

Issues and Programs

2nd Quarter

2018

Prepared by

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News Coverage and Community Issues

The following compilation features 10 news stories and community topics aired by WBCU Radio in the second quarter of 2018. WBCU Airs five local newscast during its broadcast day: Monday through Friday at 6:33 am, 7:33 am, 8:37 am, 12:37 pm, and 5:35 pm. A “Week in Review” program featuring the top stories of the week airs four times each Saturday at 6:30 am, 7:30 am, 8:30 am, and 12:35 pm.

In compiling the second quarter report, stories were considered for their importance and community impact. The 10 selected stories also provide a well-rounded cumulative and what WBCU accomplishes with each newscast, keeping Union County citizens up-to-date on matters that are important to both individuals and the communities in which they live.

The stories are in no particular order of importance.

2nd-quarter 2018 interview programs (ranging from 20-50 minutes in length):

April 12—Laura Wade and Taylor Atkinson—promoting the KidsFest event at Foster Park, promoting early childhood literacy

April 16—Rebecca Rochester—Friends of the Library—promoting their fundraising tea party and brick campaign raising money for the library renovation

April 24—Amber Ivey—Union County Arts Council—promoting April activities at the Arts Council

May 15—Elizabeth Kelly—Heartland Hospice—recruiting hospice volunteers (10 minutes)

May 17—SC House District 42 debate—live broadcast of the political debate from USC Union—2 hours

May 30—Taylor Atkinson—Union County Carnegie Library—promoting summer reading activities

May 31—Elise Ashby—Union County Ag & Art Tour—promoting the upcoming Ag & Art Tour in Union County

June 4—SC House District 42 candidates—discussion of the issues in House District 42 among the candidates for the office

June 5—Union County Treasurer candidates—discussion with the candidates for treasurer

June 6—Union County Council District 1 candidates—discussion of the issues in County Council District 1 among the candidates for the office

June 11—Rep. Ralph Norman—discussion of national issues affecting US House District 5

June 11—Amber Ivey—Union County Arts Council—promotion of upcoming art camps

June 12—Dean John Catalano, Supervisor Frank Hart, Col. Richard Denton—announcing the new nursing program at USC Union and promoting it

June 14—Elise Ashby—Union County Ag & Art Tour—promoting the coming Ag & Art Tour and kickoff dinner

June 14—Flag Day program—special program of patriotic music and discussion of the American flag history and etiquette

June 21—Elise Ashby—Union County Ag & Art Tour—final promotion of the kickoff dinner and the Ag & Art Tour

June 26—David Wilson (music minister at Tabernacle Baptist)—promoting special patriotic program and children’s programs at church (5 minutes)

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USC-UNION NURSING PROGRAM SET TO BEGIN

Wednesday, June 13

Some big news came to light Tuesday from the University of South Carolina-Union. The long-awaited nursing program is coming to the school. The announcement was made Tuesday on WBCU. On hand to make the announcement were Dean John Catalano, Union-Laurens Commission for Higher Education Chairman Col. Richard Denton, and Union County Supervisor Frank Hart. Dean Catalano said the program has been more than eight years in the making:

Students who wish to pursue a nursing degree can begin this fall with their preliminary classes. Union County Supervisor Frank Hart views the nursing program as something that will be good for the local economy:

The program will occupy the Union County Annex building, which is located on the corner of East Main Street and Church Street. The Union Child Support office and Veteran's Affairs office will remain in the building, while other departments in that building will move to other locations.

JONESVILLE MAN SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT

Monday, June 18

United States Attorney Sherri A. Lydon said Friday that Jabrail Adrian Wofford, age 28, of Jonesville, South Carolina, was sentenced in federal court in Greenville, South Carolina, for Possession with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine, and Possession of a Firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. United States District Judge Henry M. Herlong, Jr., of Greenville, sentenced Wofford to 180 months in federal prison followed by supervised release.

Evidence presented at the change of plea hearing established that on July 6, 2017, Union County Sheriff's deputies executed a search warrant at the residence of Jabrail Adrian Wofford. During the search, a quantity of methamphetamine, cash, scales, and firearms were located in a bedroom.

The Union County Sheriff's Office along with agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) investigated the case. Assistant United States Attorney Max Cauthen of the Greenville office prosecuted the case.

