

Quarterly Programs and Issues
4th Quarter 2019 – 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:

10/01 - The University of South Carolina is continuing efforts to improve rideshare safety after a student was killed. Samantha Josephson was found dead in a wooded area of Clarendon County in March after entering a car she thought was an Uber she had ordered. Now, students who visit Five Points, where Josephson was leaving, are being more mindful of rideshare app dangers. UofSC police helped educate incoming students by having rideshare safety instruction at orientation.

10/01 - Some school bus drivers working for Orangeburg County School District are on strike. A group of drivers reportedly gathered at the district office yesterday to express concerns over a payroll issue. The lack of bus drivers meant that parents were called to pick up their children from school yesterday. The school district has not yet confirmed how many schools are affected.

10/01 - The National Transportation Safety Board has finished their investigation of a fatal train crash in (Kay-See), Cayce. A 90-page report was released yesterday on the 2018 incident that killed two people and injured 90 others. The report blames CSX for using a signal suspension, and says the failure to detect a switch in the wrong position caused the crash. The NTSB also found the CSX conductor failed to properly reposition the switch for the main track.

10/01 - A serious wreck Monday afternoon on Pageland Highway (Highway 9) involved a Lancaster County school bus carrying 14 students, officials said. The crash near South Potter Road had the highway shut down. Bus 59, which was carrying Buford Elementary School students, was stopped to let students off, the Highway Patrol said. The chain reaction started when a logging truck hit a stopped Kia SUV that was behind the bus. The Kia was pushed to the side of the road when it flipped and hit a Honda Accord going in the opposite direction. Someone standing at the bus stop was hit by flying debris from the wreck. The logging truck continued off to the side of the road and hit several trees before it stopped. Two students and one bus driver

were taken to a hospital with minor injuries. Three people, who were in other vehicles, were airlifted to hospitals.

10/04 - Workplace violence is running rampant in SC healthcare sector according to a new report. According to a study done by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, incidents of serious workplace violence are four times more common in healthcare than in the private industry...WCBD Tv in Charleston reports The Medical University of South Carolina reported 133 incidents of workplace violence in 2018. 99 of the incidents reported involved patients. The station also reported that despite the staggering numbers, South Carolina is one of a handful of states without added legal protections for health care workers. South Carolina Senator Thomas Alexander has introduced a bill that would make unlawfully injuring a healthcare professional during work an Assault and Battery of a High and Aggravated Nature offense.

10/07 - Haz-Mat Crews were on the scene at the Lancaster County Water and Sewer plant on Riverside Road where there was a chlorine gas leak this morning. The leak was stopped and there were no injuries according to officials. No evacuation was necessary. Hazmat crews were remaining on scene until air testing shows the area is safe.

10/09 - The 2019 school report cards that were released Oct. 1 by South Carolina's Department of Education and Education Oversight Committee show mixed results for York, Chester and Lancaster County schools. Rock Hill's three high schools each were rated "Average." York Comprehensive High School and Clover High School ranked "Good". Indian Land High School achieved an "Excellent" score, Andrew Jackson High School and Buford High ranked "Good" and Lancaster High School ranked "Below Average". Both Nation Ford and Fort Mill High School were ranked "Excellent". Catawba Ridge High School in its first year was not included in the report card.

10/09 - Grading has yet to begin at a secluded wooded area that the Carolina Panthers will someday call home. A lot is happening behind the scenes, however, to push the massive development project forward. Days ago, hundreds of neighbors in the Hutchison Place community got a letter from the family that owns the land, which is also the land they bought a piece of to build their homes. The letter is an invitation to a community meeting on Oct. 17. The invitation details plans for development on 234 acres, including a practice facility, offices, sports and entertainment venues, hospitality, recreation and retail. The letter calls the project "truly transformative." Panthers owner David Tepper has been spotted touring the area on a golf cart, and the team has said publicly they want to break ground at the site by April. Rezoning, annexation and land development agreements need to be approved to get to that point. There are also some local tax incentives still on the table that York County leaders haven't taken a vote on yet, but that's expected soon, too. Leaders in Rock Hill expect the Panthers will wait to sign on the dotted line until the needed changes are made. As far as the plans for the city, the rezoning issue will go before the Rock Hill Planning Commission on Nov. 9. The first City Council vote could be on Nov. 25. If all goes as planned, the vote could have a final vote on Dec. 9.

