

Quarterly Programs and Issues 2nd Quarter 2017 - WRHI

Programs:

WRHI provides local newscasts 24 hours a day from Monday at 5:30am through Saturday at noon. Eight long-form newscasts are delivered in the morning and three in the afternoon. Plus six ninety second updates in the afternoon and evening, and sixty second updates twenty times per day, for a total of twenty seven newscasts per day. WRHI also posts a daily summary news headline page on its internet web site, www.wrhi.com.

Public Service Announcements are aired on a rotating basis, prerecorded. Some are voiced by members of the community. They air daily.

Straight Talk is a locally-produced news and public affairs program which airs on weekdays, Monday through Friday. It is a thirty minute in-depth interview program featuring newsmakers and issues in the news. The program features discussion of a wide variety of topics of interest of concern for the upstate of South Carolina. A complete listing of daily guests and issues is updated regularly and is included on our website, www.wrhi.com.

Examples of critical issues covered on WRHI during the quarter:

A proposed industrial hemp pilot program has stalled in the state House. Hemp has many uses as fiber but is closely related to marijuana... although it lacks the chemicals that get a person high. The federal government only recently began allowing American farmers to grow the crop. House leaders thought they had a compromise allowing 15 farmers to grow the crop on no more than 20 acres of land. But that was derailed after members instead voted to expand the program.

A'ja Wilson scored 23 points to help coach Staley and South Carolina win their first national championship with a 67-55 victory over Mississippi State on Sunday night. Staley made the Final Four three times as a player at Virginia but never won. She also led the Gamecocks to the national semifinals two years ago before losing to Notre Dame. The victory in front of a sellout crowd came one day after the Gamecocks men's basketball team lost in the Final Four in Phoenix.

Police in York warned a juvenile parole board that a teen from York who was convicted of trying to join ISIS was a threat to York County, South Carolina, America, the world. The teen wanted to kill police, American soldiers and anyone else who got in his way, court and parole board testimony showed. The parole board released the teen last year. Late Thursday, the FBI arrested Zakaryia Abdin, 18, at the Charleston airport for trying to help ISIS and join ISIS. Abdin was tried and convicted in York County Family Court in 2015, then paroled in 2016. Because he was a juvenile, his name was never publicly released. Federal prosecutors released his name Friday, saying Abdin, now an adult, was again trying to help a terrorist group.

Before York County Council cancelled their meeting two weeks ago they were expecting a visit from Erin Rainey who just realized she had been overpaying for her residency since 2005,

because she was not considered a legal resident. The county is only required to pay back two years by law, not the 12 years she's been living there. Ramsey contacted County Councilman Bump Roddey who wants to see her repaid the full amount. Council voted 6-1 to put the issue on the next agenda. Since 2005 Rainey has over paid \$5,846.73

Promising to veto an increase to the state's gas tax to repair the state's roads, S.C. Gov. Henry McMaster wants lawmakers instead to borrow up to \$1 billion. McMaster, governor since January, urged lawmakers to change a proposed \$500 million borrowing plan, proposed by the House, to instead spend that money — and more — on roads. McMaster made his proposal in a letter Tuesday to House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Darlington. Lucas responded by saying borrowing money to fix the state's roads would leave the cost of those repairs solely with S.C. residents and not capture out-of-state tax dollars, paid by tourists when they fill up their gas tanks. Last year, lawmakers approved borrowing roughly \$2 billion to replace 400 of the state's deficient bridges and fix some roads.

The City of Rock Hill received an award about two weeks ago for cultural and diversity in the community. The League of Cities presented Rock Hill with the award for their work in creating Freedom Walkway in downtown Rock Hill. Rock Hill Mayor presented that award to the Quality of Life committee at yesterday's meeting of the Rock Hill Economic Development Corporation. Echols talked about the results of the contest and what the award means for the Rock Hill community. Other cities receiving awards were Morrisville, N.C.; Decatur, Ga.; Westminster, CO.; Winston-Salem, N.C.; and Aurora, CO.

