

Title: **Haley, Scott rate popular in Winthrop Poll**
 Author: AMANDA COYNE THE GREENVILLE NEWS
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Haley, Scott rate popular in Winthrop Poll

AMANDA COYNE
THE GREENVILLE NEWS

Gov. Nikki Haley and U.S. Sen. Tim Scott both received positive approval ratings in the September Winthrop Poll, released Thursday morning.

Haley was viewed favorably by 57 percent of the poll's respondents, with a disapproval rating of 29 percent. Scott, a Republican facing re-election in November, had a 52 percent approval rating and a 21 percent disapproval rating. The poll reached 694 South Carolina residents on cell phones and landlines, with a 3.7 percent margin of error.

Less popular were President Barack Obama and U.S. Sen. Lind-



NATHAN GRAY/CONTRIBUTOR

Nikki Haley was viewed favorably in a new poll.

sey Graham. While 48 percent of respondents approved of Obama's performance as president, 50 percent disapproved. Graham's approval rate was the lowest of the four politicians, coming in at 38 percent, with 41 percent of respondents disapproving of his performance.

Title: **HEARTBREAKING**
 Author: NATHANIEL CARY NCARY@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
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HEARTBREAKING

First-grader fights for his life; teen due in court for hearing today

‘We’re waiting and hoping for a miracle’

NATHANIEL CARY

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As 6-year-old Jacob Hall clung to life Thursday on life support in the intensive care unit at Greenville Memorial Hospital, family and friends gathered to pray for the boy his brother described as a happy, intelligent, God-fearing child who would pray every night for others.

The family said late Thursday that Hall had sustained a major brain injury due to the amount of blood he'd lost. He has been placed on life support, the family said in a state-

» A GoFundMe page was set up by a family friend of 6-year-old victim, Jacob Hall, who was airlifted to Greenville Memorial Hospital Wednesday. The GoFundMe goal is \$75,000. More than \$59,000 had been raised by Thursday night, including a \$5,000 donation from the GoFundMe team.

» LaFrance Elementary has a hat day today. Students, teachers and staff can wear hats to school if they donate a dollar for the victims.

» The Townville Fire Department and The Blood Connection will host a blood drive to honor Hall on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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HOW TO HELP

Fundraising and messages of support are growing in the wake of the Townville shooting.

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Jacob

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ment to *The Greenville News*.

Hall was shot in the leg Wednesday afternoon by a gunman who opened fire at first-grade students as they played on the playground outside Townville Elementary School in Anderson County.

He remained in critical condition late Thursday afternoon, according to a statement released by the hospital, while family members begged the community to continue to pray.

“We’re waiting and hoping for a miracle,” said one of Hall’s older brothers, Gerald Gambrell.

Hall was revived twice in the moments after the shooting, according to State Rep. Alan Clemmons, who said he is a friend of the family.

In a widely shared post on Facebook, Clemmons said Hall had been shot in the femoral artery.

“He died twice, and was revived, during medical transport and again during surgery,” Clemmons said. “He’s in ICU now where a team of doctors are working to stabilize him. Once stabilized, he will face yet another surgery. PLEASE join me in fervent prayer for little Jacob’s recovery. Thank you!!!”

Clemmons said Hall is the nephew of close friends and former neighbors of his in Myrtle Beach.

Hall, a smart boy — “top of his class in first grade” — with light-brown hair who wears dark-rimmed glasses and a constant smile, loved to go to school in Townville, the only place he’s known as home, Gambrell said.

Hall attends Oakdale Baptist Church, which is near his school and also served as the pickup location for parents after Wednesday’s attack.

“He comes in Sunday school every Sunday morning with just a smile on his face,” said Tim Marcengill, Oakdale’s associate pastor. “He’ll make you laugh and tell you he loves you. And he loves the Lord, and he knew that the Lord loves him. Several weeks back, his grandfather led him to faith even though he’s 6 years old, he had an understanding. He’s able to just make everybody in there on a Sunday morning light up.”

Family and friends gathered in a circle in the parking lot of a Walmart in Powdersville Thursday evening to pray. Tears flowed as family and friends hugged and held each other.



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"The power of prayer can uplift so many things," Gambrell said. "We just ask everybody to just keep praying."

