

Quarterly Programs and Issues
2nd Quarter 2020 – 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:

04/01/20 - Suspended Chester County Sheriff Alex Underwood filed for reelection for a third term as Chester County Sheriff. Underwood was indicted last year on federal charges, including civil rights violations. Prosecutors said he filed a false police report and lied to authorities to justify jailing a man who refused to stop videotaping following a police chase, prosecutors said. He also faces state charges that he took money meant to pay overtime for his deputies and had officers convert his barn into a flashy man cave while they were on the clock, according to prosecutors. Underwood has pleaded not guilty in both cases. He was allowed to file because only candidates who have been convicted of a felony cannot run for office and Underwood has yet to be convicted.

04/01/20 - There's bad news for some Bon Secours Mercy Health workers. Bon Secours announced that workers who are not directly involved in the response to the Coronavirus outbreak will temporarily furloughed or re-deployed for anywhere between 30 and 90 days, but will be paid through April 3rd----the company said the move will affect those who are unable to work due to temporary closure and cancellations in primary care, outpatient and surgical services, and support service associates who are not directly working on COVID-19 activities----also, hiring for positions not directly impacting COVID-19 care response have been suspended.

04/02/20 - As businesses considered nonessential close across South Carolina to fight the coronavirus, state health officials are coming under increased scrutiny over information it isn't gathering or releasing about the spread of the virus. For a brief time last week, the Department of Health and Environmental Control released the number of COVID-19 cases in each ZIP code. But less than a day later, officials replaced it with a list that included only ZIP codes where there had been at least one case. State health officials also are not tracking how many health care workers are infected, and have been reluctant to share the addresses of known cases with emergency dispatchers. They appeared to backing off the latter policy, however. Local authorities have said they need that information to better protect

first responders and conserve protective gear, which is in short supply. Health officials have reasons for all of their decisions. But eventually it all comes back to their desire to get the public to understand that for every diagnosed COVID-19 case, a shortage of tests means there are a lot of people who probably have the virus but have not been diagnosed, meaning people need to act like anyone they encounter is infected and protect themselves.

04/02/20 - Nearly 65,000 people filed for unemployment benefits in the state during the week of March 22-28----the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce says that's a rise of nearly 109-percent from the previous week's 31,000 claims----nationally, a record 6.6 million claims were filed by Americans who have lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 crisis.

04/02/20 - Hotels in South Carolina are still open, but many are closing. This comes as Governor McMaster's executive order to close non-essential businesses went into effect yesterday. Hotel owners say less than 10-percent of their rooms are filled, whereas they normally have over 80-percent occupancy this time of year. The Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism says 50-percent of hospitality industry workers could be laid off, furloughed, or terminated.

04/06/20 - Governor Henry McMaster has issued a home or work order, requiring people to stay home unless they are visiting family, exercising, or obtaining essential goods or services. The order was given due to the rising rate of infection of the coronavirus along with the rising rate of non-compliance. The order goes into effect on Tuesday evening at 5 p.m.

04/08/20 - Hospitals in the center of the fight against COVID-19 are struggling, officials said. They've been asked by multiple states to limit the number of nonemergency patients, elective surgeries and outpatient procedures they perform to limit exposure to the virus. That has created tremendous financial pressure on hospitals, officials said. Effective Tuesday at 5 p.m., the 82-bed MUSC Health Chester is not admitting any patients and there are dozens of layoffs. In March of 2019, the MUSC hospital system bought Springs Hospital in Lancaster and Chester Regional Medical Center. It was announced Tuesday that the Chester and Lancaster hospitals would see 60 of the system's proposed 900 layoffs. The hospital said only outpatient surgery and emergency room services are still open. However, if someone needs to be admitted, they'll be transferred out of county to another hospital. They expect the reductions to last through the month of June. MUSC said the Chester hospital is not closing.

04/08/20 - South Carolina's Legislature is trying to meet as quickly and safely as possible Wednesday to assure they can come back after the peak of the coronavirus and figure out the state budget, education and anything else they consider important. In a state where the governor recently made it illegal for three or more people to gather outside of families or essential businesses, leaders of the South Carolina House and Senate said they had little choice but to call the 46 senators and 124 House members into session now or abandon their power because they are scheduled to adjourn May 14. Health officials warned there is a distinct possibility that this is the safest week to meet at the Statehouse before the May 14 adjournment because COVID-19 cases continue to rise in the state. Both chambers will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before lawmakers arrive at 1 p.m. Wednesday. Not all lawmakers will be there. At least two Democratic senators have said they are staying home to protect their families. Democrats also

suggested meeting at a larger place, checking everyone's temperature before entering the Statehouse and quarantining lawmakers for 14 days after Wednesday's meeting.

