

WACHFOX news

information. communication. dedication.

April 10, 2020

QUARTERLY ISSUES / PROGRAMS LIST

There follows a listing of the significant issues responded to by
WACH-TV - Columbia, South Carolina
along with the most significant programming treatment for the period of

January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020
1st Quarter | 2020

The order in which the issues appear does not reflect any priority or significance.

This list is by no means exhaustive.

ISSUE: PUBLIC SAFETY & CRIME PREVENTION

News at Ten Cover Stories

Broadcast Date: January 4, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Drop in Homicides

Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott announced there was a 22% drop in homicides from 2018 to 2019. He also said deputies seized 855 guns off the streets. He said people should keep their firearms locked up and not left in a car.

Broadcast Date: January 22, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Coyote Dangers

During the cold seasons coyotes pose threats for pets. According to officials, male coyotes become aggressive toward male dogs because of mating competition. Officials warned people to keep their pets inside or watch them closely.

Broadcast Date: February 3, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Water Contamination

WACH ran a story about where the city Columbia gets its water from and how it is treated before coming into the taps. There are microplastics in our water and something called forever chemicals. The chemicals are not regulated by the government and can be harmful.

Broadcast Date: February 3, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Fire leaves Family Displaced

A woman lit a candle which led to her and her family being displaced. Thankfully no one was injured but firefighters say that the candle started a fire that could have destroyed the house and killed the family. Red Cross assisted the family.

Broadcast Date: February 9, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Riverwalk closes for Flooding

The Riverwalk in Columbia was closed because of severe flooding. Officials said the paths were completely underwater and were not safe because of the extremely high-water levels.

Broadcast Date: February 11, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Columbia gets new Fire Truck

A ceremony was held in Columbia for a brand-new firetruck. According to organizers back in the day fire trucks had to be pushed sometimes by firefighters because the weight was too much for the horses to handle so they pushed the new truck during the ceremony. The engine replaced an older model that the station had.

Broadcast Date: February 20, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Gun Laws in SC

According to a study, SC ranked high in the nation's worst state gun policies. Lawmakers were at the time considering two bills that would appease open carry laws.

Broadcast Date: March 5, 2020

Source: Local

Description: USC Epidemiologist talks Coronavirus

An epidemiologist at USC said that since officials were monitoring 13 people for coronavirus in the state, people should be cautious. She said that people should not panic but try to practice healthy habits like hand-washing. The CDC said symptoms were shortness of breath and fever. At this point SC has no confirmed cases but surrounding states have multiple.

Broadcast Date: March 10, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Richland One begins Taking Precautions

State Officials state that there was no reason to begin cancelling public gatherings and school. Richland One decides to take precautions and using deep-cleaning to disinfect the school.

Broadcast Date: March 16, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Governor McMaster cancels school statewide

Governor McMaster announced in a presser that he was cancelling all schools until March 31. This was due to the increasing threat of coronavirus spreading in large gatherings of people. Some schools announced that they would be giving free meals for children.

Public Service Announcements – Public Safety & Crime Prevention

The station aired Public Service Announcements that pertained to Public Safety and Crime issues. Announcements were in varying length (:10, :15, :20, :30, and :60); each PSA aired multiple times between January 1, 2020 and March 31, 2020:

1/3 – 3/30	“Make the Call” Health Resources and Services Administration	:30
1/2 – 3/28	“Drunk Neon” National Highway Transportation Safety Association	:30
2/29 – 3/21	“Wildfire :30” South Carolina Forestry Commission	:30
3/1 – 3/29	“Wildfire :60” South Carolina Forestry Commission	:60
2/29 – 3/29	“Management :30” South Carolina Forestry Commission	:30
2/29 – 3/31	“Overview :60” South Carolina Forestry Commission	:60
3/1 – 3/28	“Call Before” South Carolina Broadcasters Association	:30
2/29 – 3/29	“Football Fans” South Carolina Broadcasters Association	:30
3/1 – 3/31	“Tree Electric” South Carolina Broadcasters Association	:30

ISSUE: MINORITY ISSUES

Good Day Cover Stories

Broadcast Date: January 7, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Unity Against Hate

Groups called on state lawmakers to pass hate crime laws in South Carolina. Leaders from South Carolina's Black, Jewish, and interfaith communities came together at the State House after attacks on minority groups across the country. SC is one of the few states with no laws concerning hate crimes.

