

Title: **195 reopens as SC dries out**  
 Author: By MEG KINNARD and JEFFREY COLLINS The Associated Press  
 Size: 41.07 square inch  
 Beaufort, SC Circulation: 11269



# I-95 reopens as SC dries out

Haley not estimating  
damage from floods

By MEG KINNARD  
and JEFFREY COLLINS  
The Associated Press

CHAPIN — As the worst of the floodwaters that roared through South Carolina washed out to sea, Gov. Nikki Haley and other officials said Monday it is time to start recovering instead of reacting to the ongoing emergency.

Workers reopened the entire stretch of Interstate 95 southbound Monday, making it the first time in eight days that traffic on the major highway link from Florida to the Northeast didn't take a two-hour detour. Crews hope the northbound lanes would soon follow.

Again on Monday, Haley refused

to speculate how much damage in dollars the massive floods that started Oct. 2 have caused and how the state might pay to fix it. But she promised to rebuild.

"This is not going to take us years to get out of this," the governor said.

Haley also thanked volunteers, law enforcement and other workers for their times. Those helping included people such as Bob Kuenzli, who usually works as a police officer at a school in Chapin, but while school was cancelled last week, put on a South Carolina State Guard uniform and was assigned to help at a Columbia food bank.

Kuenzli, 68, was directing traffic Friday when a food bank volunteer, 72-year-old Charles Kauffman, became irritated that Kuenzli was letting truck traffic move and stopping other cars.

"Out of the corner of my eye, I saw him coming my way," Kuenzli told reporters Monday. "He sped up and threw me. ... I got thrown to the ground."

An angry Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott made sure Kauffman was charged with attempted murder.

**Please see FLOOD on 9A**

## FLOOD

Continued from 1A

Kauffman's lawyer said at his bond appearance Sunday that he has apologized to Kuenzli and is taking medication after suffering two recent strokes. Kauffman's bond was set at \$75,000 and he was put under house arrest after being released from jail. There was no answer Monday at a phone number listed for him, and his attorney did not immediately return a message.

Kuenzli broke a bone in his

wrist. But the Air Force veteran from the Vietnam War was ready to go back and volunteer as soon as he could.

"I was just doing my job," he said, his left arm in a sling. "That's all I was doing."

Thousands of other people in South Carolina have also been working long hours, including crews continuing to fix a breach in the canal that supplies Columbia drinking water. Reserve tanks had been refilled and the

city hopes to get all 375,000 of its customers off a boil water advisory soon. The South Carolina State Fair in Columbia was on schedule to start Wednesday in Columbia, and Lott said his deputies could handle traffic and security for the University of South Carolina's football game scheduled for Saturday.

Contractors were also busy putting rock and concrete to shore up the foun-

dations under more than a dozen small bridges over rivers and swampland on a 13-mile stretch of Interstate 95 that had been closed since Oct. 3. The southbound lanes were reopened Monday morning, ending a 168-mile detour through Columbia for people trying to drive the 75-mile stretch between Interstate 20 and Interstate 26.

The repairs were permanent and the bridges



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shouldn't have to close again, said South Carolina Department of Transportation Secretary Christy Hall. Officials hoped to reopen the northbound lanes of I-95 by this morning. And as officials announced every rain-swollen river in the state had finally reached their crests and were falling, the governor promised to send teams of insurance adjusters, mental health professionals and unemployment specialists to every hard-hit community so those people wouldn't have to drive out of town to get help. "We are going from a massive response situation to a massive recovery," Haley said.

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AP PHOTO/CHUCK BURTON, FILE

A pickup truck rests against the side of Gills Creek near a bridge in Columbia. Over the past week, as the water rose after days of unrelenting rain in the heart of South Carolina, the creek spilled misery and pain on rich and poor alike, robbing both of the things most precious to them.

# Rivers crest, I-95 opens as state turns to recovery

BY MEG KINNARD AND  
JEFFREY COLLINS  
*Associated Press*

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Title: **Will the GOP race ever get back to 'normal'?**  
 Author: BY DAVID WEIGEL The Washington Post  
 Size: 74.86 square inch  
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



# Will the GOP race ever get back to 'normal'?

BY DAVID WEIGEL

*The Washington Post*

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., jumped out of a gray SUV in Columbia and got back to work.