SCHOOL BOARD VOTES TO TABLE BUDGET

Tuesday, June 12

The Union County Board of School Trustees met Monday evening for their regular monthly session, but they will probably be meeting again before the end of the month. That came about as a result of Finance Director Lynn Lawson's presentation of the 2018-2019 budget. The budget as presented came to a total of \$30,110,269. That figure reflects a 2.8% increase and would cause the millage to be increased by 2.5 mills. If things had gone as planned, the budget would have been finalized, but such was not to happen. There was nearly an hour of discussion where nearly all the board members expressed concerns over the budget as presented. Board member Frank Hart argued that all the elements in the budget had been discussed, but member Manning Jeter maintained that they had not. Other board members expressed concerns as to why the budget is more this year over last year's budget, when there was supposed to be \$2 million in savings that should have been realized by the closing of Lockhart School. A motion and a second was already in place for the budget, and a vote had to be taken before the board could move on with business. That vote failed, 8-1. After the vote, board member Jane Hammett made the motion for the board to hold a work session on June 24th, at which time they could hammer out the details of concerns they had. That motion passed, and Hammett followed with another motion. This one concerned future budgets by establishing work sessions for next year for budget discussions. That motion also passed.

POTTER'S HOUSE FOOD MINISTRY UNDER INVESTIGATION

Tuesday, June 26

WBCU News has learned that the Food Distribution Ministry known as the Potter's Storehouse is under investigation. Union County Sheriff David Taylor confirmed his office is investigating the organization but would not give a specific reason as to why. He did say, when asked, that the investigation involved money. The matter was revealed at the Union Presbyterian Church Sunday. The church operates its own food distribution ministry and many of the items given away to needy people come from the Potter's House. It was announced that the distribution of food today, would probably be their last, at least for the time being. It was reported that the Potter's House would not have another distribution until further notice. The Potter's House was founded by Rev. Don Moore who operated it for a number of years until his death. Since then members of Moore's Church have been operating the ministry.

SCHOOL BOARD VOTES TO GIVE LOCKHART SCHOOL TO TOWN, WITH CONDITIONS

Wednesday, May 23

As was noted yesterday, the Union County School Board voted to give the Lockhart School to the Town of Lockhart. A condition they added was that the building could not be used as a school. That puts a wrinkle in the situation, which could result in the town not accepting the gift. At least one of the ideas the town council had for use of the facility was, in fact, to try and establish a charter school.

Lockhart Mayor Ailene Ashe was informed of that decision and was not happy about it.

Ashe sees utilizing the building as a school facility is one way, as she put it, "we could save the town." The community has taken some hard hits in the past years, as the Milliken plant closed there some years ago and created an employment void. Just less than two months ago, the school board voted to close the school at the end of this month. When the Jonesville High School closed and the building was deeded to the community, the same conditions were in that agreement as those applied to Lockhart.

SCHOOL BOARD TO ALLOW STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN GRADUATION; MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHOLARS HONORED

Tuesday, May 22

A large crowd was on hand to greet the Union County School Board Monday evening for their regular monthly meeting. The large number, estimated to exceed 100, were on hand, as one stated, "to support the students" who were being disciplined for vandalizing Union County High School last week. There were 18 arrests made in the incident, but eight were singled out because, according to Superintendent Bill Roach, they entered the building the night of the burglary. Those eight were to be denied to "walk" during the commencement exercises. Attorneys were on hand for the meeting to appeal the decision on behalf of the students. The board entered a 2-1/2-hour executive session, for which the agenda had to be amended. When they came out of the executive session, Board Member Mike Massey made the motion that the eight students be allowed to participate in the commencement provided that each paid \$1000 in restitution for the damage done, and that they perform 10 hours of community service. A stipulation was that the money be paid by 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 24th.

There were other things happening at the meeting, as well. Some outstanding students from Sims Middle School were recognized for exceptional academic achievement. Two seventh-grade students received awards as Duke Tip Scholars, and eighteen 8th-graders were singled out for becoming Junior Scholars.

Finance director Lynn Lawson presented the 2018-2019 budget for a first reading in the amount of \$30,060,911.

The Town of Lockhart petitioned the school board by letter for possession of the soon-to-be-closed Lockhart School. The board approved the request, with the condition that it not be used as an educational facility.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE ANNOUNCES TWELVE ARRESTS BY TASK FORCE LAST WEEK

Thursday, May 17

Sheriff David Taylor announced on Tuesday afternoon that the Union/Fairfield/Chester Task Force hit Union last week to make twelve arrests. The arrests led to 23 charges against the twelve individuals. The task force set up multiple operations in Carlisle, Lockhart, Buffalo and the City of Union from 5:00 p.m. until 3:00 a.m. The charges were for driving under suspension, habitual offender, operating uninsured, possession of Schedule II narcotics, failing to stop for blue light, giving false information to police, violation of Youthful Offender Act, possession of marijuana, possession of methamphetamine, Magistrate Court bench warrant, weapons law violation, and public drunk. A total of eight cases of driving with a suspended license were made by the task force in Union County in one night.