Broadcast Date: January 8, 2020

Source: Local

Description: RCSD Bags Groceries for a Cause

The Richland County Sheriff's Department spent the day bagging groceries with Special Olympics athletes. This was an effort to raise awareness and funds for the SC Special Olympics. RCSD partnered with Publix for this program. In 2019, Publix employees and customers donated \$4.8 million to the Special Olympics.

Broadcast Date: January 8, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Oliver Gospel Mission

Lay-Z-Boy of Columbia partners with Oliver Gospel Mission every year to raise money and donate slightly used furniture. The mission held a drive and raised around \$5,000 for the homeless in Columbia.

Broadcast Date: January 15, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Prison Reform

After lawmakers disputed over the distribution of a \$2 billion surplus, it was announced that more than \$100 million was earmarked for the Dept. of Corrections. According to officials, all state facilities have severe maintenance issues that contributed to riots. \$14.5 million was said to go to recruiting and retraining corrections officers.

Broadcast Date: January 20, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Church History

A church in Columbia was featured due to its involvement in a civil rights demonstration in 1961. During the demonstration students, including a now congressman, marched from the church to the State House in protest. The demonstration was about a law that was passed prohibiting the right to protest for African Americans people. 187 of the protestors were arrested for breach of peace; They then appealed to the Supreme Court and won. The State was ruled to be in violation of the groups' First Amendment rights.

Broadcast Date: February 25, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Woman rescued from Sex Trafficking

A woman was rescued from a house in Elgin after being drugged and held against her will by the homeowner. Officials say that deputies found the woman who said she was dropped off by her boyfriend to a man he owed money. Deputies found two other women in the house but they did not choose to press charges.

Broadcast Date: March 5, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Trans Athlete Bill

A group of lawmakers gathered to talk about a plan called 'Save Women's Sports Act'. The act is in response to a policy put in place in SC schools that allow transgender women to compete in women's sports. Lawmakers said it was unfair because biological males are stronger and are more likely to win against biological females.

Broadcast Date: March 9, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Students may have been Exposed to Coronavirus

Kershaw County School District announced that two students who interned in the emergency room where they may have been exposed to a woman admitted due to the virus. The two children were sent to Prisma Health to be treated and presumably tested. The students apparently had no direct contact but were quarantined as a precaution.

Broadcast Date: March 10, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Richland One says students exposed

Richland One School District announced that five students were in indirect contact with a person being tested for coronavirus. The students ranged from elementary to high school aged. Parents were notified and the children were quarantined.

Broadcast Date: March 31, 2020

Source: Local

Description: SNAP Benefits

More than 170k households in South Carolina received extra money in benefits due to coronavirus. DSS funded \$30 million for another round of emergency food assistance. Some SNAP recipients would not receive the extra benefits; The money received depended solely on how much the family is already getting.

Public Service Announcements – Minority Issues

The station aired Public Service Announcements that pertained to Minority issues. Announcements were in varying length (:10, :15, :20, :30, and :60); each PSA aired multiple times between January 1, 2020 and March 31, 2020:

1/6 – 3/18	“Better Together” Fisher House - Columbia	:30
1/2 – 3/28	“Delivery” Fisher House - Columbia	:30
1/1 – 3/29	“Chris :60” Wounded Warrior Project	:60
1/4 – 3/21	“Jason :60” Wounded Warrior Project	:60

ISSUE: EDUCATION

News at Ten Cover Stories

Broadcast Date: January 3, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Boating Education from Family

A family lost a father during a boating accident when a driver under-the-influence slammed into another boat. The family took the opportunity to try and educate people on boating safety and advocate for a mandatory boater education course for people seeking boating licenses.

Broadcast Date: January 10, 2020

Source: Local

Description: 4-K All day

Governor McMaster talks about expanding full day 4-year pre-school for children from low-income families. He said he wants the program to be in every school in the state. McMaster put 53 million dollars into the budget proposal. Lawmakers were said to largely support the proposal.