10/10 - Deputies have identified a burned body that was found in a ditch last month in Chester County. They said Melissa I. Whitis, 31, was found dead on Sept. 20 on Lizzie Melton Road near Old Richburg Road. Her body had been burned and dumped in a ditch. Officials said Whitis

is from Kentucky and has no ties to the area, but she was last seen alive on Sept. 17 near Interstate 40 in Davie County, wearing yellow pants, a gray coat, and a knee brace, with her hair pulled up in a knit cap. Whitis had several distinctive tattoos, which deputies used to identify her. She had a couple tattoos on her face, including the word "Loyal" over her right eye, five five-pointed stars in a crescent shape pattern under her right eye, a heart under her left eye and a five-pointed star on the right side of her neck. Deputies said she also had the word "Blessing" tattooed on her stomach, "SEXY" on her right thigh and the names "Ethan" and "Emily" on her right foot. She also had a medical condition that required a medical device, which had been placed in her cranium, according to the sheriff's office. Her official cause of death has not yet been released.

10/11 - South Carolina is sharing more information about opportunity zones. Over 300 people gathered at the Greenville Convention Center yesterday to learn more about investing in the areas. They include 130 places across the state, including Greenville and Spartanburg. The zones are in designated communities where investors get tax breaks for creating jobs or affordable housing.

10/13 - A chase through two counties ended with a Union County sheriff's deputy shooting a suspect in South Carolina Saturday afternoon. The incident began with a burglary call in progress on Plyler Mill Road, south of Monroe in North Carolina, authorities said. The alleged burglar tried to hit a Union County deputy with a car and a chase began, which led to Lancaster County, South Carolina. The suspect's car stopped near Camp Creek and Plyler Mill roads in Lancaster County, and he got out to confront the Union County deputy. Authorities said the suspect told the deputy to, "Shoot me." When the deputy did not shoot him, authorities said the suspect returned to his car and appeared to reach for a gun. The suspect was taken to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries and is expected to be OK.

10/14 - An arrest has been made in the shooting of a girl from Rock Hill was shot late Wednesday outside an apartment complex in Fort Mill last week. The shooting happened around 11 p.m. Wednesday in a parking lot at an apartment complex near Forest Ridge Road st U.S. 21. A 16-year-old male from Chester was arrested Friday and is being charged with attempted murder according to Maj. Bryan Zachary of the Fort Mill Police Department. The suspects name has not been released and he is being held at the S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice in Columbia, The victim, who has not been identified, was shot in the abdomen and underwent surgery and is expected to recover.

10/14 - 31 year old Breante Deon Stevens, who is charged with two counts of murder, eight counts of assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature, and weapons violations in connection with the Sept. 21 shooting at the Ole Skool club in Lancaster made his first court appearance this past Friday. Stevens waived extradition Oct. 3 after he was arrested in Florida. He was returned to Lancaster this past Thursday and made his first court appearance Friday via video teleconferencing from the Lancaster County Jail. Stevens said he could have been killed in the shooting incident, according to statements he made Friday before Lancaster County Magistrate Doug Vecchio. Stevens also said he will not plead guilty.

10/15 - A safety review is being done at the South Carolina State Fair, after about a dozen people were injured Saturday night. The victims were hurt while trying to leave in a panic, after false reports began circulating about a shooting. Some of the injured say the exits were hard to find.

10/15 - 23 year old Justin Jamar Bates, a former Chester County jail officer fired last month after working at the detention center for two years was booked on sex and drug charges. Bates was out on bond yesterday from this past Friday's drug arrest by Chester Police Department officers when he was re-arrested Monday by South Carolina state agents for having sex with an inmate. If convicted of the misconduct charge, Bates faces as much as 20 years in prison under South Carolina law. The SLED investigation began last month after information was received by Chester County officials.

10/17 - Chester police confirmed there is a suspect on the loose Wednesday after a deadly shooting. Authorities were called to the scene on Dawson Drive during the early evening hours. The SLED helicopter and a K-9 unit are assisting in the search. No further information has been released.