Former state public health chief Catherine Templeton has officially entered next year's governor's race. Templeton announced Tuesday that she will run in the 2018 Republican primary. The former Department of Health and Environmental Control director led the state's public health agency from 2012 until 2015. In her announcement, Templeton said she didn't plan to run, but she couldn't "unsee" what she saw in Columbia... claiming "the corruption, waste, self interest, and good ol boy system is alive and well." Templeton had indicated last year her interest in running, but postponed a decision after Gov. Nikki Haley resigned in January and Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster took her place. McMaster plans to run for reelection next year.

The state House on Wednesday rejected an effort to use an A-F grading scale when evaluating public schools in South Carolina. The state is adopting new school grading standards after the federal government moved away from the "No Child Left Behind" two years ago. But legislators... in a 72-39 vote... rejected the letter grades... instead favoring a scale that uses "Excellent," "Good," "Average," "Below Average," and "Unsatisfactory." Belton Republican Eric Bedingfield said letter grades would be easier for parents to understand. But St. Matthews Democrat Russell Ott said letter grades can be misleading.

There are currently discussions underway between the Rock Hill school district and the city of Rock Hill that would allow for the relocation of the track and football field adjacent to Sullivan Middle School to be moved across the street into Cherry Park. Jim Vining, Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Rock Hill School District talked about why the city wants the field in Cherry Park. Sullivan Middle School is building a foreign language immersion elementary school on the existing football field, which is why they are looking to move. Vining says the School

District would move the field to Cherry Park as opposed to by the tennis center if Caswell Street, the road between the school and park was closed. The city has until the end of April to make a decision on the proposal. Talks between the two entities have been ongoing for months.

The former captain of the Rock Hill Rescue Squad has been arrested on a charge of taking more than \$9,200 of the squad's money. The State Law Enforcement Division arrested 57-year-old Joseph David Shackelford Jr. on Monday. The Rock Hill Rescue Squad operated for decades before closing in 2015. According to a SLED arrest warrant, the theft took place between July 2014 and December 2015 at the squad's headquarters. Shackelford had been "entrusted with the finances" of the squad, and was one of three members with access to its bank account. The warrant says SLED made the charges against Shackelford based on probably cause from financial records, law enforcement investigation, suspect statements and a witness. It's unclear if Shackelford has an attorney.

Lash Financial announced a little over a week ago that they would be starting on another 173 thousand square foot building that may bring the job total up to 2500 employees. Fort Mill Mayor Guinn Savage was excited about the news and said the personality of the community is good at attracting businesses. Savage says creating the opportunity for those who grew up locally to work locally as well only improves the community. The Lash site is located in Kingsley Park at the SC Highway 160 Interchange off I-77.

Rock Hill police notified South Carolina social services workers after a 5-year-old boy was found running alone through traffic at one of the city's busiest intersections on Tuesday afternoon. The child was not hurt, police said, and was released to the custody of a family member. A Rock Hill firefighter saw the child running through traffic at the intersection of U.S. 21 Bypass, and Eden Terrace. The firefighter got out of his vehicle, made sure the child was all right, and stayed with him, and called police. Officers located family members on Eden Terrace who told them the boy had gotten home from school and had asked to go out to play. The family member said the boy had been riding his scooter and later was discovered to be missing. The family member told officers she looked for the child but had not called police to report the child missing before he was discovered by the firefighter.

As the special election including 15 candidates for the 5th Congressional Seat approaches as does the election to take the spot of House Seat 48. The seat was resigned by Ralph Norman when he announced his decision to run for Congress. Bryant was surprised that Norman chose to resign. One of the big issues currently on tap at the state house is what to do with South Carolina's poor roads and Bryant sides more with Governor McMaster regarding reform. Bryant is running against Rock Hill businessman Tom Nichols who if elected said he would work to repeal an Act that has been in effect for the past 10 years. Nichols said he wants to lower taxes as well. The special election will take place on May 2nd.

Rock Hill school district announces 28 educators who have been named 2017 teachers of the year. This year's honorees have a combined 350-plus years of teaching experience. They were nominated by their supervisors and colleagues. The teachers will represent their school as a member of the Teacher Forum, an advocacy group meeting regularly with Superintendent Dr. Kelly Pew. New this year, the teachers will be recognized May 7 on the field during Charlotte

Knight's pre-game festivities at BB&T Ballpark in Uptown Charlotte. The honorees will receive complimentary tickets to the game against the Gwinnett Braves.