A family friend of the Halls also started a fundraiser on the website GoFundMe on Wednesday night. It had an initial goal of \$10,000, which was surpassed on Thursday morning and raised to \$50,000, which was also surpassed Thursday. GoFundMe said Thursday it also had donated \$5,000 to the fund. It was raised again to \$75,000.

The donations and GoFundMe have meant a lot to the family, Gambrell said.

"The prayers and the donations you've sent are true blessings," he said. "Our whole entire family thanks each and every

one of y'all for what you have done and we just ask that you keep praying."

Hall's parents, Rodger and Renae, have remained by his side at the hospital, Gambrell said. Wednesday night, Gov. Nikki Haley flew to Greenville to meet with the family and visited with them for an extended time. She called the mother of the other student who had been shot in the foot and released from the hospital earlier in the day. She also spoke by phone with the students' teacher, Meghan Hollingsworth, who had been shot in the shoulder as she raced to get students inside the school during the shooting.

"The governor is keeping all of those impacted in her pray-

ers and asks everyone in South Carolina to do the same," Haley's press secretary, Chaney Adams, said in a statement Thursday afternoon. "She will continue to communicate with

Jacob's family and the families of those two who were released throughout the weekend."

Gambrell spoke quietly and held back emotions while he talked about his little brother, who he said always wears a smile.

"He's a wonderful kid. He doesn't deserve any of this at all. No child in this world deserves this," he said. "It's just heartbreaking and miserable that it happens to be my little brother."



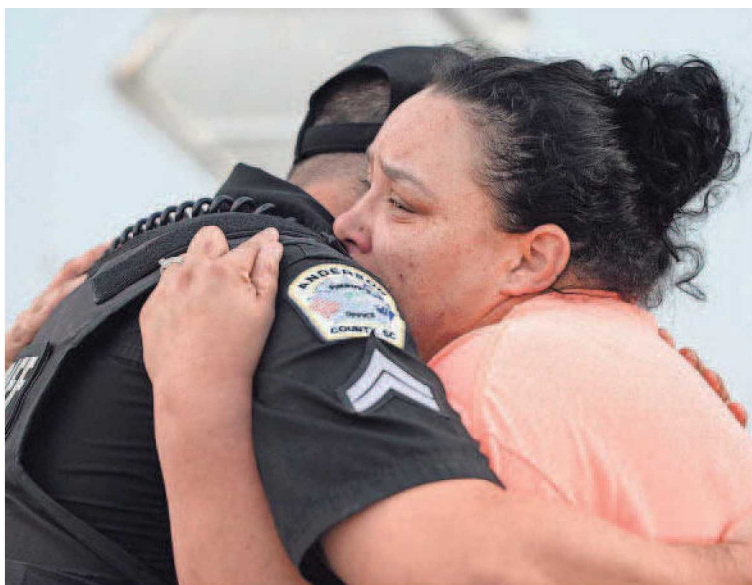
Jacob Hall

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HEIDI HEILBRUNN/STAFF

Family and friends of Jacob Hall, the Townville Elementary student who was in critical condition after being shot at his school, gather for a prayer circle in Powdersville on Thursday.



Casey Bridges hugs an Anderson County sheriff's deputy on Thursday.

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Family and friends of the first-grader gather Thursday.

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PHOTOS BY HEIDI HEILBRUNN/STAFF

Jacob Hall's uncle Johnny Bridges attends a prayer circle on Thursday. Jacob remained in critical condition after being shot at Townville Elementary School.

Title: **Gov. Haley approves GHS bond transfer**
 Author: LIV OSBY LOSBY@GANNETT.COM
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Gov. Haley approves GHS bond transfer

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Gov. Nikki Haley on Thursday approved Greenville Health System's plan to move its \$600 million bond debt from the public nonprofit to its new private nonprofit Strategic Coordinating Organization.

"This very technical tax issue has high stakes for GHS patients," Haley wrote in a letter to the hospital and to legislators who opposed the transfer.

"If I do not approve this request, IRS regulations would cost GHS \$167 million in financing fees starting Oct. 1," she

said. "For these reasons, I have approved the bond reclassification request."

GHS has changed its governance structure so that it can remain a public nonprofit as part of a larger private, nonprofit multi-regional health system. As a result, GHS leases its assets to an Upstate Affiliate Organization, which operates existing GHS hospitals and facilities, and the SCO makes decisions about the direction of the system and has the financial responsibility.