10/18 - Chester police said they caught the man who is charged with shooting a man to death Wednesday evening. Officials said 24-year-old Brentton Timmons was charged with murder in the shooting of 21-year-old Dewayne Wilson Jr. Authorities were called to the area of Lowry Street and Jeter Street during the early evening hours, where they found Wilson who had been shot. He was taken to the hospital but did not survive. The SLED helicopter and a K-9 unit helped with the search but no other information has been released. Anyone with information about this crime is asked to call the Chester Police Department at 803-377-2100.

10/23 - Authorities in South Carolina have charged a second man in the shooting death of a mail carrier on her route. Williamsburg County deputies announced 27-year-old Jerome Davis was arrested Tuesday in North Charleston and charged with murder in the death of 64-year-old Irene Pressley. Deputies released no other information about the arrest, citing a federal investigation. No federal charges have been filed, but federal officials say their investigation is continuing. Authorities say Pressley was found dead Sept. 23 in her U.S. Mail vehicle with a number of shell casings nearby in Williamsburg County. Deputies have already charged 22-year-old Trevor Seward with murder and investigators said his fingerprints were found on mail near Pressley's body. Court records did not list an attorney for either Pressley or Davis.

10/23 - Senator Lindsey Graham is defending President Trump's claim that the House impeachment inquiry is a "lynching." Pressed by reporters at the Capitol, Graham called Trump's tweet accurate. The South Carolina Republican said -- this is un-American." He called the impeachment inquiry a sham and a joke. Graham chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee. He vowed to "make sure it doesn't live very long in the Senate" if the House approves articles of impeachment.

10/24 - Deputies said a 2-month-old boy has several broken bones after his father dropped him on the ground twice. Deputies said LaBrian McCrorey of Chester admitted to dropping his son on a concrete kitchen floor, causing a skull fracture and then again inside his home on Carolina Drive, causing a broken femur. According to arrest warrants, the baby was examined at

Columbia Hospital where doctors also found four newly broken ribs, along with two older rib injuries and scratches on the child's head and neck. Deputies said McCrorey initially told officials he didn't know how the baby got hurt. He's charged with inflicting great bodily injury on a child.

10/25 - President Donald Trump will revisit a signature bipartisan win on criminal justice reform when he speaks Friday at a South Carolina conference that will also feature weekend appearances from some of his Democratic presidential challengers. Trump's speech at historically black Benedict College in Columbia will allow him to highlight administration efforts to reduce the federal prison population and boost rehabilitation efforts. Ten Democratic presidential hopefuls will speak at the weekend forum in the key primary state. It's a chance to connect with black voters who view sentencing laws for drugs and other nonviolent offenses as disproportionately harsh toward minorities. Trump will have the stage to himself Friday. The event's organizer, the 20/20 Bipartisan Justice Center, is presenting Trump with an award for his work on criminal justice reform.

10/28 - A group called the Coastal Conservation League is joining other South Carolina environmental groups in a federal lawsuit. They are suing the Trump administration's head of the Environmental Protection Agency and the US Army Corps of Engineers. The lawsuit claims the federal agencies have unlawfully tried to reverse the protections established by the Clean Water Rule of 2015. The law was designed to keep the nation's waterways free of pollution.

10/29 - Boeing CEO Dennis Muilenburg is testifying before the Senate Transportation Committee on the safety of the 737 MAX airplane. The plane was grounded more than seven months ago after two deadly crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia. Speaking at the Capitol, Chairman Roger Wicker said both accidents were "entirely preventable." Ranking Member Maria Cantwell said Boeing cannot prioritize profits over safety and there must be transparency about the review process before the MAX is returned to the air. Muilenburg apologized to family members of victims sitting in the committee room, adding that the devastating accidents will live with Boeing forever and they are committed to improving the safety of their planes. The hearing is being held exactly one-year after Lion Air Flight 610 crashed into the sea after taking off from Indonesia. The North Charleston plant is where the design and assembly of the 737 max is done.

11/04 - Officials are confirming seven more cases of mumps at the College of Charleston, bringing the total number of cases to 18 since the state declared an outbreak in September. The state Department of Health and Environmental Control said the first case was confirmed on September 17th, and the cases involve both vaccinated and unvaccinated people. The DHEC says common symptoms of mumps include fever, headache, muscle aches and loss of appetite.

