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Subject: Morning Clips – Friday, October 9, 2015

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S.C. Flood Recovery News:

Associated Press: Rain-swollen South Carolina rivers prompt new evacuations

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=dgGfKFra

Bruce Smith

A number of South Carolina residents near the coast are evacuating and others are piling up sandbags anew outside homes and businesses, bracing for more possible flooding even as the nation's Homeland Security chief is set later Friday to tour areas hit hard by recent heavy rains.

Note: Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson planned to travel to Columbia and Charleston during the day Friday to meet with federal, state and local officials and see the recovery efforts firsthand from what South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley has described as a 1,000-year rainstorm. While skies are clear again after past days of rain, residents along or near the coast are readying as rain-swollen rivers reach the sea.

Note: There was no water immediately threatening the homes of the people evacuated on Thursday. But several homes were isolated because of road flooding in other areas - flooding that Haley warned could get worse.

Note: The governor on Thursday urged those in low-lying areas near the coast to "strongly consider evacuating" before floodwaters sweeping down river reach those areas. "We have thousands of people that won't move. And we need to get them to move," she said. "They don't need to be sitting in flooded areas for 12 days."

Post and Courier: Gov. Nikki Haley: Heed warnings to evacuate, don't wait for mandatory orders

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151008/PC16/151009450>

Andrew Knapp, Christina Elmore, Gavin Jackson

Once stricken with helplessness as floodwater filled their homes, many Lowcountry residents set their sights Thursday on getting life back to normal even as authorities, including Gov. Nikki Haley, warned of more devastation to come. After flying over the Georgetown and Givhans Ferry areas in a helicopter, the governor urged people along the Santee and Edisto rivers to consider evacuating.

Note: Still, many residents in the area insist on staying, Haley said. "I know you've lived there a long time. ... I know you may have been through flooding before," she said of residents in those areas. "This is different. ... Please try and leave."

Post and Courier: Lowcountry rivers continue to rise, prompting evacuation pleas

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151009/PC16/151009373>

Andrew Knapp

A flood warning remained in effect Friday morning for points along the Edisto and Santee rivers as runoff from last weekend's heavy rainfall continued to flow toward the coastline. State and local officials have urged people near the Edisto south of Givhans Ferry to consider evacuating, but the river's height is forecast to peak a foot short of its record level.

Note: Still, Gov. Nikki Haley, along with officials from Dorchester and Charleston counties, urged people to prepare to evacuate their communities if the river rises farther.

WCSC: SCEMD: Georgetown Co. will see flooding in next 12 hours

<http://www.live5news.com/story/30216405/haley-warns-of-major-flooding-for-georgetown-jamestown-and-givhans-ferry?clienttype=generic>

Patrick Phillips, Jacob Boland

South Carolina Adj. Gen. Robert Livingston warned Georgetown County residents to be on alert for the next 12 hours as a new wave of flooding is expected to hit the area. Livingston said law enforcement and military officials will go door to door in three particular areas asking people to leave their home, at least for a time, where flooding is expected to pose the greatest danger.

Note: The conference comes a few hours after Gov. Nikki Haley listed three major areas of concern as floodwater moves across the state toward the ocean. "Our number one goal is to convince those people to get out of their homes and to not see this as a hurricane, but to see this as a flood and a flood that doesn't go away overnight," she said.

Charleston Business Journal: Evacuations beginning for Georgetown, Jamestown; flooding could last 12 days

<http://www.charlestonbusiness.com/news/55893-evacuations-beginning-for-georgetown-jamestown-flooding-could-last-12-days>

Ashley Heffernan

Georgetown and Pawleys Island will start to flood over the next 12 hours, and the excess rainwater could stay in that area for up to 12 days, Gov. Nikki Haley said during a news conference today.

Note: "If you are in the area of Georgetown, you are going to see people coming and knocking on your doors, telling you to get out. Please take precaution," Haley said.

