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To:
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Subject: Morning Clips – Thursday, September 29, 2016

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Townville, SC Shooting:

Associated Press: Officials: Firefighter halts teen who killed father, shot 3

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

Kate Brumback and Jay Reeves

A volunteer firefighter stopped a teenager who shot two students and a teacher outside a South Carolina elementary school after killing his father at their home, authorities said. Anderson County Sheriff John Skipper said the shooter was apprehended Wednesday afternoon outside rural Townville Elementary School before he could get inside the building. Firefighter Jamie Brock, a 30-year veteran of the Townville Volunteer Fire Department down the road from the school, "just took him down," the sheriff said. He said the fire station is close to the school and Brock arrived before other officers responding to the dispatch. Brock has said he doesn't want attention for his actions. He "wants to remain humble and quiet about it" as he believes "he did nothing any of the other volunteer firefighters wouldn't have done," said Scott Stoller with Anderson County Emergency Management.

WSPA: Teen shoots 3 at Townville elementary, police say; School closed for the week

<http://wsps.com/2016/09/29/teen-shoots-3-at-townville-elementary-police-say-school-closed-for-the-week/>

Officials say a 6-year-old is in critical condition after being shot in the leg at Townville Elementary, Wednesday. The 6-year-old, Jacob Hall, is at Greenville Memorial and we expect to learn more about his condition. Another student and a teacher were shot; they were released from the hospital. A 14-year-old boy is accused of those shootings after killing his father at home. An autopsy is planned for the father, Jeffrey Osborne, on Thursday. Jeffrey was found dead at the family's home on Osborne Road, just a few miles from Townville Elementary. The teen is now in custody, waiting on a family court hearing on Friday. Anderson County Sheriff John Skipper says firefighter Jamie Brock "just took him down" after responding to the shooting. Brock is a 30-year veteran of the Townville Volunteer Fire Department just down the road from the school and arrived before other officers responding to a 911 call from the school. Deputies arrived minutes later. Authorities say they don't yet know a motive for the shooting and they weren't sure if the students and teacher were targeted.

Associated Press: Sheriff to discuss 2015 quadruple slaying in South Carolina

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=w4rBk0Rq

SC State Wire

A South Carolina sheriff plans a news conference to discuss developments in an unsolved case in which four people, including two teenagers, were shot and killed in July 2015. A task force of local, state and federal investigators was formed last year to investigate the deaths. An announcement says Orangeburg County Sheriff Leroy Ravenell plans to meet with reporters at noon Thursday. Authorities say that 17-year-old Shamekia Sanders, 14-year-old Tamara Perry and 28-year-old Krystal Hutto all died of bullet wounds to the head in the July 15, 2015, shootings at a home outside of Holly Hill. Fifty-year-old Jerome Butler also was killed, while an 8-year-old boy was critically injured. Ravenell has said that drugs were being sold from the house where the slayings occurred.

Independent Mail: Video: Second Townville shooting press conference

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/2016/09/28/live-video-press-conference-townville-elementary-school-shooting/91232440/>

Mike Ellis

This live video from Independent Mail staff writer Mike Ellis, who is at the press conference for the shooting at Townville Elementary School. Two children were shot Wednesday afternoon at Townville Elementary School.

Associated Press: The Latest: Grandparents of school shooter found father dead

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ACmh3ege

SC State Wire

Authorities say the grandparents of a teenager suspected of opening fire outside an elementary school in South Carolina found their son dead after receiving a call from the teen. Anderson County Coroner Greg Shore says the teenager called his grandmother's cellphone at 1:44 p.m. Wednesday, but he was so upset, she couldn't understand him. So the grandparents went to his home just 100 yards away. When they got there, they found 47-year-old Jeffrey Osborne shot and their grandson not there. Authorities say a teacher called 911 about a shooter at Townville Elementary about a minute after the teen called his grandmother. Officials are not releasing the teen's name or age. One boy remains in critical condition at a Greenville hospital. A teacher and another student were treated and released from an Anderson hospital.

Associated Press: Authorities: School shooter killed father before rampage

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

Kate Brumback and Jay Reeves

A teenager who killed his father at their home Wednesday was stopped by a volunteer firefighter as he opened fire outside a South Carolina elementary school, wounding two students and a teacher, authorities said. The teen was apprehended within minutes of the shooting in this rural town about 110 miles northeast of Atlanta. One student was shot in the leg and the other in the foot, Capt. Garland Major with the Anderson County Sheriff's Office said. Both students were male. The female teacher was hit in the shoulder. "We are heartbroken about this senseless act of violence," said Joanne Avery, superintendent of Anderson County School District 4. She canceled classes at the school for the rest of the week. Authorities said the shootings began at the teen's house about two miles from the school, where he gunned down his 47-year-old father, Jeffrey Osborne. Authorities have not released the suspect's name or age beyond saying that he's a teen.

Greenville News: Townville Elementary shootings linked to nearby slaying <http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2016/09/28/shooting-reported-townville-elementary/91227346/>

Anna Lee, Romando Dixson and Ron Barnett

A 14-year-old armed with a handgun killed his father as he sat on the couch in their home on Wednesday before he got behind the wheel of a black pickup, pulled onto a rutted dirt road and headed to Townville Elementary about three miles away, according to authorities. There, as children were led outside for recess, the teenager rammed the truck into a chainlink fence surrounding the playground, stepped out and opened fire, authorities said. A bullet struck student Jacob Hall in the leg and a second boy was shot in the foot. First-grade teacher Meghan Hollingsworth managed to herd the children to safety inside the building even as she was shot in the shoulder. Among those heading out to the playground was Katrina Jones' 6-year-old niece. She said her niece told her that she heard the gunman say, "I hate my life," moments before the shooting. The shooter, who authorities said never entered the school, was subdued by the first emergency responder on the scene — an unarmed 30-year veteran of the Townville Volunteer Fire Department named Jamie Brock.

Fox Carolina: Kindergartner in critical condition, teen in custody after school shooting injures 3

<http://www.foxcarolina.com/story/33271132/school-district-emergency-situation-reported-at-townville-elementary-school>

Dal Kalsi and Amanda Shaw

School has been canceled for the rest of the week at Townville Elementary School after deputies said a teenager opened fire on the school playground, wounding three people on Wednesday. Deputies said two boys, both kindergarten students at the school, and an adult teacher were shot on the playground behind the school, located on Townville School Road. One of the students, Jacob Hall, was airlifted to the Greenville Hospital System pediatric trauma unit after being shot in the leg. A GHS spokesperson said Jacob was in critical condition as of 8 p.m. His parents, Rodger and Renae Hall, said, "We appreciate the community's support,

especially the Townville Rescue Squad who treated Jacob onsite and brought him to the hospital. We appreciate everyone's thoughts and prayers and ask for privacy during this difficult time."The other student, who was shot in the foot, and the teacher, shot in the shoulder, were taken to AnMed Health System for treatment. As of 6 p.m. officials at AnMed said both were released from the hospital.

WSPA: Boy shot at Townville Elementary in critical condition

<http://wspa.com/2016/09/28/6-year-old-shot-at-townville-elementary-in-critical-condition/>

One of two children injured in Wednesday's shooting at Townville Elementary is still in critical condition at a hospital in Greenville. 6-year-old Jacob Hall was taken to the Greenville Memorial Hospital after the shooting Wednesday afternoon. Hall's parents released a statement Wednesday evening through the hospital thanking the community for their support and prayers. "We appreciate the community's support, especially the Townville Rescue Squad who treated Jacob onsite and brought him to the hospital," said Rodger and Renae Hall, "We appreciate everyone's thoughts and prayers and ask for privacy during this difficult time." The hospital expects to have an update on Jacob's condition Thursday morning. If you would like to help, you can find the GoFundMe page here.

Greenville News: Community rallies around shooting victims

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/09/28/two-students-one-teacher-injured-school-shooting-getting-medical-care/91241328/>

Liv Osby, Ron Barnett, Eric Connor and Donna Isbell Walker

The details were few, but some emerged Wednesday about the Townville Elementary teacher and two students shot by a teenage gunman. The teacher, Meghan Hollingsworth, was released from AnMed hospital later in the afternoon along with another student, who hasn't been identified. The third victim, young Jacob Hall, was still fighting for his life. The boy's parents, Rodger and Renae Hall, released a statement as their son was in critical condition after being air-lifted to the Pediatric Trauma Center at Greenville Health System, where the most-serious cases in the area are treated. "We appreciate the community's support, especially the Townville Rescue Squad who treated Jacob onsite and brought him to the hospital," the parents said. "We appreciate everyone's thoughts and prayers and ask for privacy during this difficult time." The hospital said Wednesday it expects to provide an update on the boy's condition by 11 a.m. Jacob was shot in the leg. The other student was shot in the foot.

WSPA: Townville Elementary releases statement on school shooting

<http://wspa.com/2016/09/29/townville-elementary-releases-statement-on-school-shooting/>

Ron Norman

Townville Elementary released a statement after a shooting incident happened at the school, Wednesday...

Fox Carolina: Gov. Haley travels to Anderson Co. after Townville Elementary shooting

<http://www.foxcarolina.com/story/33272461/gov-haley-releases-statement-after-townville-elementary-shooting>

Amanda Shaw South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley released a statement on Wednesday after a school shooting. Deputies confirmed on Wednesday afternoon that a teacher and two students were shot at Townville Elementary School in Anderson County. The student taken to Greenville Health System is in serious condition, according to medical officials, while the teacher and student transported to AnMed are in good condition. Haley, who traveled to Anderson County, released the following statement on the incident. The governor landed at the Downtown Greenville Airport at 6 p.m. and will be meeting with school officials.

WYFF4: Gov., state officials ask for prayers for Townville

<http://www.wyff4.com/news/south-carolina-officials-call-for-townville-prayers-on-social-media/41869792>

Some South Carolina elected officials reacted Wednesday afternoon to the school shooting in Townville. Two students and a teacher were injured in a shooting at Townville Elementary School. Gov. Nikki Haley released the following statement: "As we work together with law enforcement to make sure they have the support they need to investigate what happened in Townville, Michael and I ask that everyone across South Carolina join us in praying for the entire Townville Elementary School family and those touched by today's tragedy."

Sen. Lindsey Graham tweeted: "Prayers for Townville." Later in the night, he tweeted: "Thank you to Jamie Brock, the volunteer firefighter who stopped the #Townville shooter. We truly admire and appreciate your service." That tweet referred to the Townville volunteer firefighter who was first at the scene of the shooting, and physically stopped the 14-year-old shooter.

The State: SC leaders react to Townville school shooting <http://www.thestate.com/news/article104719836.html>

S.C. elected leaders were quick to respond Wednesday to the shootings at an Anderson County elementary school. As is customary, most said their prayers were with the community....

NOTE: "As we work together with law enforcement to make sure they have the support they need to investigate what happened in Townville, Michael and I ask that everyone across South Carolina join us in praying for the entire Townville Elementary School family and those touched by today's tragedy." — S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley, R-Lexington

WACH: Gov. Haley asks for prayers for those impacted by Anderson County school shooting <http://wach.com/news/local/gov-haley-asks-for-prayers-for-those-impacted-by-anderson-county-school-shooting-09-28-2016>

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley issued a statement Wednesday after learning of the shooting in Townville S.C. A teen was taken into custody Wednesday afternoon and at least three people were injured in the shooting at Townville Elementary School in Anderson County. South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley issued a statement Wednesday after learning of the shooting in Townville S.C. A teen was taken into custody Wednesday afternoon and at least three people were injured in the shooting at Townville Elementary School in Anderson County. Police were dispatched to the school at around 1:45 p.m. Officials say the initial call came from a teacher in a classroom saying people had been shot. When officers arrived, they found a teacher and two students were wounded. One of the students had to be airlifted from the school. The other student suffered non-life threatening injuries. Anderson County Emergency Management Director Taylor Jones said lives were saved due to the response of Townville Fire Department and EMS workers who were first on the scene. He also credited the quick response of local law enforcement officers. "Today, I believe lives were saved because of our responders being so well-trained and being a cohesive team." Jones said.