04/09/20 - The South Carolina Legislature's attempt to meet as quickly as possible Wednesday to assure the state can keep operating while they stay out of session and safe from the peak of the coronavirus outbreak ran into a familiar roadblock in a surprising way. Several senators opposed a bill to allow the state to keep spending money if it doesn't pass a budget by the end of June because it placed restrictions on state-owned utility Santee Cooper. House Speaker Jay Lucas said the failure of negotiations over Santee Cooper meant the House and Senate also couldn't reach an agreement to set the parameters of any special session needed after the May 14 deadline in the state constitution for the session to end. And the Senate altering the House's bill means the House will have to come back in session and deal with the new proposal before June 30 or risk the state can no longer spend money. The House approved the bill 108-0 and then left after an hour of debate.

04/13/20 - Late Sunday evening, South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster renewed the state of emergency that was already in place, It is now extended for another 15 days. The previous order was set to expire yesterday. This new order will remain in place until at least April 27th. It will maintain previous orders such as closing dining room restaurants, closing "non essential" businesses, and closing certain public facilities.

04/14/20 - SC-DHEC is reporting the first coronavirus related death of a patient from Lancaster County. The patient was an elderly individual with underlying health conditions. The death is one of ten additional deaths announced on Tuesday. 8 of the individuals were elderly with underlying health conditions from Aiken, Berkeley, Clarendon, Lancaster and Lexington Counties. One was an elderly individual with the presence of underlying conditions still under investigation, from Richland County. The other was a middle-aged individual with underlying health conditions from Horry County. SC-DHEC is also reporting 115 additional cases of COVID-19, bringing the state total to 3,553. Of those new cases 2 are from York and 1 is from Lancaster. York County now has a total of 138 cases, Lancaster County has 67 and Chester County has 20.

04/15/20 - Governor Henry McMaster announced this week, that the state will soon have a plan in place to "rejuvenate" and "revitalize" South Carolina's economy. The Governor said the goal is to get the economy going again but did not give a timeline of when that would take place. He did however promise to unveil the plan soon and says he will work with businesses and health officials to figure out how and when to reopen our state.

[X:/newsaudio/041520-McMaster1.mp3] :25 Q: when to take em'.

The Governor said compliance with his executive orders has been good, but now is not the time to let up. South Carolina continued to clean up Tuesday from the state's deadliest tornado outbreak in 36 years. Nine people were killed as a series of twisters moved from one end of the state to the other Monday morning. Gov. Henry McMaster toured the damaged areas from the air on Monday. Meteorologists have counted at least nine tornadoes and said more are likely to be

added as they continue to carefully trace damage paths that in some cases spread across several counties.

04/16/20 - The Palmetto State has again set new records in unemployment claims. According to federal records more than 87-thousand South Carolinians filed for unemployment benefits just last week. This on top of the more than 85-thousand people the week before. The state department of labor has seen an overwhelming workload of unemployment insurance claims since Governor McMaster first issued a pandemic state of emergency on March 13th. Media outlets are reporting as the numbers of those seeking benefits continues to grow, the governor has signed an order to allow furloughed employees to be allowed to receive unemployment benefits.

04/16/20 - Monday's tornados have resulted in action from Gov McMaster. The Governor declared a state of emergency on Wednesday in response to the devastation that resulted from Monday morning's severe weather-----local emergency management officials are investigating and assessing the damage caused by the storm----at least 3 tornados were confirmed to have touched down in the Palmetto State----that included an EF-2 level twister that moved through EH-dis-toe Beach----officials with the National Weather service say it's likely it started off the coast as a waterspout, and then moved inland and touched down with winds of 125 mph.

04/17/20 - Officials said a man's body was found after a house fire Thursday night in Chester County. Firefighters responded around 9:15 p.m. to reports of a fire at a home on Old York Road. Deputies said once the fire was put out, the body of 56-year-old Charles Davis was found inside the home. The Chester County Sheriff's Office, the Chester County Fire Service, the SC Law Enforcement Division and the Chester County Coroner's Office are investigating. No additional information has been released.

04/20/20 - Around 11-percent of the South Carolina labor force is without a job. This comes as Palmetto State residents lose their jobs during the pandemic. Nearly 88-thousand people in the state have filed for unemployment in the first week of April. The agency has processed over 268-thousand claims.

