

Quarterly Programs and Issues
1st Quarter 2016 – WRHM & WVSZ

Programs:

WRHM/WVSZ provides local newscasts nine times each weekday. One-minute updates run on the half-hour, Mon-Fri, between 6 and 10am. In addition, longer newscasts air at 7:02 and 8:02am and on the half-hour between 3 and 6pm. On Saturday, the longer newscasts air on the half-hour between 9am and 12noon.

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

The FM107 Community Calendars air on a daily basis, and are updated two to three times per week. Those calendars provide dates, time and phone numbers of events occurring in Lancaster, Chester, York and Chesterfield Counties. These programs air multiple times per day.

Critical Issues facing the region, covered by FM107 news during the quarter include:

York County Councilman Michael Johnson says a huge mixed-use development planned for the former Knights' Castle baseball field site that goes before the York County Council tonight is the most exciting project he's seen here in a long time. Johnson says more than five-million square feet of office space is expected... along with hotels and shopping. He says developer Lincoln Harris is telling Fort Mill that quote... we're actually going to do something real.

By the fourth quarter of this year... gold mining could begin at the Haile Gold Mine near Kershaw. Diane Garrett... a consultant and advisor on the Haile property... says re-opening gold mining in southern Lancaster County will create 300 jobs and more than 350-million dollars in investment. Garrett believes up to four-point-eight million ounces of gold can be mined at the Kershaw site. She says a transaction this past fall in which Australian gold-mining company Oceana Gold bought Romarco Minerals... which had owned the Haile Gold Mine... will NOT interrupt the timeline for mining gold in Kershaw.

South Carolinians who were unable to work amid the October flooding disaster have received more than \$1.2 million in unemployment benefits. The State newspaper reported that more than 2,100 people received flood-related jobless benefits. According to the state Department of Employment and Workforce, nearly 6,100 people had applied after the Oct. 2-5 storm that closed roads and businesses. Business owners, employees and the self-employed could receive benefits if they could prove they lost income because of the disaster. Agency spokesman Bob Bouyea says some applicants were determined ineligible because they left their jobs before the flood or their employers had previously scheduled a shutdown during that period. Bouyea says most applicants sought a week or two of benefits. The most claims by far came from hard-hit Richland County.

Deputies are investigating a late-night shooting Sunday in Lancaster County. Officials were called to a home on East Marion Street in Kershaw, where they found the 29-year-old male

victim on the front porch with a single gunshot wound, according to a statement from the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office. The victim was alert and talking to deputies before being airlifted to a hospital. No arrest has been made and no additional details are expected to be released while the investigation continues.

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley will give the Republican response to President Barack Obama's State of the Union address next week. House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell jointly announced today that Haley will deliver the address following Obama's January 12th speech. Haley says she's honored she was asked to deliver it. She says the country has great challenges but also great opportunities, and she intends to talk about both. The South Carolina-born daughter of Indian immigrants is the state's first female and first minority governor. She is also the country's youngest governor and was elected to a second term in November. Ryan says Haley is the right choice to lay out a positive vision and alternative to the status quo.

Six candidates have filed to run for the Lancaster mayor's post opened by the death of longtime Mayor Joe Shaw late last year. When the filing period for the special election to replace Shaw closed on New Year's Eve, Lancaster City Councilman John Howard was joined on the ballot by Anthony Elder, Altheresa Goode-Howard, Paul N. McKenzie, Charles Vann Jr. and Garrett Williams. Shaw died Nov. 29 after serving a total of 33 years as the Red Rose City's mayor – serving four terms from 1978 to 1994, then again from 1999 until his death. He was elected to a fifth consecutive term as the city's chief executive in November 2014. A special election to fill Shaw's seat will be held on Feb. 23.

A Lancaster man was found guilty Wednesday in the 2012 murder of a woman found strangled in an abandoned house. A Lancaster County jury found Terry Catoe, 43, guilty in the murder of Linda Gaymon, 54, according to Sixth Circuit Solicitor Randy Newman. A judge sentenced Catoe to life in prison. Catoe had been free on \$50,000 bond since late 2012, according to court records. Gaymon was found dead inside a dilapidated home on Starnes Street in the Brooklyn Avenue area of Lancaster. The cause of death was determined to be asphyxiation. The trial began Monday and the case went to the jury Wednesday.

South Carolina's top court is getting its first new leader in more than a decade. Costa Pleicones (Pluh-KOH-Nus) is being sworn in Thursday as the chief justice of the state's Supreme Court. He has been an associate justice on the high court since 2000. Pleicones replaces Jean Toal, who turned 72 last year and took mandatory retirement because of her age. Pleicones himself turns 72 next month and therefore can only spend a year as South Carolina's top judge. He has said he would like to make the bar exam two days instead of three and continue Toal's push to have legal papers filed electronically.