Greenville News: Social media flooded with prayers, condolences for Townville Elementary <http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/09/28/social-media-users-send-prayers-condolences-following-elementary-school-shooting/91232750/>

At least three people have been injured in connection with a shooting at Townville Elementary School in Anderson County, according to Medshore Ambulance Service. Social media users, including elected officials, are sending notes of prayers and condolences....

Associated Press: Official: Teacher, 1 child from shooting in good condition http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ACmh3ege
SC State Wire

A hospital official says a teacher and a child brought there following a shooting at a South Carolina elementary school have both been released. AnMed Health spokeswoman Juana Slade had earlier told The Associated Press that the hospital had received one adult female and one male child, and that both were in good condition. Authorities say a female teacher and two male students were wounded in the shooting. Greenville News reported earlier Wednesday that a 6-year-old child was airlifted to Greenville Memorial and was in critical condition. Greenville Memorial spokeswoman Sandy Dees has confirmed that a child was taken to the hospital, but would not release any further information.

NBC News: Teenage Gunman Hurts Three at South Carolina School <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/shooting-injuries-reported-south-carolina-elementary-school-n656181>

Jon Schuppe

A teenage gunman shot two young students and a teacher at an elementary school in rural South Carolina on

Wednesday, and his father was later found shot to death at a home nearby, authorities said. The suspect, who officials said was home-schooled, was taken into custody without incident on school grounds shortly after authorities were called to Townville Elementary School at 1:45 p.m. ET by a teacher saying an armed man was on the property, investigators said. "We feel confident that we have the sole shooter, that no one else is involved and the community is not in danger at this point," said Capt. Garland Major, chief investigator for the Anderson County Sheriff's Office. The teacher, a woman, and one of the boys were treated and released from a hospital. The other boy was later transported to the Greenville Hospital System Pediatric Trauma Center, where his condition wasn't reported. The school, in Townville in Anderson County, about 35 miles southwest of Greenville, has 280 students from pre-kindergarten to sixth grade, serving a rural community in the western corner of the state.

CBS News: Officials: Teen gunman wounds 3 at S.C. elementary school

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/townville-south-carolina-elementary-school-shooting-person-in-custody/>

A teacher and two young students were injured when a 14-year-old allegedly opened fire at a South Carolina elementary school Wednesday afternoon, reports CBS affiliate WSPA. 911 dispatchers received the initial call around 1:45 p.m. from a teacher who was in a classroom, reporting an armed male on the campus, officials said at a press conference Wednesday evening. The shooting left a 6-year-old boy in critical condition and undergoing surgery, Scott Stoller, Anderson County's director of emergency services, told the Anderson Independent Mail. The other boy and a female teacher were in good condition, said Juana Slade, spokeswoman for AnMed Health Medical Center. Both boys were 6 years old, the Independent Mail reported. Anderson School District 4 superintendent Joanne Avery said the gunman was apprehended "within a matter of minutes." Capt. Garland Major of the Anderson County Sheriff's Office said officers arrived within seven minutes of the 1:45 p.m. 911 call and had the suspected shooter, a teenager, in custody by 2 p.m. The gunman was tackled by a volunteer Townville firefighter, the station reports.

NOTE: South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley was delayed on her way to Townville, but posted a statement to Facebook as she traveled. School would be canceled for the rest of the week and grief counselors would be made available, Avery said.

ABC News: 2 Students, 1 Teacher Hurt in South Carolina Elementary School Shooting

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/students-evacuated-south-carolina-elementary-school-incident/story?id=42424561>

Julia Jacobo

A teenager opened fire at an elementary school playground during recess in South Carolina on Wednesday, injuring two students and a teacher, but was brought down by a volunteer firefighter who jumped into the fray without being armed, officials said. And investigators believe the incident is connected to the shooting death of a man nearby, who appeared to be the suspect's father. A teacher placed a 911 call stating that a man was on the grounds at Townville Elementary School around 1:45 p.m., said Anderson County Emergency Service Director Taylor Jones and deputies from the Anderson County Sheriff's Office were on the scene within seven minutes, said Capt. Garland Major. But a volunteer firefighter, who was among the first on the scene, "used enough force" to take the suspect, who was armed with a handgun, down, said Anderson County Sheriff's Office Deputy Chief Keith Smith. The suspect never entered the school, and the entirety of the incident happened on the playground during recess, Smith said.

NOTE: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley called the shooting a "tragedy." "As we work together with law enforcement to make sure they have the support they need to investigate what happened in Townville, Michael and I ask that everyone across South Carolina join us in praying for the entire Townville Elementary School family and those touched by today's tragedy," Haley said.

CNN: SC school shooting: 2 children, 1 teacher wounded; suspect's father dead

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/09/28/us/south-carolina-elementary-school-shooting/index.html>

Steve Almasy and Keith Allen

Two children and a teacher were shot at an elementary school playground in Townville, South Carolina, an official with Anderson County Emergency Services told reporters. The suspected shooter, a teenager, is in custody, deputy chief Taylor Jones said. The father of the suspected shooter was found dead of a gunshot

wound, Anderson County Coroner Greg Shore told reporters. Shore identified the man as Jeffrey Osborne, 47. The house is about 2 miles from the school. Wednesday afternoon, the three victims at the school were struck by bullets from a handgun, Capt. Garland Major of the Anderson County Sheriff's Office said. One male student was hit in a leg and another boy was struck in a foot. The female teacher was wounded in a shoulder, Major said. It is unclear whether the alleged shooter knew any of the school victims. Major said the motive is unclear, but terrorism has been ruled out. The suspected gunman never entered the school, Anderson County Deputy Chief Keith Smith told reporters. The incident occurred at the school's playground, officials said.

Esquire: A Gunman Shot 2 Students and a Teacher at an Elementary School in South Carolina

<http://www.esquire.com/news-politics/news/a49044/school-shooting-reported-south-carolina/>

Michael Sebastian

Two children and a teacher were shot Wednesday afternoon at an elementary school in the rural community of Townville, South Carolina. Authorities said the suspect, a local teenager, shot and killed his 47-year-old father around 1:45 p.m. and then drove to the school, Townville Elementary, where he crashed his truck into a fence before opening fire with a handgun. Police apprehended the teen within minutes of the shooting, according to The Associated Press. WYFF, a local TV station in Greenville, South Carolina, said the shooting happened in a playground and the suspect—who WYFF said is 14 years old—never entered the school. A firefighter responding to the scene "took down" the suspect, according to WYFF. The motive for the attack is unclear, but CNN said authorities have ruled out terrorism or racism. It's not known what connection, if any, the suspect had to the school. Both of the students who were wounded are boys. One student suffered a bullet wound to the leg, the other to the foot. The female teacher was hit in the shoulder. None of the injuries are considered life threatening.

NOTE: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley released a statement shortly after the shooting. "As we work together with law enforcement to make sure they have the support they need to investigate what happened in Townville, Michael and I ask that everyone across South Carolina join us in praying for the entire Townville Elementary School family and those touched by today's tragedy," she said in the statement.

Wall Street Journal: South Carolina School Shooting Leaves Two Children, Teacher Wounded

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/two-students-teacher-wounded-in-south-carolina-school-shooting-1475091411>

Camero McWhirter

A teenager shot and wounded two children and a teacher Wednesday afternoon at an elementary school in Townville, S.C., according to law-enforcement officials. The shooting took place at about 1:45 p.m. at Townville Elementary School, southwest of Greenville, not far from the Georgia border. The suspect, who officials didn't name, was taken into custody without incident before 2 p.m., Capt. Garland Major with the Anderson County Sheriff's Office said at a news conference. Investigators don't believe any other person was involved, or that the incident was related to terrorism or a racial issue, he said. A spokeswoman for AnMed Health in Anderson, S.C., where two of the injured were taken, said both patients were in good condition and their vital signs were stable. Capt. Major said the suspect used a handgun and shot one child in the leg, the other in the foot, and the teacher in the shoulder. The 47-year-old father of the suspect was found shot to death Wednesday at a house at least a mile from the school, and investigators believe that the two incidents were related, said Greg Shore, the Anderson County Coroner.

NOTE: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, who headed to Townville late Wednesday afternoon, issued a statement asking "that everyone across South Carolina join us in praying for the entire Townville Elementary School family and those touched by today's tragedy."

Greenville News: Two children, one teacher hurt in elementary school shooting

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2016/09/28/shooting-reported-townville-elementary/91227346/>

A 14-year-old boy armed with a handgun shot two students and a teacher outside Townville Elementary School after killing his father, officials said Wednesday. The boy was subdued by a veteran volunteer firefighter and never entered the school. Law enforcement at a 5 p.m. news conference said the incident was not terrorism. The dead man was identified as Jeffery D. Osborne, 47, of 150 Osborne Road, Townville. They said the gunman was his teen-aged son, but did not identify him. A female teacher was shot in the shoulder and

released from AnMed. A male student shot in the foot has been discharged from AnMed Health. Another male student was shot in the leg and flown to the Pediatric Center at Greenville Health System. His condition was not available. Authorities would not say why the teenager went to the school. Veteran Townville volunteer firefighter Jamie Brock subdued the teen outside the school and held him until armed police officers could arrive on the scene, officials said.

NOTE: "As we work together with law enforcement to make sure they have the support they need to investigate what happened in Townville, Michael and I ask that everyone across South Carolina join us in praying for the entire Townville Elementary School family and those touched by today's tragedy," Gov. Nikki Haley said.

Greenville News: Two students, one teacher, injured in school shooting getting medical care

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/09/28/two-students-one-teacher-injured-school-shooting-getting-medical-care/91241328/>

Liv Osby

The victims of Wednesday's shooting at Townville Elementary School were two students and a teacher, authorities said. At a prayer vigil Wednesday evening, one of the students was identified as Jacob Hall. The others haven't been identified. The teacher was a woman and the students were both boys, according to Capt. Garland Major of the Anderson County Sheriff's Office. One of the students was shot in the leg while the other was shot in the foot, Major said. The teacher was shot in the shoulder, he said. All three received medical care for their injuries Wednesday afternoon, authorities said. The teacher and one of the students were taken to AnMed Health in Anderson by ambulance, where they were both listed in good condition, hospital spokesman Ross Norton said. The child was discharged, he said. The second child was airlifted to Greenville Memorial Hospital by LifeFlight, but no information was disclosed about his condition. Greenville Memorial is a Level 1 trauma center, which means it handles the most serious cases. All three were shot with a handgun, Major said.

Independent Mail: 2 children, teacher wounded in shooting at Townville Elementary

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/2016/09/28/possible-shooting-townville-elementary-school/91227360/>

A 14-year-old boy opened fire with a handgun at a playground at Townville Elementary School on Wednesday afternoon before he was stopped by a longtime volunteer firefighter, authorities said. Two 6-year-old children were injured, one critically, along with a teacher and Jeffrey Osbourne, the father of the teenager, was found shot to death at a home about three and a half miles away, said Captain Garland Major of the Anderson County Sheriff's Office and Anderson County Coroner Greg Shore. One of the children and the teacher have been released from AnMed Health Medical Center. The firefighter who stopped the shooting, Jamie Brock, has been in the fire service for about 30 years, said Chief Deputy Keith Smith of the Sheriff's Office. Smith said Brock was either not armed or did not use a weapon and it was not clear whether the shooter's gun had a malfunction that allowed Brock to apprehend the teenager. The shooter is believed to be 14 years old and officials could charge him as a minor, Smith said. The teenager was home schooled and was not a student at the Anderson County School District, according to the Sheriff's Office.