The following individuals were charged with the more serious charges:

25-year-old Bobby Deangelo Banks, of 4726 Cabaw Road, Sharon, charged with habitual offender, driving under suspension, and operating an uninsured motor vehicle.

27-year-old DeMarcus Ramel Burros, of 553 Flint St., Chester, charged with failing to stop for a blue light and possession of Schedule II narcotics.

21-year-old Christopher Tyler Wideman, of 110 Chambers Ave., Union, charged with giving false information and violation of the Youthful Offender Act.

34-year-old Nancy Dorean Thompson, of 403 Webber Lake Rd., Union, charged with possession of marijuana.

37-year-old Thomas Paul Ridings, of 100 Pinedale Rd., Union, charged with a Magistrate's Court bench warrant, possession of marijuana, possession of meth, and driving under suspension.

20-year-old Shane Michael Jones, of 103 Marigold Drive, Union, charged with driving under suspension and possession of marijuana.

39-year-old Christopher George Turner, of 347 Pineland Rd., Union, charged with unlawful carry of a firearm.

DOLLAR GENERAL LITERACY FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT TO SCC-UNION COUNTY CAMPUS

Monday, May 28

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation has awarded the Spartanburg Community College Foundation a \$10,000 grant to support adult literacy at the college's Union County Campus. This local grant award is part of more than \$8.3 million in grants awarded to more than 1,000 schools, nonprofits, and organizations across the 44 states that Dollar General serves.

"This will be a great addition to our staff and a huge help to our students," said Jarette Pendergrass, director of Adult Education SCC's Union County Campus. "Anything that helps our students succeed is a benefit."

The literacy grant will fund an SCC instructor to teach one three-hour session four days a week, and a 1-1/2-hour session four days a week. The literacy instructor's position is designed to improve the county literacy rate and to decrease the drop-out rate.

Hiring of the instructor is scheduled for July 2018, with a start date of August 13, 2018. During August, the instructor will serve students four days a week, for three hours per day for three weeks. Students will receive 12 hours of instruction per week. Beginning in September, the instructor will serve students for 4.5 hours per day, four days each week. Students will receive 18 hours of instruction per week.

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation supports initiatives that help others improve their lives through literacy and education. Since 1993, the foundation has awarded more than \$154 million in grants to nonprofit organizations, helping more than 10 million individuals take their first steps toward literacy, a general education diploma or English proficiency. To learn more about the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, visit www.dgliteracy.org.

FIRST PHASE OF STADIUM RENOVATION PROJECT EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETE BY AUGUST 1ST

Friday, June 1



When sports fans enter the gate at Union County Stadium in August, they are going to immediately notice that things are not the same. County Engineer Jerry Brannon said they are shooting for August 1st to have the first phase of the Union County Stadium renovation complete. They began work on the project last winter when \$1.3 million was allocated by the county and the Union County School District, and another \$150,000 committed by the City of Union for infrastructure improvements. Among the improvements that will be seen include renovations to the press box along with the construction of a field house and ticket booth. The steps of the stadium will be brought up to American Disabilities Act standards. Supervisor Frank Hart was quoted as saying, "I am very excited that we have a project underway to make some much-needed improvements to our stadium facility. This project is a great example of what we can achieve when we are all working together toward a common goal."

REP. RALPH NORMAN COMES TO TOWN TO INTRODUCE OPPORTUNITY ZONE PROGRAM

Wednesday, April 4

Fifth Congressional District Representative Ralph Norman was in Union Tuesday afternoon to introduce the South Carolina Opportunity Zone program. The Opportunity Zones are a new community development program established by Congress as a part of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. They are designed to encourage long-term private investments in low-income communities. The program provides a federal tax incentive for taxpayers who reinvest unrealized capital gains into Opportunity Funds, which are specialized vehicles dedicated to investing in low-income areas called Opportunity Zones. An area in Union County has been designated as one of the zones. Congressman Norman explained the program:

What would be the impact on local development efforts? Kathy Jo Lancaster, Director of the Union County Development Board, told WBCU News:

Congressman Norman commented, "This is something to get excited about."