

Quarterly Programs and Issues
4th Quarter 2022 – 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:

10/02 - It's a 245 acre mixed use commercial property listed quite simply on Colliers as "Rock Hill Overlook". It is the site of what would have been the Carolina Panthers new training facility and team headquarters in Rock Hill. The property sits just off of I-77 near what will be Exit 81 in Rock Hill. According to the online listing, the property is a 245 Acre Mixed-Use Development Potential for Healthcare, Hospitality, Institutional, Multi-Family, Office, Retail, Entertainment, and/or Destination.

10/03 - Gas prices in South Carolina rose 6.8 cents last week bringing the state's average price per gallon up to \$3.23, according to GasBuddy's weekly survey of the state's gas stations. The cheapest gas in the state was priced at \$2.89 on Sunday while the most expensive was \$4.75, a difference of \$1.86. Prices in the Palmetto State are 13.6 lower than a month ago and 32 cents higher than one year ago. As of Monday morning, the cheapest gas in the Tri-County was at a station in North Charleston selling gas for \$2.93 per gallon.

10/05 - Authorities across South Carolina responded to several schools Wednesday after receiving false reports of active shooters at schools. Wednesday afternoon, the York County Sheriff's Office tweeted they are monitoring a state-wide hoax of prank calls about shootings at local schools. Authorities said it is aware of one school in York County that received a similar false report. The Lancaster County Sheriff's Office said it responded to South Middle School and Brooklyn Springs Elementary School after false reports of incidents. Deputies cleared the campuses building-by-building and found no shooter or anyone with injuries at the schools.

10/06 - A federal prosecutor has balked at an attempt by ex-Chester County Sheriff Alexander Underwood to remain free from a 46-month prison sentence, court documents show. The prosecutor said in court documents filed Tuesday that Underwood, known as "Big A," was proven in trial to be guilty of misusing money and other violations. The prosecutor wants Underwood sent to prison by next week, documents show. Underwood and former deputy

Johnny Neal were supposed to report to prison Sept. 15 to start 46-54 month sentences. But a federal judge gave each a one-month reprieve until Oct. 14, after defense lawyers asked for a bond as they appeal the convictions.

10/07 - A 39-year-old man was arrested and charged with murder in the shooting death of David Lunn, 55, on Thursday in Lancaster, police said. Officers responded around 9 p.m. to Cedar Street for reports of a person shot outside of a home. At the scene, authorities found a man lying on the ground. Lunn was confirmed dead by paramedics. Rodricas Demorrio Stewart, of Lancaster, turned himself in Sunday and taken to jail. He was also charged with possession of a weapon during a violent crime.

10/11 - Lancaster County deputies are looking for a woman who they said drove right into a local Food Lion grocery store on Airport Road Sunday. In a video taken by a shopper at around 7:30 p.m., someone can be seen throwing something at a red car and then the vehicle slams into the entrance of the store. Deputies said the driver and a customer got into an argument before the incident happened. Authorities said during the argument, the customer threw a bundle of wood at the red car and almost immediately afterward, the driver plowed into the store entrance, backed up and drove away. On Monday, the sheriff's office identified a woman on store surveillance video. They believe she was behind the wheel of the car and want to talk to her about what happened. At this point, no one has been charged.

10/16 - A former Chester County Sheriff is now in federal prison. Friday afternoon, it was revealed that Alex Underwood was reported to US Penitentiary Big Sandy in Kentucky. It comes ten years after Underwood was elected in Chester. The lawyers for Underwood had asked officials for Underwood to be placed outside of South Carolina due to his long career in law enforcement. He is however still appealing his 2021 conviction and 46 month sentence on eight felony charges. Underwood also asked for bond so he could be remained free but a federal judge denied him and set him to prison.

10/16 - A former top elected official who served as a supervisor in Chester County, Kenneth Shane Stuart has been sentenced to seven years in prison after admitting he was dealing drugs while in office. Stuart who goes by Shane, pleaded guilty Friday morning in Chester court and was taken to jail. He officially pleaded guilty to distribution of meth, conspiracy, trafficking of meth and misconduct in office. The sentencing by Judge Eugene Griffith sentenced the 49 year old Stuart on a meth distribution charge after he negotiaed a deal between prosecutors and the defendants lawyer. Chester County's supervisor at that time ran all county government offices, chaired the county council, and was in charge of the county budget. He served from 2015 to 2020 before he was dismissed from office by Gov McMaster.