Post and Courier: Officials: 2 students, 1 teacher wounded after shooting at Townville Elementary School in S. C.

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160928/160929402/officials-2-students-1-teacher-wounded-after-shooting-at-townville-elementary-school-in-sc>

Gavin Jackson

A teenager opened fire outside Townville Elementary School on Wednesday afternoon — shortly after killing his father at home, authorities said — as this rural northwestern corner of South Carolina joined the national stage of gun violence attacks. The shooter also wounded two students and a teacher. He was stopped by a volunteer firefighter. Anderson County Coroner Greg Shore said the teen used a handgun to kill his father Jeffrey Osborne, 47, at their home. He then proceeded to nearby Townville Elementary where one student was shot in the leg, one was shot in the foot and a female teacher was shot in the shoulder, Capt. Garland Major with the Anderson County sheriff's office said. One male student was flown to Greenville Hospital Systems Pediatric Trauma Center for surgery. His condition is unknown. The teacher and the other male

student have been released from Anderson's AnMed Health Medical Center. It is unclear what the shooter's motive was, his connection to the victims and if they were his intended targets. Anderson County Sheriff John Skipper said the shooter and victims are white and no racial overtones were associated with shooting. NOTE: Despite earlier reports, officials said Gov. Nikki Haley will not be flying to Anderson. "As we work together with law enforcement to make sure they have the support they need to investigate what happened in Townville, Michael and I ask that everyone across South Carolina join us in praying for the entire Townville Elementary School family and those touched by today's tragedy," Haley said in a statement.

WYFF4: 2 students, teacher injured in shooting at Townville Elementary; teen in custody

<http://www.wyff4.com/news/possible-shooting-reported-at-elementary-school-police-say/41866672>

Carla Field

A 14-year-old is in custody after a shooting at an Upstate elementary school Wednesday afternoon left two students and a teacher wounded. That attack followed a shooting at a home a few miles from the school in which the teen's father was killed. The shooting happened shortly after 1 p.m. at Townville Elementary School at 105 State Road in Townville in Anderson County, Lt. Sheila Cole, with the Anderson County Sheriff's Office, said. ACSO Capt. Garland Major said one of the boys was shot in the foot, the other in the leg and the female teacher in the shoulder. One of the injured boys was airlifted to Greenville Memorial Hospital where he underwent surgery Wednesday afternoon. His condition was not immediately available. The second boy and the teacher were taken by ambulance to AnMed. They were treated and released, Ross Norton with AnMed said. A truck believed to have been driven by the teen crashed into a fence surrounding the playground and was left there.

NOTE: Gov. Nikki Haley released a statement saying: "As we work together with law enforcement to make sure they have the support they need to investigate what happened in Townville, Michael and I ask that everyone across South Carolina join us in praying for the entire Townville Elementary School family and those touched by today's tragedy." Haley is arrived in the Upstate Wednesday evening.

WSPA: 2 kids, teacher shot at Townville Elementary School; Teen arrested

<http://wspa.com/2016/09/28/deputies-responding-to-situation-at-townville-elementary/>

Anderson Co. deputies say there was a shooting at Townville Elementary school around 1:45 p.m. Wednesday. Deputy Chief Keith Smith says the incident happened on the playground behind the school and the shooter never entered the school. Anderson District 4 Superintendent Joanne Avery said a teen suspect is in custody and there is no longer an active threat. Deputies say there is no known relationship between the suspect and the victims. The suspect is home-schooled and is not a student at any school in the Anderson Co. School District. A family friend says he was expelled from his school last year for bringing a hatchet to school and attacking a child. Deputies say they were on-scene within seven minutes and the suspect was apprehended on the school grounds before 2:00pm. The initial apprehension was made by Firefighter Jamie Brock, a 30-year veteran of the Townville Volunteer Fire Department. They say the staff and students were evacuated within moments.

NOTE: SC Gov. Nikki Haley released a statement on the shooting: "As we work together with law enforcement to make sure they have the support they need to investigate what happened in Townville, Michael and I ask that everyone across South Carolina join us in praying for the entire Townville Elementary School family and those touched by today's tragedy."

WLTN: One in Custody, Three Hurt at SC Elementary School Shooting
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<http://www.wltx.com/news/local/shooting-reported-at-townville-elementary-school-in-anderson-county/327440246>

At least three people have been injured in connection with a shooting at Townville Elementary School in Anderson County, according to Medshore Ambulance Service. A teenager described as the shooter is in custody, according to law enforcement. One teacher was taken to AnMed Medical Center and two students were transported by helicopter to the pediatric center at Greenville Health System. The coroner said that two students had been shot and were being treated for non-life threatening injuries. A second press conference has been scheduled at the Emergency Operation Center in Anderson at 9pm, following a 5pm conference. Dr

Avery, Superintendent for South Carolina School District 4 says that school has been canceled for the rest of the week, and counseling services have been made available for both students and staff members. Information on these services will be communicated through their messaging system. Greg Shore, Anderson County Coroner, stated that Jeffery Osbourne, 47, was found deceased in his home today, and appears to be the shooter's father.

NOTE: SC Governor Nikki Haley released the following in response to the shooting: "As we work together with law enforcement to make sure they have the support they need to investigate what happened in Townville, Michael and I ask that everyone across South Carolina join us in praying for the entire Townville Elementary School family and those touched by today's tragedy."

Fox Carolina: Deputies: 2 kids, teacher shot at Townville Elementary School

<http://www.foxcarolina.com/story/33271132/school-district-emergency-situation-reported-at-townville-elementary-school>

Dal Kalsi

School has been canceled for the rest of the week at Townville Elementary School after deputies said a 14-year-old opened fire inside the school, wounding three people on Wednesday. Deputies said two boys, both students at the school, and an adult teacher were shot. One student was airlifted to the Greenville Hospital System pediatric trauma unit. The second student and the teacher were taken to AnMed Health System. MedShore Ambulance Service said the child taken to Greenville was in serious condition and the two patients at AnMed were in stable condition as of 4:30 p.m. As of 6 p.m. officials at AnMed said the child and the teacher had both been released from the hospital. A friend of the other child victim's family said he was undergoing surgery Wednesday evening. Officials said the boy flown to Greenville was hurt in the leg. The other boy was shot in the foot. The teacher was shot in the shoulder. Taylor Jones, Anderson County Emergency Services Director, said a teacher called 911 from a classroom at 1:45 p.m. to report that a male was shooting at the school.

NOTE: Officials said Governor Nikki Haley is also expected to arrive in Anderson County to meet with Anderson County School District 4 officials Wednesday evening. Haley released this statement via e-mail...

Associated Press: Authorities: School shooter killed father before rampage

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

Johnny Clark

A teenager killed his father at their home Wednesday before going to a nearby elementary school and opening fire with a handgun, wounding two students and a teacher, authorities said. The teen was apprehended within minutes of the school shooting in this rural town about 110 miles northeast of Atlanta. One of the students was shot in the leg and the other in the foot, Capt. Garland Major with the Anderson County sheriff's office said. Both students were male. The female teacher was hit in the shoulder. Before the shooting at Townville Elementary about 1:45 p.m., the teen gunned down his 47-year-old father, Jeffrey Osborne, at their home about 2 miles from the school, authorities said. "We are heartbroken about this senseless act of violence," said Joanne Avery, superintendent of Anderson County School District 4. She canceled classes for the rest of the week.

NOTE: Gov. Nikki Haley released a statement shortly after the shooting. "As we work together with law enforcement to make sure they have the support they need to investigate what happened in Townville, Michael and I ask that everyone across South Carolina join us in praying for the entire Townville Elementary School family and those touched by today's tragedy."

WSPA: Homicide in Townville connected to school shooting, coroner says

<http://wspa.com/2016/09/28/homicide-in-townville-connected-to-school-shooting-coroner-says/>

Robert Cox

A 47-year-old man was found dead at a home on Osborne Road in Townville in connection with the shooting at Townville Elementary. The coroner identified the man as 47-year-old Jeffrey Dewitt Osborne and say he is the father of the shooting suspect. The Anderson County Coroner says the shooter is also the teen suspect in the shooting at Townville Elementary School. The homicide scene is about 3 miles southwest the school.

WYFF: Man killed near school was father of teen in custody for shooting at school, officials say

<http://www.wyff4.com/news/coroner-investigates-death-at-home-near-school-connected-to-shooting-coroner-says/41868542>

The man shot and killed at a home near Townville Elementary School was the father of the teen being held in connection with the shooting at the school, authorities said. Two students and a teacher were injured in the shooting. For updated information on the shooting, click here. Jeffrey Dewitt Osborne was found dead at this home on Osborne Road, which is about three miles from the school, Coroner Greg Shore said. Shore said he died before the shooting at the school.

WLTX: Anderson County Press Conference on Townville Elementary Shooting

<http://www.wltx.com/news/local/anderson-county-press-conference-on-townville-elementary-shooting/327521598>

Joe Spratt

A press conference was held at 5pm on Wednesday to discuss the shooting at Townville Elementary School that occurred shortly before 2pm. Dr Avery, Superintendent for South Carolina School District 4 says that school has been canceled for the rest of the week, and counseling service have been made available for both students and staff members. Information on these services will be communicated through their messaging system. Greg Shore, Anderson County Coroner, stated that Jeffery Osbourne, 47, was found deceased in his home today, and appears to be the shooter's father. Captain Garland, Anderson Co Sheriff's Office lauded the response time of his department. Deputies were reportedly on the scene within seven minutes, and the shooter was in custody before 2pm. He mentions how methodical the investigation will be, noting that "we're not going to have all the answers at 11." There is a second press conference scheduled for 9pm Wednesday.

WSPA: Townville shooter stopped by firefighter, deputies say

<http://wspa.com/2016/09/28/townville-shooter-stopped-by-firefighter-deputies-say/>

Anderson County deputies say the shooter at Townville Elementary School was stopped by a volunteer firefighter before officers arrived. The Sheriff's Office says 30-year veteran volunteer firefighter Jamie Brock held the suspect until law enforcement arrived to arrest him. Brock is a firefighter for the Townville Volunteer Fire Department. Law enforcement was at the scene within 7 minutes of the shooting, according to the Sheriff's Office. Two students and a teacher were injured in the shooting. The shooter's father, 47-year-old Jeffrey Osbourne, was shot and killed at his home on Osborne Road before the shooting at the school.

WSPA: Townville shooter expelled after bringing hatchet to school, family friend says

<http://wspa.com/2016/09/28/townville-elem-shooter-expelled-after-bringing-hatchet-to-school/>

The suspect in the Townville Elementary School shooting was expelled from West-Oak Middle School after bringing a hatchet to school last year, according to a family friend. They say the shooter was 14-years-old and was being home-schooled. The teenager is suspected in the shooting death of his father, 47-year-old Jeffrey Osbourne, at a home on Osborne Road in Townville. He is also suspected in the shooting of two students and a teacher at Townville Elementary School. The Anderson County Sheriff's Office has not confirmed the identity of the shooter.

WSPA: Prayer service at Oakdale Baptist Church after school shooting

<http://wspa.com/2016/09/28/prayer-service-at-oakdale-baptist-church-after-school-shooting/>

Scottie Kay Auton

There will be a prayer service at Oakdale Baptist Church tonight at 7:00 p.m. after the shooting at Townville Elementary School. The church says they will have Awana club, but no buses will run. Awana kids will first meet in the auditorium of the church for the prayer service, then the club will resume on a modified schedule. The shooting suspect was 14 years old and was being home-schooled. The teenager is suspected in the shooting death of his father, 47-year-old Jeffrey Osbourne, at a home on Osborne Road in Townville. He is also suspected in the shooting of two students and a teacher at Townville Elementary School. Investigators say the suspect went to the school after the shooting at the home.