The city council took another step towards its proposed Indoor Sports Facility last night by approving a lease between the City of Rock Hill and UC Athletic. The 170 thousand square foot arena will be the largest in the Carolinas and the only one with a court specifically designed for championship games. City Manager David Vehaun said the expected 172 thousand annual tourists will have the opportunity to stay right next door. The facility is expected to have a 10 million dollar annual economic impact.

The convicted Charleston church shooter Dylan Roof pled guilty to all state charges against him on. The deal will send Roof to life in prison without parole in exchange for a confession of guilt. Several family members of the victims spoke at the trial today including Charleston State Senator Gerald Malloy who spoke on the behalf of the family of Clementa Pinckney. Roof was already convicted of 33 federal charges and a death sentence. The plea deal with the state will avoid having to make the victim's families sit through another lengthy trial.

Eggs will be scattered around Cherry Park later today for the 35th annual Great Easter Egg Classic put on by OTS Media. Those eggs are filled with candy and prizes by the Silver Foxes, a senior citizen group with the upper palmetto YMCA who have been helping stuff eggs for the past 30 years. Gates open into Cherry Park at 1PM and Egg hunting runs will be between 2 and 4:15 Pm for children between the ages of 2 and 11.

Consecutive days of sunny, warm weather in Rock Hill may be to thank for the fountain in Downtown's Fountain park being finished before its expected date. Deputy City manager Jimmy Bagley said the weather allowed them to use a different type of concrete. The fountain was turned on for good this past weekend. It had been inoperable for over year.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans are planning a rally Saturday outside the York County Courthouse in York, where the Confederate flag and other items were not returned after renovations. Rally organizers say the event is being held to show county officials they believe removing the Confederate flag and other Confederate items from the courthouse's main courtroom is illegal. The rally, 2-4 p.m., will have speakers and is sponsored by the Sons of Confederate Veterans chapter based in Clover, said Kirk Carter, commander of the Clover group. County officials reopened the renovated courthouse in late January amid protests from those who support, and oppose, the flag. Earlier this month, the main courtroom opened without returning a version of the Confederate flag, pictures of Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson, and other historic flags. Republican congressional candidate Sheri Few is expected to be one of the speakers.

OTS Media, the parent company of WRHI, has entered into a multi-year agreement with Rock Hill school district Three to host a pre-season event that will feature the three Rock Hill Schools. The WRHI Football City USA Kickoff, powered by Hospitality Heating and Air, will take place on August 11th with the first game starting at 5p. Each of the schools will face off against some of the best teams in the Carolinas. South Pointe will play Byrnes High School at 5p, followed by Rock Hill vs. Hough High School, and Northwestern vs. Union County will cap the night.

Police have charged a man they said shot and killed another man last week in Rock Hill. Officers arrested Brandon McMoore, 25, for the April 12 shooting death of Darryl Stewart. Police were called around 11:30 p.m. to a home on Carolina Avenue and found Stewart, who had been shot several times. He was pronounced dead at the scene. No motive has been released. The homicide was Rock Hill's second of 2017.

The Rock Hill and York County Convention and Visitors Bureau Board announced in a press release on Friday that they would be meeting this Wednesday to discuss a personnel issue in regards to Executive Director Lisa Meadows. According to police and court documents Meadows was arrested last Wednesday on a misdemeanor charge of allegedly stealing three bottles of tanning products from a Fort Mill salon. The Convention and Visitor's Bureau said this is an important issue and one they are working to address. The alleged theft of \$348 worth of products was caught on video at the tanning salon. Deputies spoke with Meadows who admitted she took the three bottles and left without paying, but Meadows, "stated that she forgot to pay when she left,"

Gov. Henry McMaster Tuesday signed into law a bill aimed at shoring up the state's retirement system, but says the way it is funded needs to be changed to ensure it stays afloat for years to come. McMaster says that the pension crisis is the result of a combination of factors created, occurring and neglected for over fifteen years.

State Sen. Mike Fanning will not be charged after a five-month investigation into claims he had an inappropriate relationship with a 16-year-old female student in the early 1990s. The State Law Enforcement Division closed its investigation last month, finding insufficient evidence to charge state the Fairfield Democrat with any crime. The allegation was filed last September with the Hampton County Sheriff's Office, more than a month before Fanning's general election victory over York Republican Mark Palmer.