Joined by a small staff and a few fellow Republicans, he'd taken an aerial tour to see flood damage to South Carolina. Now, he was hitting the ground to meet victims, walking down the sloping streets of a neighborhood where each house was being emptied before the mold could conquer it.

"Everybody gripes about the government until they need it, sort of like a lawyer," said Graham, the state's senior senator and a struggling candidate for president.

In a week that began with floods and ended with the House Republican caucus rejecting the heir apparent to House Speaker John Boehner, flood relief stood out as an ironic topic in this key early nominating state. Skepticism of Washington and fear of federal power, always strong here, have rarely been stronger.

All of it cements the uncertainty pervading the Republican presidential nominating contest here and across the country. Much like in Washington, where the abrupt withdrawal from the speaker's

race of Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., signaled total party chaos, the view is fading that, eventually, this presidential race will get back to normal.

Former Florida governor Jeb Bush, who recently called South Carolina a "lock," is at 5.7 percent here, according to the RealClearPolitics average. That's good enough for only fifth place, 28 points behind frontrunner Donald Trump and 12 behind former neurosurgeon Ben Carson. Four years ago, on his way to losing the state primary, former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney never polled lower than 13 percent. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., another establishment favorite who is ahead of Bush nationally and rising in recent polls, is currently even further behind in South Carolina, with a RealClearPolitics average of just 5 percent.

"The pattern of crowning the nominee has been broken," said Barry Wynn, a former S.C. GOP chairman whose office is festooned with Bush memorabilia. "The voters are a little angrier with establishment Republicans than they have been," Wynn

said. "They're looking for a different type of candidate." Of Carson and Trump, he added: "I don't think that would have happened 10 years ago. I don't even think it could have happened four years ago."

In recent weeks, Bush and his allies have looked at South Carolina as a state that could break the fever of the Republican primaries. "I'm going to win South Carolina," Bush told reporters last month.

But how some of his supporters planned to do it revealed how little they may understand of what's happening. Donors and Bush family friends told

the New York Times that former President George W. Bush would be a welcome presence in South Carolina; former party chairman Katon Dawson suggested that W "could win the race" for his brother. Many in the grassroots see it differently. A voter who preferred Bush's presidency to Obama's is not necessarily ready for a Bush restoration.

"I tell ya, in retrospect, I don't think we got a lot from George W. Bush," said state Sen. Lee Bright, a 2014 primary opponent

of Graham who now co-chairs the S.C. presidential campaign of Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas.

Even some Bush allies concede that the state has evolved, and the base has shifted right, since the days when South Carolina was known for affirming the party's nominee. In 1980, 1988, 1996, 2000, and 2008, the state's primary electorate voted for the candidate backed by the Republican establishment. In 2012, it voted for Newt Gingrich.

Wynn suggested a few ways the party's Brahmins could consolidate. Carroll Campbell, the second

Republican governor of the state since Reconstruction, built a network that once elevated establishment candidates.

"There's no Carroll Campbell today," said Wynn. "Gov. (Nikki) Haley isn't interested in building the kind of organization he built. Sen. Tim Scott is vetting everyone, not organizing around one candidate. If those congressmen kind of got together - if they said, look, it would be in our interest to pick up an oar and start paddling, that might create a kind of Campbell effect."



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JOHN BAZEMORE Associated Press

Republican candidate for president Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., climbs over debris as he tours a neighborhood damaged by flooding in Columbia.

Title: **Torn and tattered, but proud and strong, again**  
 Author:  
 Size: 99.97 square inch  
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



# Torn and tattered, but proud and strong, again

**E**veryone in Gov. Carroll Campbell's office was physically and emotionally exhausted after frenetic nights and days without sleep, and stunned by the task of putting a state back together. It was September 1989.

Hurricane Hugo had devastated South Carolina, its 140 mph winds starting at Sullivan's Island and ripping through the coast, Midlands and parts of the Upstate. Coastal ruin was expected; inland destruction was not.

I'll never forget the expression on the governor's face when he returned from his first helicopter flyover. It was beyond sad, a mixture of shock and disbelief, much

like Gov. Nikki Haley's expression in a picture published in *The State* during her ride over the brokenness of the flood.

The physical destruction is bad enough, but human suffering amid the crumpled houses and flooded waters is just too much to take in. Even for governors.

As Gov. Campbell began preparing to lead the state back from the edge, a nice woman who introduced herself as Katherine Trimnal came to my office with a stack of photographs. They were among 6,000 she shot two days after Hugo. Each

told part of the story. One told the entire story.