Independent Mail: Prayer service held after school shooting

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/09/28/prayer-service-held-after-school-shooting/91251718/>

Kirk Brown

More than 100 Townville residents joined in singing "Amazing Grace" during a prayer service Wednesday night that was held hours after a school shooting. The solemn service took place at Oakdale Baptist Church, the same place where students were brought Wednesday afternoon when Townville Elementary School was evacuated after a teen gunman shot two students and a teacher. "It has been a tragic day in our community," Anderson School District 4 Superintendent Joanne Avery said at the service. Avery said she was proud of how the staff at Townville Elementary reacted to the shooting. "You saved lives," she said. Townville Elementary Principal Denise Fredericks echoed Avery's comments. "I think we had some heroes in our school today," she said. South Carolina Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman, who attended the vigil, said she intends to use the response to Wednesday's shooting as an example for other schools throughout the state. David Blizzard, the senior pastor at Oakdale Baptist, said he was thankful that the shooting did not lead to more carnage.

Fox Carolina: Classes cancelled at Townville Elementary for rest of week

<http://www.foxcarolina.com/story/33272825/classes-cancelled-at-townville-elementary-for-rest-of-week>

Amanda Shaw

During a press conference on Wednesday, the superintendent of Anderson County District 4 said classes would be cancelled at Townville Elementary after a shooting. Dr. Joanne Avery spoke to the media at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, just hours after a teenage shooter reportedly opened fire at the elementary school, injuring a teacher and two students. Deputies said the shooter's father was found dead a few miles away from the school. The coroner confirmed his death was a homicide and it is being investigated in connection with the school shooting. Avery said classes would be cancelled for the rest of the week at Townville Elementary in light of the tragedy. She said the school has conducted active shooter drills in the past.

Independent Mail: Parents relieved, overwhelmed with shooting at school

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/09/28/parents-relieved-overwhelmed-shooting-school/91238760/>

Frances Parrish

Parents clutched their phones and wiped tears from their faces as they stood outside Oakdale Baptist Church in Townville waiting for any information as their children were bused from Townville Elementary School. About 40 parents had arrived at the church before they received a phone alert from Anderson School District 4 saying there was a shooting at the school. The message said that the shooter had been apprehended and told parents where they could pick up their children. The call came in at 2:39 p.m. Jamie Glenn, a mother of three children at Townville Elementary, had been at the church for 15 or 20 minutes before she got the automated call from the district, which she wasn't happy about. "I wished they had notified the parents earlier," Glenn said. She and her husband had found out about the shooting from new outlets and Facebook before receiving word from the school district. But some parents understood the later notification.

Independent Mail: South Carolina has history of school shootings

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/09/28/south-carolina-has-history-school-shootings/91236014/>

Alison Newton

The shooting on Wednesday at Townville Elementary School in Anderson County marked another incident in a long history of school shootings in South Carolina. On Sept. 26, 1988, two 8-year-olds were killed in a school shooting at Oakland Elementary School in Greenwood. James William Wilson, 19 at the time of the shooting, fatally shot 8-year-olds Shequila Tawoon Bradley and Tequila Maria Thomas. Multiple other children and adults were wounded in Wilson's shooting spree. Wilson said in an interview with The State newspaper in September 1988 that as he pulled the trigger of his grandfather's .22-caliber pistol he was remembering the ridicule he endured from classmates at other schools for being overweight and dressing funny. Wilson also said that he was copying a similar act by a woman in Winnetka, Ill. Witnesses said Wilson shot pupils who screamed.

Charlotte Protest Shooting:

Associated Press: The Latest: State of emergency ends for Charlotte, county

<http://bigstory.ap.org/7bdbf498c34d470f95104d9030491138>

The city of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County have terminated the state of emergency placed into effect after protests over the shooting death of a black man by a police officer last week. A statement from the city said Charlotte Mayor Jennifer Roberts and Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners Chairman Trevor Fuller issued the proclamation Wednesday. The shooting death of Keith Lamont Scott led to two nights of violent protests, including unrest hours after the shooting Sept. 20 and more violence in downtown Charlotte the next night. The city had already lifted a curfew Monday.

Charlotte Observer: Keith Lamont Scott's funeral to be handled by S.C. mortuary

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/local/crime/article104492601.html>

Joe Maruska

The funeral for Keith Lamont Scott will be handled by a mortuary in North Charleston, S.C. Scott's fatal shooting by a Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officer on Sept. 20 has led to nightly protests, some of which have turned violent. Scott, 43, of Charlotte previously lived in James Island, S.C., according to his obituary on the website of Murray's Mortuary. He was married to Rakeyia Scott and had seven children and two grandchildren. Scott's obituary says his late father, Robert Scott Sr., was a detective. Rakeyia Scott's cellphone video, recorded in the moments leading up to her husband's death, has been viewed worldwide since she released it on Friday. Details of Scott's funeral service have yet to be announced.

Charlotte Observer: Hundreds attend funeral of 26-year-old shot during Charlotte protest

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/special-reports/charlotte-shooting-protests/article104693511.html>

Joe Marusak

More than 500 people memorialized 26-year-old Justin Carr on Wednesday, with his pastor calling him a hero. Carr was shot in the head Sept. 21 during violent protests following the shooting death by Charlotte-Mecklenburg police of Keith Lamont Scott. Carr died the next day, and a man faces a murder charge in his death. Carr attended the uptown Charlotte protest so he could tell his grandmother he'd attended a rally for justice, as she had in the 1960s marching with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., family members said. "He was there for a purpose," cousin Bianca Graham said. Carr did not die in vain, family and friends said at his funeral at Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church on Statesville Avenue. So many people attended that some had to watch on a monitor in another church building, while others stood outside the church.

Charlotte Observer: CMPD withholding more than two hours of video from Scott shooting

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/special-reports/charlotte-shooting-protests/article104672831.html>

Ames Alexander

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department has refused to release more than two hours of footage that video cameras captured at the University City apartment complex where police fatally shot Keith Lamont Scott last week. On Saturday, CMPD released about two minutes of video footage, captured by a dashboard camera and a body camera, showing the moments immediately before and after the Sept. 20 shooting. But the police body camera captured a total of 16 minutes of footage, while the dash-cam recorded an hour and 50 minutes. The last 14 minutes of footage from the body camera shows officers performing CPR and providing medical help to Scott, according to CMPD lawyer Judy Emken. Observer lawyer Jon Buchan said Emken told him Wednesday that the footage wasn't released because it is "very violent" and too graphic. She said the video was not shown to Scott's family for the same reasons.

Dylann Roof Case:

Associated Press: Jury pool narrowed to 750 in church shooting trial

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

SC State Wire

The jury pool has been narrowed to just under 750 people in the federal trial of Dylann Roof, who stands charged in the shooting deaths of nine churchgoers in Charleston, South Carolina. Roof could face execution if convicted of hate crimes and obstruction of religion resulting in death, among other charges in the massacre inside Emanuel AME Church. About 3,000 potential jurors were summoned, and began reporting this week. A total of 41 were excused or had their jury service moved. But midday Wednesday, the court passed its goal of 700 when 748 potential jurors filled out questionnaires about the June, 2015 church shooting. The others who were summoned don't have to report. The questionnaires will be reviewed by attorneys before jurors return again in early November for individual questioning.

Post and Courier: Dylann Roof jury pool selection wraps up Wednesday

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160928/160929428/dylann-roof-jury-pool-selection-wraps-up-wednesday>

Abigail Darlington

A jury pool of 758 potential jurors has been selected for the death penalty trial of Dylann Roof after qualification rounds wrapped up Wednesday morning in a federal courtroom in downtown Charleston. The pool was winnowed from the initial summons that went to about 3,000 residents across the Lowcountry. The process required 10 selection rounds altogether, four on both Monday and Tuesday and two on Wednesday. Prospective jurors passed through Wednesday's qualification sessions in a group of 73 at 9 a.m. and 80 at 11 a.m. All but eight of the panel members, who were deemed exempt, will continue to the next round of selection starting on Nov. 7, when 12 jurors and six alternates will be chosen from the big pool to determine Roof's fate.

Post and Courier: Courtroom sketch artist on drawing Dylann Roof: 'I was praying for him'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160928/160929387/courtroom-sketch-artist-on-drawing-dylann-roof-i-was-praying-for-him>

Caitlin Byrd

Robert Maniscalco glanced down at his sketchbook Monday morning before he looked up and found himself looking into the eyes of the man accused of killing nine black parishioners at Emanuel AME Church. They stared at each other from across Charleston's federal courtroom: artist and subject, Maniscalco and Dylann Roof. Maniscalco said Roof appeared to smirk, and the artist looked down at his sketchbook, closed his eyes and prayed. "I prayed that he might realize the horror that he's caused and the lives he's ruining — not just for the nine, but for all of the people that have been affected by this," Maniscalco said. Maniscalco is a Charleston area portrait artist and adjunct professor at Charleston Southern University. He is also the courtroom sketch artist commissioned by a pool of media outlets to document Roof's federal trial.

The State: Jury for Dylann Roof's federal trial will be chosen from pool of 748 people

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article104784211.html>

John Monk

Some 748 prospective jurors in the upcoming Dylann Roof federal death penalty trial have been picked to go on to a second, more intensive, phase of jury screening that will begin Nov. 7. The 748 who survived the initial screening process this week were picked over a two and a half day period that began Monday in a small federal courtroom in Charleston. About 3,000 were initially summoned for this week's screening process. Federal Judge Richard Gergel had said he would like to come up with a pool of 700 potential jurors. This week's screening went faster than expected. By around noon Wednesday, the court had surpassed that goal and wound up with 748 — a number that should be more than enough to produce a final jury panel of 12 jurors and six alternates.

Governor Nikki Haley News:

The Item: The New South Carolina Part 1: People of the Palmetto State

<http://www.theitem.com/stories/the-new-south-carolina-part-1-people-of-the-palmetto-state,276960>

Opinion: Phil Noble

Editor's note: This is the first of a three-part series on how new demographics, economy and politics trends are changing South Carolina. There is a New South Carolina being born. You can see evidence of it in a recent

Time Magazine special issue featuring the 100 Most Influential. There are four South Carolinians in the magazine - two were chosen among the 100 Most Influential, and two were chosen to write short profiles. Who they are and what they wrote says a lot about our state and who we are becoming - the New South Carolina. How were they chosen? Editor Nancy Gibbs said, "One way or the other they each embody a breakthrough; they broke the rules, broke the record, broke the silence, broke the boundaries to reveal what we're capable of each in their own way have lessons to teach." So who are the four South Carolinians, and what are the lessons they have to teach us?

NOTE: The first is Gov. Nikki Haley, a 21st Century South Carolinian. When she was chosen for the list, it got lots of media attention, as well it should. She was pictured seated at a big desk surrounded by a crowd of former governors, politicians and church people as she held a pen to sign the bill to take down the Confederate flag. Haley was born in Barnwell to Indian immigrant parents. She grew up different - not white, not black - with all the challenges that brought. From childhood, she worked in the family clothing business, and she graduated from Clemson with a degree in accounting. Her husband has a military career as an officer, and they have two beautiful children.

NOTE: Sen. Lindsey Graham wrote the tribute to Haley. After citing the challenges she and our state faced with the Emanuel and Walter Scott shootings and the 1,000-year flood, he said, " Gov. Haley led with determination, grace and compassion From shaking up the system to providing kindness and understanding to the individuals and families affected by these tragedies, she put a face on South Carolina that we are all extremely proud of."

