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Rocky Mount TELEGRAM

ROCKY MOUNT, NORTH CAROLINA ■ FRIDAY, JULY 29, 2016

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Open houses showcase rail hub

BY LINDELL JOHN KAY
Staff Writer

Twin Counties residents packed back-to-back venues this week to learn about a new trains-to-trucks terminal planned for Rocky Mount.

Two dozen railroad executives and representatives traveled from CSX corporate headquarters in Jacksonville, Fla., to meet with residents Thursday at

Brown Auditorium at Nash Community College and Wednesday at the Edgecombe County Administrative Building in Tarboro. They shared information and answered questions at open houses catered by Tops of the Pines, a Pinetops catering service.

Some folks came out just to meet and greet with CSX representatives and welcome them to the neighborhood. A lot of people were

curious about jobs.

"I keep hearing about the \$60,000 jobs," said Rocky Mount resident Jamal Jenkins. "I thought I could find out a little more."

CSX officials estimate the terminal, known as the Carolina Connector, will mean 250-300 short-term construction jobs. That number will more than likely be higher, at around 600 jobs, according to local economic development officials.

Once the terminal is open in 2020, there will be 150 CSX jobs – with an average salary of \$60,000 – and additional 300 on-site jobs for truckers and third party services. Over time, the terminal will create 1,500 jobs statewide, according to information from CSX.

An impressive number not previously reported, the terminal should mean

See RAIL, 3A



TELEGRAM PHOTO / ALLISON LEE ISLEY

Marshelly Stephens, Yvette L. Bottoms-Richardson and Lee Bottoms, left to right, point to a chart and discuss the concept of the CSX terminal at the CSX open house on Wednesday evening in the auditorium of the Edgecombe County Administrative Building in Tarboro.

STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS



TELEGRAM PHOTO / ALAN CAMPBELL

Ashlyn Deloach, 9, participates in a dribbling race as Rocky Mount police Cpl. Brad Summerlin, left, encourages a team on Thursday during the Badges for Basketball program at Englewood Elementary School.

Police, kids bond at sports camps

BY PHILIP SAYBLACK
Staff Writer

The Rocky Mount Police Department and Rocky Mount Parks and Recreation joined forces with some of the city's youngest residents Thursday for a pair of summer camps.

The Badges for Basketball camp made its debut Thursday morning at Englewood Elementary School. It was one of two events being held by the police and parks and recreation departments. The other is the Badges for Baseball camp, which is now in its fourth year. The purpose of both camps is to strengthen the connection between police and area youths and to keep children

See CAMPS, 3A



Isaiah Finkley, 10, gives Cpl. Brad Summerlin, right, and Isarel King, left, high fives as he makes his way to home base for a run Thursday afternoon during the Badges for Baseball event.

TELEGRAM PHOTO / ALLISON LEE ISLEY

Incumbents seek school board seats

No challengers file yet

BY AMELIA HARPER
Staff Writer

With only a week left to file, six members of the Nash-Rocky Mount Board of Education face no opposition in the coming election, despite a turbulent past term for the school board.

The Nash-Rocky Mount school board has faced a number of recent challenges over the past few months, including its controversial handling of a social media incident in November 2014, the effective dismissal of former Superintendent Anthony Jackson and the school board's relative silence during the attempt to split the school system

along county lines.

At a number of school board meetings and public hearings, residents have called for the resignation of some school board members over these issues and threatened to vote out school board members who opposed their desires at the next election.

The Rev. Nehemiah Smith and former mayoral candidate Bronson Williams have been the most outspoken in their criticism of school board members who voted to accept Jackson's "resignation agreement" and the school board's silence on

See SEATS, 3A

Teen entrepreneurs pitch business ideas

BY COREY DAVIS
Staff Writer

A group of eight teenagers concluded the week-long fourth annual 2016 Teen Entrepreneurial Summer Boot Camp through the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service of Edgecombe and Nash counties by participating in a "Shark Tank" business pitch com-

petition Thursday at the East Carolina Agriculture and Education Center Live Stock Arena.

Travis Silver and Ariyon Powell, who both attend Southeast Halifax High School, were awarded first place by a group of six judges and received \$400 for their efforts.

See TEEN, 3A

TODAY'S HEADLINES

SUNNY TODAY



Art by Peter Kennedy, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School

High, 93; low, 72.

2A

NATION

Hillary Clinton takes the stage to make her case to the American people that she is ready for the White House.



5A

CAROLINA

Fort Bragg soldiers deploying to the Middle East will be tasked with helping deliver a fatal blow against the Islamic State group, Defense Secretary Ash Carter said.

6A

WORLD



Turkey is shaking up its armed forces while warning the West to hand over coup suspects.

5A

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