10/17 - On Wednesday a charlotte area transit group will hear details about a proposed I-77 toll lane from 277 to the South Carolina border. The Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization will not take any action however they the information comes from a private firm suggesting a public private partnership to build the toll lands from Brookshire Freeway to the state line. The federally funded group coordinates plans for road projects in Mecklenburg and surrounding Charlotte counties. The meeting is set to take place Wednesday at 6 at the Charlotte Mecklenberg Government Center.

10/20 - A new study found that South Carolina is the second most dangerous U.S. state to drive in. Research conducted by personal injury lawyers analyzed the number of deaths per 100,000 people and the number of deaths per 100 million vehicle miles traveled in 2020. An index score out of 10 was given to each state in order to determine a ranking of the most dangerous states to drive in the U.S. The lower the score, the more dangerous the state. Mississippi was ranked first. The research was conducted by We Win, a personal injury law firm focused on helping individuals who have suffered devastating injuries and pain caused by car accidents, truck accidents, and other personal injury incidents.

10/20 - The York County Sheriff's Office made a sizeable drug bust after a year long investigation. The York County Multijurisdictional Drug Enforcement Unity along with the Sheriff's Office and Rock Hill Police executed multiple search warrants on a drug trafficking organization responsible for the manufacture and trafficking of fentanyl based pills and powder. Six suspects were arrested during the execution and follow up to the warrants. At least three warrants were issued with two happening in Clover and one in Rock hill. They found marijuana, mushrooms, firearms, and over 30,000 grams of fentanyl, and over 700 grams of methamphetamine.

10/24 - Gas prices in South Carolina fell 6.7 cents last week bringing the state's average price per gallon down to \$3.26, according to GasBuddy's weekly survey of the state's gas stations. The cheapest gas in the state was priced at \$2.99 on Sunday while the most expensive was \$3.99, a difference of \$1. Prices in the Palmetto State are 9.5 cents higher than a month ago and 12.7 cents higher than one year ago. As of Monday morning, the cheapest gas in the Tri-County was at a station in Moncks Corner selling gas for \$3.09 per gallon. Nationally, the average price per gallon fell 9.3 cents last week, averaging \$3.77 per gallon as of Monday morning.

10/25 - South Carolina's first-ever round of early voting for the general election started Monday with no problems at the polls, but a state website where people go to check voting locations or get a sample ballot crashed. Technicians are working to fix the South Carolina Election Commission's website at scvotes.org, agency spokesman Chris Whitmire said. In the meantime, voters can look at their ballot choices before heading to the polls at a different site. The agency's website is not linked to the state's voting system, Whitmire said. About 40,000 people cast ballots Monday on the first day of early voting, the agency said — more than twice the amount of people who voted on the busiest day of early voting during this year's primaries.

10/25 - State health officials say widespread flu activity is being reported. More than a thousand cases for the week of October 15th were confirmed in South Carolina, bringing the season's total to just over two-thousand so far. There were 41 hospitalizations reported as well for a total of 80 this season.

10/27 - Several students and a driver were exposed to an unknown substance on a school bus late Wednesday afternoon at Indian Land High School, the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office said in a news release. Police officers, fire and paramedics were called to the school at 5:12 p.m. to a bus near the bus office behind the stadium. The bus had more than 40 students on it.

A 14-year-old girl lost consciousness, the sheriff said. Other students and an emergency management service worker also showed signs that they were exposed to the substance.