State senate leaders say they expect to pass a long-debated roads bill this year... although others aren't so sure. At issue is whether the state should lower income taxes or reform the Department of Transportation before increasing the gas tax. Beaufort Republican Tom Davis filibustered the bill until the end of session last year because he said its supporters weren't willing to compromise on reforming D-O-T. Senate Majority Leader Harvey Peeler says he believes a deal can be reached... as long as it includes long-term funding, a decrease in the income tax, and reforms at

D-O-T. Democrats oppose the plan, saying income tax cuts would benefit the wealthy more. The House passed a plan in April that would raise the tax on wholesale gas sales but did not include an income tax reduction.

An elementary schoolteacher reportedly found a gun in a student's wheelchair in a Chester County classroom on Thursday. The firearm was located by a teacher at Chester Park Elementary School of Inquiry on Lancaster Highway just outside the city limits of Chester, school officials said. The teacher notified her principal and the school safety officer immediately took possession of the gun. She told Chester County Sheriff's Office deputies she realized a student was sitting on the firearm after she picked up the student from the wheelchair. Officials believe that the student unintentionally transported the gun to school. School district spokeswoman Brooke Clinton said the teacher handled the issue quietly after finding the gun without disrupting school operations, which went on as usual. It's not clear who owns the gun or how it got in the student's wheelchair, and the incident remains under investigation.

The South Carolina Highway Patrol says there was a fatal single-vehicle wreck in Chester County early this morning. Trooper Gary Miller says about one a-m a 1997 Lexus sedan was traveling south on U-S Highway 321 about a half mile south of Chester when the vehicle ran off the right side of the road... hit several trees and overturned. Miller says the driver of the sedan... identified as 35-year-old Brian Anthony Hughes Hendrix... was NOT wearing a seatbelt and was pronounced dead on the scene. Miller says the vehicle was not found until daylight this morning because it was a long way from the road.

More neighbors have joined a Clover town councilman's fight against a proposed 180-foot cell tower, and are gearing up for a zoning board battle Thursday night. The tower would sit behind the former American Thread textile mill building that has been closed for decades, and directly across two streets from residences and a church. More than 30 people attended Monday's meeting and a dozen voiced objections to both the mill and the tower. Clover officials say the tower, which would become the tallest structure in the town, falls within current zoning for the property and has been designed in a way that if it fell in a disaster, it would not endanger nearby houses or people. Thursday's zoning appeals meeting at the Clover Community Center is open to the public.

Authorities in Lancaster County are investigating after a man was found dead of a gunshot wound in a truck Tuesday. The victim, whose identity has not been released, was found about two p-m in a pickup parked in a private driveway just off John Everall Road. An autopsy is being conducted today. Details about the man's death are limited. The Lancaster County Sheriff's Office expects to release more information.

Governor Nikki Haley's proposed 7-point-43 billion-dollar budget for the next fiscal year was unveiled today. Haley's budget puts an emphasis on education, public finance, public safety, flood recovery, and economic development. The proposed executive budget sets aside 165-million dollars to raise base student costs to 23-hundred dollars per student, sets aside 20-million dollars for school buses, and 13-point-5 million dollars for the state's rural teachers program. The spending plan also sets aside 280- million dollars for D-O-T road repair reimbursement.

The C-E-O of a film studio company says a public groundbreaking announcement on a proposed studio complex on the Catawba Indian Nation reservation in York County is expected next year. Bert Hesse ("e" is silent) of Studio South says it will be the largest film studio complex outside Los Angeles. Hesse says the project will be built in phases or districts beginning with the stages. Hesse says there are also plans for a high-end health spa and retreat. The 350-million-dollar project would include nine film stages totalling 250-thousand square feet. He says it will also be a tourist attraction. The first phase or district is expected to be completed by mid-2017.

One week after Gov. Nikki Haley gave the official Republican response to President Barack Obama's State of the Union address, State Rep. Mandy Powers Norrell of Lancaster will give the Democratic response to Haley's State of the State address to the General Assembly on Wednesday. House Democratic leader Todd Rutherford, D-Columbia, announced Tuesday that Norrell, who represents much of Lancaster County, would give party's formal response to the governor's remarks. Haley will speak to legislators at 7 p.m. Wednesday, to be broadcast on S.C. Educational Television and S.C. Public Radio. Norrell will speak immediately after.