04/20/20 - All hurdles have been completed and hoops have been jumped through to bring the Carolina Panthers new team headquarters and practice facility into Rock Hill. Project avalanche passed York County Council last evening with a 4 to 3 vote at their virtual online meeting. Councilwoman Love voted in favor of the ordinance and said she was voted in to represent the taxpayers and business owners and she takes that very seriously. Councilman Michael Johnson voted no on the deal. He was against the additional 800-plus acres, but said what the Panthers do on the original 230 acres is a good thing. Panthers COO Mark Hart spoke at the meeting and said this is a great economic story that will provide a shot in the arm to many businesses in York County. Many citizens expressed concerns about their properties being taken in the additional 800 acres of the deal. The Panthers would only own parts of that acreage should someone decide to sell it to them. Then and only then would the same incentives from the original piece of land apply to that new piece of land. Councilmembers Hamilton, Blackwell and Roddey also voted in support of the deal while Winkler and Cox opposed it. Full audio from the meeting can be found on our website or Facebook page.

04/20/20 - South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster said Monday he is canceling orders that closed beaches and limited some retail businesses. McMaster said he is letting mayors and city council make their own decisions about opening public access to beaches, piers, docks, ramps, etc. Groups of three people or more are not allowed and will be dispersed. Beaches may reopen Tuesday at noon. The governor also canceled his order to close retail businesses except for pick-up and delivery. That cancellation goes into effect at 5 p.m. Monday. However, the stores must adhere to previous mandates that require an occupancy limit of five customers per 1,000 square feet or 20% of posted occupancy limits, whichever is less.

04/21/20 - A major tire manufacturing plant has furloughed hundreds of workers in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak. Giti Tire, which operates a 1.7 million-square-foot tire manufacturing plant in Richburg, S.C., sent a WARN notice to the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce on April 3 saying it would furlough 636 employees at the Chester County plant.

04/23/20 - South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster announced Wednesday morning, during a press conference, that schools will not re-open this academic year. McMaster, who was joined by State Superintendent Molly Spearman, noted that most of the state's individual superintendents agreed with the move. The decision to close schools also ends any hopes of restarting high school athletics. Spearman was asked about the status of summer school and fall sports training (which begins over the summer) and she responded that a decision would be made at a later date, but they are extremely optimistic about both. Students will continue with e-learning until each district's final day of instruction.

04/24/20 - A resurgence of South Carolina's economy will require ensuring the public that it's safe to go back to work, shop and dine, and that means businesses won't look the same as they did before COVID-19 caused waves of voluntary and forced closures. An advisory team that's part of Gov McMaster's Accelerate South Carolina initiative had its first meeting Thursday. The group that gathered was organized by the Governor and tasked with coming up with a plan to help re-ignite the state's economy from the Coronavirus pandemic. Lt. Governor Pamela Evette spoke and said she's optimistic about what they can achieve.

04/24/20 - The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee is leading a lawsuit against the South Carolina Election Commission to allow residents to vote by mail in elections through the end of the year amid fears that coronavirus-related social distancing mandates will still be in place in the coming months according to a report in The State newspaper. Though Gov. Henry McMaster has begun a process of reopening South Carolina's economy in hopes of returning the state to some semblance of pre-pandemic normalcy, there are fears McMaster is moving too quickly and anxieties about whether another outbreak of the virus could come back in the fall. The S.C. Legislature, however, would need to vote to change the date of the primary election and McMaster has signaled he is opposed.

04/26/20 - A converted Boeing 747-400 Large Cargo Freighter touched down at 10:30 a.m. Sunday morning at Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport . It marked Boeing's second coronavirus-related cargo transport mission on a company-owned aircraft so far. Gov. Henry McMaster and other state officials were at the airport to greet, and celebrate, the arrival of the Boeing Dreamlifter transporting the the 1.3 million medical-grade 3-ply surgical face masks with

ear loops. More than a million of the masks were delivered from China to South Carolina. The Personal Protective Equipment, or PPE, will be distributed among Prisma hospitals and medical facilities across the state to shield health professionals treating patients with COVID-19, according to Prisma spokeswoman Tammie Epps in a press release. U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham was in attendance and noted the happy occasion should not let elected officials lose sight of the “surreal” fact that the state had to rely on China for the masks.