10/28 - Authorities in Lancaster County are searching for a man after he allegedly attempted to rob and shot another person on Tuesday evening. According to the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office, deputies responded to the Evans Drive near Highway 521 around 6 p.m., where they found a man suffering from a gunshot wound to his back. Deputies and Lancaster County EMS rendered aid to the victim before he was airlifted to a hospital. His injuries are said to be serious and he remains hospitalized. Later in the evening, investigators discovered that the victim, the shooter and a third person had left a local convenience store in the same vehicle shortly before the shooting occurred. Officials said that after leaving the store, the three people drove to Evans Drive where the shooter, identified as 49-year-old Timothy Alan Waters, attempted to rob the victim and shot him. The sheriff's office said that Waters and the other man left the victim in the roadway and fled the scene. The vehicle has since been located and processed by authorities. Waters is still on the run and is considered 'armed and dangerous.' Anyone with information about this or any other case should call the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office or contact Midlands Crimestoppers.

10/28 - The New Indy Paper Mill in York County is responding to claims that its facility is leaking cancer-causing pollution into the Catawba River.

A report is claiming cancer causing Die-oxin, as well as other pollutants, are being released into the Catawba River from the plant and residents are threatening a lawsuit and demanding the mill to clean it up, New Indy officials say "New-Indy Catawba denies the baseless accusations that were irresponsibly made in the report". it goes on to say that small amounts of Dioxin was left on the property by the previous owner, a byproduct of the bleaching process used by the Bowater Mill to make white paper. That practice was discontinued nearly 20 years ago."

South Carolina DHEC says its aware of these allegations and are in the process of reviewing the report. They added to date, DHEC has reviewed extensive data that shows no indication of the release of these pollutants into the Catawba River.

10/31 - A possible win for South Carolina tax payers in the ongoing bankruptcy court case with York County and David Tepper's real estate companies. A federal judge ruled monday that York County will have an \$81 million dollar stake the upcoming fight with the Carolina Panthers Owner. The back and fourth is over who will be paid after the failed headquarters project in Rock Hill. Judge Karen Owens said that she is giving the County a temporary voting stake of 81 million because "the county and the City are in danger of being left without a voice in the case of GT Real Estate." She went on to say that she is concerned with the danger of disenfranchisement of the county and city. The reason why having this stake is important to creditors is that businesses who say they are owed money, will vote on a bankruptcy proposal from GT Real Estate.

11/02 - A Lancaster County School District employee has been arrested for allegedly assaulting someone on school property, authorities confirm. According to the district, the victim was not a student. A warrant alleges in September, Samuel Sinclair touched someone's backside at Erwin Elementary School. The warrant says Sinclair, 35, then blocked the door and attempted to kiss

the victim when they tried to leave. Police charged Sinclair with second-degree assault and battery. Lancaster schools said Sinclair is on paid suspension until the investigation is complete.

11/03 - The two people suspected of five murders that stretched from Missouri to South Carolina have pleaded guilty and will spend the rest of their lives in prison. Tyler Donnet Terry and Adrienne Simpson agreed to pleas on only two of the murders along with other shootings in Chester and York Counties. This coming in exchange for prosecutors not seeking the death penalty. The murders took place in May of last year. Simpson was captured after a police chase in Chester in which six officers were fired upon. Terry fled into the woods for nearly a week that brought on a manhunt of 350 officers and several agents before he was eventually found. 6th Circuit Solicitor Randy Newman of Chester called it a "killing spree". Both Individuals still have pending charges in Tennessee and Missouri.

11/04 - The Department of Justice has submitted the final consent decree regarding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency actions on the New-Indy odor situation to the U.S. District Court in South Carolina for review and approval. The decree states that New-Indy "has been cooperative in complying with the EPA Order, agreeing to this Court's injunctive "Consent Order" and its extensions, and agreeing to the Consent Decree and penalty without protracted litigation." In other words, the mill has met or exceeded all requirements in the EPA's directive to address recent odor problems. The EPA also found that New Indy Catawba's pollution levels are well below the amount needed to be dangerous. All of this however still has to be approved by the court.

11/08 - After a dozen meetings and sessions over the summer and fall, South Carolina lawmakers are almost out of time to do something to change the state's abortion laws during a special session prompted by the overturning of Roe v. Wade. A conference committee of state senators and House members will meet one last time Wednesday morning to try to sort out a compromise between the House, which wants a near total abortion ban, and the Senate, which wants to tweak the current law that amounts to a ban about six weeks after conception. The full Senate is set to meet an hour after the committee to consider anything that passes with the House set to go into session Thursday if anything gets through the Senate.

