

Quarterly Issues & Programs Report

2nd Quarter 2021

Below is a list of some of the significant issues responded to by station WACH, Columbia, SC, along with the most significant programming treatment of those issues for the period of April 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021. This list is by no means exhaustive. The order in which the issues appear does not reflect any priority or significance.

Title of Segment	Date Aired	Newscast Air Time	Duration	Segment Description
Water Rescue training	April 15, 2021	10p WACH FOX News at 10p	1 min 29 sec	As warmer weather grew closer, local fire and other departments began to train on river rescue. The training, called Swiftwater rescue focused on people who were stuck in rocks and swept up in currents. Many local departments could be seen throughout the week on shore, in boats and swimming in the local river.
Deputies train on CWP after Governor signs open carry into law	May 19, 2021	10p WACH FOX News at 10p	1 min 23 sec	We sat down with local law enforcement after the governor signed an open carry act into law that allowed people to open carry if they have training. Local law enforcement said they now had deputies in training so that they are trained to be able to open carry. The training was teaching them what questions to ask and what to look for in situations when a suspect is open carrying in public.
Law Enforcement gears up for surge in Memorial Travel	May 28, 2021	10p WACH FOX News at 10p	1 min 27 sec	Local and state law enforcement spoke with us about the coming surge in Memorial Day Travel due to the loss of pandemic restrictions and travel restrictions to other states. The airport showed a huge surge in travelers for the weekend going from about 7,000 fliers last year to around 60,000 this year. Law enforcement gave tips on how people could stay safe and avoid jail or fines.
Deputies hold gun safety event	June 4, 2021	5:30a- 8:30a Good Day Columbia	50 sec	Richland County deputies held a gun safety event due to the recent rise in gun violence. The event was free, and deputies gave away more than 180 gun locks, which keep a gun from firing and prevent accidental shootings. Deputies also gave out tips on gun safety and encouraged owners to follow regulations in order to prevent gun violence.
Drug enforcement agencies expand list of take-back eligible drugs	June 10, 2021	10p WACH FOX News at 10p	1 min 38 sec	State and local drug enforcement agencies began to expand their list of drugs that they will take-back and destroy. With the looming opioid crisis, law enforcement and health officials said they wanted to make sure they were doing more to keep things out of vulnerable hands. The list now included vaping devices. The take-backs are free and anonymous and happen often in the midlands.
Tougher restrictions in Five Points after calls to make area safer	June 15, 2021	5a-8a Good Day Columbia	50 sec	More and more restrictions were being placed on Five Points businesses after the community continued to call for a safer area. Five Points has long been thought of as a part area in a college town and has been considered a nuisance to residents. State legislators and local community leaders banded together to get more restrictions put in place that force bars and businesses in the area to tighten restrictions when it comes to underage drinking.
Kershaw Co. gets new fingerprint tech	May 11, 2021	5a-8a	45 sec	A local sheriff's office got a new tool that allows them to access fingerprints in under an hour. Before it would take weeks or months. The new machine allows officials to process fingerprints quickly and they said they expect to solve crimes faster by using it.
Families tied by loss try and stop executions in SC	May 28, 2021	10p WACH FOX News at 10p	2 min 11 sec	The week prior to this story, McMaster signed a bill into law bringing back the firing squad as a form of execution. One of the members of a group opposing the law was the daughter of one of the 9 people killed in the Charleston shooting in 2015. She told us the group believes in forgiveness and that they believe the bill was doing more harm than good. The executions that were set to happen in June were cancelled at the last minute in a hail Mary by a federal judge.
Woman with rare disease going to space	April 13, 2021	8:38a Good Day Columbia	55 seconds	A Columbia woman with a rare form of Sickle Cell Anemia became a Boeing scholar at an aeronautical university and got her PhD. She graduated and planned to begin work at NASA.
Job fair for veterans	April 20, 2021	5:15p WACH FOX News at 5p	2 min	Governor Henry McMaster joined the Dept. of Veteran's Affairs to announce a virtual job fair for veterans that included 30 state agencies and higher