11/05 - Voters are at the polls today for local races around South Carolina. And this will be the first chance most will have to use the state's new polling machines. The state spent 51-million dollars for the upgrade. With the new machines selections are made like normal, but then a ballot is printed and submitted so there's a paper record in case of recounts. Seven candidates are vying for three seats on the Myrtle Beach City Council. Incumbents Michael Chestnut, Mary Jeffcoat, and Phil Render are up for re-election. They are being challenged by Edward Carey, Charles (Gas-Cue), Gasque, John (Crutch), Krajc, and former council member Wayne Gray.

Polling locations in Myrtle Beach close at 7 p.m. today. A Charleston City Council candidate is filing a complaint after some voters received fake robocalls. Marie (Del-Choppo), Delcioppo says the calls gave false information about her campaign. An incident report was filed on Sunday about the calls. The calls say they are from "The Friends of Marie Delcioppo," but she says the calls are a violation of federal law.

11/07 - As the South Carolina state delegation prepares to return to session in January one of the items on the agenda will be tax reform. State representative Gary Simrill said for 80 different state school Districts it is a partnership between the local District and state when it comes to teacher salaries. Simrill said during their last pay plan many Districts in South Carolina went beyond what the state had offered.

11/08 - Deputies are trying to piece together what happened after a man was found dead Friday morning on a Chester County road. The unidentified man was discovered on Appaloosa Road near Richburg. Officials have not said how the man died.

11/08 - Eight more cases of mumps have been found on the College of Charleston campus. That brings the total to 26. Officials say most of the cases are no longer infectious, but the outbreak remains a concern. Those who have never received the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine, are urged to receive the full two-dose MMR series as soon as possible.

11/11 - This weekend South Carolinians paused to remember a little girl whose life ended way too soon. Five-year-old Navaeh Adams was laid to rest in Sumter. She and her mother were murdered this summer, but it took several weeks to find her body in a landfill. Investigators say the suspect arrested for the crimes has confessed.

11/11 - In preparation for the growth that continues to pour into the area Chester County...they will be constructing a 100-thousand square foot spec building. Karleesa Dean Parker is the Director of Chester County Economic Development and talked about where the building will be located. The 20 acre parcel will be about 6 million dollars. Parker will be retiring from her Director position at the end of the year.

11/12 - Republican Mark Sanford says he is ending his longshot 2020 presidential bid. The former South Carolina governor and congressman centered his Republican primary challenge to President Donald Trump on warnings about the national debt. But he has struggled to gain traction since announcing his run in September. The longshot effort became even harder as a handful of state parties canceled their primaries and other nominating contests, including in Sanford's home state of South Carolina. Sanford's decision to end his run comes little more than a week after he moved his campaign's "home base" to New Hampshire.

11/13 - A South Carolina man has pleaded guilty in federal court to embezzling more than \$1 million over three years from a company that sells dumpsters. U.S. Attorney Sherri Lydon said in a statement Tuesday that 39-year-old William Tye Grisel created fake companies to charge the waste management call center Big Red Box for falsified marketing services. Grisel, an information technology manager, was originally indicted on 153 counts of wire fraud and fraud involving a computer. He pleaded guilty to wire fraud and has yet to be sentenced. The Justice

Department says the maximum sentence for wire fraud is 20 years. The State reports Grisel's fictitious company was registered to his father's Texas address and billed Big Red Box up to thousands of dollars per month for work it didn't perform.

11/13 - 51 year old James Matthew Alman, the Lancaster man who beat his wife to death with a hammer in 2017 will spend the rest of his life in prison. Alman pleaded guilty to murder Tuesday in court in Lancaster. Prosecutors said he beat Mildred Arnold, 58, to death with a framing hammer in October 2017. Alman appearing in court, said no apology is enough to justify his brutal attack on his wife. The attack was so brutal that police found blood in the kitchen, bedroom and living room according to testimony. Alman had previous convictions for assault on a female, larceny, breaking and entering, and other crimes, and was out on bond for several property crime arrests at the time he beat his wife to death. His attorney said in court that Alman committed the killing while under the influence of alcohol and drugs.