11/08 - It was a happy night for the Clover School District as the school bond referendum passed for the district. The \$156 million dollar bond will pay for a new high school and its athletic fields. The vote yes passed with just over 51% of the vote. And the turnout was much larger than last fall when it originally failed. The payments for the bond will be spread over a 20 year period and would raise property taxes by \$8.66 per month per \$100,000 of assessed home value. The proposal for a new high school would be completed by the 2026 school year.

11/08 - Some new faces will be in the State House representing York County. For District 48, which is Bruce Bryant's old seat it was Brandon Guffey defeating Andrew Russell. Another new face will be in district 46 which will see Heath Sessions fill in the big shoes of Gary Simrill who held the position for nearly 30 years. Not just a new face but a brand new district was crowned as David O'Neal defeated Carla Litrenta for District 66. Also last night saw incumbents John King in District 49 win, along with Raye Felder defeating Robert Vilardebo.

11/09 - Republican Ellen Weaver who will become the state's next superintendent of education. Weaver defeated Democrat Lisa Ellis out of the Midlands area for the position taking 56% of the vote statewide. Weaver hopes to hit the ground running after the first of the year when her term begins. Weaver is the founder of Palmetto Promise Institute and is a Greenville native.

11/09 - The Lancaster County Sheriff's Office says they are continuing to investigate the substance found on a school bus this past October that was believed to have made several students, the bus driver and an EMS worker sick. Deputies say the cause of the symptoms experienced by the students, bus driver and the EMS worker has not been determined at this time. Reports last month said the students and the driver were released with no further incidents. Officials say investigators collected samples of a suspicious powdery substance found on the floor near the back of the bus and are waiting on testing results from SLED.

11/10 - The U.S. Department of Justice has asked a federal judge to deny confirmation of a bankruptcy proposal by GT Real Estate. A confirmation hearing on the bankruptcy proposal is scheduled for Nov. 16. Judge Karen Owens has not responded to the request. GT Real Estate is the company Tepper created to develop the headquarters in Rock Hill. Construction was stopped last March and GT Real Estate filed bankruptcy this past June. York County and Rock Hill have pending lawsuits in the matter. Last week Judge Owens issued a court order, giving York County a temporary voting stake of \$81 million because the county, and city of Rock Hill, were in danger of being left without a voice in the bankruptcy case.

11/14 - A 56-year-old man who was reported missing has been found safe, according to the Lancaster Police Department. Police said Jeffrey Lowell Phillips was last seen around 3 p.m. Sunday on Clinton Avenue. Shortly after 7 p.m., police announced that Phillips had been located.

11/15 - The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division announced a woman was arrested for sex crimes that took place in 2017 and 2018 involving a minor. Dena Nicole Rollings Orrell, 35, of Lancaster, S.C. was charged with three counts of criminal sexual conduct with a minor – second, and three counts of incest. Arrest warrants say sexual battery started in the fall of 2017 and went through at least August of 2018.

11/17 - A 1.1 Million dollar fine has been approved in federal court against the New Indy. The paper mill generated nearly 50,000 complaints in less than 2 years. The US District Courts action happened Thursday. It finalizes and requires the New Indy paper company to improve what its doing with operations in York County,. Officials hit the company with a fine last December but needed a courts approval. On Thursday, they actually had the option of either increasing or decreasing the fine. The odors, which some have said smell like rotten eggs have been described by neighboring residents worse than other smells normally linked to paper mills. New Indy has stated they have made progress in resolving the issue.

11/22 - President Biden is approving federal aid for parts of South Carolina hit by Hurricane Ian. The federal funding aims to help those impacted by storms from September 25th to October 4th in Charleston, Georgetown, and Horry Counties. Grants will be available for temporary housing, home repairs, and some uninsured property losses. Applications for assistance can be submitted at [disaster assistance dot gov](https://disasterassistance.gov).