Post and Courier: Group wants to store more nuclear waste in South Carolina; stakeholders weigh in
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160928/160929397/group-wants-to-store-more-nuclear-waste-in-south-carolina-stakeholders-weigh-in>

Derek Asberry

A group that wants to collect radioactive nuclear waste from South Carolina power plants and store it near Aiken and Barnwell counties expects pushback from those who already view the state as a nuclear dumping ground. "Governor Haley has been clear: South Carolina will not become a permanent dumping ground for nuclear waste regardless of where it would be housed or who would house it," spokesperson Chaney Adams wrote Wednesday in a prepared statement. But Mike Stake, president of the Spent Fuel Reprocessing Group, said the intent is not to permanently store the spent fuel — a radioactive material that is considered "spent" once it is used in a nuclear reactor. Stake said the group wants to store the material until a reliable technology is created that can convert the material into a nuclear energy source. He said he knows of companies that are just a few years away from making that a reality. Once the technology is ready, Stake wants to have the spent fuel stored in one place and ready for reprocessing.

Associated Press: Federal regulators discuss problems at Columbia fuel plant
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=cplLODb6

SC State Wire

Federal regulators say they've found there was a "substantial potential" for an accident that could have injured workers at the Westinghouse nuclear fuel plant near Columbia. Media outlets report the preliminary results of an investigation into a uranium built up at the plant were discussed Tuesday night. Westinghouse does not dispute the information and says it's working to resolve problems at the 47-year-old plant. "We have had significant performance lapses at the Columbia site," said Michele DeWitt, Westinghouse's interim senior vice president for nuclear fuel and components manufacturing. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission says Westinghouse was unable to keep uranium from accumulating in plant equipment. "Potential safety consequences to workers were high," according to a power point presentation from the initial investigation.

Aiken Standard: Barnwell potential new home for additional nuke facility
<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160927/160929584/barnwell-potential-new-home-for-additional-nuke-facility&source=RSS>

Thomas Gardiner

Barnwell County could become the home of yet another nuclear waste repository, if an Aiken group sees its plans come to fruition. Mike Stake, president of the Spent Fuel Reprocessing Group in Aiken, penned a letter to

the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in July. In the letter, Stake officially announced intentions to apply for licensure that would allow the group to construct and operate a processing and disposition facility near Savannah River Site, just outside of Barnwell. Barnwell County is already home to the Chem-Nuclear low-level nuclear waste disposal facility, which has been leaking tritium for years. While the tritium leak may have caused alarm for some people, including multiple environmental groups, according to the Department of Health and Environmental Control website, radiation levels from that leak are low level and well below recommended exposure levels. According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission website, "High-level radioactive waste primarily is uranium fuel that has been used in a nuclear power reactor and is 'spent,' or no longer efficient in producing electricity. Spent fuel is thermally hot as well as highly radioactive."

NOTE: Gov. Nikki Haley has said over and over again that the Palmetto State will not become a dumping ground for nuclear waste. Her office added to that in an email statement, saying that stance would not change, regardless of where it would be housed or who would house it.

GSA Business: GHS awaits governor's office on bond reclassification

<http://www.gsabusiness.com/news/government/70552/>

Matthew Clark

Greenville Health System officials are waiting on word from Gov. Nikki Haley as to whether she will agree to reclassify \$600 million in bonds from public to private, not-for-profit status. The hospital system has an internal deadline of Oct. 1 to get word on the governor's decision. That is the date the hospital officially changes its governance structure to include a government body that will oversee the lease of property as well as a newly-established community fund, and the Upstate Affiliate Organization which will serve as the provider of care for the region. With bond reclassification, GHS CEO Mike Riordan said if the governor does not reclassify the bonds from public to not-for-profit status, it could cost the hospital system nearly \$167 million in additional financing fees as the bonds would have to be sold on the taxable market. The governor's office did not respond to repeated requests for comment. If the bonds are reclassified, the health system would not have to refinance the bonds, thus saving the additional interest fees, according to Riordan.

Associated Press: Company expanding in Greer, adding about 35 jobs

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=0jMQIU87

SC State Wire

A company that makes weather stripping and weather seals is expanding its operations in Greenville County, investing \$2 million and adding about 35 jobs. Ultrafab, Inc., announced Wednesday it is expanding its plant in Greer to accommodate the growth. The expanded production should begin by the end of the year. The company is already hiring to fill the new positions.

General Assembly News:

The State: Retired SC state workers urge legislators to preserve pension benefits

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article104528516.html>

A retired Forest Acres couple told legislators Tuesday they eat only two meals a day, and make house and car repairs themselves to hold down their living expenses. Combined, retired state employees Lynn and Richard Schmidt earn about \$50,000 a year in pension benefits – an incentive, they say, that caused them to work for the state instead of taking better paying jobs in the private sector. "You promised us when we were hired, that if we would accept a lower salary, you would take care of us," Lynn Schmidt, 62, told a panel of lawmakers grappling with how to fix the state's ailing retirement system. "Don't take that away." The S.C. Retirement System has \$18.2 billion in unfunded liabilities – the difference between the amount the pension fund has to pay for workers' retirement benefits and the amount it has promised to pay current employees and retirees in the system. Lawmakers are grappling with whether to fill that gap with money from S.C. taxpayers or ask state workers and their public-sector employers – state agencies, school districts and local governments – to pay more.

Herald-Journal: Rising pension costs hurting SC employees

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20160927/rising-pension-costs-hurting-sc-employees?rssfeed=true>

Bob Montgomery

South Carolina's 32,442 state employees are contributing more of their paychecks than ever to the state's pension system, yet a deficit of \$16.8 billion is projected to grow even more, representatives of state employee groups told lawmakers Tuesday. The impact on paychecks, which aren't high to begin with, has gotten so big that teachers, police, parole and corrections officers are leaving their jobs in droves, according to many of those who testified. "It's not right to make state employees shoulder this burden," said Carlton Washington, executive director of the S.C. State Employees Association. "Many are working for less now than when they first started working for the state." Testimony came at a hearing of a joint committee created by S.C. House Speaker Jay Lucas and Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman to hear about the magnitude of the problem and then propose solutions for the legislature to consider in the upcoming session.

The State: SC lawmakers may rethink controversial property tax law

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article104501406.html>

Jamie Self

State lawmakers may rethink a controversial property tax law passed before the Great Recession. Called Act 388, the 2006 law is among a host of tax policies a S.C. House panel is reviewing. The panel hopes to make recommendations for legislative changes before lawmakers to return to Columbia for work in January. On Tuesday, lawmakers heard an overview of the 2006 law from tax experts. The law's key feature was a tax swap that benefited homeowners. The law exempted owner-occupied homes from paying operating taxes for local schools, shifting that burden to commercial and other properties. In exchange, the state increased the state sales tax by a penny and agreed to send money back to school districts, theoretically, to make up for lost revenue.

SC Delegation News:

Post and Courier: U.S. House passes water infrastructure bill authorizing Charleston Harbor dredging

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160928/160929437/us-house-passes-water-infrastructure-bill-authorizing-charleston-harbor-dredging>

Emma Dumain

The House of Representatives passed a key water infrastructure bill Wednesday that would, among other things, ensure the Charleston Harbor deepening project stays on schedule. Lawmakers voted 399-25 to pass the Water Resources Development Act, or WRDA. All members of the South Carolina congressional delegation voted "yes." Just 24 hours earlier, the legislation appeared in peril. Democrats threatened to withhold support as Republicans refused to allow a vote on an amendment that would provide aid to the city of Flint, Mich., which is still grappling with a major contaminated drinking water crisis. Republicans pointed to the Senate-passed version of WRDA, which had that language included. They forecast that when both chambers meet to hash out the details of a final bill in November or December, it was likely that money would survive the negotiations. Democrats weren't willing to trust Republicans at their word, fearing that unless the money was in their WRDA bill, too, they would come to the negotiating table with a weaker hand.

NOTE: The effort to pass the House bill before the October recess, even though it won't be signed into law until after Election Day, was also being closely watched by the S.C. Chamber of Commerce and Gov. Nikki Haley.

Associated Press: Connecticut lawmakers approve deal to keep Sikorsky Aircraft

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=toTG6eO3

Susan Haigh

A \$220 million agreement that would keep Sikorsky Aircraft Corp. in Connecticut for at least the next 16 years to produce a new line of heavy cargo helicopters for the U.S. military easily cleared the General Assembly on Wednesday, with some lawmakers hailing the deal as a positive sign for manufacturing in the state. The deal reached between Sikorsky, Democratic Gov. Dannel P. Malloy's administration and Sikorsky's new owner, Maryland-based Lockheed Martin, passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 136-6 and the Senate on a 35-1 tally. Both chambers are controlled by Democrats. While some minority Republicans grumbled about having to pay the company to essentially remain in the state, many Democrats were celebratory, pleased that

Connecticut was able to beat back competition from other, less expensive states. Democratic Senate President Martin Looney, of New Haven, said Connecticut was competing with Florida, South Carolina, Texas and Georgia to build nearly 200 CH-53K King Stallion helicopters.

Associated Press: The Latest: Lawmakers pass deal to keep Sikorsky Aircraft

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=drB6tl4j

SC State Wire

The Connecticut General Assembly has given final legislative approval to a \$220 million agreement that will keep Sikorsky Aircraft Corp. in the state to produce a new line of heavy cargo helicopters. The bill cleared the House of Representatives on Wednesday by a vote of 136-6. Earlier in the day, it passed the Senate 35-1. Democratic Gov. Dannel P. Malloy's administration reached the deal with Sikorsky and its new owner, Maryland-based Lockheed Martin. Malloy is expected to sign the bill into law. He calls the agreement "bold" and "forward-thinking" and says it will help Sikorsky workers and hundreds of small businesses across the state. Republican House Minority Leader Themis Klarides (THEHM'-his KLEHR'-ih-dehs) says she supports the deal with "a heavy heart." She says the state shouldn't have to chase after businesses. The Sikorsky agreement needs approval from union workers, who are expected to OK it. The company would build nearly 200 heavy cargo helicopters in Stratford by 2032.

McClatchy DC: GOP congressman proposes deporting all non-citizens on the terror watch list

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/congress/article104759881.html>

Vera Bergengruen

Rep. Jeff Duncan calls it "No-fly, goodbye," but the official name is the Terrorist Deportation Act. The South Carolina Republican introduced legislation Tuesday that would deport all non-citizens living in the United States who are on the terror watch lists, revoking their visas and bans them from re-entering the country. "Freeing up law enforcement resources by reducing the number of people residing in the United States who are suspected of terrorism will keep America safer," Duncan said Wednesday in a statement. "Freeing up law enforcement resources by reducing the number of people residing in the United States who are suspected of terrorism will keep America safer," Duncan said Wednesday in a statement. A bipartisan bill backed by Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., this summer sought to prevent people on the no-fly list from buying firearms. The "no-fly, no buy" legislation was shot down by Republicans worried that possible errors on the list could result in innocent Americans losing their Second Amendment rights. The push for the gun law came after an attack on a gay nightclub in Orlando in June, which left 49 people dead. The 29-year-old shooter, Omar Mateen, had previously been on the watch list.