				education institutions. The Bureau of Labor Statistics said that they made it a requirement to interview at least one qualified veteran for open positions.
Parents react to Columbia parks reopening	May 3, 2021	5a-8a <i>Good Day Columbia</i>	1 min 50 sec	After being closed for nearly a year due to the pandemic, Columbia began to reopen its parks, community centers and pools. We spoke to parents who said that having a child is a handful but now they can handle him better because he lets some of his energy out. Overall most parents were very excited to be able to get out and get fresh air.
Business leaders, state officials push for hate crime bill to pass	May 13, 2021	10p <i>WACH FOX News at 10p</i>	2 min 20 sec	The state has been trying to get a new hate crime bill to pass as we are one of three states without one. Since the end of the legislative calendar was ending, the S.C. Chamber of Commerce and local business leaders met to support the bill being passed and signed into law next year. The governor gave a statement saying he would make a decision when the Senate and House finally make a decision.
Mural of Civil Rights leader unveiled	May 21, 2021	10p <i>WACH FOX News at 10p</i>	45 sec	A new mural of a civil rights leader from the midlands was unveiled in Columbia. Sara Flemming was 20 when she got on a bus and sat near the 'whites only' section, the bus driver asked her to move and eventually hit her. Eventually, her actions led to the desegregation of Columbia's buses.
Family shares experience with loved one in nursing home during pandemic	May 26, 2021	10p <i>WACH FOX News at 10p</i>	2 min	We spoke to a family who had a loved one in a nursing home during the coronavirus pandemic about the obstacles they faced when not being allowed to see him. We also spoke to them about how they were doing since they were allowed back in to see him after being vaccinated and restrictions being lifted. The story was also tied to state nursing home statistics and how most of the people in nursing homes have been vaccinated and do not have a high risk of dying from the virus.
Businesses raise money for childhood cancer camp	June 10, 2021	10p <i>WACH FOX News at 10p</i>	2 min	A local business that was moving to a new location donated money to a camp for children with childhood cancer. The business was known for letting people writing on dollar bills and sticking them to the walls in the restaurant so when they left, they took all the money down and donated to the camp. The total came out to more than \$25,000.
Graduation rates not affected by pandemic at local schools	May 18, 2021	10:30p <i>WACH FOX News at 10p</i>	1 min 20 sec	During the pandemic, a talking point was that virtual learning would affect graduation rates in a negative way. We spoke to local school officials and students along with SCETV and learned that most schools were not negatively affected by the pandemic. In turn, we learned that the state spent money on resources for rural and lower income students and it paid off.
Local school returns to in-person learning	April 20, 2021	5:30-8:30a <i>Good Day Columbia</i>	45 sec	Orangeburg County had their first week of in-person learning after nearly a year away due to the pandemic. The school district offered to allow some people to finish the year virtually but said that in the fall they would not allow students to be virtual. Some people said they were happy that students could go back, and some parents wished the district would continue to offer virtual learning as an option.
Daycare worried about funding as Gov vows to end unemployment funds	May 11, 2021	10p <i>WACH FOX News at 10p</i>	2 min	Gov. McMaster vowed to end programs that give funding to those who are unemployed. We spoke to a local daycare that said it had been having difficulty keeping its doors open due to the pandemic but were now very worried that the funds some of their parents were receiving being taken away would put a bigger strain on them. We linked a state employment website and a link to the state employment agency.
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Fmr. Football player teaches inmates about growth	May 21, 2021	10:15p <i>WACH FOX News at 10p</i>	1 min 28 sec	A former football player who spent 7 years in a maximum-security prison started a program that taught inmates about growing in life and staying out of trouble. The program was hailed by the SCDC director as good for preventing recidivism amongst the inmates.
New flower shop teaches kids with special needs skills	May 26, 2021	5:15-8:45a	1min	A local school opened their own flower shop that employs special needs students who get to learn skills that will help them find jobs or even help with their independence.