Legislators are scheduled to get details on a multi-million-dollar proposal to display the Confederate flag removed from Statehouse grounds last summer. Officials with the Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum will appear Wednesday before a House budget-writing committee. Legislators voted to remove the flag from its perch at a Confederate soldiers' monument following the massacre of nine people inside a historic black church in Charleston. Police say the white gunman seen in photos with the battle flag wanted to start a race war. Last month, the museum's governing board approved a \$3.6 million plan to display the flag and renovate the space.

A special state Senate panel considering South Carolina's response to Syrian refugees will meet Tuesday. State lawmakers are considering two bills that would prevent state agencies from helping the nonprofit groups that resettle refugees until the federal government makes its security measures stricter. Another would require refugees to register with the state's welfare agency. Anderson Republican Kevin Bryant is leading the effort. He says the state should know who is being located here. Bryant admits state government likely could NOT stop the federal program... but that they could make it difficult. Two nonprofits... one in Columbia and another in Spartanburg... handle refugee resettlement in South Carolina. Both oppose the legislation. So far, one Syrian family has been settled in South Carolina. Another is going through the process now.

3-i Products, Inc., a company that specializes in the manufacturing and distribution of indoor and outdoor cushions and pillows, is establishing operations in Lancaster County. County economic development director Michael Trotter says the company is getting incentives. The company is expected to create 100 new jobs over the next five years. A newly established firm, 3-i Products has acquired an existing 27-thousand square-foot building located on more than 15 acres in Lancaster to house its new operations.

Charleston's Emanuel A-M-E Church has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. Nine members of the congregation were slain by a self-avowed white supremacist in June. In a response that stunned many, church members told accused killer Dylann Roof that they forgave

them. Emanuel's nomination came Saturday, meeting tomorrow's deadline. Others nominated include a woman who champions the rights of Islamic State rape victims, Pope Francis and the Afghan women's cycling team. The five-member Norwegian Nobel Committee typically receives more than 200 nominations for the prestigious prize, and keeps candidates secret for 50 years.

A lawsuit was filed Tuesday by opponents of a proposed cell tower in Clover against the town and its zoning board's decision in the matter. The pending lawsuit temporarily puts a stop to any potential construction until a judge rules on the suit – which could take months. The filing says that because the zoning board had an illegal member during its January hearing where residents appealed the town's approval of the tower, Clover should throw out the zoning decision and hold a new set of hearings. Clover town officials now have 30 days to respond, and then a hearing in front of a circuit judge will be scheduled after that.

A Lancaster man will spend 11 years in prison for three sexual assaults against women he knew from 2010 and 2011, according to state prosecutors. Nicholas Blake Rallings, 25, pleaded guilty Monday under an Alford plea. Rallings pleaded guilty to one count of assault and battery and two counts of criminal sexual conduct according to published reports. Rallings was originally arrested in 2010 after attempting to assault a 22-year-old woman. Then in 2011 he was charged with forcing two women, who at the time were 19 and 20 years old to have sex in incidents 10 days apart.

The Lancaster County Sheriff's Office needs help finding two men in connection with a home invasion and burglary Wednesday. The sheriff's office says in a news release that deputies were called out to the home of an older couple on Cureton Taylor Drive in the northern end of the county about 8-30 p-m. The wife told deputies she was approached by two black men wearing masks while she was outside. One of the men had a handgun... and the other had a knife. Once inside... the two men are accused of tying the husband and wife to chairs and covering their heads. The suspects left with the couple's vehicle. The couple eventually freed themselves... even though the husband suffered minor injuries during the incident and was treated and released from an area hospital.

A legislative panel ordered former South Carolina House Speaker Bobby Harrell on Tuesday to pay nearly \$113,500 within six months. In a unanimous vote, House Ethics Committee members also fined Harrell \$1,000 and publicly reprimanded their former colleague. The decision can't be appealed. The vote reasserts the panel's position last September, when it decided Harrell improperly used campaign donations in 2014 to pay his attorneys and therefore must pay an equal amount to the state. Harrell complained then he wasn't given a chance to argue why he thought the payments were within the law.

South Carolina farmers devastated by last fall's flooding could be eligible for up to \$40 million in grants to help them recover under a bill now headed to the state House floor. The House budget committee on Wednesday advanced legislation that would allow farmers in disaster-declared counties apply for up to \$100,000 in total grants. SC Farm Bureau president Harry Ott says many farmers could go bankrupt without the help. Ott said the money would cover the gap in crop insurance... versus farmers' actual losses in the flood. Some lawmakers, like Cayce

Republican Kenny Bingham, wanted to make sure the money went towards new crops... and not paying off debt. The Department of Agriculture estimates the record rainfall wiped out \$330 million worth of crops at harvest time... plus an additional \$45 million because they couldn't get in the fields to plant winter crops.