04/27/20 - The Bojangles restaurant on N. Main Street in Lancaster, on Friday closed when it learned of the positive COVID-19 test of an employee according to company and state health officials. The employee last worked on April 22, and is self-isolating while recovering. Bojangles notified the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control about the positive test, according to the company and Lancaster County officials. The store had only been open for pickup orders since March after Gov. Henry McMaster closed all dining rooms under a state of emergency. Company officials say the Lancaster store will reopen once all precautionary measures have been taken to ensure the well-being of employees and customers. All employees at the store will be paid while the restaurant is closed,

04/27/20 - Governor Henry McMaster Monday announced the postponement of elections scheduled for May 5th and May 12th. This includes elections for the Lancaster County School Board and a special election for the City of Chester.

04/28/20 - While businesses are starting to slowly spring back into action in the state, a state of emergency has nonetheless been extended again. For the 3rd time since declaring a state of emergency in South Carolina on April 6th, Governor McMaster has extended his executive order for another 15 days...until May 12th...unless the order is modified, amended or rescinded---the Governor said that people still need to stay at home as much as they can, and encouraged people to go out only when it's necessary to do so---he also said his “home or work” order may be canceled before this current state of emergency ends.

04/29/20 - South Carolina counties now have a faster method to test for the Coronavirus. D-HEC is helping to expand COVID-19 testing capabilities by deploying rapid-testing devices and supplies to areas where testing for the virus may be limited. South Carolina received 15 of the Abbott ID NOW COVID-19 rapid-response test devices from FEMA, and distributed them to health care facilities last week. The extremely high-in-demand device uses the same nose swab method as traditional testing. A health care provider collects the patient's specimen, enters the specimen into the device, and results are provided in 15-20 minutes.

04/30/20 - Make it 2 consecutive weeks now that the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce has seen a decline in 1st time unemployment claims---in the week ending April 25th, there were more than 65,000 initial jobless filings, which represented a decrease of nearly 8,000 claims from the prior week---however, despite the drop, the state nonetheless still has a record number of unemployed people--- In the past six weeks, over 400,000 have filed initial claims.

05/01/20 - A new state task force focused on public schools convened on Thursday. Created by South Carolina Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman, AccelerateED met virtually for

the first time on Thursday-----concentrating on plans for students returning to their actual school buildings this summer and in the fall, the group discussed a myriad of topics as the dark cloud of the COVID-19 crisis hung over it----the stated first priority of the task force dealt with the health and well being of students and teaching staff, as well as making sure to create an environment where they felt safe-----for the group, that also included whether or not everyone will wear a facemask, as well as if body temperatures will be checked at the door of schools.

05/01/20 - South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster announced on Friday that he has lifted the statewide 'home or work' order, effective today. Removing the order allows for on-site, outdoor dining at restaurants. The dining will follow the regulations set forth by the S.C. Restaurant and Lodging Association. McMaster also lifted the Executive order, which required visitors from hotspot areas to self-quarantine for two weeks upon arrival. He says decisions about other businesses including, theaters, gyms, hair salons and concerts will come in 'due course.'

05/03/20 - People in South Carolina are flocking to state parks and beaches as the state prepares to end its coronavirus stay at home order. The parks were reopened Friday after more than a month, and many reported full parking lots Saturday. Beach webcams showed hundreds of people sunbathing, tossing footballs or playing in the surf along the Grand Strand, where hotels were reopened Friday.

05/04/20 - Those who may be having trouble paying their rent due to the pandemic won't have to worry about being evicted for now. Renters will get a reprieve at least until August. SC Chief Justice Donald Beatty extended an order that told property managers to forgive missed rent payments until May 15. The order meant halting evictions and foreclosures. The Myrtle Beach Sun News reports additionally, the federal CARES Act bans properties financed by federal mortgages and subsidies from facing eviction until Aug. 24. The moratorium was put in place because of the statewide economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

05/05/20 - A newly-formed committee is looking for relief for small businesses. A panel of lawmakers has formed the COVID-19 Small Business Regulatory Relief Committee. They held a virtual meeting yesterday to review regulations and see how they can help small business owners. They will meet again next week and are asking small business owners across the state to send them input.