Note: "If you have family in those areas, if you have friends in those areas, we are having an issue getting those people to leave because they have been in hurricane situations. This is, as the general said, a different kind of bad," Haley said, referencing the state's adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Robert Livingston. "When you see that, we want you to know this is something that we have never dealt with before. This flooding is going to get bad, and it's going to sit for a very long time. It's not going to be gone quickly."

NBC News: 'More Is Coming': New Flood Warnings in South Carolina After Historic Rain

<http://www.nbcnews.com/news/weather/more-flood-warnings-south-carolina-after-historic-rain-n441341>

Phil Helsel

South Carolina's governor on Thursday warned of more flooding in the rain-battered state, as swollen rivers are expected to deliver more water to low lying and coastal areas. Gov. Nikki Haley told reporters Thursday afternoon that she toured the hard-hit areas of Kingstree and Givhans Ferry and "what we saw was devastating."

Note: "You're seeing boats in yards, and you're seeing houses underwater, and you're seeing damage at levels we never thought we would see," Haley said. "The problem is, more is coming."

Note: "If someone comes and knocks on your door and tells you to leave — I know you've lived there a long time, I know that all your belongings are there, I know that you might have been through weather related issues before — this is different," Haley said.

Associated Press: The Latest: Still a flood threat, water advisories change

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=mE7TswgD

6:20 a.m. Officials in South Carolina's Sumter County have lifted boil water advisories in two locations, Sumter and Oswego, in the aftermath of flooding in the state. But officials cautioned that residents of one community, Rembert, still need to boil their water before using it for cooking or drinking.

5:15 a.m. Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson scheduled a visit during the day Friday to the major cities of Columbia and Charleston to meet with officials and get a look at recovery efforts from what South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley has described as a 1,000-year flood.

Georgetown Times: Despite mixed messages on evacuations, Georgetown County residents still struggle with flood waters, rising rivers

<http://www.southstrandnews.com/article/20151008/GTT06/151009885/1129/floodwaters-cause-confusion-miscommunication>

Max Hrenda

Even though the torrential rains that caused historic flooding in South Carolina came to an end earlier this week, Georgetown County faces a new peril as those flood waters recede into the ocean. As of Thursday afternoon, however, state and local authorities disagreed on just how perilous those flood waters could be.

Note: Nikki Haley seemed to encourage residents of Georgetown, Pawleys Island and Jamestown to evacuate as flood waters from the Midlands began to descend on the county through the river system.

Note: Haley advised area rivers were expected crest within a 12-hour period and flood waters could linger for up to 12 days. Here is her full statement:

Greenville News: Flood waters drown South Carolina's farm crops

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2015/10/08/flood-waters-drown-south-carolinas-farm-crops/73568524/>

Tim Smith

Farmer Walter Dantzler of Santee knew the rains would be bad. But he said he didn't know how bad they would be until last weekend, when 20 inches of rain fell on his 4,000 acre farm in eastern Orangeburg County, drowning his crops of peanuts, soybeans and cotton.

Post and Courier: Flood relief donations pouring into S.C. from several companies

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151008/PC16/151009423>

Warren L. Wise

Several companies have provided monetary donations or supplies during the flooding disaster across South Carolina. Here's a list of some of them:

The State: SC crops heavily damaged by floods, agriculture commissioner says

<http://www.thestate.com/news/business/article38269989.html>

Roddie Burris

Floods have had a "shocking impact" on South Carolina farms and crops still in the fields, Agriculture Commissioner Hugh Weathers said Thursday after touring the state by aircraft. Early, conservative estimates of the crop loss is \$300 million, he said.

WCSC: Georgetown Co. officials identify 3 areas of concern, shelters open

<http://www.live5news.com/story/30218797/georgetown-authorities-no-evacuations-recommended-for-pawleys-island-city-of-georgetown-areas>

Patrick Phillips

Georgetown County authorities identified three areas within the county they are watching for the possibility of flooding as water moves toward the coast from further inland. The Mingo Creek area, the areas around the Black River and the Pee Dee River are the three areas being watched, according to Georgetown County Emergency Management Division Manager Sam Hodge.