Governor Nikki Haley could appoint South Carolina's top educator under legislation approved by the House. The measure sent to the Senate on Thursday would ask voters whether the state superintendent should continue to be elected or chosen by the governor. Gov. Nikki Haley is pushing for the change. She says it's critical that the governor and superintendent work together on a shared education agenda. Haley says she works with first-term Superintendent Molly Spearman as a team, but that hasn't been the case with previous officeholders. If voters approve the constitutional amendment, the last election for superintendent would be in 2018.

The state of South Carolina has a variety of empty lots, office buildings and even property with an old fire tower that it's trying to sell according to published reports. Now the Department of Administration has hired the Columbia office of a national real estate firm to market the 45 surplus properties statewide. The Post and Courier of Charleston is reporting the real estate firm CBRE has been retained for the sales. These properties could bring in more than \$11 million before commissions. The property with the highest price tag is a three-story office building in North Charleston going for \$1.4 million. The cheapest is a quarter-acre lot in Dillon selling for \$5,000. The 10-acre fire tower site on Johns Island has an asking price of \$265,000.

Figures from the U-S Commerce Department show that for the sixth straight year... South Carolina has set a record for total export sales. The Palmetto State's export sales in 2015 totalled nearly 31-billion dollars. China remains South Carolina's top export partner... with more than four-point-four billion dollars in export sales. The other top ten export partners include Germany... Canada... the United Kingdom... Mexico... Japan... Singapore... Australia... Belgium and the Korean Republic.

The Lancaster County Sheriff's Office has received a nearly 220-thousand-dollar federal grant to create a traffic enforcement unit to focus on speeding, impaired driving and vehicle occupant protection. The funds will pay for two deputies and two fully-equipped marked patrol cars with radios... blue lights and sirens... along with in-car cameras... radars... modems and laptop computers. The money will also fund mobile radios and cell phones for the deputies. The new deputies will devote all of their time on duty to traffic law enforcement. They will be assigned to patrol at times and in areas where statistics show the highest frequency of violations and collisions.

The city of Lancaster's mayor pro tem now has the job outright. Lancaster voters elected John Howard as their new mayor Tuesday in a special election to fill the remainder of the late Joe Shaw's term, which runs through 2018. The 65-year-old Howard, who has served on Lancaster City Council for 33 years, garnered 46 percent of the vote to defeat challengers Paul McKenzie (31.6 percent), Altheresa Goode-Howard (17 percent), Anthony Elder (2.3 percent), Garrett Williams (1.6 percent) and Charles Vann Jr. (1.4 percent). Published reports say Howard wasn't on the lower level of the county administration building Tuesday night to hear the results when they started coming in, he was at City Hall, leading a scheduled council meeting.

The House budget-writing committee has advanced a spending plan that would give most state employees a 1 percent pay increase, provide \$250 million for roadwork and cut income taxes by \$130 million. Ways and Means tentatively approved a \$7.5 billion plan for state taxes that spends an additional \$300 million on kindergarten-through-12th-grade education on Wednesday. The plan includes providing teachers a 2 percent cost-of-living pay increase. Veteran teachers in 24 districts would get an additional boost. Currently, about 20 percent of teachers statewide get no credit for experience past 22 years in the classroom. The budget ensures all teachers receive an annual step increase through 23 years. The budget allows the troubled Department of Social Services to hire 160 new employees, who will primarily be caseworkers.

John Howard was elected Lancaster's new mayor this week... succeeding the late Joe Shaw. Howard had served on the city council for 33 years... and won a six-person race to complete Shaw's term... which expires in 2018. Howard tells our news partners at C-N-2 that he wants to fill empty storefronts in the city's downtown... and is looking at a plan to do just that. Howard says he also wants to organize an economic summit with surrounding cities.

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One person was killed after a single-car crash in Lancaster County Saturday afternoon, according to the S.C. Highway Patrol. It happened about 1:45 p.m. on Unity Church Road about 6 miles north of Lancaster, according to Lance Cpl. Gary Miller of the Highway Patrol. A 2011 Kia SUV was traveling north on Unity Church Road when the vehicle went off the left side of the roadway. The driver, who was the only occupant, over-corrected, causing the SUV to go off the right side of the roadway, where it struck two trees and a fence before overturning. The driver, who was not wearing a seat belt, was ejected, according to Miller. He was transported by helicopter to Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, where he died. The driver's identity will be released by the Lancaster County Coroner's Office once the family has been notified.