		<i>Good Day Columbia</i>		
Historic Church to be transformed into museum, cultural center	May 26, 2021	10p <i>WACH FOX News at 10p</i>	2 min	A historic Black church in Columbia was being restored by a group of people to be eventually, made into a museum and cultural center. The church was at the center of the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s. Architects were still deciding a timeline when we spoke to them in May.
County Coroner offers scholarship program	June 2, 2021	10:30p <i>WACH FOX News at 10p</i>	1 min 20 sec	A local county coroner created a foundation that was trying to get more students into being a coroner. According to her there was a shortage of forensic pathologists in the U.S. She said she planned on awarding three, \$1,000 scholarships to graduating students in Newberry County. She was also planning fundraisers in order to get the money for the scholarships.
Local Students when national recognition for podcast	May 21, 2021	10:28p <i>WACH FOX News at 10p</i>	1 min 5 sec	A group of students from a local school won nation recognition for that podcast about a former South Carolina lieutenant governor who murdered a journalist in 1903. The podcast became 1 of 15 finalists for NPR's student podcast competition.
Bill signed into law allowing college athletes to be paid	June 15, 2021	10:30p <i>WACH FOX News at 10p</i>	2 min	A bill was signed into law in June that gives college athletes the right to make money while in school. The bill allows students to profit off the money received for their likeness (not pay for play). It was a historic decision that is set to come into effect in 2022.
Midlands students awarded as presidential scholars	May 28, 2021	5:45-8:45a <i>Good Day Columbia</i>	1 min 58 sec	Two midlands high schoolers were awarded as presidential scholars. We spoke with both who said the past year was extremely hard with virtual learning and dealing with the pandemic. One planned to go to Duke and the other planned on going to Yale.
Community members and city leaders gathered to discuss appointing a chief health	May 10, 2021	10p <i>WACH FOX News at 10p</i>	45 sec	Community members and city leaders gathered to discuss appointing a chief health officer for the city of Columbia. Supporters said that the role would improve health outcomes for Columbia residents and increase access to care and education resources. One of the biggest supporters was the CEO of the S.C. HIV Council who touted the need for an alliance with the state department of health.
ACLU urges unemployment commission to halt Gov.'s return to work mandate	May 19, 2021	10p <i>WACH FOX News at 10p</i>	2 min	The ACLU wrote a letter to the state employment commissions asking them to halt Gov. McMaster's return in person order that they said put people in danger of contracting coronavirus. In a lawsuit, officials cite a college professor who was still fully virtual, but her child was being switched back to in-person, putting a strain on her. Gov. McMaster's office issued a statement saying that the ACLU would be rebuffed in court again because nothing was wrong with his return-to-work order that he felt was beneficial to the state.
Columbia mall sees record-high vaccination numbers	May 24, 2021	10p <i>WACH FOX News at 10p</i>	1 min 50 sec	A local mall set up a coronavirus vaccination site as part of the state's pandemic plan. The site saw more than 17,000 people in from the time it opened to May 24 and one weekend saw 1,000 people vaccinated. People vaccinated at the site could choose between a 2-dose Pfizer vaccine and a 1-dose Johnson and Johnson vaccine.
Law enforcement assists in blood shortage	May 25, 2021	10p <i>WACH FOX News at 10p</i>	1 min 45 sec	Local law enforcement came up with a way to help with the blood shortage by creating a competition to see which agency could give the most. The competition was called 'Battle of the Badges' and involved three law enforcement divisions. Other people could also give blood and say which team they were giving for. Red Cross hailed the competition for helping put a dent in the shortage
Gov. signs act as mental health calls surge during pandemic	May 25, 2021	10p <i>WACH FOX News at 10p</i>	2 min	State crisis hotlines released a report that they saw a 20% jump in calls for help during the pandemic. We spoke with people diagnosed with mental illnesses who spoke about their experience during the pandemic. Gov. McMaster signed into law a bill that required hotline numbers to be put on student identification cards. We linked sources for people to use if they are struggling with their mental health.
Incentive programs to encourage vaccinations	May 28, 2021	10p <i>WACH FOX News at 10p</i>	2 min	To get more people vaccinated, state officials were looking into incentive programs that encourage people to get vaccinated. State democrats wanted to try a lottery program like what was happening in another state. Only 36% of South Carolinians were vaccinated at the time which is less than some states and lower than the national average. A local baseball team had a night where people at the game could get their vaccines with no appointment. Gov. McMaster and other lawmakers saw the push as problematic and that the decision should be made by the person.