500 riders from 23 different countries and 24 states were represented at the Criterium race this past weekend. The Rock Hill Criterium kicked off the the new Criterium Course. Rock Hill Parks Recreation and Tourism Director John Taylor said USA Cycling helped them design the Criterium track. He said the course was very well received. The course, located down by Riverwalk is now open for public use from dawn until dusk.

Lisa Meadows, Executive Director of the Rock Hill and York County Convention and Visitor's Bureau has been suspended after a unanimous vote by the board. The board gathered together this morning to discuss Meadows, who was arrested last week on charges of stealing over 300 dollars in tanning products from a Fort Mill salon. Meadows was present for half an hour during executive session this morning. The board will meet again next Wednesday to decide her future. She has been executive director since 2012.

In a press release earlier today York County Councilman and Rock Hill mayoral candidate Bump Roddey announced he was concerned with the city's use of expenses when it came to utilities. For years the the profits produced from the city's utilities have been inserted into the

general fund to balance the budget. Roddey questions this strategy viewing it as a regressive tax and not the most fair and equitable way to do business with the citizens of Rock Hill. Roddey wants the Mayor and City Council to discuss upcoming opportunities to correct the situation.

South Carolina's major newspapers have filed a lawsuit against the state House Republican Caucus... seeking a judge's order to release records connected with an ongoing corruption investigation. While the House GOP is not itself under investigation, the lawsuit seeks records of payments made by the caucus to Richard Quinn & Associates. The political group was named in a money laundering indictment against Columbia Sen. John Courson in March and is rumored to be the subject of an ongoing state investigation.

There are seven Republicans and three Democrats running for the seat of former Congressman Mick Mulvaney... who resigned in February to become the new White House budget director. On the Republican side, the candidates include former state GOP Chairman Chad Connelly, the number two officer in the state House Tommy Pope, former legislator Ralph Norman, State Guard commander Tom Mullikin, anti-Common Core activist Sheri Few, attorney Kris Wampler, and foreign aid worker Ray Craig. None of the Democratic candidates have prior political experience. Former financial adviser Archie Parnell has the backing of party leaders while veterans Les Murphy and Alexis Frank are outsiders. The winners of today's GOP and Democratic primaries will face each other in the general election next month. If no candidate wins a majority of the vote, a runoff will be held in two weeks.

Local developer Skip Tuttle has signed a contract that will bring a new hotel to Rock Hill, according to city manager David Vebaun. According to Vebaun, principal developer Skip Tuttle recently inked a deal that will allow for a new hotel to be built adjacent from a 170,000-square-foot sports complex at the University Center project near Winthrop University. Vebaun said Tuesday he believed the hotel should begin construction at some point this summer, and would be scheduled to open around the same time as the sports arena in the summer of 2018..

50 students are signed up as Fort Mill will introduce a new high school this fall. St Anne High school will be moving from Rock Hill to Saint Philip Neri Catholic Church in Fort Mill. St. Anne was accredited back in 2012 and expanded to a prekindergarten to grade 12 school back in 2014. The high school expansion comes to the growth of a school that started with only 6 students. The school had been looking at space for more than a year. The move does not impact the Pre K through middle school classes at the school.

At the beginning of the year Rock Hill launched a website to try and reach those who commute to Charlotte for work to bring them back to Rock Hill. The site, Jobs Rock Hill dot com has been advertised through websites, radio and on billboards. Hannah Sprull, Marketing Coordinator for Rock Hill Economic and Urban Development said the site usage continues to grow. Sprull said there are 100 positions posted on the site right now.

A bill that increases South Carolina's gas taxes for the first time in 30 years is headed to the governor after members of the state House approved it in a 99-20 vote Tuesday afternoon. The margin easily clears the two-thirds vote needed to override a threatened veto from Gov. Henry McMaster... who has said the state should find another way to pay for roadwork. But

House Majority Leader Gary Simrill said contractors have been moving out of the state for steadier work. Simrill said the bill also gives the governor more control over the Transportation Commission. He said it should make the agency more accountable. The compromise passed the Senate on Monday. It raises the gas tax by 12 cents per-gallon over the next six years. It also offers a way for South Carolina drivers to get the money back through tax credits.