Broadcast Date: January 13, 2020

Source: Local

Description: 2 Kershaw County Schools damaged by Tornado

A tornado in Kershaw County damaged two schools; Officials doubted the schools would be fixed before the end of the school year. Congressmen as well as many throughout the community plan to raise funds for the necessary repairs for both schools.

Broadcast Date: January 20, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Education Reform

The Senate is getting back to work on their education reform debate. Leaders have been working on an overhaul bill with 59 sections in the proposal.

Broadcast Date: February 7, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Richland One out for Weather

Parents had to pick up their children after inclement weather threatened the safety of students and staff. The district met early that morning and decided to cancel schools before conditions worsened.

Broadcast Date: February 12, 2020

Source: Local

Description: College announces men will be able to attend

The historically all-female Columbia College announced that they would begin allowing men to attend as early as Fall 2021. Some males returning from military service had been allowed to attend online or at night, however men have never been considered as full-time students before now.

Broadcast Date: February 21, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Girl receives \$5k Scholarship

A senior at AC Flora High School in Columbia was awarded \$5,000 for her 5.49 GPA. She was top of her class in addition to being a student-athlete as a member of the Varsity Golf team. The student also helped with fundraisers for children in her spare time.

Broadcast Date: February 27, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Food Waste

A study by state researchers found that schools were wasting food and classroom supplies across the state. Research found that between 35% and 50% of the food and supplies could have been recycled. The Dept. of Education said they were going to recommend ways to cut down on the waste.

Broadcast Date: March 4, 2020

Source: Local

Description: USC announces quarantine for students

The University of South Carolina announced that they were taking precautions to keep students safe as the Coronavirus pandemic began to worsen. They advised students who planned to travel to affected areas to self-quarantine and stay away from campus for at least 14 days.

Broadcast Date: March 5, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Education Bill passes Senate Approval

The South Carolina State Senate gave approval to a bill to overhaul public education in South Carolina. It faced one final vote before heading to the SC House. Supporters called it a “once-in-a-generation chance to change public education”. They also noted it as more of a “tune-up” for public education than a rebuild.

Public Service Announcements - Education

The station aired Public Service Announcements that pertained to Education issues. Announcements were in varying length (:10, :15, :20, :30, and :60); each PSA aired multiple times between January 1, 2020 and March 31, 2020:

1/5 – 3/28	“Nick Snyder :30” South Carolina Dept. of Education	:30
1/1 – 3/29	“Mansa Joseph :30” South Carolina Dept. of Education	:30
1/3 – 3/31	“Allison Hendrix :30” South Carolina Dept. of Education	:30

ISSUE: HEALTH SERVICES AND MEDICAL CARE

Good Day Cover Stories

Broadcast Date: January 12, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Firefighter Amputee

After a man who had dreamed of being a firefighter lost his leg when he was hit by a drunk driver, he and his child were able to learn to walk together. He met a firefighter who was also an amputee and was encouraged to continue to strive for his goal. The man announced he would start firefighter training again in October 2020.

Broadcast Date: January 24, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Plans for a Burn Center

Doctors in the low-country began making progress toward establishing a burn center after almost 20 years without one following a budget approval by lawmakers. In the absence of a burn center locally, those requiring specialized care had to travel upstate or elsewhere to receive the necessary treatment.

Broadcast Date: March 3, 2020

Source: Local

Description: State Gov comments on Coronavirus

This is the first-time government officials in SC commented on the readiness of SC for coronavirus cases. As the virus begins to spread East, officials say there were no cases in SC, but they were prepared for anything. They urged people to take caution and practice extra care including frequently washing their hands.

Broadcast Date: March 4, 2020

Source: Local

Description: SC to begin rape-kit tracking

The Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously passed legislation that would require SLED to have a system that tracks sexual assault evidence. The online system would allow survivors to find their rape kit and track where it is (hospital, lab, or law enforcement office). The bill needed senate approval before the end of the legislative session.

Broadcast Date: March 5, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Alzheimer's Advocates gather at the State House

Alzheimer's advocates gathered at the State House in a show of support donning clothing and accessories of purple. The event was a chance to talk with their elected officials about the impact Alzheimer's has on people. The Lieutenant Governor attended and helped highlight the impact of Alzheimer's and Dementia in SC.