11/13 - An almost two-billion dollar budget surplus is expected in South Carolina next year. This year, a surplus was used to give taxpayers a 50-dollar rebate, plus state workers got a two-percent raise. Next year, the money could go toward an increase in teacher salaries, repairs for aging public buildings, or improving prisons.

11/14 - 47 year old Valerie Lynn Dunn of Lancaster, pleaded guilty Tuesday in Lancaster County court to involuntary manslaughter and was sentenced to 5 years in prison. Court documents said that Dunn gave a lethal drug dose to a person who died. She had originally had been charged with distribution of heroin in the incident, according to police and court documents. But the charge of manslaughter was added after it was determined that the heroin contained fentanyl. Under South Carolina law, involuntary manslaughter is defined as a death of criminal negligence with reckless disregard of the safety of others. The maximum penalty for a conviction is five years under state law.

10/15 - An upstate teen will spend the rest of his life in prison. Jesse Osborne was sentenced yesterday for the elementary school shooting in Townville three years ago that killed six-year-old Jesse Hall. Osborne also killed his 47-year-old father. He was just 14 at the time of the crimes. Osborne and his attorneys have ten days to appeal his sentence after he pleaded guilty to the crimes back in December.

11/18 - Lancaster County investigators are still trying to find out who shot and killed a ten-year-old. Dylan Twitty was found on the ground between two mobile homes on Coastal Way in Lancaster Friday afternoon. Investigators say they don't believe it was a random act.

11/18 - Chester County residents finally had their boil water advisory lifted this morning. The advisory had been in effect for more than a week when the break happened to a 30 inch water pipe near Fort Lawn. Initial repairs were made when a tapping valve broke causing additional repairs to be required. Some Chester County residents may continue to see discolored water, according to the Chester Metropolitan District which provides water to the county. Residents should flush their faucets before resuming regular water use and discard ice made before 8 a.m. Monday.

11/20 - The church that was the site of a mass shooting is cleared of accusations of mishandling donation funds. There's no evidence of wrongdoing in the way Mother Emanuel AME handled millions of dollars in donations. SLED was asked to examine what the Charleston church did with the money donated by people across the country, after several were killed during a mass shooting in 2015. Some expressed concern that not all the money was given to the victims. The church reportedly kept nearly two million dollars of donations for building maintenance, an endowment, and a memorial and then split the remaining one-point-five-million dollars among the victims and their families.

11/21 - Senator Lindsey Graham announces the release date for a report on allegations about supposed Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act -- or FISA -- warrant abuse during the 2016 election. Speaking to Fox News, Graham says the report will be released December 9th. Department of Justice Inspector General Michael Horowitz has been looking into whether the FBI followed the law in its intelligence gathering around the 2016 election. Two days later, Horowitz is scheduled to testify about the report to the Senate Judiciary Committee, which Graham chairs.

11/22 - Federal prosecutors are allege in new indictments made public yesterday, that suspended Chester County Sheriff Alex Underwood misused Chester County money, using it for travel for himself and family in trips to Nevada and New Orleans. Underwood also is accused in the new indictments of directing security detail payments for off-duty deputies through accounts to avoid paying employment taxes. The new indictments also allege that Underwood, former chief deputy Robert Sprouse, and former sheriff's office Lt. Johnny Neal engaged in a conspiracy to use their positions to intimidate others, as well as take family members on trips charged to the sheriff's office and use deputies for labor. The three are set to appear in federal court in Columbia Dec. 3 to be arraigned on the new charges.

11/22 - So how low can you go? Apparently, lower than the national average. The South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce released the October employment numbers on workers in our state, and while the national unemployment rate rose slightly to 3.6%, the state rate dropped to an historic low at 2.6%. York County registered 2% unemployment in October. Lancaster County unemployment in October matched the state mark at 2.6% and Chester County had unemployment at 3%. State statistics show the biggest job gains in a month come from financial services; leisure and hospitality; trade, transportation and utilities; and construction. The state estimates there are more than 2.3 million people working in South Carolina.

11/24 - A man has been charged with murder after a woman was shot and killed Saturday morning in Chester County, officials said. The shooting happened around 4 a.m. on Highway 200 and Highway 21 in Fort Lawn. Brandon Roberts, 32, has been charged with the murder after confessing to shooting Latwanyept Stover, 37. Authorities said Roberts shot Stover when they were riding in a car on the highway. Roberts is being held at the Chester County Detention Center. No other details have been released.