05/06/20 - The state has begun an important on-line tool for citizens in the comeback from the Coronavirus pandemic. At the 2nd meeting of the accelerateSC group on Monday, Gov. Henry McMaster announced the launch of the initial phase of the website accelerate-dot-SC-dot-com---the Governor said it will provide Palmetto State citizens direct access to easily connect with COVID-19 related information----the one-stop-shop website contains an "I Need To..." drop-down feature, and also allows users to link to information sources for other topics, such as guidance on unemployment, masks and face coverings, and tele-health providers

05/07/20 - South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster said in a press conference yesterday that the state could see more reopening by the end of the week. Although no concrete information was given, McMaster said they want to be careful and make sure the loosening of restrictions

does not risk public health. He added that for awhile the state has been chasing the virus and they have now turned the tables.

05/08/20 - U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham today visited Milliken & Company in Pendleton to discuss the urgent need to strengthen the United States medical supply chain and increase production of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in this country instead of relying on imports from nations like China. The Milliken facility produces medical gown fabric to support healthcare professionals. Next week Graham will introduce legislation in the Senate to spur manufacturing in the United States by creating domestic procurement requirements for the nation's medical stockpile. Graham said that in addition to being too reliant on China, China is also not a reliable supply chain. Yesterday American officials were forced to withdraw approval from more than 60 Chinese manufacturers who were trying to pass off defective products like N-95 masks. One Chinese mask only filtered out between 24 and 35 percent of particles, well below the 95 percent standard that gives N95 masks their name.

05/11/20 - The South Carolina Legislature returns again Tuesday to assure the state can keep running during the coronavirus and with a long list of requests for laws to deal with the fallout of the pandemic. Next week was supposed to be the final week of the 2020 session except for possibly a few special session days to tidy up things. The most conservative members of the House may also try to take up a bill taking on Gov. Henry McMaster's emergency powers. Under state law, the governor cannot declare a state of emergency for longer than 15 days without the General Assembly's permission. But the governor said lack of action by the Legislature, which didn't meet during much of the pandemic, is a way of giving him permission to act.

05/11/20 - With less than a month to go until South Carolina's June 9 primaries, election officials around the state are stocking up on protective gear, training a dwindling group of poll workers on how to properly sanitize voting locations and bracing for the possibility of both longer lines and later results than usual. Some counties are hundreds of poll workers short of the amount they would need to have all of their voting locations fully staffed, prompting Gov. Henry McMaster to offer potentially mobilizing the S.C. State Guard to help fill some of the vacancies while counties launch last-minute recruiting efforts.

05/13/20 - Governor McMaster has extended South Carolina's Coronavirus-related state of emergency-----according to a release from his office, McMaster has ordered the continued closure of all public schools in the state and non-essential employees for the duration of the State of Emergency, which will end when the Governor either rescinds it or changes it----if he does neither, the order will conclude on May 28th-----The penalty for not following the order is a fine of up to \$100 or up to 30 days in jail.

05/15/20 - The South Carolina Senate rebuked Gov. Henry McMaster for part of his coronavirus response, saying he should have gotten permission from lawmakers to continue the state of emergency for the pandemic over two months. The resolution rapping McMaster's knuckles Tuesday was the last order of business on what appeared to be the last day of a regular session where they had only met two days in the past two months. McMaster's office called the resolution an "academic exercise" as the governor dealt with threats and dangers that changed

every day from the coronavirus and the state of emergency was needed to make sure state agencies could coordinate with each other.

05/15/20 - South Carolina's governor is urging residents to patronize local businesses shuttered for weeks during the coronavirus outbreak, albeit with appropriate safety precautions. Monday marks the date on which businesses like hair salons and fitness centers can reopen across the state, where more than 486,000 unemployment claims have been filed in the last two months. New weekly claims have declined as McMaster has gradually lifted orders that had restricted businesses deemed nonessential in an effort to stem the spread of the virus, which as of Thursday afternoon had caused 371 known deaths in South Carolina, according to state public health officials. Thus far, more than 8,100 positive tests for COVID-19 have been reported in the state.

05/19/20 - The exact number is still unknown, but many South Carolinians say they have still not received unemployment benefits weeks after applying for them----Governor McMaster is aware of the delay, and is saying that anyone who has not yet received a check will get all the money they are entitled to retroactively.

05/20/20 - State leaders are recommending attractions be reopened to the public starting Memorial Day weekend. The Director of South Carolina Parks, Recreation and Tourism says opening swimming pools and other attractions will prevent all of the crowds from being in the same place. This comes after a large crowd gathered along the Grand Strand this past weekend.