Broadcast Date: March 8, 2020

Source: Local

Description: First confirmed case treated at Columbia hospital

The first confirmed case of coronavirus was a woman in Kershaw County who had to be moved to Columbia to be treated. The woman was one of the first to be presumed positive in the state, but the CDC had to confirm the cases. Officials began to advise people to wash their hands and stay home if they felt sick.

Broadcast Date: March 18, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Regulations Waived for Students in Hospitals

The governor required DHEC to waive regulations in order to use medical and nursing students in hospitals. In the same statement he requested that medical centers halt all non-emergency surgeries. Insurance companies were asked to pay 100% of coronavirus costs for people.

Broadcast Date: March 23, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Prisma Sumter adds Drive-Thru Testing

The Prisma Health-Sumter location added a drive-thru testing site. Tests were for people who had been in contact with those who had tested positive or were being tested. The tests took place from 9-5 at multiple locations.

Broadcast Date: March 31, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Jail Cleaning

After two employees contracted coronavirus, jails begin trying to find ways to protect staff and inmates in Charleston. The jail sent in a disinfection team and cleaned every cell. Officials were working to figure out ways to prevent sickness from spreading.

Public Service Announcements – Health Services & Medical Care

The station aired Public Service Announcements that pertained to Health Care and Education, child health and teen drug abuse, child safety, and other miscellaneous topics. Announcements were in varying length (:10, :15, :20, :30, and :60); each PSA aired multiple times between January 1, 2020 and March 31, 2020:

1/4 – 3/29	“Epilepsy Foundation” Epilepsy Foundation	:30
2/19 – 3/15	“Great Strides :15” Cystic Fibrosis Foundation	:15
1/1 – 3/29	“Great Strides :30” Cystic Fibrosis Foundation	:30
1/2 – 3/28	“Azalea :30” St. Jude’s Children’s Hospitals	:30
1/3 – 3/28	“Luke :60” St. Jude’s Children’s Hospitals	:60
3/26 – 3/31	“COVID-19 :30” South Carolina Dept. of Health & Environ. Control	:30
3/28 – 3/31	“COVID-19 :15” South Carolina Broadcasters Association	:15
3/28 – 3/31	“COVID-19 :30” South Carolina Broadcasters Association	:30
3/26 – 3/31	“COVID-19 :30” United Way of South Carolina	:30

ISSUE: CIVIC RESPONSIBILITIES

News at Ten Cover Stories

Broadcast Date: January 3, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Richland Deputies allowed to grow Beards until March

After a deputy shared the notion that he thought deputies might seem more approachable to citizens if they were allowed to grow their facial hair (if they chose), Sheriff Leon Lott approved the pitch. Lott said that the deputies could grow them until the end of March.

Broadcast Date: January 6, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Pet Adoption Day

Columbia Animal Services celebrated 'Cuddle Up Day'. Animal shelter celebrated by reducing adoption rates. All dogs and cats would cost \$6 for the 6th and 7th of January.

Broadcast Date: January 8, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Habitat for Humanity Home

A woman and her son got a new beginning after the Habitat for Humanity program built them a house. The house was built by volunteers. Friends, family and sponsors dedicated the home to the family.

Broadcast Date: January 20, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Ancestry reunites family

A woman and her son were reunited after 40 years when he took a DNA test. He happened to be living in the same town as his biological family who put him up for adoption at birth. The family was said to be making up for lost time.

Broadcast Date: February 10, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Local Man fixes Bikes for those in need

A local man partnered with multiple organizations to fix bikes and give them to people in need. His pastor urged him to do something for people who had nothing. He now has a program where people can donate and get involved with making cycling more inclusive for those in need.

Broadcast Date: March 19, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Riverbanks Offers E-Learning

Riverbanks Zoo offered e-Learning classes for students because of coronavirus closures. It included live interactions with activities people could do in their own homes.

Broadcast Date: March 23, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Senior Resources begins Free Meal Program

Senior Resources reached out to local leaders for funding for a program that gives free meals to senior citizens. The meal service was offered in different locations in the midlands. Catering companies helped prepare meals for thousands of seniors.