Greenville News: Sen. Lindsey Graham targets aid to Palestinians

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/09/28/sen-lindsey-graham-targets-aid-palestinians/91231374/>

Mary Orndorff Troyan

A Kiawah Island couple's letter to Sen. Lindsey Graham about their son's death in Israel has prompted the South Carolina senator to threaten U.S. aid to the Palestinian Authority. Graham, along with Sen. Dan Coats, R-Ind., and Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., say the U.S. should stop all economic assistance to the Palestinian Authority until it stops financially rewarding people described by the three senators as terrorists who commit acts of violence against Israel. Taylor Force, a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, was killed in March while in Jaffa during a trip for his graduate-degree program. The Palestinian attacker, who also wounded 10 others, was shot and killed. Congress has previously required that U.S. aid be reduced by the same amount the Palestinian Authority spends to support terror suspects and their families. Graham said the legislation introduced Tuesday would target all economic assistance.

Post and Courier: After son's murder in Israel, a South Carolina couple channels grief into action

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160928/160929381/after-sons-murder-in-israel-a-south-carolina-couple-channels-grief-into-action>

Emma Dumain

In 2010, Stuart and Robbi Force retired — as many do — to Kiawah Island, looking for a change of scenery and

a chance to do something new in their “golden years” now that their two children, a son and daughter, were all grown up. Six years later, they found a calling in the aftermath of unfathomable tragedy: The death of their 28-year-old son, Taylor, at the hands of a Palestinian terrorist during a trip sponsored by Vanderbilt University, where he was attending graduate school. The circumstance surrounding Taylor Force’s fatal stabbing in Tel Aviv in March of this year led his parents through a run of Google searches, news articles and court opinions on the Palestinian Authority’s reported practice of offering monetary rewards to Palestinians who kill Americans or Israelis. Finally, on Wednesday, it brought them to Washington, D.C., for the unveiling of legislation named for their son — an Iraq War veteran — and introduced in his honor. “We are here to let the Force family know their son did not die in vain,” U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said at a press conference to announce the Taylor Force Act, which would compel the secretary of state to confirm the Palestinian Authority is not incentivizing terrorist acts. Without those assurances, the U.S. government’s cash flow to the Palestinian Authority would be stopped.

Post and Courier: Bill filed to designate National Medal of Honor Museum in South Carolina

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160928/160929401/bill-filed-to-designate-national-medal-of-honor-museum-in-south-carolina>

John McDermott

A \$98 million addition to Patriots Point in Mount Pleasant would be designated by Congress as the National Medal of Honor Museum, according to a proposal from a South Carolina lawmaker. U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., filed the House bill on Sept. 22 and announced it Wednesday. “Recipients of the Medal of Honor showed courage, bravery, and selflessness when defending our country,” Wilson said in a written statement. “They deserve to have their stories told in a dedicated museum where all Americans can pay tribute to their sacrifice and learn of their heroism. I look forward to visitors across the nation and around the world to tour Patriots Point soon.” His co-sponsors include three Palmetto State lawmakers: Rep. Mark Sanford, Rep. Jeff Duncan, and Rep. Trey Gowdy. “Mount Pleasant would be lucky to have such a prestigious museum in the shadow of the USS Yorktown, and the National Medal of Honor Museum could find no better home than one of the top tourist destinations in the world,” Sanford said.

The State: Mulvaney leads Person in 5th District race, SC GOP poll says

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article104715201.html>

Jamie Self

U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney, R-Indian Land, has a wide lead over Democrat Fran Person in the 5th District congressional race, according to a new poll commissioned by the S.C. Republican Party. Conducted by Benchmark Research, the automated telephone survey shows Mulvaney winning with 51 percent support in the state’s Piedmont district. Person of Tega Cay, a former aide to Vice President Joe Biden, has 28 percent support. Nearly one in five voters – or 18 percent – are undecided, and American Party candidate Rudy Barnes picked up 2 percent support, the poll said. Benchmark’s Walter Whetsell, a GOP consultant from Lexington, said the poll reflects the opinions of 1,200 registered voters contacted on land lines Tuesday. First elected to Congress in 2010, beating long-time Democratic U.S. Rep. John Spratt, Mulvaney won re-election in 2012 with 56 percent of the vote over Democrat Joyce Knott. In 2014, Mulvaney beat Democrat Tom Adams, picking up 59 percent of the vote.

SC Political News:

The State: Trump narrowly leads Clinton in SC, new poll says

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article104839496.html>

Bristow Marchant

South Carolina voters prefer Republican Donald Trump as their next president only slightly more than they prefer Democrat Hillary Clinton, according to a new Winthrop Poll. But they also mostly dislike the candidates while feeling strongly that the outcome of the election is important to their personal future and the future of the country. Released early Thursday, the poll shows GOP presidential nominee Trump with 42 percent support from S.C. likely voters. Clinton, the Democratic nominee, trails close behind with 38 percent support. The poll surveyed 694 S.C. residents from Sept. 18-26 and has a margin of error of 3.7 percentage points.

Among the 475 likely voters in November's general election who were surveyed, the margin of error of 4.5 percentage points.

Post and Courier: Donald Trump holds small lead against Hillary Clinton in new state poll

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160929/160929356/donald-trump-holds-small-lead-against-hillary-clinton-in-new-state-poll>

Maya T. Prabhu

While South Carolina residents said they found neither candidate for president to be honest, likely voters said they prefer Republican businessman Donald Trump to Democrat and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, according to a poll from Winthrop University. Of likely voters surveyed earlier this month, 42 percent said they prefer Trump, while 38 percent said they would vote for Clinton, according to the results released Thursday morning. "While Clinton is seen as the more capable candidate, she is also viewed as more dishonest," Winthrop Poll Director Scott Huffmon said. "However, both candidates are setting records for being viewed unfavorably. While Trump has the lead, these factors may contribute to why he is underperforming expectations of a hypothetical generic Republican versus generic Democrat matchup." The poll was conducted from Sept. 18 to 26 and ended before Monday's first presidential debate.

Aiken Standard: Poll: S.C. voters prefer Trump but not as much as Republican presidential candidates before

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160929/160929524/poll-sc-voters-prefer-trump-but-not-as-much-as-republican-presidential-candidates-before-->

Maayan Schechter

South Carolina voters prefer Donald Trump, rather than Hillary Clinton in the White House. But Trump's numbers in the Palmetto State still lag behind previous Republican presidential candidates in the state. The latest Winthrop Poll, conducted between Sept. 18-26 before Monday's first presidential debate, shows Trump with 42 percent approval from likely voters in South Carolina, compared to Clinton with 38 percent. At least 7 percent of likely voters in the state were undecided, while none of the third party candidates registered support in the double digits, the poll said. Meanwhile, a majority of state residents surveyed did not view Trump or Clinton as favorable or "honest." The poll said only 1 in 5 of those surveyed described Clinton as honest, with Trump being described using the same description from a third of residents.

Opinion/Editorial:

The Herald: State overdue in helping schools

<http://www.heraldonline.com/opinion/editorials/article104733606.html>

Editorial Board

S.C. Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman said recently that the state is "breaking the law" by refusing to provide access to a decent education to every student in the state. That should make state lawmakers stand up and take notice. But it is doubtful they will. They have had decades to deal with this disparity and have not risen to the challenge. Perhaps it is because they believe they are above the law or that the law is whatever they say it is. Or maybe they place a higher priority on pinching pennies than on helping the state's poorer school districts meet the needs of students. But when Spearman refers to breaking the law, she is speaking literally. A new state law requires every student in South Carolina to graduate with the skills to attend college or pursue a career, but the Legislature has not provided the necessary money to achieve that standard. The effort to improve education in poorer rural districts stems from a ruling by the S.C. Supreme Court. Two years ago, the court ruled that the state's public school system has failed to provide all children with the quality education guaranteed by the state Constitution, and ordered lawmakers and school districts to come up with solutions.

NOTE: The proposal is likely to be a hard sell. Gov. Nikki Haley already has declared that she won't endorse a statewide approach to funding schools.

NOTE: Haley, to her credit, has proposed using state money to help districts upgrade crumbling schools. But lawmakers rejected her proposal this year, meaning that districts with small tax bases will have to continue to raise the money locally to fix their schools.

The State: A year after the flood, are we still a community that cares?

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scoppe/article104651131.html>

Cindi Ross Scoppe

WHERE WERE you, what were you doing, when the water started rising? Because human beings feel a need to mark anniversaries — particularly communal anniversaries, particularly early on — it's a question we'll ask and be asked over and over as we approach Tuesday's one-year anniversary of the floods we never could have imagined. But there's another question we need to ask — certainly of ourselves, if not of others also: What did you do about the floods? And another still: What are you still doing about the floods? For many of us, the answer to the first question will be heart-warming. Many heroes rushed into the floodwaters to save neighbors and even strangers. They pulled out their boats and maneuvered them through rivers and lakes that had been streets and yards, plucking up infants, the infirm and everyone in between, and hauling them to higher ground. They pounded on doors to roust neighbors and help them gather up what possessions they could as the waters rose.

The State: If the rains came again today, how would Columbia cope?

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scoppe/article104652046.html>

Cindi Ross Scoppe

IF THE RAINS came again today, they would not destroy nearly as many homes and businesses, would not force nearly so many evacuations and disruptions. But much of Columbia could be without drinkable water for as long as we were a year ago. The good news comes largely from inertia: The walls of water that swept through our community have already done their worst to the homes and businesses in their path; today the buildings sit empty, or have been bulldozed over, or rebuilt to higher and safer standards. And the dams that breached and sent those walls of water over our homes and business a year ago have not been repaired; the lakes they held back have reverted to meandering streams. The bad news also comes from inertia: Although Columbia officials finally patched the 60-foot gash in the Columbia Canal dike that is crucial to distributing safe water to 188,000 customers, the patch is hardly ready for another onslaught of floodwaters. And while the waterlines that sprang leaks under the weight of the flooding have been repaired, the city has not updated the sprawling system of aging waterlines. That means Columbia's water system is no more ready today than it was a year ago to distribute safe water to a flooded community.

SC Flood: One Year Later:

The State: Canal's failure put Columbians 'less than a day away' from losing water supply

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article104680516.html>

Cliff Leblanc

The soft-spoken engineer from rural Newberry County took the helm of Columbia's drinking water system because he wanted less stress on his family life. Eight weeks later, an epic rain nearly broke the capital city's water supply. Clint Shealy accepted the job and a cut in pay to put an end to long hours as a consultant and to see his wife and kids more. Then the heavens opened. The flood of October 2015 was the greatest crisis in the history of Columbia's water department. It tested the endurance Shealy developed as a triathlete, stressed his even-keeled personality, and threatened fresh water for 188,000 customers stretching to lower Richland County. By the time the weekend deluge ended, two feet of rain flooded the metropolitan area, taking nine lives in Richland County and causing at least half a billion dollars in damage. Customers suffered through days of interrupted water service. The nearly 200-year-old Columbia Canal wall gave way. The city issued its first system-wide, boil-water advisory. Repairs to the canal — far from finished — are expected to cost about \$100 million.

The State: Woman's husband drowned in flood; now she wants feds to admit 'they killed these people'

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article104663031.html>

Sammy Fretwell

The sight of a wrecked title loan building on Devine Street causes Lois McCarty to shake her head in grief almost every day. One year ago next week, her husband, Bob, drowned in a flood after a dam on Fort Jackson broke. His body was found just up the creek from the abandoned building. Lois McCarty drives past the

battered structure when she leaves her nearby home and heads up Devine Street toward downtown Columbia. "Every time I go by that building, it tears me apart," she said. "I can just picture seeing Bob that day. It's a terrible, terrible reminder." Lois McCarty is among more than 100 people who have hired lawyers to sue the federal government over the failure of the Semmes Lake dam, an aging Fort Jackson structure that blew out Oct. 4, 2015.