The Rock Hill School District is in the transition process of moving their operations downtown. The School District has broken ground on their new building on Black street and plans to make their move in January of next year. Tony Cox Deputy Superintendent for the Rock Hill School District said the process is a behind behind where it was supposed to be...but it did not impact the move in date. Cox talked about the benefits of the new building. The funds for the building are not coming from bond money but from extra funds the District had available.

The Catawba Indian Nation has closed its bingo operation on Cherry Road in Rock Hill. In a news release, the tribe said the closing of Catawba Bingo was the result of a downturn in sales, "historical sluggish summer sales" and regional gaming competition. The tribe is assessing "its two licenses to explore other options in smaller facilities" in South Carolina, according to the news release. Catawba Bingo, opened in 2014, served more than 150,000 customers, generated more than \$15 million in sales and netted \$1.5 million to the state, the tribe said in the news release. The tribe also said "high gross sales tax rates" and competition from S.C. Education Lottery scratch cards and the N.C. lottery were factors in closing the bingo hall. This was the tribe's second bingo operation in Rock Hill. An earlier bingo hall opened in 1997 and closed in 2006 at the site of the former Rock Hill Mall on Cherry Road.

York County Council will get an in depth look at the 16 projects on Pennies for Progress 4 Monday night. According to Patrick Hamilton, the Manager for Pennies for Progress, The projects were approved Wednesday night and after this coming Monday's presentation...Council will have to approve three readings for it to pass. If approved it will go on the ballot to be voted on this coming November. The 6 member Pennies commission was formed in November of 2015 and attended meetings all over York County. Pennies four will be 278 million dollars making it the most expensive Pennies project. Pennies 3 was 161 million dollars and Pennies 2 was 173 million dollars.

Members of the state House said they will try again next year on a plan that would try to raise a half-billion dollars through borrowing to pay for building repairs at colleges and state agencies. With only one day remaining in this year's regular session, the House voted Wednesday to delay any further debate on the \$498 million bond plan until next January. But House Budget Chairman Brian White said it's a debate the House needs to have. He notes it's been 17 years since the state last borrowed for general maintenance work. White said the state has a lot of debt capacity available because it hasn't borrowed in so long. But he claims that's also led to neglect. He said he also wants to speak with Gov. Henry McMaster now that a proposed gas tax will become law. McMaster had wanted the borrowing package to fund roadwork instead.

The Rock Hill school District will be discussing and proposing a property tax increase for this year's budget. According to Mychal Frost, spokesperson for the district, the increase would bring in 36 dollars more in taxes each year on a 100 thousand dollar business or non owner

occupied home or rental. The increase will not affect homeowners due to Act 388, South Carolina's property tax reform measure, which says homeowners do not pay taxes for school operations on their primary residence. The act replaced local property tax on owner-occupied homes with a one-cent sales tax increase on most retail purchases.

A Friday night rush hour drug bust on Interstate 77 by York County and federal drug agents netted more than 100 pounds of marijuana, and the arrest of two Charlotte men. Miguel Angel Nieto, 27, and Francisco Antonio Rivas-Ortiz, 25, are each being held without bond in the York County jail on charges of trafficking more than 100 pounds of marijuana. Felony trafficking over 100 pounds carries a mandatory 25 years in prison, if convicted. Officers with the York County Multijurisdictional Drug Enforcement Unit, working with the federal Drug Enforcement Administration, stopped two cars leaving Interstate 77 at Exit 82 according to Marvin Brown, commander of the York County drug unit. The street value of the marijuana is at least \$100,000.

Last night York County Council approved the City of Rock Hill's Hospitality tax Capital Grant Application to put forward one million dollars for the Rock Hill Indoor Sports Complex. The one million dollars will be spread out over 5 years with 200 thousand dollars being given each year. The facility is expected to be completed by fall of 2018.

The York County Budget for the 2018 fiscal year passed second reading Monday night and the general funds currently amount to 111 million dollars. Kevin Madden, Director of York County Finance said that the York County Sheriffs and Solicitor's Office will have their own budget this year. The separate budget will allow the Sheriff's Department the freedom to make decisions to better support the people of York County. County Manager Bill Shanahan said there is one more reading for the budget and encouraged the citizens of York County to be involved. Madden said they have created a new capital projects fund. They are looking at a 10 year capital plan and 10 year infrastructure plan as well.