She took the picture at Sullivan's Island. It was an American flag — torn and tattered by the winds — framed between two palmetto trees. Even in its state of disrepair, it was flying, lifted by a gentle sea breeze. Like South Carolinians who were recovering from what at the time was the nation's most destructive hurricane, it remained proud and strong.

Ms. Trimnal, whose photographs eventually would be displayed in art galleries as a pictorial essay of Hugo, gave me the picture of the flag. I

**SEE FLAG, 3C**

**FROM PAGE 1C**

## FLAG

had it framed, and it has been on my office wall since. Many times I have studied it, and it has spoken to me about tough times conquered by tougher people.

The picture that comforted Gov. Campbell in 1989 is speaking again, afresh and anew.

No state in the country has faced more than South Carolina this year.

There was the unnatural disaster in Charleston when evil disguised as human desecrated a sacred house of God and spilled the blood of nine innocent saints.

And now there's the natural disaster whose vast powers confound the best efforts of mortal man

and continue to flow into the streets and homes and businesses.

Both can be explained. Neither can be comprehended.

But I study the picture again and am reminded of us today.

After the murders of the Emanuel Nine, there were no riots. No looting. Little belligerency of any kind. The words of the families to the killer — God, forgiveness, redemption — swept across the state like living waters from a gentle stream. The families were torn and battered, yet their sweet spirit was lifted by heavenly breezes to every corner of our state.

Like the flag in the pic-

ture, the people held firm. They supported the governor and Legislature when it was time to take down another flag because it reminded many of our citizens of another distant disaster, a war against humanity.

Now this.

I have no data to back me up, but it seems that the flood has exacted more of a toll in the Midlands than Hugo. Hugo came and left quickly; the rains tortured us for days — nature's waterboarding.

Again, the worst of nature has brought out the best in us. We are rediscovering an important truth about ourselves: We are South Carolinians — quiet

people in little places doing extraordinary things.

Stories of heroism are emerging. Untold thousands of our fellow travelers are opening their hearts and wallets to help each other. Volunteers are flooding South Carolina far and wide to help.

Vandalizing is at a minimum, so much so that two thugs stealing soaked belongings off the street corner made headline news.

Gov. Campbell promised the people, "We will rebuild and be better than ever."

We did, and we were.

Gov. Haley has made the same promise.

We will.

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In times of crisis, the people need strong leadership. And our leaders need strong people.

We have both.

That's what the flag is

saying.

*Mr. McAlister, who served as communications director and later chief of staff for Gov. Carroll Campbell,*

*owns a Columbia marketing and public relations company; contact him at bob@mcalistcommunications.com.*



Copyright Katherine J. Trimnal

"Invincible" was shot Sept. 24, 1989, at Sullivan's Island by Katherine J. Trimnal, a photojournalist and lifelong resident of Columbia.



**BOB MCALISTER**

*Guest Columnist*

County: Richland



Title: **More rain a setback for soggy S.C.**  
 Author: Associated Press  
 Size: 68.2 square inch  
 Greenwood, SC Circulation: 16494



# More rain a setback for soggy S.C.

Associated Press

Heavy rain returned to parts of South Carolina on Saturday as thousands continued digging out and cleaning up from last weekend's deluge that left behind disastrous flooding. Here's a look at developments Saturday in the still-evolving disaster:

## More rain

Thunder, lightning and a couple of inches of extra rain spread across storm-torn Columbia. While smaller creeks were likely to swell again, the precipitation wasn't expected to add to the flooding of major rivers and lakes, Gov. Nikki Haley said.

"It's an anthill compared to what we've been through," she said.

The flooding has caused 20 dams to burst and nearly 100 more are being monitored to make sure they hold, Haley said.

Saturday's rainfall brought October's total precipitation in the capital to 12.75 inches —

breaking the previous record of 12 inches in 1959 — with 21 days left in the month, the National Weather Service said.

The city had gotten 1.25 inches of rain between midnight and mid-afternoon Saturday, weather service spokesman Al Moore said, with up to 2 inches in the western Piedmont. More showers were expected overnight, he said.

## Time to move

Debra Prior left her home outside Georgetown with the help of an amphibious vehicle after the roads around her became impassable. She said it was hard to see her neighborhood emptying out.