Public Service Announcements – Civic Responsibilities

The station aired Public Service Announcements that pertained to Civic Responsibilities, including need for volunteerism, community pride, combating littering, and other miscellaneous topics. Announcements were in varying length (:10, :15, :20, :30, and :60); each PSA aired multiple times between January 1, 2020 and March 31, 2020:

1/1 – 3/29	“I Will :15” Army National Guard	:15
1/1 – 3/31	“I Will :30” Army National Guard	:30
1/1 – 3/21	“America’s Marines” US Marine Corps	:30
1/4 – 2/22	“Anthem” US Marine Corps	:30
1/4 – 3/29	“For Country” US Marine Corps	:30
1/3 – 3/28	“Dear Humans” Best Friends Animal Society	:30
1/1 – 3/29	“Adopt Change” Best Friends Animal Society	:60
1/3 – 3/31	“Empower 4”	:15
1/3 – 3/29	“Empower 2”	:30

ISSUE: Business Growth and Economic Development

Broadcast Date: January 3, 2019

Source: Local

Description: Hemp Laws in SC

According to officials, when farmers produce a crop of hemp it is tested to see if it contains too much THC. The problem was that state officials wanted to get the rules changed because only the top 1/3 could be tested and the top 1/3 of the crop contains the highest levels of THC and would create a false positive. Farmers in SC were hesitant to farm hemp because of the false positive which if they got, the entire crop had to be destroyed.

Broadcast Date: January 4, 2020

Source: Local

Description: People moving to SC

A study was released stating that many Americans were leaving big cities and moving to warmer places with lower taxes. South Carolina has been one of the most popular places to move since 2011.

Broadcast Date: January 8, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Pothole Blitz

SCDOT asks people to report any pothole they come across. Bad weather has increased the amount potholes on the road. DOT said it would send people out to fix them immediately to help keep the roads clear and easy to travel as well as to minimize potential damage caused by them.

Broadcast Date: January 14, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Budget Surplus

McMaster said he wants taxpayers to benefit from \$2 billion surplus in budget. The governor said in addition to potential rebates for some residents, he wanted to give public school teachers a \$3,000 raise and do some prison reform. State lawmakers were left to decide whether they would move forward with the plans.

Broadcast Date: February 29, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Elections

People in SC gear up to vote in the Democratic primaries. South Carolinians needed to know a few things before they headed to the polls. We reminded everyone what they needed to bring with them to the polls and where to go.

Broadcast Date: March 10, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Cancelled Plans

WACH was following people as they decided whether to cancel their trips and plans because of coronavirus. A travel advisory had recently warned people against booking cruises because of how fast the virus spread throughout boats. Columbia Convention Center began clearing their schedule and postponing/cancelling events.

Broadcast Date: March 10, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Gas Prices Drop due to Coronavirus

Gas prices began to drop from \$2 on account of fear and restrictions on travelling due to coronavirus. This was also because of global oil suppliers not agreeing on a plan to boost crude oil prices.

Broadcast Date: March 13, 2020

Source: Local

Description: Budget for Coronavirus

Governor McMaster asked the General assembly to make \$45 million available to DHEC to coordinate a response to coronavirus. The money was supposed to come from the state's emergency reserve fund.

Broadcast Date: March 22, 2020

Source: Local

Description: St. Pat's Cancellation

The St. Patrick's Day celebration in Five Points was cancelled due to the governor's order to cancel large gatherings following the rise in Coronavirus cases in the country. Some businesses said they were sad about missing out on all the money it brought in but hopeful that the next years would make up for it.

Public Service Announcements – Business Growth & Economic Development

The station aired Public Service Announcements that pertained to business and economic development. Announcements were in varying length (:10, :15, :20, :30, and :60); each PSA aired multiple times between January 1, 2020 and March 31, 2020:

1/2 – 3/29	"SC MEP 1" South Carolina Broadcaster Association	:30
1/4 – 3/29	"SC MEP 2" South Carolina Broadcaster Association	:30
1/2 – 3/31	"SC MEP 3" South Carolina Broadcaster Association	:30
1/1 – 3/28	"Waterfowl Migration" US Dept. of Veteran Affairs	:60