11/22 - A new poll shows a majority of South Carolina adults support legal medical and recreational marijuana. The latest numbers from the Winthrop Poll taken from October 22nd through November 9th shows 78-percent of adults in the state support legalizing medical marijuana prescribed by a doctor. The poll says 54 percent of South Carolinians support recreational pot use.

11/23 - Ralph Norman announced he will oppose Kevin McCarthy for speaker, the fifth GOP lawmaker to threaten his bid. The Republican leader's odds of attaining the speakership are getting tougher. Norman said he agreed he is a "hard" no vote against the California Republican, dismissing that he will either vote present or not attend the speakership vote early next year. The South Carolina Republican said he primarily took issue with McCarthy's plans to fix the national debt. During a conference meeting last week during the nomination of the speaker, Norman said he asked McCarthy if he agreed to the Republican Study Committee's seven-year plan for addressing the budget. And according to Norman, McCarthy replied "no." For him, that was it, he said.

11/24 - The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating a helicopter crash that killed two people Tuesday afternoon in south Charlotte. Just before noon Wednesday, investigators cleared the wreckage on Interstate 77 and moved it to an offsite facility. NTSB said to protect the integrity of their investigation, they will not reveal that location. Two WBTB employees, meteorologist Jason Myers and pilot Chip Tayag, were killed in the crash. Investigators told Channel 9 that they will be spending time with the manufacturers of the helicopter and its engine, in hopes of learning what happened. The NTSB said it will release a preliminary report in two to three weeks. Investigators said the probable cause of the crash and any contributing factors will be in the final report, which can take from 12-24 months to be completed.

11/25 - Three coastal counties in South Carolina have been declared disaster areas from damage from this fall's Hurricane Ian, allowing people to get federal money for repairs and assistance. President Joe Biden approved the disaster declaration this week for Charleston, Georgetown and Horry counties after a request from Gov. Henry McMaster. The announcement allows residents and others to apply for relief money through the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Hurricane Ian struck South Carolina around Georgetown on Sept. 30 after causing extensive damage as a much stronger storm in southwest Florida. Seventeen homes were destroyed and 232 suffered major damage in the storm, according to the South Carolina Emergency Management Division.

11/29 - A trial to determine whether South Carolina's congressional maps are legal closes Tuesday with arguments over whether the state Legislature diluted Black voting power by remaking the boundaries of the only U.S. House district Democrats have flipped in more than 30 years. The trial also marks the first time the South Carolina maps have been legally scrutinized since the U.S. Supreme Court removed part of a 1965 law that required the state to get federal approval to protect against discriminatory redistricting proposals. A panel of three federal judges will hear closing arguments in the case in Charleston. A ruling is expected later. The Republican-dominated General Assembly redrew the maps early this year based on the 2020 U.S. census, and they were used in this month's midterm elections. According to a lawsuit filed by the

NAACP, the new boundaries unconstitutionally split Black voters in the state's 1st, 2nd and 5th Districts and packed them all into the 6th District, which already had a majority of African American voters.

12/01 - Officials with the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office say the investigation into what caused several students and their bus driver to be sick after being exposed to an unknown substance on a bus back in October has been closed. This comes after the department received results from SLED forensic testing of a suspicious powdery substance found in the bus after students experienced mild symptoms. The results revealed no controlled substances or any other substances that could have caused the various symptoms were detected in the samples. The incident happened in late October when first responders were called to a school bus at Indian Land High School after several bus riders and their driver were exposed to an unknown substance. A 14-year-old female student lost consciousness. Other students had symptoms of exposure.

12/04 - Democrats voted Friday to remove Iowa as the leadoff state on the presidential nominating calendar and replace it with South Carolina starting in 2024, a dramatic shakeup championed by President Joe Biden to better reflect the party's deeply diverse electorate. The Democratic National Committee's rule-making arm made the move to strip Iowa from the position it has held for five decades after technical meltdowns sparked chaos and marred results of the state's 2020 caucus. The change also comes after a long push by some of the party's top leaders to start choosing a president in states that are less white, especially given the importance of Black voters as Democrats' most loyal electoral base.