"These are people that you have grown up with and they have been here for years. And we have never experienced anything like this in our life," she said.

The worst of the coastal area's flooding appeared to be over after the Black River crested overnight and water levels dropped 5 inches, Georgetown County spokes-

woman Jackie Broach said Saturday. The nearby Waccamaw River crested Friday and began to recede.

## Still can't move

About 13 miles of Interstate 95, one of the East Coast's main highways linking Maine to Florida, remained closed, forcing long-distance travelers to take a 168-mile detour through Columbia.

The problem is with about 18 small bridges over the Black and Pocotaligo rivers and surrounding swampland in Clarendon County, state Transportation Secretary Christy Hall said. A contractor was expected to start work Saturday shoring up washed-out foundations under some of the bridges, Hall said.

There was no estimate when the stretch of interstate, which normally carries an average of 30,000 vehicles a day, could reopen. In the meantime, travelers who would normally drive 74 miles between Interstate 26 to Interstate 20 must take a 168-mile detour.

## Helping where they can

J.T. Pollack was one of more than 150 volunteers who spread across Columbia on Saturday to help those whose homes were damaged or destroyed in the storm. Pollack had been gutting waterlogged houses for two days to help restore hope to his community.

"My friends lost their cars, their homes were damaged. I've never been through anything like this," the 27-year-old volunteer with Operation Blessing said.

Pollack joined a dozen other volunteers at the home of an elderly couple whose home was engulfed in a foot of water.

Jan Hulbert, whose husband suffers from blood cancer, began to cry as she talked about the volunteers helping her dispose of the debris and sift through files, heirlooms and water-damaged belongings.

"They are so wonderful," she said.



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ASSOCIATED PRESS

Firefighters evacuate Eliza Linen by boat from her home Friday in the Dunbar Community of Georgetown.

Title: **Work underway as S.C. recovers from floods**  
 Author: BY JEFFREY COLLINS Associated Press  
 Size: 94.24 square inch  
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688



## WEATHER

# Work underway as S.C. recovers from floods

BY JEFFREY COLLINS

Associated Press

### COLUMBIA

Life has started to return to normal in areas of South Carolina inundated by massive floods from days of rain earlier this month. But challenges still remain, including getting Columbia's water system back in shape and repairing bridges that are forcing Interstate 95 drivers on the East Coast into a more

than two-hour detour.

### WHAT NEEDS FIXING?

The capital of Columbia continues to slowly fix its water system. Workers are trying to shore up the canal that the city uses to bring in drinking water after a breach nearly drained the waterway. They also are trying to finish fixing dozens of water line breaks caused by the massive floods earlier this month.

The city has been able to tell about 10 percent of its 375,000 customers they no longer have to boil water from their taps before drinking it.

Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin said he's hopeful the city can lift the advisory for all customers in the next week or so.

"It's going to be very method-

ical, and it's going to be very conservative," he said in a phone interview, describing the process of lifting the advisory.

Repairs continue to the Columbia Canal, which the city uses to draw water into most of its system. The canal nearly ran dry after a breach during the floods. While the hole in the canal wall is repaired, city workers are also pumping water into the canal from the nearby Broad River.

The mayor said repairs are going well along the canal: "I believe we might be a little bit ahead of schedule right now."

The boil water advisory for most of Columbia's water customers will continue until the supply of water is stabilized and repairs are made.

Work also continues to repair 13 small bridges on Interstate 95 in Clarendon County. A 16-mile stretch remains closed where the major East Coast highway goes through lowlands and swamps and over the Black and Pocotaligo rivers.

The South Carolina Department of Transportation said it hopes to have I-95 reopened in a

**SEE RECOVER, 8A**

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## FROM PAGE 3A

## RECOVER

few days. Drivers on I-95 currently have to take a 168-mile detour through Columbia instead of the normal 74-mile drive from Interstate 26 to Interstate 20.

### RETURNING TO NORMAL

Perhaps the biggest sign that the flooding and problems were winding down came when South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley did not talk to reporters for the first time in more than a week.

Schools are also starting again. The University of South Carolina will welcome students back Monday after an unscheduled week break.

A number of local school districts are also returning, although some are delaying the start of school by two hours so buses can travel their new

routes in daylight. Hundreds of bridges and roads across the state remain closed from flood damage.

