers for excess usage. One was a series of ratcheting fines that would end in the suspension of service while another had a tier system that would charge a special rate per gallon. Council opted to back the tier system where customers using 10,000 gallons or less would pay the normal rate. From 10,001 to 20,000 gallons would pay 2.5 times the normal rate and anything above the 20,000 gallons would pay 3.0 times the regular rate.

MUSC Health celebrates progress on Indian Land medical center designed to expand access to care close to home



MUSC Health leadership and care team members celebrate MUSC Health Indian Land Medical Center topping out.

INDIAN LAND, S.C. (June 23, 2026) – MUSC Health leaders, physicians and community partners gathered Tuesday for a topping-out ceremony marking a major construction milestone for the future MUSC Health Indian Land Medical Center and MUSC Health Indian Land Medical Pavilion.

Indian Land is one of the fastest-growing communities in the Charlotte region, with Lancaster County's population increasing 12.7% since 2020. This growth, supported by new housing, commercial investment and infrastructure development, is increasing demand for accessible, high-quality health care across the community.

"Reaching this milestone reflects a long-term commitment to improving how and where care is delivered across South Carolina," said David J. Cole, M.D., FACS, president of the Medical University of South Carolina. "Facilities like this extend our reach and make it possible for more patients and families to

access care closer to home. When we expand access to care, we strengthen families, improve outcomes, and build healthier communities across our state. This is how we advance our mission and create a more connected system of care for the future."

Located at 9280 Charlotte Highway, the new MUSC Health Indian Land Medical Center and MUSC Health Medical Pavilion will include a three-story 62,000-square-foot medical office building alongside a 51-bed hospital. Together, these facilities will offer a wide range of services, including heart and vascular care, neurology, rheumatology, transplant services, urology, orthopedic and sports medicine, primary care, women's health and advanced medical and radiation oncology through the NCI- accredited Hollings Cancer Center.

Additional services will include emergency care, imaging, laboratory services and a retail pharmacy, supporting a seamless, coordinated care experience for patients and families.

MUSC Health celebrates progress
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