Sun News: Some Georgetown County residents evacuating, some riding out flood

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article38283279.html>

Claire Byun

The Oatland and Dunbar communities – both off Browns Ferry Road – were placed under a voluntary evacuation Thursday afternoon. Georgetown County officials corralled local police, fire and South Carolina National Guard troops to perform evacuations to the secluded areas.

Times and Democrat: Clyburn: S.C. needs more help

http://thetandd.com/community/clyburn-s-c-needs-more-help/article_c3d6b06e-921a-5041-9e2a-60a875794efb.html

Princess B. Williams

Congressman Jim Clyburn says he's pleased the Federal Emergency Management Agency is helping South Carolina recover after the heavy rains and flooding, but more needs to be done. "I respect FEMA, but FEMA is limited. The maximum amount that anyone can get is \$33,000 dollars," Clyburn said. Someone who has lost a car, apartment and other items will need more.

Post and Courier: Pending home sales to face new inspections after S.C. flooding

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151008/PC05/151009413>

Warren L. Wise

For any government-backed loans, a new inspection is being required for pending home sales in disaster-declared areas such as Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties, said Michael Scarafale, president of Caroline One Real Estate, the largest agency in the Lowcountry handling home sales.

Local Flood Recovery News:

The State: 'It will take months' to fix Richland roads, bridges

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article38274627.html>

John Monk

Getting around by car or even bicycle in many parts of Columbia and Richland County will be tough for weeks and months to come, officials said Thursday. Sinkholes, washed-out bridges and impassable roads — many also washed out — are in everyone's future, along with trying to figure out the fastest way to get where you are going.

Post and Courier: More rain expected this weekend; higher than usual tides continue

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151008/PC16/151009377>

Melissa Boughton

Don't put your umbrellas away yet, Lowcountry. The National Weather Service in Charleston has forecast more rain through the weekend, according to meteorologist Emily Timte. There is only a 20 percent chance of showers Friday with a high in the lower 80s, but Saturday, the chance of rain increases to 40 percent through the morning and 60 percent later in the day.

Anderson Independent: Upstate workers deploy to flooded parts of S.C.

http://www.independentmail.com/news/upstate-workers-deploy-to-flooded-parts-of-sc_11571549

Nikie Mayo, Mike Ellis

A husband and wife stranded in their home and surrounded by Lexington County floodwaters were rescued this week because of a team with ties to Anderson. "By the time they knew they needed to get out, the roads were already closed off because of the rising water," said Josh Hawkins, an assistant city fire chief and member of the Upstate Incident Management Team.

Times and Democrat: Water coming from Columbia major concern

http://thetandd.com/news/water-coming-from-columbia-major-concern/article_37614e0a-9f99-57fd-a29a-5777adc0a83c.html

Dionne Gleaton

Emergency officials in The T&D Region are planning for a closer look at the damage left by the devastating rainstorm as flood waters slowly recede. "The river is still slowly falling. As the river continues to fall and gets down low, we should be able to get in and do damage assessments on the river. But we're still waiting on it to come on down," Orangeburg County Emergency Services Director Billy Staley said Thursday.

Island Packet: St. Helena's Coffin Point among areas hammered by high water, resident says

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article38251704.html#storylink=cpy>

Stephen Fastenau

When Andrew Seward bought his house off St. Helena's Coffin Point Road a few years ago, the seller said the water had barely reached the bulkhead during the worst of weather. This past weekend, waves came within inches of clearing the 4 1/2-foot structure, Seward said. His neighbors fared worse after water swept away dunes and entered backyards.

Times and Democrat: 'It just floated away:' Flood waters receding, revealing extent of loss

http://thetandd.com/news/it-just-floated-away-flood-waters-receding-revealing-extent-of/article_e62cd864-69dc-573c-b7ed-2327e31a2257.html

Dale Linder-Altman

Bright sunshine and almost-dry yards along Cannon Bridge Road make it seem like the county's excess water has flowed on toward the coast, but it's a different story for people living on the banks of the Edisto River. D.C. Thomas, who lives at Livingston's Landing, has to crank up his backhoe to get out of the yard – or at least to get from his house to the road.