12/05 - Flu numbers remain high in South Carolina. The state health department reported over 32-hundred new cases during the week of November 20th, which closely mirrors the number of COVID cases. There had been just under 680 flu cases reported during the season at this time last year. There have been more than 32-thousand this year.

12/06 - Gov. Henry McMaster announced Monday afternoon, the popular video-sharing social media platform TikTok will now be blocked from South Carolina government devices. The governor requested to block the platform from all state government electronic devices in a letter to the South Carolina Department of Administration Executive Director Marcia Adams. The Department of Administration is a cabinet agency which utilizes "shared services and centralization to help agencies efficiently and securely carry out common government functions." This can include internet services, managing mobile devices, computers, and other online devices at state agencies, with a focus on cybersecurity. The governor has continuously encouraged state agencies to partner with the Department of Administration to allow the state's cyberinfrastructure to be managed comprehensively. The letter to Executive Director Adams outlined Gov. McMaster's requests for an account of agencies not currently utilizing shared services.

12/07 - The National Transportation Safety Board released its preliminary report Tuesday in the helicopter crash in Charlotte on Nov. 22 that killed two WBTV employees, meteorologist Jason Myers and pilot Chip Tayag. The Robinson R44 was in flight to train the a staff meteorologist over a simulated news scene. The helicopter left the WBTV heliport at 11:50 a.m. and flew south

for about five minutes over Interstate 77. Tayag performed three 360-degree turns and on the last one, the helicopter “entered a rapid descent” and crashed in the grass next to the interstate, the NTSB report stated. Tayag was in contact with the air traffic controller at Charlotte Douglas International Airport at that time. There were no calls of distress, the NTSB said. The NTSB took the wreckage to examine further.

12/07 - The South Carolina Department of Revenue is giving taxpayers an early Christmas present. The department recently finished distributing tax rebates to more than one-million eligible taxpayers. The most anyone will receive is 800-dollars. All in all, the total amount of rebates sent equals 942-million-dollars.

12/08 - Someone fired shots near a Duke Energy station in South Carolina early Wednesday morning. Authorities are not sure whether or not the facility was targeted. According to the Kershaw County Sheriff, the shots were not fired directly at the plant, no damage has been done to the property and no one was hurt. According to Channel 9 Duke Energy shared a statement saying, “We are aware of reports of gunfire near the Wateree Hydro Station in Ridgeway SC. No individuals were harmed. There are no outages reported. There is no known property damage at this time. We are working closely with the FBI on this issue.”

12/08 - Rural communities are getting a boost in South Carolina and across the country. Agricultural Department Secretary Tom Vilsak says nearly a billion dollars is being invested in such areas as affordable housing and technical assistance. South Carolina will get 37 million dollars directed to businesspeople and entrepreneurs.

12/09 - The Lancaster County Sheriff’s Department has charged a 16-year old Buford High School student with carrying a Pistol, Possession of a Firearm on School Property, Simple Possession of Marijuana, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Deputies say the administration at Buford High was investigating violations in the parking lot and the handgun was found during a search for other contraband. Authorities say no one was threatened.

12/13 - Investigators in Lancaster County say a woman was killed by her partner over the weekend in Kershaw. According to the Lancaster County Sheriff’s Office, four children ran to a neighbor’s home on West 3rd Street and said that their father shot their mother just before noon Sunday. Deputies arrived and took Hurley D. Braddy into custody after he walked out of the house. Another deputy went inside the house and found a woman dead on the floor of a bedroom. That same deputy also found a one-year-old child unharmed and sitting in a high chair in the kitchen. The sheriff’s office said no one else was in the home, and the five children were placed with a family member later in the day. Braddy was arrested and taken to the Lancaster County Detention Center, according to the sheriff’s office. The sheriff’s office says Braddy is facing charges of murder and possession of a firearm during the commission of a violent crime. He’s being held without bond.