Officials plans to get vaccination numbers up	June 15, 2021	10p <i>WACH FOX News at 10p</i>	2 min	We spoke to officials about the state's vaccination numbers, which were good, but not as good as officials would like. State epidemiologists and medical officials told us their plan was to offer incentives and change their hours to better fit the needs of those who need to be vaccinated but have conflicts. They were also pushing to get more teens to take the vaccine.
Good Friday service during the pandemic	April 3, 2021	10p <i>WACH FOX News at 10p</i>	1 min 40 sec	We spoke to a local church about what they were doing to keep people safe during the Good Friday church services. Church officials said this would be their first year back since last years' service was virtual. The church enforced social distancing and required everyone to wear masks. Church leaders also planned to stream the service for those who did not want to attend in-person services.
Minor league basketball team partners with community improvement group	April 2, 2021	5:20a-8:20a <i>Good Day Columbia</i>	45 sec	A minor league basketball team in Columbia partnered with an organization called Building Better Communities. All the proceeds from the team's games go straight back to the community. The money paid for computer labs and building supplies for those in bad housing situations. The athletes also are taught about financial literacy and the importance of giving back to the community.
Local group asking people to donate shoes	April 15, 2021	5:15p <i>WACH FOX News at 5p</i>	1 min 30 sec	Keep the Midlands Beautiful is an organization that takes on recycling shoes in order to keep shoes from becoming litter or sitting in a landfill. The organization said they collected more than 3,400 pairs of shoes in 2020. We also told people watching where they could donate their old shoes.
Trash picked up, fees waived after WACH FOX report	June 3, 2021	5p <i>WACH FOX News at 5p</i>	50 sec	We continuously covered a neighborhood in Columbia where trash was piling up and several residents reached out to us. After the coverage, the owners of the property had the trash picked up after finally paying their overdue fees to waste management. Then they agreed to waive the garbage fee for the residents for two months. They said this in a statement addressed to WACH FOX that included an apology to their residents.
DJJ Director promises change after walk-out	June 4, 2021	10:30p <i>WACH FOX News at 10p</i>	2 min 20 sec	One June 4, dozens of DJJ employees walked out of the center in order to show that they were being mistreated in their jobs. The walk-out lasted all day and resulted in the director of the entire system and legislators showing up to speak with employees. The director promised the employees that there would be a change in their working conditions and a meeting was scheduled to talk about their demands for coming back to work.
Homeless Center celebrates 10-year anniversary	June 13, 2021	5a-8a <i>Good Day Columbia</i>	50 sec	The Transitions Homeless Center in Columbia celebrated its 10-year anniversary in June. It is hailed to have helped more than 3,000 homeless men and women find permanent housing. The place held a banquet every year in which they feed organizers and participants and have chefs from across the country attend and give tips to those trying to go into the culinary field.
Grocery program named after fallen officer spreads statewide	May 20, 2021	10:30p <i>WACH FOX News at 10p</i>	1 min 54 sec	A plan to help connect local law enforcement grew to a statewide effort to help people in need. Greg's Groceries, named after a Columbia police officer who died in the line of duty, was started as a program that brought officers together to pack care boxes for people in need. In 2021, the program grew and dozens of law enforcement officers from around the state came to pack up 800 boxes that would be distributed to those in need throughout the state.
Child handcuffed at elementary school	May 21, 2021	10p <i>WACH FOX News at 10p</i>	2 min 25 sec	A mother spoke out in a press conference after her 10-year-old special needs child was handcuffed by an SRO at a local elementary school. A local community initiative partnered with the mom to offer her some resources. Local police stated that they handcuffed the child to prevent her from hurting herself or others. The incident was set to be brought up to the school board.
Communities rallies to help Irmo carpenter who lost home in fire	June 15, 2021	10:15p <i>WACH FOX News at 10p</i>	1 min 38 sec	A local, well-known community member lost his home in a fire. Community members including businesses, schools, churches and more came together and raised money for the family and help clean the debris. They also raised hundreds of dollars and started a collection drive for clothes for the family.
Homeless shelter undergoes big renovation	June 4, 2021	5:45-8:45a <i>Good Day Columbia</i>	1 min 55 sec	A local homeless shelter shut down for months in order to renovate. The shelter officials said their new family-style shelter was going to be focused on putting families first. More than \$5.8 million was raised in order to renovate the shelter.
Local businessman sparks controversy with sign	June 2, 2021	10p <i>WACH FOX News at 10p</i>	1 min 30 sec	A local business came under criticism after the owner posted a sign on his doors saying that the business was working with a smaller labor force because the government was paying people not to work. The sign made it online and sparked controversy about PPP loans. This led to an exclusive interview with the owner who defended his actions and cleared up confusion over his PPP loan.