Times and Democrat: Facilities leaked, town vehicle lost to floodwater as result of storm

http://thetandd.com/news/facilities-leaked-town-vehicle-lost-to-floodwater-as-result-of/article_43c559d8-2b37-5eee-82ee-f1a781a8e3a5.html

Valerie Smith

One town vehicle was lost when it was driven through floodwaters and three town facilities leaked during the weekend's torrential rains, Mayor Donnie Hilliard reported at the Santee Town Council meeting on Oct. 7. Hilliard said Santee Town Hall, the Art Center and the Santee Conference Center developed leaks during the deluge.

Florence Morning News: Rain could hamper flood recovery efforts in Pee Dee

http://www.scnow.com/news/article_43077f7e-6e67-11e5-9b43-d34940e5f718.html

Diane Owens

In the forecast issued at 4 a.m. Friday, National Weather Service meteorologists said additional rainfall may slow weekend flood recovery efforts. Saturday looks to be the wettest day across the eastern Carolinas, with scattered showers expected to linger on Sunday and possibly into Monday, mainly along the coast.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: No more excuses, the Department of Transportation needs help — and money
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151009/PC16/151009419>

Brian Hicks

There are more than 140 bridges and 268 roads closed around the state today, a week after the flooding started. Some towns remain nearly inaccessible — Kingstree, Hemingway, Andrews — and the crisis isn't over. The Department of Transportation has had crews working around the clock, trying to shore up the worst roads and barricade the rest to keep people from driving off newly made cliffs.

Aiken Standard: Time to address City infrastructure needs

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20151008/AIK0201/151009494/1018/AIK02>

Editorial

Identifying infrastructure needs in Aiken is imperative for the city's future. No infrastructure plan or funding stream currently exists for the City, which could prove increasingly dire if not addressed in the near future. Pinpointing such needs will clearly benefit residents so they have a clear understanding of when these needs will be addressed.

Post and Courier: Focus on policy, not polls

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151009/PC1002/151009381>

Editorial

Contrary to an apparently contagious obsession, elections are not just about public-opinion polls. They are about pressing issues and critical decisions that voters will make at the polls that really count. Or at least that's what elections should be about. Gallup, long the nation's most prominent polling enterprise, is sending a welcome reminder of such surveys' potential fallibility.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: City to pay \$6.5M settlement to family of man shot by cop

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=RbUtKYUd

Bruce Smith

City officials in South Carolina approved a \$6.5 million settlement Thursday with the family of an unarmed black man fatally shot by a white police officer who was captured on cellphone video firing at the man's back as he ran away. The North Charleston City Council approved the settlement by a 10-0 vote, and members of Walter Scott's family were on hand when it was announced.

Post and Courier: North Charleston settles with Walter Scott family for \$6.5 million

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151008/PC16/151009397>

Brenda Rindge

The family of Walter Scott will get a settlement of \$6.5 million from the city of North Charleston, the largest such payout in the recent high-profile killings of black men by police officers. With members of Scott's family seated in the audience, City Council unanimously voted Thursday to approve the settlement, which City Attorney Brady Hair called "the largest settlement for this type of case in the state of South Carolina," adding that he feels its in line settlements on similar cases nationwide.

Post and Courier: Rep. Kevin McCarthy's decision to give up House Speaker bid influenced by S.C. Republicans

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151009/PC1603/151009407>

Schuyler Kropf

Conservatives rejoiced at the surprise news that California Rep. Kevin McCarthy decided to drop his bid for the House speakership post Thursday. McCarthy's exit came as members of the so-called conservative Freedom Caucus in Washington was sure to make things rough for him. At least three South Carolina congressmen are aligned with the caucus, including Reps. Mark Sanford, Jeff Duncan and Mick Mulvaney.

Brian Symmes

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