As the vote stands Ralph Norman will be the Republican candidate to represent the 5th District in the general election next month. Norman edged out Pope by a total of 203 votes with the election coming down to the final precincts. Norman said the past two weeks has been a lot of hard work. According to Tommy Pope the election was at times more intense than he originally thought it would be. The election finished with Norman having less than 1 percent of the votes than Pope, which means there will be an electronic recount. Pope's campaign released a statement last night saying his party would let the automatic recount process play out to ensure every vote is properly counted.

A chase Thursday afternoon from south Charlotte to South Carolina ended in a dramatic crash on I-77 in Chester County. Charlotte-Mecklenburg police responded to a stolen tag reader on Tyvola Road and South Boulevard. Officers attempted to stop the vehicle, but the driver refused and fled from officers. Police said the vehicle had been used in an armed robbery. The chase went into South Carolina where the driver exited off of I-77 and drove through some back roads. WRHI's news partner Channel 9's Chopper followed the suspect all the way into Chester County. The suspect went back onto northbound I-77 where the driver

went off the road and crashed at Exit 65, which is a rest stop. Officers managed to take two suspects into custody, while one ran off into the woods. The third person was taken into custody a couple of hours later. Troopers wouldn't allow people to enter the rest stop at the exit because they said it was too dangerous for civilians to be in the area. Police have not released the names of the suspects involved.

Fresh off a mere 223-vote win following a recount in the Republican primary... Ralph Norman has a quick turnaround before next month's special election for an open seat in Congress. The former state legislator from Rock Hill will face Democratic candidate Archie Parnell... a Sumter financial adviser making his first run for elected office... in the June 20 election to replace former Congressman Mick Mulvaney's old seat.

The City of Rock Hill is working to put the finishing touches in place for the quickly approaching BMX World Championships. John Taylor, Director of Parks Recreation and Tourism for the City of Rock Hill said the BMX nationals held in Rock Hill in March gave them a good starting point on what to expect for the Championships in July. With 3300 riders and a projected extra 20 thousand people in Rock Hill for the 10 day event...parking has been well planned for. Taylor said they are working to provide high level medical service as well. The Championships will take place at the end of July.

50 students are signed up as Fort Mill will introduce a new high school this fall. St Anne High school will be moving from Rock Hill to Saint Philip Neri Catholic Church in Fort Mill. Father John Gulliani said he feels like this new catholic school is filling a need in York County. The school had been looking at space for more than a year when they came across Saint Philip neri Catholic Church. St. Anne was accredited back in 2012 and expanded to a prekindergarten to grade 12 school back in 2014. The high school expansion comes to the growth of a school that started with only 6 students.

As summer approaches many roads around York County including the portion of Cherry road near the campus of Winthrop University will experience some work as well. Deputy City Manager Jimmy Bagley said many different projects will be in motion. Bagley said all of the projects will be completed in 3 to 4 months but some will be done even sooner. Bagley said because the economy is good and the demand for workers is high the City will have to offer more than originally planned to hire people to work on the projects.

A Founders Federal Credit Union ATM in the Harris Teeter parking lot on India Hook road was shut down after they found a skimmer in the machine. Founders is encouraging all their users to check their balances for any unusual activity. 40 cards at different credit unions were affected by another skimmer in March.

On August 11th Southe Pointe, Rock Hill and Northwestern's football teams will compete in consecutive full game scrimmages as part of the Football city USA Kickoff sponsored by OTS Media. Northwestern Athletic Director Lauren Woods is looking for a night of competitive football. The event will have concessions to raise money for each of the schools. Tickets can be bought at any of the high schools or at WRHI broadcast house on North Confederate Avenue.

The NAACP was host to an event last night as the 3 candidates vying for Mayor of Rock Hill spoke to a crowd of under a hundred people. Duane Christopher is a local Rock Hill architect and said his occupation gives him a vision for what the city can be. York County Councilman Bump Roddey technically does not live inside the city limits, but says he is most definitely a part of Rock Hill. Chair of the Rock Hill Sports Commission John Gettys threw his hat in the race because with his lifestyle he feels he can be a good servant to the people of Rock Hill. The event was held at the Emmet Scott Center on Crawford Road in Rock Hill.