05/20/20 - South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster plans to sign an Executive order allowing several state attractions to open, effective Friday, May 22, in time for Memorial Day weekend. Those tourist attractions include bingo halls, social halls, go kart tracks, museums, aquariums, ice skating rinks, zoos and more. Restrictions have not been lifted on nightclubs, bowling alleys, racetracks, theaters, concert halls and at spectator sports. The Executive order also lifts restrictions on day camps and athletic activities. McMaster says little league, soccer, lacrosse, flag football – recreational & athletic fields and public playground equipment can resume on May 30th and games can resume on June 15th.

05/26/20 - South Carolina residents voting absentee by mail this June will not have to have their signature witnessed on the ballot return envelope. Election officials will accept absentee ballots regardless of whether or not the witness signature is there. This after a U-S district judge ruled that having to find a witness would increase the chance of spreading or contracting COVID-19. Voters still have to sign and date the voter's oath on the return envelope. The removal of the witness signature requirement applies just to June 9th primaries and June 23rd runoffs -- and not to any other elections going forward.

05/28/20 - South Carolina Congressman Jim Clyburn joined up with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi yesterday in once again criticizing the Trump administration over coronavirus testing. During an event at the Capitol, Speaker Pelosi said the administration's latest plan on testing and tracing was deeply flawed---Clyburn, the House Democratic Whip, then offered this opinion on Trump's testing and tracing policy. Following Clyburn's remarks, New Jersey congressman Frank Pallone said the administration needs to appoint someone to oversee a national response to the pandemic.

05/29/20 - South Carolina is extending its State of Emergency. The latest order was set to expire Wednesday, but Governor McMaster signed a new declaration. The State of Emergency now lasts through June 11th. It's the sixth such executive order McMaster has issued in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

05/29/20 - The South Carolina High School League will allow member schools to have workouts and training for student athletes this summer. The League is providing guidelines for returning to practice that were put together by a task force of athletic directors, coaches, superintendents, and the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee. Once academic activities are allowed again, athletic programs will be asked to follow a three-phase plan. The first phase is to create cleaning schedules for athletic facilities, have athletes wear appropriate clothes and shoes to prevent sweat from getting onto shared surfaces, and to only have 10 people in total-- including coaches, athletes, and staff-- when gathering.

06/01/20 - South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster called for peaceful protests throughout the state on Sunday hours after protests turned to vandalism and destruction in Charleston and Columbia Saturday night, though he warned South Carolinians that the National Guard and law enforcement - from county to state level - are "on alert" to help should violent protests continue. U.S. Senator Tim Scott backed McMaster's insistence that people express their outrage peacefully. McMaster, who on Saturday night said on Twitter "outside agitators" were to blame for Saturday's events turning violent, reinforced that notion on Sunday. There is "no doubt" that outside forces infiltrated South Carolina, he said, citing communication with law enforcement officials.

06/03/20 - South Carolina residents are voting by-mail in what could be record numbers ahead of this month's primary. So far, 113-thousand people in the Palmetto State have opted to vote-by-mail, and the absentee by mail record was about 140-thousand people in November of 2016. The state Election Commission says about 80-percent of all absentee votes statewide are by-mail. The primary is just one week away.

06/04/20 - South Carolina health officials issued a warning Wednesday that people who go to graduations, businesses or other recently opened places and aren't careful about wearing masks or social distancing may be contributing to an increase in COVID-19 cases in the state. But they also said the state likely won't shut down businesses again, saying damaging the economy doesn't help anyone. People need to take responsibility for their own safety, they said. South Carolina started reopening the state about a month ago and Gov. Henry McMaster has suggested he doesn't plan on closing businesses again even if infections rise.

06/04/20 - South Carolina's Legislative Black Caucus has called for hate crime legislation and changes in police practices in light of the death of George Floyd. Saying that too many black Americans have been killed by police, Chairman Jerry Govan Jr. spoke in front of the Governor's office on Wednesday in expressing the need for a state Hate Crime Bill-----South Carolina is 1 of 4 states in the nation without one-----he also asked law makers to ensure that the state's police body camera mandate law is fully funded and upheld in all departments

06/05/20 - A karate instructor in Lancaster has been accused of inappropriately touching students. Victims said the incidents happened in March, in his studio, Universal Karate, on East Gray Street. James White, 64, was charged with two counts of second-degree assault and battery. Several students filed complaints with the Lancaster Police Department, officials said. Arrest warrants accuse White of putting his hand down a female student's shirt and later pulling her shirt up. Another student accused White of brushing his hand against her chest and making a sexual comment. Officials said White turned himself in to police.