ABC Columbia: Watch: Road to Recovery Continues a Year After Floods

<http://www.abccolumbia.com/2016/09/27/watch-road-recovery-continues-year-floods/>

For the first time since October's historic floods Joseph Henry's house is starting to feel like home again. "Oh it was scary. Since we are on this corner we were catching all the water coming down the street and across the street," says Henry. He tells ABC Columbia they didn't experience a large amount of standing water, but the little they had still did enough damage to require repairs. The homeowner explains, "A whole lot of mold damage, and water damage stuff like that. From the work and the money stand point we wouldn't have been able to do half of it, none of it." The American Red Cross and non profit disaster recovery organization the St. Bernard Project brought in a team of volunteers who wasted no time getting to work. "The first thing that we did was repair the roof. We've also put in some french drains to try and trap that water that's going to keep trying to roll towards the house and then mold remediation was the next big step," says Leah Cossette with the St. Bernard Project. The South Carolina American Red Cross opened 2,000 cases following the floods, 700 of them in the central part of the state. Making the historic rainfall South Carolina's worst disaster in recent history.

WSPA: Lessons SC Should Have Learned from Historic Flood

<http://wspa.com/2016/09/28/lessons-sc-should-have-learned-from-historic-flood/>

Robert Kittle

As South Carolina approaches the first anniversary of the historic floods that hit the state last October, a national expert on insurance and risk management says there are some lessons the state, and its homeowners and business owners, should have learned. Robert Hartwig is a new professor at the Darla Moore School of Business at USC and co-director of the Risk and Uncertainty Management Center there. He says one lesson applies to both homeowners and small business owners. "It is a popular misconception that your standard homeowner's insurance policy or your small business policy covers you for flooding. It doesn't. It is universally excluded. You need a separate policy," he says. The flood that hit the state last October has been referred to as a "thousand-year" flood, so some homeowners and business owners might think it's such a rare event that, having gone through that already, they don't have to worry about getting any more flooding.

WACH: FEMA: More than \$164 million in flood assistance awarded

<http://wach.com/news/local/fema-more-than-164-million-in-flood-assistance-awarded>

Matthew Stevens

FEMA announced Tuesday that they have gave out financial assistance of more than \$164 million to residents and state and county agencies impacted by October's historic floods. More than 28,000 survivors received nearly \$90 million of that assistance, while counties and state agencies received just under \$75 million. "While a year has passed, our ultimate goal remains the same, to ensure that communities continue to recover and to emerge stronger and more resilient," said Gracia Szczech, FEMA Region IV Regional Administrator.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: S. Carolina legal community mourns loss of Judge Tanya Gee

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

Meg Kinnard

South Carolina's legal community mourned Wednesday for Circuit Judge Tanya Gee, who has died after a battle with cancer. She was 39. Gee's husband announced her death in a message to the family's supporters early Wednesday. She had been diagnosed with cancer in 2013. Born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and a graduate of Winthrop University, Gee earned a law degree from the University of South Carolina where she received some of its highest alumni and student honors. That included the Claude Sapp Award, chosen by her

classmates "as possessing the best combination of scholarship, leadership and industry," according to her obituary. Gee was elected to the bench in 2015. For years, she had served as chief staff attorney and clerk of court for the South Carolina Court of Appeals. She also clerked for several judges and did civil litigation and appellate work in private practice with Nexsen Pruet. Gee's community involvement started in college, when she became involved with a local homeless shelter. In law school, she served as president of both the Pro Bono Board and the Public Interest Law Society.

The State: Beloved SC circuit Judge Tanya Gee dies after long battle with cancer

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article104634471.html>

John Monk

Tanya Gee, an S.C. circuit judge beloved by many in the state's legal community because of her natural, gracious nature, has died after a long battle with cancer. She was 39. Born in Michigan in 1977, Judge Gee leaves two children and her husband, Chris Koon, who announced the death in a message to a large community of friends and family who had been supporting the family throughout her illness. She graduated from Winthrop University and got a law degree from University of South Carolina Law School. "She was the most delightful, wonderful person I have ever had the privilege of knowing, and one of the strongest fighters against cancer I've ever seen," said former longtime Columbia mayor Bob Coble, a member of Nexsen Pruet law firm where Gee practiced law many years. "She crossed all lines – everybody loved her." As a judge, she kept order in her courtroom and asked good questions. But in other arenas, she displayed a mischievous sense of humor.

The State: Groundbreaking Columbia councilwoman dies after decades of service

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article104661301.html>

Columbia-born Leona Plough gave her adulthood to the civic life of the capital city and crashed through some glass ceilings along the way. The former city administrator and city manager and current councilwoman representing residents of the southeastern portion of Columbia died Wednesday morning at home surrounded by family after a two-year battle with a rare and aggressive form of cancer. She was 66. "Leona has always been a fighter," said her husband of 45 years, Joe Plough. "When she was diagnosed, we knew this was going to be the biggest challenge of our lives. Throughout the fight, she remained focused on her family, the Lord and her service to Columbia." Columbia is home, and that's something she never forgot," Joe Plough said. "She loved our great city and I'm grateful for all the support she has received over the years in this battle."

Associated Press: Air Force explosives unit warns it is detonating munitions

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

SC State Wire

Air Force officials are warning residents near the Poinsett Electronic Combat Range in central South Carolina that an explosives disposal unit is slated to set off some of its munitions. Officials from Shaw Air Force Base say members of the 20th Civil Engineer Squadron are scheduled to conduct detonations between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Thursday. The Poinsett Range is located about 12 miles away from Shaw and is used for training by the Air Force and other military services. Landowners and residents surrounding the range can expect noise and vibrations during the scheduled detonations. Officials say if residents have any questions they should call the 20th Fighter Wing Public Affairs at 803-895-1620.

Island Packet: USMC: Siddiqui's death didn't stop hazing, recruit abuse in his platoon

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/bg-military/article104719256.html>

Wade Livingston

The death of Pvt. Raheel Siddiqui wasn't enough to end the hazing and abuse documented in his training platoon at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island. "Instances of recruit abuse continued to occur in Platoon 3042 (Company K, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion) after" his death on March 18, according to a copy of a Marine Corps investigation obtained by The Island Packet and Beaufort Gazette through an open records request. The heavily redacted document — more than 40 of its 133 pages are completely blacked out — details instances of drill instructors choking recruits and requiring them to engage in unauthorized incentive training. And the investigation — one of three recently obtained by the newspapers — also details a troubling

“command philosophy” in Company K. Siddiqui – a 20-year-old American Muslim of Pakistani descent from Taylor, Mich. – died from injuries sustained after an almost 40-foot fall after jumping from the third floor of his barracks, according to the investigation. The fall was preceded by a drill instructor allegedly slapping Siddiqui in the face after making him perform “get-backs” for failing to properly report when requesting permission to go to sickbay for a sore throat.

Island Packet: 911 audio reveals new details about morning of USMC recruit’s death

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/bg-military/article104624781.html>

Wade Livingston

Audio from 911 calls has revealed more information about the morning Marine Corps recruit Raheel Siddiqui fell to his death. A staff sergeant “from Kilo Company” called 911 at 5:36 a.m. March 18 and informed dispatchers that a recruit had “jumped from the third deck” and was on the “PT-field side” of “Building 683,” according to audio and documents obtained from the Beaufort County Sheriff’s Office through an open records request by The Island Packet and The Beaufort Gazette. Building 683 is a barracks in 3rd Recruit Training Battalion at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, according to depot spokesperson Capt. Greg Carroll. Siddiqui, 20, an American Muslim of Pakistani descent from Taylor, Mich., was assigned to 3rd Battalion’s Company K — Kilo Company. He was allegedly hazed and called a “terrorist” at some point before his death, according to initial findings from a Corps command investigation. Prior to reportedly jumping from the third floor of his barracks, a drill instructor allegedly slapped him after forcing him to run back and forth inside the barracks for failing to properly report — Siddiqui was requesting permission to go to sickbay for a sore throat.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Local law enforcement agencies hold active shooter training at North Charleston Coliseum

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160928/160929362/local-law-enforcement-agencies-hold-active-shooter-training-at-north-charleston-coliseum>

Gregory Yee

The sound of gunfire ripped through the North Charleston Coliseum and Performing Arts Center on Wednesday night. A screaming crowd ran for the doors and encountered officers moving in tight phalanxes through the hallways with guns drawn, all part of active shooter training for Charleston area law enforcement and first responders. “It’s a (multidisciplinary) exercise,” said Scott Deckard, deputy chief with the North Charleston Police Department. “Of course, you have all of the first responders involved in a major incident like this. With the number of people at our venues in North Charleston — for concerts, for hockey games, for events at the convention center — we felt that it was necessary and especially relevant in today’s times to involve all the disciplines, to make sure that we can do our job effectively.” The active shooter drill ran from 7-10:30 p.m. and also involved the North Charleston Fire Department, Charleston County Sheriff’s Office, Charleston County Emergency Medical Services, State Law Enforcement Division and S.C. Emergency Management Division.

Herald-Journal: Lynch questions Sheriff’s Office handling of deputy misconduct

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20160928/lynch-questions-sheriffs-office-handling-of-deputy-misconduct?rssfeed=true>

Daniel J. Gross

Spartanburg County sheriff candidate Russell Lynch is questioning the Sheriff’s Office ability to handle officer misconduct cases. Records obtained by Lynch show at least three incidents where deputies who were fired or faced firing for misconduct ended up being rehired or sent to another police agency. The outcomes highlight the practice of retaining “bad eggs” in law enforcement, which compromises the public’s safety and trust, Lynch said. “These are the kinds of things you cannot allow in a police department,” said Lynch, who retired from the Sheriff’s Office after 25 years. Lynch is challenging incumbent Chuck Wright in the November election. Wright has been in office since 2004. In one case, documents Lynch obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request detail a use of force incident involving K9 Deputy Brad James and his police dog and a S.C. Department of Corrections inmate who was being transported in Spartanburg County in 2015.

Sun News: Sidney Moorer released from jail after serving time for violating gag order

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article104674341.html>

Emily Weaver

Sidney Moorer, charged with kidnapping in the disappearance of Heather Elvis, was released from jail Wednesday after serving 61 days in detention on a contempt charge. Moorer spoke briefly with reporters while he waited to be fitted for a GPS-monitoring anklet. Most questions were answered with, "I'm not going to talk about that." But when asked what he hoped would come out of his second upcoming trial for the kidnapping charge, Moorer simply said, "the truth." When asked what that truth was, he told reporters to ask Assistant Solicitor Nancy Livesay. Moorer was sentenced to five months in jail July 29, after Judge R. Markley Dennis found him to be in contempt when he spoke to a reporter, violating a gag order in the first trial of his kidnapping charge. He earned credit for an earlier release through good behavior and picking up work duties at the jail. Moorer is accused of kidnapping Elvis, who was last seen or heard from Dec. 18, 2013.

The State: Car crashes, overdoses top causes of accidental deaths in Lexington

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article104676846.html>

Glen Luke Flanagan

Vehicle crashes and overdoses were the leading causes of accidental deaths in Lexington County last year. Forty-nine people died from injuries sustained in vehicle crashes, and 46 from overdoses, according to an annual report released Wednesday by county coroner Margaret Fisher. The leading cause of all deaths was heart-related health concerns, Fisher said. Fisher said that of the 1,691 deaths in the county last year, the majority, or 1,492, were natural deaths. The leading cause of natural deaths, making up 30 percent of them, was heart-related illness. But 126 deaths were accidental, 44 were suicides, 21 were homicides and 8 were undetermined. "These statistics are representative of much more than numerical values," Fisher said. "Each life was meaningful, and each individual was valuable." Gunshot wounds made up the vast majority of homicides in 2015 – 81 percent. Neglect made up 10 percent of homicides and beating accounted for 9 percent. "We do not intend to minimize the impact of each death," Fisher said. "Rather, we seek to gain wisdom from each one that allows us to prevent losses of this magnitude whenever possible."