11/25 - A 10-year-old boy who was found dead earlier this month was shot by his friend while the two boys were playing, according to the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office. Deputies were called around 4 p.m. on Nov. 15 to a mobile home park on Coastal Way off Memorial Park

Road. When they got there, they found Dylan Twitty lying on the ground surrounded by people trying to help him. Deputies said Dylan was at his friend's house playing after school when his 10-year-old friend went into a family member's bedroom and grabbed a 9 mm pistol from under the mattress. According to officials, the boys were playing in the living room and the gun went off while the friend was holding it, killing Dylan. Deputies said that after the shooting, the boy carried Dylan's body out of the house and left him between two mobile homes. Deputies charged a parent of the boy who pulled the trigger with unlawful neglect of a child. He was taken to the Medical University of South Carolina - Lancaster Medical Center where he died.

11/27 - A Chesterfield woman accused of killing her 11-month-old daughter, then lying about it, is now out of jail on bond. Officials said Breanna Lewis was released this week after trying several times for bond, so she can get out of jail until her trial. The hearing was held in Marlboro County earlier this month. In May 2018, deputies said Lewis killed Harlee Lewis and made up a story, saying a man in an SUV kidnapped the baby. After an Amber Alert went out, deputies found the body of the child wrapped in a plastic bag inside a diaper box in the woods just a few hundred yards from her home on Daisy Lane. Initially, the judge denied her request for bond. The judge said there were too many unanswered questions and a child is dead. Judge Paul Burch said because of the "bizarre nature" of the case, he would not consider bond for Lewis until she's had a mental health evaluation. Often, that request is made by the defense counsel, not the judge. That evaluation found that Lewis had no diagnosis of mental illness and is competent. The case is not expected to go to trial until later this year.

11/28 - The man fatally shot Saturday by Chester police showed a gun after running from police custody this past Saturday at a Wal*Mart on the J.A. Cochran Bypass has been identified by Chester County Coroner Terry Tinker as being 28 year old, Ariane LaMont McCree. McCree died after two officers fired their weapons, said Eric Williams, Chester Police Department chief.

12/02 - Emergency officials say South Carolina residents should begin preparing for winter. That's because it's winter weather preparedness week across the state. The Emergency Management Division warns of big snows or ice storms that could be seen in the coming months. Residents should check fuel supplies, make sure pipes are insulated, chimneys are free of debris, and have a working carbon monoxide detector.

12/04 - Suspended Chester County Sheriff Alex Underwood and two of his former top deputies former chief deputy Robert Sprouse, and former Lt. Johnny Neal again pleaded not guilty in federal court Tuesday after new charges were brought against them last month. All three appeared Tuesday in federal court in Columbia. The new charges were formally announced in a hearing before federal Judge Shiva Hodges. The three pleaded not guilty to all charges and remain free on bond. Prosecutors say Underwood and the two others falsified police reports and falsely arrested two people after a Chester County man videotaped a traffic incident in November 2018. Federal prosecutors say the three deputies violated the civil rights of Kevin Simpson and Simpson's mother, Ernestine, during the 2018 video incident. Simpson and his mother were arrested by Underwood's deputies. The charges were dismissed by the S.C. Attorney General's Office two days after Underwood was indicted in May.

12/04 - Two people were killed Tuesday night in a wreck in Chester County, officials said. It happened on York Street near Chester Homes. The coroner said one died at the scene and the other in an emergency room in a hospital. Witnesses said the car overturned.

12/05 - The CDC is reporting high levels of the flu in South Carolina. The state is among several that have the highest reporting rates for influenza activity in the U.S. Health officials urge anyone who hasn't gotten a flu shot to get one, and to take precautions like washing your hands.

12/09 - Lancaster County sheriffs deputies are investigating a murder suicide that happened Saturday night on Bob White Rd in the Rich Hill area. Deputies say a man shot his ex girlfriend then himself outside a home there. The woman was pronounced dead at the scene, officials said. The man was taken to the Medical University of South Carolina - Lancaster Medical Center where he died. Lancaster County Coroner Karla Knight Deese said due to the circumstances of the incident, the office will not be releasing the names of the victims.