06/08/20 - Bond was denied Friday for three brothers from Lancaster who were charged with human trafficking. Sheriff's deputies say the brothers picked up a 15-yr-old runaway and forced her into sex acts, giving her cash and drugs. She managed to get away. Charged are David, Chris, and Michael Hayden.

06/09/20 - A South Carolina state lawmaker is calling for the removal of a State House statue memorializing a figure whom defended lynching, killed, and disenfranchised Black South Carolinians, according to a historian. WLTX is reporting the Columbia Democrat also wants a committee to review other monuments on the State House grounds. He also called on Governor Henry McMaster to denounce the monument. In a statement Monday afternoon, Governor Henry McMaster's Communications Director Brian Symmes wrote the following: "The Heritage Act provides a good framework for how to deal with these issues - it preserves historical monuments while allowing South Carolinians to voice their concerns through thoughtful and democratic debate among their elected representatives. That debate has proven to be important in the past and needs to be prioritized in making these decisions in the future."

06/09/20 - Prisma Health, the state's largest hospital system, has and will continue to eliminate jobs to streamline its operations in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic to better position itself for financial challenges facing the health-care industry, officials have told The Greenville News. Two other Upstate hospital systems - Bon Secours St. Francis and AnMed Health - said they've not had to eliminate jobs, though each placed employees on furlough after Gov. Henry McMaster asked hospitals to limit elective procedures to keep hospital beds free in case they were needed to treat COVID-19 patients, an order that has since been canceled.

06/11/20 - A spokesman for Gov. Henry McMaster said the governor does not intend to reinstate any restrictions on businesses in South Carolina even as the state has seen a sudden surge in new COVID-19 cases in recent days. Wednesday, McMaster made it clear that he would not be re-implementing measures to restrict businesses, require people to wear masks, or restrict the movement of South Carolinians. Both the governor and DHEC have urged residents to follow social distancing recommendations.

06/11/20 - The SC-Accelerate education subcommittee has published draft guidelines on how they plan to resume school in the fall. The guidelines include personal protective equipment protocols...social distancing in classrooms and on buses. Possible changes include longer school days and lunch periods, staggered arrival and dismissal, one way hallways and staff training on new sanitation and health guidelines. The plan also suggests adding a nurse to each school using money given to the state through the CARES act. The task force is asking school districts to survey parents and students to see if any parents are uncomfortable with sending their child back

to school. Schools are also asking Districts to develop a plan that would allow a student to participate in remote learning only.

06/11/20 - South Carolina set a record for the highest single day increase in confirmed coronavirus cases as SC-DHEC announced 687 new cases. 21 of the cases are from York County, 10 are from Lancaster County and 3 are from Chester County. The total number of cases since the pandemic began is 16,441. 4,791 people were tested for the coronavirus on Wednesday and 14.3% tested positive. The recovery rate for the virus remains at 80%. 13 additional deaths were also reported. 10 occurred in elderly individuals and 3 occurred in middle-aged individuals. The death total is now 588.

06/12/20 - A new audit on the South Carolina Department of Commerce's incentive program finds a lack of transparency and oversight. The Legislative Audit Council's audit was from January of 2019 to September of 2019. They found incentives approved for 676 different companies, giving millions of dollars in tax breaks in exchange for the businesses creating new jobs or making investments. The audit found that verifying figures relied on an honor system to determine how many jobs or investments a company claims to make.

06/12/20 - The accused Florence mass shooter is in court yesterday on what's now officially a death penalty case. Frederick Hopkins was served death penalty papers by Florence County Solicitor E.L. Clements. The accused 74-year-old shooter faces two murder charges and five counts of attempted murder for the 2018 ambush of several law enforcement officers. Sergeant Terrence Carraway and Investigator Farrah Turner were killed while trying to serve a search warrant on Hopkins' son.

06/15/20 - South Carolinians are continuing to have to shell out more money at the pump. Triple-A reports the average price for a gallon of regular unleaded in the Palmetto State is now \$1.85. That's about 12 cents higher compared to just a week ago. It's also more than a quarter more expensive than this time last month. Experts say the increase is due to more demand as states ease coronavirus restrictions.

06/15/20 - Alan Wilson...South Carolina's Attorney General has asked federal prosecutors to review a Chester shooting where a police officer fatally shot a black man in the parking lot of a local Walmart. Chester police released bodycam video of the incident on Friday. Wilson's office back in March claimed the officers were acting in self-defense. Police along with the State Law Enforcement Division said that Ariane McCree, escaped custody despite being handcuffed and had a gun pointed at police when he was shot. Wilson said in the interest of the community and full transparency they are asking an outside agency to review their findings.