Also, the South Carolina Department of Transportation will start sending contractors out to clean up debris left at the side of the road Monday. Local governments are doing the same.

### DEATH TOLL

Nineteen people have died from flooding or weather-related traffic wrecks since the heavy rains started Oct. 2. Two more people died in North Carolina.

The latest deaths happened Thursday night in Horry County, where

27-year-old Shykimia Holman and 21-year-old Brianna Johnson died after the 2011 Honda they were in flipped into a water-filled ditch on state

Highway 22 in Horry County. Both Orangeburg women drowned, authorities said.

All of the deaths in the storm happened in or near vehicles, officials said.

### BIG EVENTS

Organizers of the South Carolina State Fair said it should begin as normal Wednesday.

The fair brings thousands of people every day to Columbia, and authorities said law enforcement and infrastructure should be ready.

The University of South Carolina had to move Saturday's football game against LSU to Louisiana because law enforcement said the officers needed for security and traffic control were too busy

helping with the floods.

University athletic di-

rector Ray Tanner said Saturday that he is optimistic South Carolina will be able to host the next home game Saturday against Vanderbilt.

### RAIN AGAIN

Heavy rain fell across much of South Carolina on Saturday, but officials didn't report any major damage.

Most of the state got at least an inch of rain. Normally, that wouldn't be a problem. But much of the rain turned into standing pools with the ground still saturated. In some areas, as much as 4 inches of water fell, causing road closures.

The forecast looks good for cleanup. Other than a small chance of light rain Tuesday, skies should be sunny all week across South Carolina.



KEN RUINARD AP

Father Jack Hardaway, right, of Grace Episcopal Church in Anderson blesses water delivered on Oct. 8.



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JOHN BAZEMORE AP

Bryan Allen works to remove wet drywall from a friend's flood-damaged home on Oct. 8 in Columbia. It could take until the weekend for the threat of flooding to ease in storm-tattered South Carolina.



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*Associated Press*

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## What needs fixing

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The boil water advisory for most of Columbia's water customers will continue until the supply of water is stabilized and most of the water line breaks are repaired.

Work also continues to repair 13 small bridges on Interstate 95 in Clarendon County. A 16-mile stretch remains closed where the major East Coast highway goes through lowlands and swamps and over the Black and Pocotaligo rivers.

The South Carolina Department of Transportation said it hopes to have I-95 reopened in a few days. Drivers on I-95 currently have to take a 168-mile detour through Columbia instead of the normal 74-mile drive from Interstate 26 to Interstate 20.

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AP PHOTO/JEFFREY COLLINS

**South Carolina Department of Transportation worker Radames Zambrana points to a bridge where the support underneath washed out in Columbia. Hundreds of bridges and roads in South Carolina will have to be repaired after the massive floods in the state.**

Title: **S.C. lawmakers weigh emergency session on flood aid**  
 Author: BY ANDREW SHAIN ashain@thestate.com  
 Size: 73.16 square inch  
 Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



# S.C. lawmakers weigh emergency session on flood aid

BY ANDREW SHAIN  
 ashain@thestate.com

**Midlands legislators working on funding plans after historic rain storm, flooding**

**Proposal includes bonds to pay for damaged roads, money to help rebuild housing and businesses**

**Some in S.C. congressional delegation back requests for additional federal aid**

No one is willing yet to put a price tag on damages from last week's historic rain storm in South Carolina. But some state lawmakers are talking about asking to reconvene the General Assembly to discuss paying for flood recovery.

State Reps. Rick Quinn, R-Lexington, and James Smith, D-Richland, say they have started putting together a plan to issue bonds to fix roads and use new tax revenue to help cover costs for people who don't have enough money to rebuild their homes.

"We're a long way from being out of the woods," Quinn said.

The General Assembly could meet in an emergency session before January to consider the plan once it is finalized, said Quinn and Smith, whose districts were hit hard by the storm.

Discussions are in the early stages, but the lawmakers said they hope to use \$500 million to \$700 million in additional anticipated state tax revenue. Some of that money could be used for a Superstorm Sandy-style fund to provide money to homeowners when federal disaster-relief and insurance payments

don't cover the costs of their damages.

The Federal Emergency Management Administration pays a maximum of \$33,000 for disaster claims. In many cases, that won't be nearly enough to rebuild. A majority of people who lost homes in the storm did not have flood insurance, Smith said.