12/12 - Former South Carolina governor and ambassador to the U.N. Nikki Haley says "outrage culture" would not allow the removal of the Confederate flag in her state today. In a Wednesday op-ed in The Washington Post, Haley said compromise is no longer valued and it would be impossible to have the kind of thoughtful dialogue she says there was after the 2015 shooting at a black church by white supremacist Dylan Roof. This, after comments earlier this month that Roof hijacked the Confederate flag, which she said had been a symbol of service and sacrifice. Haley said that while she argued to remove the flag from the state capitol in 2015 because no child should feel unwelcome there, today's culture would demonize those who respect the flag as evil racists.

12/13 - South Carolinians are starting to see some improvements on the state's roads thanks to an increase in the gas tax. The General Assembly passed the Roads Bill two years ago. Since then, drivers in the state have started seeing a gradual increase in prices at the pump. Right now, the tax is 22 cents a gallon. WSPA-TV reports the money goes directly to infrastructure improvements throughout the state. The station spoke with Pete Poore of the state DOT. He says projects range in size -- with some of the largest being the widening of I-85 in Spartanburg and Cherokee Counties -- along with preliminary work to widen and resurface I-26 in the Midlands. More road projects also mean more jobs in the state. The asphalt industry is expected to add about 1-thousand workers in the next five years.

12/13 - South Carolina has received approval from the federal government to require able bodied Medicaid recipients to work or volunteer to receive benefits. Governor McMaster has established the "State Community Engagement Implementation Task Force" to oversee the new requirements----in doing so, the Governor said there is no excuse for the able bodied to not be working-----with potentially tens of thousands of insured South Carolinians completely losing access to affordable and life saving healthcare, Trav Robertson, Chairman of the South Carolina Democratic Party, said the governor has sentenced people in the state to death.

12/16 - James "Radio" Kennedy, the man who was a fixture on the sidelines of a South Carolina high school's football games for decades and whose life inspired a Hollywood movie, has died. He was 73. T.L. Hanna High School Athletic Director John Cann confirmed Kennedy's death

Sunday morning on the school's sports website. The cause of death wasn't immediately released. News outlets reported that Kennedy, who had developmental disabilities, became famous around the state for his love of the T.L. Hanna High School football team and his regular appearance at games since the 1960s.

12/17 - The South Carolina Emergency Management Division said for the second time since November, an earthquake was reported near Columbia. In a tweet the U.S. Geological Survey said a 2.5 magnitude quake happened just after noon on Saturday about a half mile southeast of (Kay-See), Cayce. The USGS reported some light shaking, but no damage or injuries have been reported.

12/18 - South Carolina leaders have approved sale of alcohol to the general public at some sporting events. The university's board of trustees voted Tuesday to green-light the sale of beer and wine at men's and women's basketball games starting in January, followed by baseball and football games. Alcohol had previously been sold only in premium seating areas for those sports. The school became the latest in the Southeastern Conference to back alcohol sales since the league rescinded its ban against the practice in May.

12/26 - Speeders slow down. The South Carolina Highway Patrol is out in full force looking for those who are driving too fast and while intoxicated. They are also looking for those not wearing seatbelts, during one of the busiest travel times of the year.

12/26 - Mothers Against Drunk Driving are seeking blood donors. It's part of an effort to increase blood donations during the winter when less donors come in. M.A.D.D. held a blood drive in Columbia yesterday. They also gave out red ribbons to promote their annual "Tie One on for Safety" event, which reminds people to use a designated driver.

12/27 - State lawmakers will consider a proposal in the next legislative session that would benefit survivors of sex crimes. Lowcountry Representative Marvin Pendarvis has pre-filed a bill to give the survivors more time to seek justice. It would extend the statute of limitations for civil complaints of sexual assault, abuse or incest. Survivors currently have just six years after they turn 21 or three years from the time they become aware of their assault or abuse, to pursue civil action.

12/31 - South Carolina will be looking to reform their pension system when the state legislature reconvenes in a few weeks. State Representative Raye Felder said the longer the can gets kicked down the road the more difficult it is going to be to solve that problem. Felder said a defined benefit retirement plan is unheard of in today's corporate world.