Sun News: 72 hours in jail won't solve opioid epidemic, doctor says

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article104798261.html>

Emily Weaver

A local doctor says putting those who overdose on opiates in jail for 72 hours is not the best way to tackle the county's heroin and opioid epidemic. Horry County Council Chairman Mark Lazarus floated the idea of mandatory jail time for people who are revived with the overdose-reversal drug, Narcan, at a public safety committee meeting Monday. The idea came up as a way to get people, some of whom are overdosing more than once in a 24-hour period, into a holding facility where they can receive help for their addiction. But the proposal was met with resistance from some in the community. Myrtle Beach police chief Warren Gall told city council members Tuesday the mandatory jail time wouldn't work at the city jail, which is a 48-hour hold facility that doesn't have the medical personnel to treat overdose survivors.

Associated Press: Berkeley Co. school bus driver accused of sexual misconduct

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

SC State Wire

A Berkeley County school bus driver has been arrested on allegations of sexual misconduct with a girl. Charleston Police spokesman Charles Francis tells local media that 30-year-old Kevin Michael Wesley Jr. was recently arrested on charges of criminal sexual conduct with a minor 11-14 years old and criminal sexual conduct with a minor in the third degree. Francis says Wesley met the victim while he was her bus driver. The alleged criminal actions between Wesley and the girl happened from September to December 2015, while he was no longer the driver on her route. The incidents allegedly happened at Wesley's West Ashley apartment. It's unclear whether Wesley has an attorney.

The State: Richland 1 chief admits \$3.1 million mistake, skirts parents' questions

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/education/article104768511.html>

Sarah Ellis

Richland 1 school district officials are working through a "personnel matter," the district's chief said, after missing a deadline to be reimbursed \$3.1 million in federal funding for impoverished schools. Superintendent Craig Witherspoon was grilled about the issue at a town hall-style meeting last week in which Witherspoon acknowledged the deadline was missed to receive federal Title I reimbursement money but refused to say the funds had been "wasted." "We have to deal with it, which we are," Witherspoon said at the meeting Thursday at St. Andrews Middle School. "No, we didn't waste. Those students are getting devices. They're getting more books and so forth for literacy," he said, referring to students in the district's 20 schools that receive Title I funding for disadvantaged students. The district receives about \$9 million in Title I funding each year.

The State: Allen University fires president without explanation <http://www.thestate.com/news/local/education/article104743821.html>

Avery G. Wilks

Allen University has fired its president and hired a interim leader, according to two sources with knowledge of the situation. The historically black school in downtown Columbia on Friday fired Lady June Cole, who had been president three years, without explanation. On Monday, the school hired Ernest McNealey as interim president, according to the sources, who did not wish to be identified. McNealey was president of Stillman College, a historically black college in Alabama, for 16 years until he resigned in 2013. Most recently, he has been an Atlanta-based education consultant. Allen officials have been silent on the transition, saying they cannot talk to media. Repeated efforts to reach members of Allen's board of trustees for comment this week also were unsuccessful.

Greenville News: Two Greenville schools named National Blue Ribbon schools

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/education/2016/09/28/two-greenville-schools-named-national-blue-ribbon-schools/91211874/>

Nathaniel Cary

Two Greenville County schools have been named among the 2016 National Blue Ribbon Schools in an announcement by the U.S. Department of Education on Wednesday. Wade Hampton High School in Greenville and Bethel Elementary School in Simpsonville each were named to the prestigious list as among the top-performing schools in the nation. The award is the highest achievement the federal government bestows on schools and is a reflection of the schools level of achievement academically as well as a reflection of programs and personnel at the schools, said Burke Royster, Greenville County Schools superintendent. They joined two other South Carolina schools - South Aiken High School in Aiken County and Waccamaw Intermediate in Georgetown County - as 2016 designees. Students at Wade Hampton found out in a surprise announcement at 1 p.m. that their school had been named a Blue Ribbon Award winner for the first time. This is the second time Bethel Elementary School has been named a National Blue Ribbon School. Bethel was first named a Blue Ribbon School in 1996-1997.

Aiken Standard: U.S. Education Department names South Aiken High a National Blue Ribbon School

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160928/160929561/us-education-department-names-south-aiken-high-a-national-blue-ribbon-school->

Larry Wood

Members of the Aiken County Public School District's cabinet surprised teachers at South Aiken High on Wednesday afternoon when they entered the faculty meeting by clapping their hands. They were applauding the school being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. South Aiken was one of four schools in the state to receive the award, which recognizes academic excellence. South Aiken Principal Jill Jett had heard the news and shared it with the district leadership, but she had not yet told her faculty. "These are rare awards, especially for high schools," Jett said. "I am beyond words. I had been a little depressed because the winners were supposed to be announced in mid-September, so when I saw the announcement this afternoon, I immediately cried. I'm still a little overwhelmed."

Associated Press: Public health prof lectures on childhood obesity research

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=95ovCsCU

SC State Wire

A University of San Diego expert on public health is discussing his research on helping kids move more, eat better and fight childhood obesity. Prof. James Sallis is speaking Thursday at the University of South Carolina's Arnold School of Public Health. The 3:45 p.m. talk is free and open to the public. Sallis is a distinguished professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Public Health at San Diego. His research deals with promoting physical activity and understanding how certain policies affect nutrition and obesity. Sallis' health improvement programs have been used in health care settings, schools, universities and other organizations. The lecture is taking place in the Ernest Hollings Special Collections Library at the Thomas Cooper Library on the Columbia campus.

Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press: Clinton visits Iowa as early voting gets underway

<http://bigstory.ap.org/f329429b2a4d4a61b22fcac8be894475>

Hillary Clinton is kicking off early voting in Iowa on Thursday with a major effort to boost support in the battleground state. The Democratic presidential candidate will deliver a speech in Des Moines focusing on the childcare challenges faced by middle class families, according to a campaign aide. Clinton backers also plan to host events in 10 Iowa cities on Thursday. Organizing early voting was a key piece of President Barack Obama's strategy four years ago. More than 4 in ten Iowa voters cast ballots before Election Day in 2012.

Associated Press: Clinton vows to retaliate against foreign hackers

<http://bigstory.ap.org/a02b5a9a9d1c45de9be2e56286efb3a0>

Tami Abdollah

Hillary Clinton is vowing anew to respond to foreign hacking the same as any other attack against the United States. When she openly blamed Russia for recent U.S. cyber break-ins, Donald Trump wondered whether to blame overseas governments or overweight hackers working from home. "She's saying Russia, Russia, Russia, but I don't — maybe it was. I mean, it could be Russia, but it could also be China," Trump said during this week's presidential debate. "It could also be lots of other people. It also could be somebody sitting on their bed that weighs 400 pounds, OK?" These are the unanswered questions about how the U.S. government should defend itself after an attack in the internet age: Whether to fire back, how to fire back, and at whom? The Obama administration is still writing its rulebook. A lingering challenge involves identifying whose hands were on the keyboard: Foreign hacker spies, cybercriminals, disgruntled insiders or bored teenagers? Skilled hackers can cover their tracks, use software tools traceable to others and feign their location across borders or continents.

Associated Press: DIVIDED AMERICA: Minorities hopeful, whites sour on future

<http://bigstory.ap.org/7dac724caa694310b0562797f2855fde>

Nicholas Riccardi and Scott Bauer

Consider two women in their 70s, both residents of the Kansas City area. One is white and affluent; the other is black and working class. Guess which one is more optimistic about the country's future and that of their grandchildren? More than likely, you guessed wrong...

National News:

Associated Press: California officer guns down man in 'shooting stance'

<http://bigstory.ap.org/357db96ba80642f7bf3406f8241cc892>

Julie Watson and Brian Melley

The fatal police shooting of a black man who drew something from his pocket and extended his hands in a "shooting stance" happened about a minute after officers in a San Diego suburb arrived where a distraught man was reportedly walking in traffic, a police spokesman said Wednesday. It took police more than an hour to respond because of other calls, El Cajon Lt. Rob Ransweiler said. Officers arrived at a parking lot next to a Mexican fast-food restaurant about 2:10 p.m. Tuesday, and Alfred Olango, who was unarmed, was shot about

a minute later, police said. Mayor Bill Wells said he was concerned how quickly the shooting took place, though he said video taken by a bystander was enlightening and he didn't think it was "tremendously complicated to figure out what happened." Police said the man had refused to comply with instructions to remove a hand from his pants pocket and paced back and forth before rapidly drawing an object from the pocket. The item turned out to be an electronic cigarette device, police said late Wednesday.

Associated Press: Congress tied up in partisan knots over the most basic duty

<http://bigstory.ap.org/cd7b3fb25bcd49428905c8ed39d3fc2c>

Erica Werner

Acutely partisan and all but dysfunctional, Congress has completed its most elementary task after an intense weeklong struggle, finalizing a deal to fund the government just days ahead of a shutdown deadline. The legislation extends existing spending levels a mere 10 weeks, past Election Day, while finally addressing the Zika crisis with \$1.1 billion and providing long-sought help for the residents of Flint, Michigan, as well as flood victims in Louisiana. After a last-minute burst of deal-making, the legislation passed the Senate on a 72-26 vote Wednesday and was backed by the House 342-85 in a late-night vote Wednesday. It was a conclusion in sight and within reach since lawmakers returned from their summer recess just after Labor Day. But with the Capitol awash in election-year politics and shadowed by the contentious presidential race and engulfed in a fierce battle for control of the Senate, the simplest task became a nearly impossible heavy lift impeded by needless delays and bitter finger-pointing. Republicans, defending a fragile Senate majority and eager to get a handful of vulnerable incumbents back home to campaign for re-election, accused Minority Leader Harry Reid of holding up a deal to keep GOP lawmakers off the campaign trail.

World News:

Associated Press: Israelis pay respects to Peres, Clinton arrives in Israel

<http://bigstory.ap.org/19bd818fb31643fe855a1ef464a28ba8>

Daniella Cheslow

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton joined thousands of Israeli mourners Thursday who paid their respects to the late Shimon Peres outside Israel's parliament in Jerusalem, as the country somberly remembered the Nobel-winning politician who helped lead Israel during a remarkable seven-decade career. Clinton is among the dozens of current and former world leaders, including President Barack Obama, expected to gather in Jerusalem on Friday for Peres' funeral. The former Israeli president and prime minister died Wednesday, two weeks after suffering a stroke, at the age of 93. Friday's funeral is expected to be the largest gathering of world leaders in Israel since the funeral of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was assassinated by a Jewish nationalist in 1995. In addition to Obama, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, Britain's Prince Charles, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg and French President Francois Hollande were expected at the funeral. More than 60 private planes, including the one that carried Clinton on Thursday, were expected to arrive ahead of the ceremony.

Associated Press: 75,000 could starve to death in Nigeria after Boko Haram: UN

<http://bigstory.ap.org/c96d34f0d6e74fe4967960c5423b0d7e>

Michael Faul

As many as 75,000 children will die over the next year in famine-like conditions created by Boko Haram if donors don't respond quickly, the U.N. Children's Fund is warning. That's far more than the 20,000 people killed in the seven-year Islamic uprising. The severity of malnutrition levels and high number of children facing death make the humanitarian crisis confronting northeastern Nigeria perhaps the worst in the world, according to Arjan de Wagt, nutrition chief for UNICEF in Nigeria. He said children already are dying but donors are not responding. Most severely malnourished children die of secondary illnesses like diarrhea and respiratory infections, de Wagt told The Associated Press. "But with famine, you actually die of hunger," and that is what is happening, he said. Severe malnutrition is being found in 20, 30 and even 50 percent of children in pockets of the region, he said.

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