"Because of the nature of the disaster, we have found us in a place where we're going to need a plan to do more," he said. "It's the sensible, responsible thing to do. It's going to be a greater cost to us if we don't help."

The state already has at least \$131.4 million in extra revenue for next year's budget, according to the S.C. Board of Economic Advisors.

But the state's tax revenues will take a hit due to the rainstorm and flooding that temporarily shut down Columbia and other parts of the state for days and disrupted Charleston.

The other part of the Smith-Quinn plan - borrowing money to fix and replace more than 500 damaged roads and bridges - also

could meet some resistance.

Lawmakers have not been eager to borrow money recently.

Plans to issue up to \$500 million in bonds for college buildings, job-training centers, economic-development projects and state armories failed during the last session.

But that was before the once-in-a-1,000-year storm that dumped up to two feet of rain on parts of the state.

"If we can hand out money to Boeing (for economic incentives), we can lay out for people who are really hurting now," Quinn said.

Quinn and Smith don't have a dollar figure yet.

To help determine that, Quinn said lawmakers could reconvene to provide money to Gov. Nikki Haley's office to complete damage assessments. Haley and the Legislature could use those assessments to draw up funding plans.

In an emergency session, lawmakers also could discuss budgeting more money to help with dam safety, Quinn said. In the storm, at least 20 neighborhood dams failed statewide, including more than a dozen in Richland County. Some of the dam breaks caused massive

damage.

The state spent less than \$200,000 on dam safety in 2013. South Carolina has more than 2,400 regulated dams.

Authority to restart the legislative session lies with Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, and House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Darlington.

More financial help for thousands of S.C. flood victims also could come from Congress, which approved \$60 billion in aid after Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-Columbia, said Friday he plans to seek additional federal money. More than 31,000 South Carolinians already have registered for financial help from FEMA.

During a stop in Charleston Friday, U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, R-North Charleston, said he also expects a relief plan to come out of Congress. Scott and six other Republicans in the state's congressional delegation voted against aid after Sandy.

For now, state and federal authorities are continuing to try to figure out how much repairing the state will cost.

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Author: BY ANDREW SHAIN ashain@thestate.com  
Size: 73.16 square inch  
Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



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Oswald O'Neill helps move damaged items outside of a friend's home on Kilbourne Road in Columbia on Thursday. "Even when Hugo hit it wasn't this bad," he said.



Title: **Board could approve South Carolina's fourth review of Planned Parenthood**

Author: BY SEANNA ADCOX Associated Press

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# Board could approve South Carolina's fourth review of Planned Parenthood

BY SEANNA ADCOX  
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — South Carolina's Legislative Audit Council could launch the state's fourth investigation into Planned Parenthood in six weeks.

The governing board of the Legislature's investigative agency is set to decide Thursday whether to approve audit requests submitted two months ago by House and Senate Republicans. It's the board's first meeting since receiving the letters signed by dozens of legislators. The public part of the meeting had yet to start as of late Thursday afternoon.

Legislators' requests were submitted amid public outcry over secretly-taped videos showing Planned Parenthood officials in other states discussing the collection of fetal organs for research.

Weeks later, Gov. Nikki Haley asked South Carolina's public health agency to investigate the state's abortion clinics, starting with Planned Parenthood. Attorney General Alan Wilson then announced he's looking into Medicaid payments for abortion. And the House Oversight Committee pursued its own investigation of any taxpayer funding tied to abortions. Planned Parenthood officials

have repeatedly said the organization has done nothing illegal, and that none of its clinics in the South Atlantic region — which includes the Carolinas, West Virginia and much of Virginia — participates in fetal tissue collection.

A Planned Parenthood spokeswoman said Wednesday the multiple investigations are part of a national political witch hunt on the organization.

Her comments came after the director of the state's Medicaid agency testified at the House Oversight Committee's first hearing on the issue. Director Christian Soura told legislators Medicaid paid for 222 abortions

statewide over the last five fiscal years, at a cost of \$437,361, but none of those were provided by Planned Parenthood.

The law allows Medicaid to pay for abortions in cases of rape, incest, or when the mother's life is in danger.

Wilson has given no update on his review of the other investigations. "The attorney general's office is currently working with various state agencies and law enforcement and cannot comment beyond that," spokesman Mark Powell said Thursday.

The investigation prompted by Haley's Aug. 18 request resulted in the Department of Health and Environmental Control