A former U-S-C football player who served as an aide to Vice President Joe Biden is running for the congressional seat currently occupied by Indian Land Republican Mick Mulvaney. Tega Cay Democrat Fran Person says in a You Tube video released Monday that Congress is more broken now than when Mulvaney took office five years ago. Person says he'll be a different kind of congressman. Person left Biden's office in 2014 to work at U-S-C as an assistant to University president Harris Pastides and Gamecocks athletic director Ray Tanner.

A Lancaster mother who was driving drunk when her 5-year-old daughter was killed in a 2014 crash that also injured her son was sentenced to 10 years in prison Monday after pleading guilty,

court officials said. Goldie Jackson, 27, pleaded guilty to reckless homicide in the death of daughter Justice Pope-Jackson, said Randy Newman, 6th Circuit Solicitor. In the late night incident Aug. 15, 2014, Jackson was driving on S.C. 200 east of Great Falls in Lancaster County in the single car wreck that hurt Jackson's son, 8 years old at the time.

Chester County school board member Dr. Richard Hughes has resigned, and a May 24 special election is planned to fill his at-large seat, officials said. Hughes, who holds the only at-large seat on the seven-member board, last week submitted his resignation for "personal reasons," said Terry Graham, director of Chester County elections and voter registration. Graham said Hughes will hold the seat until May 25, when the new board member will be sworn in to a four-year term. He said filing for the special election will open at noon March 14 and continue until noon March 25. Graham said Hughes was sworn into the at-large seat in January 2015, after former board member Bill Stringfellow challenged Hughes' November 2014 election. Graham said the challenge was denied at the county and state level.

The state House's budget panel is recommending that the state forgive a 12-million-dollar loan to South Carolina State University, worried that not doing so could put the school's financial future at risk. The loan came at the height of the school's budget crisis in 2014 to help it pay a massive backlog with its vendors. However, the school says it will not be able to repay the loan without major cuts. Charleston Republican Jim Merrill says lawmakers are worried the debt will hurt the school's accreditation later this year. The forgiveness would come with conditions, such as a mandatory balanced budget and a new school president. Legislators will debate the idea later this month.

By a nearly three-to-one margin... voters in Lancaster County Tuesday approved a 200-million-dollar school bond referendum. The unofficial results showed that 54-hundred-20 people voted in favor of the bond... while 18-hundred-85 people voted against it. The money from the bond referendum will be used to build a new elementary school and high school in the Indian Land area. Other projects being funded include security and technology upgrades district-wide... improvements to high school athletic facilities... construction of multi-purpose facilities... along with playground and kitchen upgrades.

South Carolina's unemployment rate remained unchanged for the sixth straight month in February at 5-point-5 percent. Closer to home York County's jobless rate held steady at 5-point-1 percent last month. Lancaster County's rate inched up a tenth of a percent to 6-point-1 percent in February... while Chester County's rate was unchanged at 7-point-6 percent. South Carolina set a new employment record in February as more than 12-thousand-500 people found work... bringing the total number of people with jobs in the state to more than 2-point-16 million.

An angry state Attorney General Alan Wilson confronted reports that his office is blocking a Statehouse corruption investigation by removing the lead prosecutor. Wilson said during a Wednesday press conference that he removed Solicitor David Pascoe because the solicitor tried to improperly obtain subpoena powers and parts of the case were leaked to media outlets. Pascoe is refusing to step aside and claims he only went public because the Attorney General's Office blocked his investigation. Wilson refuted that, saying Pascoe never contacted him. Wilson insisted only he can initiate the State Grand Jury ... which he says he would have done on behalf

of Pascoe or any other solicitor, if asked. Pascoe has asked the state Supreme Court to weigh in on whether he can be removed from the case.

The chairman of the South Carolina museum storing the Confederate battle flag removed from Statehouse grounds last summer says he doesn't expect the Legislature to make any decisions on its display this year. George Dorn also suggested Thursday that the museum's governing board take no position on a House proposal that could result in the Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum moving to Charleston. But the commander of South Carolina's Sons of Confederate Veterans says his chapter opposes that idea. Leland Summers, a board member, says the 120-year-old museum needs to stay in the state's central, capital city.

The chairman of the state Department of Natural Resources board says he and other board and agency members have toured the Haile Gold Mine being built in the Lancaster County town of Kershaw. Former Comporium executive Glenn McFadden says D-N-R is keeping an eye on the mine. McFadden says the Haile Gold Mine is using the latest technology. Oceana Gold... which owns the gold mine... says it's investing more than 300-million dollars to build it. The company says the mine will create more than 800 jobs and generate about 70-million dollars in revenue annually.