International Festival returns	June 6, 2021	5-8a <i>Good Day Columbia</i>	50 sec	The Columbia International Festival returned to the fairgrounds after a year of inactivity due to the pandemic. Several attendees said they were very happy to have the festival back as a way to celebrate other cultures and get out of the house. Organizers told us that they took extra care making sure that guidelines were followed to ensure the safety of the guests. The festival brings in vendors and lots of money for the community and small businesses, minority-owned businesses.
Lumber costs soar	June 8, 2021	10:30p <i>WACH FOX News at 10p</i>	2 min	During the pandemic, the cost of lumber soared, and shortages were not uncommon. We localized the story and spoke to local home builders about how the shortage affected them. One of the said that they are framing houses with lumber that used to cost around \$30k and now cost around \$100k using the same wood as before. The man said the shortage put such a strain on their business that they started their own mill.
In-depth look at state tourism and how it is making a return after pandemic	April 13, 2021	10:20p <i>WACH FOX News at 10p</i>	1 min 56 sec	The tourism industry rakes in about \$23 billion and provides thousands of jobs in the state. We spoke to city officials and local business owners who said that they had to be creative in order to keep things going. State statistics said that things hand picked up between March and April.
PGA tour comes to S.C. and rakes in money	April 3, 2021	10p <i>WACH FOX News at 10p</i>	1 min 50 sec	A national golf tournament was set to take place in the state and was projected to bring in around \$50 million. Officials called it a major economic investment that would bring tourism and pride to the state. The tournament was set to be held in Kiawah Island but with limited capacity due to the pandemic.
Carolina Cup returns after pandemic	May 8, 2021	5:20a-8:20a <i>Good Day Columbia</i>	1 min 30 sec	The Carolina Cup is a horse race that happens every spring in South Carolina and rakes in lots of revenue for the state and Camden (the city in which it is held). During the pandemic, the race was cancelled. This year they were able to have the race and we spoke to the mayor of Camden and local business owners who say the cup provides a lot of revenue that keeps them running.
Record-breaking ship stops in Charleston	May 29, 2021	5:10p <i>WACH FOX News at 5p</i>	45 sec	A record-breaking container ship made a stop in Charleston before it began its journey out to sea. The ship is the largest to ever call on the east coast. The ship carries a lot of cargo and brings in business for port-dependent, local businesses.
McMaster signs beach parking regulations	May 25, 2021	5:15a-8:15a <i>Good Day Columbia</i>	25 sec	Governor McMaster signed a law saying that beach towns could not get rid of free parking along state roads without permission from state officials. The bill also said that the parking fees could not go to anything but what's spent on providing services to visitors.

WACH – Public Service Announcements: Q2 2021*All Public Service Announcements aired multiple times between April 1, 2021 and June 30, 2021:*Public Service Announcements that pertained to **Public Safety and Crime Prevention:**

4/3 – 6/26	“Call 811 - Animation”	:30
	South Carolina Broadcasters Association	
4/23 – 6/18	“Call 811 - Mailbox”	:30
	South Carolina Broadcasters Association	
4/4 – 6/26	“Call 811 - Fence”	:30
	South Carolina Broadcasters Association	

Public Service Announcements that pertained to **Minority Issues:**

4/4 – 6/26	“Better Together”	:30
	Fisher House – Columbia	
4/3 – 6/27	“Delivery”	:30
	Fisher House – Columbia	
4/10 – 6/26	“Chris :60”	:60
	Wounded Warrior Project	

Public Service Announcements that pertained to **Education:**

4/10 – 6/19	“Dear Humans :30”	:30
	Best Friends Animal Society	
4/1 – 6/28	“Adopt Change :60”	:60
	Best Friends Animal Society	
4/14 – 6/20	“Call 811 – Dry Erase :30”	:30
	South Carolina Broadcasters Association	

Public Service Announcements that pertained to **Health Services and Medical Care:**

4/11 – 6/26	“Epilepsy Foundation”	:30
	Epilepsy Foundation	
4/2 – 5/30	“COVID-19 :30”	:30
	United Way	
4/1 – 6/12	“Luke :60”	:60
	St. Jude Children’s Hospitals	
4/3 – 6/27	“Azalea :15”	:15
	St. Jude Children’s Hospitals	
4/3 – 6/28	“COVID-19 Thanks”	:30
	Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals	
4/4 – 6/27	“COVID-19 Appeal :30”	:30
	American Red Cross	
4/5 – 6/26	“Great Strides :30”	:30
	Cystic Fibrosis Foundation	

Public Service Announcements that pertained to **Civic Responsibilities:**

4/1 – 6/29	“I Will :30” Army National Guard	:30
4/18 – 5/8	“I Will :15” Army National Guard	:15
4/19 – 6/27	“Anthem” US Marine Corps	:30
4/3 – 6/10	“For Country” US Marine Corps	:30
4/3 – 6/26	“For Us All” US Marine Corps	:30
4/18 – 6/21	“Pride of the Nation :30” US Marine Corps	:30

Public Service Announcements that pertained to **Business Growth & Economic Development:**

4/1 – 6/27	“SC MEP – Evolving Spot 1” South Carolina Broadcasters Association	:30
5/6 – 6/26	“SC MEP – Evolving Spot 2” South Carolina Broadcasters Association	:30