Sullivan Middle School soon will have a new track and field complex off Maplewood Lane, which is concerning some area residents. The Rock Hill school district is building a new language immersion academy at Sullivan Middle School as part of the \$110 million bond referendum passed in 2015. The academy is being built where the middle school's track and athletic field once stood, said Tony Cox, deputy superintendent for the district. As part of the district's construction plan for the new immersion school, the district decided last March the track and field complex will be built on an existing practice field off Maplewood Lane, not far from the nearby tennis center. As part of the overall plan for the new language facility, the district did extensive design studies, which included traffic access, Cox said. He said the district does not expect large volumes of traffic to the field, which will be built to middle school standards and will not look like a high school stadium.

Giti Tire announced in June of 2014 that it had chosen a 1,100-acre site in Chester County to build its first North American plant. Karlisa Parker Director of Chester County Economic Development said the facility is in the finalization stages. Parker says Giti will be adding hundreds of new jobs in the coming months. By the time

Giti is finished they expect to add 1700 jobs. Giti is 9th in the world in tire manufacturing.

The Rock Hill police department has been planning for over a year to handle the extra 30 thousand people expected in Rock Hill for the BMX World Championships. According to police chief Chris Watts they have worked alongside PRT and other law enforcement partners. Watts appreciated the city bringing in the Police Department so early in the process. The Police Department will have some outside help. The championships will take place July 25th through the 30th.

Duke Energy is selling a major piece of property along Lake Wylie. Residents in the Concord Road area received an invitation to a June 7 open house to discuss plans. Duke officials said they will answer questions during a 5-7 p.m. drop-in at the Clover School District Community YMCA. The invitation shows a site that, according to county land records, is about 300 acres. It doesn't specify how much of the property might be sold, or what type of land use the sale might involve. Current zoning is medium density residential.

Freedom Walkway in Rock Hill is named for the 9 people who performed a sit in, in the downtown area. The Walkway Interpretation committee is now seeking nominations for its 2017 Local Heroes Recognition Program. The nominee must have lived in the Rock hill or York County area and have played a significant role through advocacy or actions in promoting equality for all citizens in Rock Hill and York County. They also must have demonstrated actions or advocacy by challenging community norms, placing themselves at odds with leadership and putting risk to their reputations, security, freedom or even their lives. Nominations are being accepted through June 30th.

Efforts and multiple discussions to move the Sullivan Middle School Football Field and Track into Cherry Park and to shut down Caswell street have failed. According to Tony Cox, Deputy Superintendent for the Rock Hill School District the school district are on a tight schedule and ran out of time for discussion. Mychal Frost, spokesperson for the school district said an elementary language immersion school will be constructed on the current site of the football field and track. The immersion school is consolidating from Rosewood, Ebinport and Richmond Drive Elementary School. It's projected completion date is August of 2018. 55 year old Winthrop University Police Chief Frank Zebedis will retire in August after 19 years of service as head of the department. Zebedis is also an assistant vice president for student life. He said he was honored to protect the

students and staff at Winthrop University and was proud of his work for public safety. School officials have not said when a search for a replacement would begin.

More than a third of the \$56.4 million in state spending that S.C. Gov. Henry McMaster vetoed was slated to replace aging, fire-prone S.C. school buses. McMaster opposed spending \$20.5 million on new school buses, saying that money depends on the S.C. lottery raising more than projected, his office said Monday, announcing his vetoes to the state budget. In addition, lottery money should be spent solely on the scholarships the lottery was created to fund, the Governor's Office said. S.C. lawmakers often spend lottery dollars on education-related expenses other than the scholarships. McMaster's veto amounts to two-thirds of what S.C. lawmakers approved last week to spend on school buses. The state budget includes \$28.9 million to buy or lease new school buses. The state budget will take effect July 1st.

York County officials say privatizing custodial work could save taxpayers about \$500,000 annually. York County Manager Bill Shanahan confirmed this week the county has solicited and received proposals for privatization of the custodians and janitors employed by the county. Currently, there are 32 full-time workers who work each day to keep at least 10 county buildings in Rock Hill, York and Fort Mill sanitary and secure. According to the York County government website, the purchasing department has received bids from eight firms from Greenville, N.C., to Suwanee, Ga. The proposals are now being reviewed by a selection committee made up of county personnel. Shanahan said he expects to give a presentation at the next regularly scheduled York County Council on Monday.