Because of that restructur-

ing, officials want to shift \$600 million in bond debt from GHS to the SCO. The move would reclassify the bonds from governmental to nonprofit and would not add any new debt, according to Michael Riordan, CEO of the SCO.

But failure to shift the bond debt would mean an extra \$167 million in federal interest because it would force GHS into the for-profit market, he said, adding that could mean higher

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Haley

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hospital rates or service and staff cuts.

Because GHS is a special purpose district, approval was needed from Haley to proceed.

But some members of the Greenville County legislative delegation have objected to the transfer.

Among them is Rep. Mike Burns, who said the transfer of the bonds would be in question if the new governance is in question. And because legislators filed suit earlier this month to stop GHS, he said it's still up in the air whether GHS has the ability to restructure until that suit is settled.

In her letter, Haley said she understands that some public officials and citizens disagree with GHS's restructuring.

"But that is not the issue before me," she said. "The only decision before me is whether to approve the bond reclassification request. I take this matter very seriously because it will affect the citizens served by GHS."

Burns said he was disappointed, but not surprised.

"I wish she had studied the issue a little more up front before she made a decision because we spoke to her staff last week ... and they made it very clear they had already decided to sign it

before they even talked to us," he said. "We came in on an unlevel playing field."

But GHS officials said they were delighted with the approval.

"We are encouraged that each time our governance change is challenged, it is upheld," Riordan said.

"We appreciate the Governor's attention to this matter and her decision to approve the bond reclassification request," added GHS board chair Lisa Stevens.

The legislators say that allowing GHS to become private takes \$6 billion in public assets out of public oversight. GHS got about \$82 million in county tax

funds during the 1960s and 1970s to build parts of Greenville Memorial, Hillcrest Memorial, North Greenville Hospital and Allen Bennett Memorial.

The legislators have also asked the Federal Trade Commission to look into the restructuring, saying it results in a monopoly that will mean higher prices for consumers. They also say that Greenville County taxpayers are bearing the burden of the millions in tax revenues that have been lost since GHS acquired dozens of medical practices which used to generate tax revenues. They've asked the state Department of Revenue to investigate that as well.

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Gov. Nikki Haley

Title: **Ultrafab to expand, bring jobs**
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Ultrafab to expand, bring jobs 34 new positions coming to Greer

MICHAEL BURNS

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Ultrafab Inc., a designer and manufacturer of weather-seal products for original equipment manufacturers, is expanding its operations in Greer. The project is expected to bring more than \$2 million in capital investments and lead to the creation of 34 jobs, according to the South Carolina Department of Commerce.

"Since 2009 Ultrafab has been steadily growing our business in South Carolina, and we are excited to double our footprint in the state to better service our window and door customers' growth in the southeastern United States," said Ultrafab Chief Financial Officer Tom Hare.

Founded in 1970, the company designs, manufactures and sells window and door weather-stripping and weather-seal products. Headquartered in Farmington, New York, it also has a manufacturing facility in McPherson, Kansas, and it has warehouse locations in Dallas, Minneapolis and Kent, Washington.

Like the locations in New York and Kansas, the Greer location includes manufacturing and warehouse facilities.

Ultrafab supplies products for fenestration, transportation, industrial, office equipment and healthcare industries.

"The fact that Ultrafab has been able to succeed here to the point

that it's able to double its footprint here is a huge win for our state because it shows that Team South Carolina's approach to creating a competitive business environment is working for our companies," Gov. Nikki Haley said, according to a statement. "We're excited to congratulate Ultrafab on this latest expansion and look forward to watching it continue to grow for many years to come."

An additional 20,000 square-feet of space will be leased by the company at 49 Freedom Court, Greer, and the expansion is slated to be operational by the end of the year.

Hiring for new positions is underway. Visit ultrafab.com online for more information.

"South Carolina's manufacturing industry continues to thrive, and today we celebrate yet another victory for that sector..." said state Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt.

"Ultrafab chose Greenville in 2008 for its third manufacturing facility in North America, and we are proud of their growth," said Greenville County Council Chairman Bob Taylor. "The company continues to choose Greenville because of our collaborative spirit and quality workforce, and we are honored to have them as industry partners."

Follow Michael Burns on Twitter @MikeNearGreer