06/17/20 - As coronavirus cases in South Carolina have reached record numbers in recent days, leaders in the state's capital city are mulling a requirement that people wear masks in public. Asked about the possibility of imposing such a requirement in South Carolina, Gov. Henry McMaster - himself a former state and federal prosecutor - has often expressed concerns about infringing on civil liberties, instead stressing the importance of people taking responsibility for their actions. "No ma'am," McMaster said last week, in response to a reporter's question about possibly considering such a requirement. "There are some limits to what we can do and what we

can enforce. ... At this point, the answer is individual responsibility. It's not mandates by the government."

06/18/20 - A state Senator wants to make Juneteenth a statewide holiday for South Carolina. Democratic Senator Darrell Jackson of Richland County is planning to propose legislation that would allow state office and government entities to be closed on that day. The holiday recognizes June 19th of 1865 when slaves in Texas are believed to be the last to be told that they were freed. The day is already designated as a "Special Day" in South Carolina, since 2008.

06/21/20 - A person has been killed in a shooting in Chester County, deputies said. The shooting happened on Doe Street in the Richburg area. The victim's identity has not been released at this point. This is an ongoing investigation. No other details have been released.

06/22/20 - The state of South Carolina has released their plan to reopen public schools in the fall. The plan includes three phases...one for full in classroom learning, one for full remote learning and a third for the combination of the two. The plans will be fully dependent on the current status of the coronavirus in South Carolina when fall rolls around. The plans will be rolled out in four phases, which each take into account social distancing guidelines. The first is Immediate Action where Districts must determine the current state of the school and what they would need to return. The second is Summer Planning and Preparation. The Districts and General Assemblies must set guidelines for the schools to follow. The third is pre-opening, which ensures students are prepared for the year to come. And the final step is reopening, which brings students back to school with a plan to prevent the spread of the virus. Plans will be up to the individual school districts. The General Assembly this week will be debating an item that includes the possibility of bringing students back 5 days early in order to review what they missed at the end of last year. Spearman will also be seeking a federal waiver to eliminate standardized testing in the Spring. She added that her number one priority is the safety of the students.

06/23/20 - Three people have been charged after a man was found dead from a drug overdose last year in Lancaster County. 26-year-old Timothy Taylor Wash's mother reported him missing to the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office on Sept. 8, 2019. She said Wash did not return home after work as he usually did. Two days later, deputies said they found Wash dead from an overdose in the backseat of his Ford Escape in a parking lot on Wylie Street. Deputies later learned after work, Wash went to a house on South York Street, where he took drugs and became unresponsive. Deana Gibson, 37, Rakevius Nesbit, 31, and Samuel Wright, 31, were all there with him, but did not get him medical help. Deputies said instead they all loaded him into his SUV and then Gibson and Nesbit drove him to a parking lot and abandoned him there with the doors closed and windows up. Deputies have charged all three with kidnapping and involuntary manslaughter.

06/26/20 - The Chester County's Sheriff's Office is responding to a bomb threat Friday morning at a manufacturing plant. Deputies said they were called around 10:15 a.m. to the Carolina Poly Plant on Lancaster Highway in Chester for reports of a bomb threat. The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division's bomb squad was also called in for assistance. The plant has been evacuated, said Ed Darby, deputy director of Chester County Emergency Management.

06/26/20 - A 48-year-old Lancaster man was struck and killed by a vehicle Wednesday, according to the Lancaster County Coroner's Office. Kevin Mark Shute was hit at about 11:13 p.m. at the intersection of Airport and Golf Course roads. He died at the scene.

06/29/20 - A 19-year-old woman was killed Monday afternoon in a multi-vehicle wreck, the Lancaster County Coroner's Office said. It happened at about 1:11 p.m. on Highway 9 just before the Chesterfield County line. Alaysia Railey, of Pageland, died at the scene. The Highway Patrol is investigating the crash.

06/30/20 - The Lancaster County Airport has received 913-thousand dollars in grant money from the Federal Aviation Administration. The money will aid the airport in the installation of its runway, a vertical visual guidance system and apron rehabilitation. Lancaster was one of 15 South Carolina airports to receive funding. Airport Manager Paul Moses said part of the improvements involve a new lighting system to improve visibility for larger planes as they approach the runway.