12/14 - Yet another hurdle in the bankruptcy court case with York County and David Tepper's real estate companies. On Wednesday a judge said she cannot approve the latest settlement plan involving the failed practice facility in Rock Hill. However, the judge said she could not approve the settlement. She took issue with third party releases that would keep creditors from

pursuing legal claims against third parties. Under the settlement proposal, the county would drop all complaints against the Tepper owned companies. If the judge had approved, York County would have gotten back more than 21 million dollars of taxpayer money spent on the project. Panthers owner David Tepper's company, GT Real Estate, would pay another \$60 million to settle with contractors. This is in addition to the \$20 million settlement with the City of Rock Hill. The judge added she was open to suggestions of alternative means. A second hearing is set to take place at 1pm on Thursday.

12/16 - A federal judge approved the bankruptcy settlement from a David Tepper owned company that ends officially the 5 month long back and forth battle over the failed Panthers headquarters project in Rock hill. At one time it was hailed as a massive economic development for the area to bring jobs and put Rock Hill on the map nationally for sports and tourism. However, all that ended with lawsuits. The Judge handling the case, Karen Owens commented saying its a "momentous day and a great result, benefiting all parties and interests. This is the same judge who demanded that the City, along with York county, its taxpayers and other entities like the contractors all get a fair deal. GT Real estate will pay York County the \$21 million it paid for the project. Rock Hill will now get the title to the land which is worth more than 20 million. As for the contractors, they will get \$60 million. While the deal IS approved by the court, any part does have 15 days to appeal if they so choose to do so.

12/19 - The Lancaster County Sheriff's Office says skeletal remains that were found near Heath Springs were those of Thomas Edward Hannah, Jr. 59 who was first reported missing on November 21, 2021. The Sheriff's Department said deputies were dispatched to the Beaver Creek Road area around 10:30 am on Sunday, December 11 by a deer hunter tracking a deer who came across skeletal remains over a small area along with a shoe and clothing. The report says, "Lancaster County Coroner Karla Deese believes Mr. Hannah's medical conditions rendered him disoriented, and exposure to the elements and low temperatures led to his death."

12/20 - 30 year old Mackie Bryon of Lancaster has been arrested and charged for leaving the scene with death, driving under suspension and wreckless homicide. Lamont Stewart, 59, was riding his bicycle south on Springdale Road near Summit Avenue when a vehicle hit him and left the scene, according to a press release issued by the Lancaster County Coroner's Office. Police found Bryon's 2001 Chevrolet pick-up and placed him under arrest.

12/22 - The Chester Healthcare Foundation has awarded a \$5,000 grant to NAMI for expanding educational classes and support to the county. In the new year the NAMI Basics Class will be available to families and caregivers dealing with children living with mental health and behavioral and emotional concerns. In a press release, it stated that Chester Healthcare Foundation remains committed to raising awareness and providing support to those who live with a mental illness, their families, friends, and loved ones. They also invite all of the Tri-County to reach out for their services.

12/22 - Duke Energy is preparing for severe winter weather and is urging its customers to do the same.. Duke says a mix of rain and high winds could cause power outages as below-freezing temperatures move into the region and their lineworkers, damage assessors and vegetation crews

are ready to respond. Duke Energy is encouraging customers to prepare in advance for extended outages, and check on loved ones.

12/25 - A bill referred to the House Ways and Means Committee would give South Carolinians the opportunity to take a ride to space. South Carolina State Representative Neal Collins (R-Pickens) pre-filed a bill that would create the Blue Origin Flight Lottery Commission. The commission would then create an annual lottery that would allow a South Carolina resident to fly on a Blue Origin flight. The commission would be tasked with creating the lottery along with the eligibility criteria for the lottery. The criteria would include encouraging careers in the field of science, technology, engineering or mathematics. The commission would be required to report its activities and eligibility criteria no later than one year from the time the bill is signed.

12/28 - A cold storage facility developer is nearing a construction start on a large project in York County. Council approved the third reading for amendments to the Lazy Hawk Planned Development District last week. The amendments were sought by an entity affiliated with Karis Cold, an Illinois-based developer seeking the approvals for a cold storage industrial facility there. The developer is planning a 277,785-square-foot facility at the site off Lazy Hawk Road, along Interstate 77. The investment project would be around 80 million with construction set for next month and hopes to be completed by the first quarter of 2024. The site overall is 40 acres and was acquired for 2.3 million.