A month from today fans and riders will begin arriving in Rock Hill for the BMX World Championships. Brian Jones, the Athletic Supervisor with Rock Hill Parks Recreation and Tourism said there will be a large area full of tents next to the track that will give the event quite a prestigious feel. Many have said that Rock Hill has the best BMX track in the world. The event is expected to bring 30 thousand people to Rock Hill and have an economic impact of 13 million dollars.

Due to lower customer demand York County's Resolute Forest Products paper mill will shut down part of its production line this summer terminating 180 people. It was announced Wednesday that Resolute would cease operation at its paper machine number 2 in Catawba starting June 30th. According to spokeswoman Debbie Johnston Resolute has experienced lower demand for coated paper products, including magazines, catalogs and flyer inserts. The publicly traded Canadian company, employs 600 people in Catawba, where it has a total annual production capacity of 720,000 metric tons of paper products. About 193,000 metric tons of coated paper capacity will be eliminated.

50 years after his original biking trip across the United States Paul Neal will depart this morning from Rock Hill to deliver a letter via bike from Mayor Doug Echols to the Mayor of Los Angeles California. Neal broke down the grueling process of biking across the country. Neal's goal is to beat his pace he set 50 years ago. Neal says it takes him just as long to get through the state of Texas as it does for him to cross the state of Texas.

Rock Hill City Council approved the first reading of their budget for the 2017-2018 fiscal year last night. City Manager David Vahaun broke down the difference between this years budget

and last years. This year's budget is more than last year's budget, coming in at 236 million dollars. Vehaun said the budget will have money set aside for road pavement as well. The next reading of the budget will be at the meeting on June 26th.

A judge Monday awarded \$1.8 million to the family of a Rock Hill Vietnam veteran killed by a sucker punch in 2014 that was caught on video. Odell Fields, 65, died after a single punch from Eric Cobb outside the Sandbar in May 2014, after which Cobb raised his arms in triumph. Judge Jack Kimball wrote in a court order that Cobb "intentionally killed a man," and then conducted a "celebration" after the awful feat. Fields' family had sought \$5 million from Cobb, the bar, and bartender Jose Cintron in a wrongful death lawsuit. Kimball awarded just over \$810,000 in actual damages against all three defendants. Kimball awarded Fields' family \$1 million in punitive damages from Cobb, calling Cobb's actions "reprehensible under any analysis." The judge however did not impose any punitive damages against the bar and bartender.

Former Republican legislator Ralph Norman was able to ride a strong performance around his native Rock Hill to survive a closer-than-expected challenge for an open seat in Congress Tuesday night. He received 51 percent of the vote to 48 percent for Democratic newcomer Archie Parnell, a Sumter financial adviser. President Trump won the same district by 15 points last year. Norman said it was a hard-fought race. Turnout was light, which may have sparked the close margin. But Norman said his win... as well as GOP victory in a competitive Georgia race... were statements for the Republican Party. Norman said his first focus on getting to Washington will be trying to improve the nation's finances. The seat came open in February after former Congressman Mick Mulvaney resigned to become White House budget director.

Publix Super Markets Charities has contributed 80 thousand dollars to Habitat of Humanity of York County to build a new home in partnership with a family in need of decent and affordable housing. A ceremony will be held this Sunday at 3 PM on Pineburr Lane in Rock Hill to celebrate the construction of Habitat's 65th home. In addition to the funding, Publix's associates gave 5 days of volunteer service, totaling more than 300 hours. There were a total of 10 companies and organizations along with media partners OTS Media Group and CN2 that supported the effort.

The South Carolina Hospital Association has come out against a plan by Senate Republicans to repeal and replace Obamacare. The group is mostly critical of language that would allow states to take more control of Medicaid dollars... in exchange for receiving a set amount of money each year, rather than a pay-as-you-go system. Association spokesman Schipp Ames said a relatively poor state like South Carolina runs the risk of going above that set amount in an economic downturn. Ames said the change could lead to issues in the future if the set amount is not enough to meet South Carolina's actual Medicaid costs. Supporters say Medicaid in its current form is not sustainable and the grants would give states more flexibility. The association is hoping to sway South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, who said he has not yet made up his mind.