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Attachments: 012816 MM Report for DR-4241-SC.docx

FYSA- Media Monitoring Report for DR 4241 SC 01/28/16

NEWS CLIPS

SOUTH CAROLINA-DR-4241

Thursday, January 28, 2016

Issues:

- None

Summary:

- The last three FEMA/South Carolina DRCs will close permanently at 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 29.
- FEMA's 100% Touch initiative, which included a full case review of all disaster survivors who registered for disaster assistance following the October 2015 floods, resulted in \$9.7 million in grants for more than 4,500 applicants.
- The mayor of Columbia has proposed using a flotilla for a fact-finding mission on the Congaree River from Columbia to Charleston.

Analysis:

- None

Social Listening Analysis:

- None

Floods

Disaster Recovery Centers in S.C. Set to Close (Free Times)

Last S.C. Disaster Recovery Centers Close As Federal Agencies Scale Back Operations

Recovery centers to close in Columbia

FEMA to Provide Additional \$10M in Aid to South Carolina Flood Victims (Insurance Journal)

Mayor Proposes Flotilla To Explore Tourism Along Congaree

Floods

Disaster Recovery Centers in S.C. Set to Close (Free Times)

By Chris Trainor

Thursday, January 28, 2016

The final three disaster recovery centers, established in the wake of October's devastating floods, [are set to close this week](#). Centers in Columbia, Kingstree and Sumter will close up shop on Friday, according to The State. At the height of the crisis there were 32 federal recovery centers set up in South Carolina. FEMA has approved \$84 million in disaster relief for South Carolina residents and the Small Business Administration has approved more than \$140 million in low-interest loans to help businesses recover.

Last S.C. Disaster Recovery Centers Close As Federal Agencies Scale Back Operations

By Avery Wilks

[Columbia \(SC\) State](#), January 27, 2016

The last three remaining disaster recovery centers in South Carolina will close this week.

Recovery centers opened in Columbia, Kingstree and Sumter after the historic Oct. 4 storm will close at 6 p.m. Friday. The centers are the last of 32 statewide to close as federal disaster agencies scale back operations in South Carolina.

The last Columbia center is at a library at 7421 Garners Ferry Road. The centers are staffed by representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Small Business Administration and South Carolina Emergency Management Division who can help residents affected by the storm.

Those residents still can reach FEMA and the SBA online or by phone.

Residents may call FEMA at 800-621-3362 or visit [disasterassistance.gov](#) to check the status of their applications. SBA loan applicants may visit [disasterloan.sba.gov/ela](#) or call the SBA's helpline at 800-659-2955.

More than 101,600 residents statewide registered with FEMA after the flooding. The agency so far has approved \$84 million in disaster aid for individuals and households, spokesman Jim Homstad said.

The SBA so far has approved more than \$140 million in low-interest loans for businesses, homeowners and renters, spokeswoman Mary Gipson said.

Recovery centers to close in Columbia

By Thomas Lanahan

[wach.com](#) Thursday, January 28th 2016

COLUMBIA, SC -- The last three remaining recovery centers will close this week.

Recovery centers in Columbia, Kingstree and Sumter created after the historic October flooding will close at 6 p.m. Friday.

The centers are the last of 32 statewide to close as federal disaster agencies scale back operations in South Carolina.

The last center in Columbia is located at a library at 7421 Garners Ferry Road.

If you still need help, call FEMA at 1-800-621-FEMA or call the SBA helpline at 1-800-659-2955.

FEMA to Provide Additional \$10M in Aid to South Carolina Flood Victims (Insurance Journal)

<http://www.insurancejournal.com> January 28, 2016

South Carolinians who were originally refused help following last [October's historic floods](#) will be getting about \$10 million in aid.

The State of Columbia reports that the money became available through a program in which Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster applications were reviewed a second time.

Agency spokesman Jim Homstad says that, after the review, an additional 4,500 South Carolinians were

deemed eligible for help.

The agency studied more than 100,000 applications submitted after the storm to find those who might be eligible for help. Homstad said something as simple as information missing on the application could have resulted in its being denied originally.

FEMA has approved almost \$85 million in disaster aid statewide for individuals and households.

Mayor Proposes Flotilla To Explore Tourism Along Congaree

By Chuck Crumbo

[Columbia \(SC\) Regional Business Report](#), January 27, 2016

Mayor Steve Benjamin on Tuesday suggested that a “flotilla of small watercraft” be launched on a fact-finding mission down the Congaree River.

During his annual State of the City address at City Hall, Benjamin suggested the flotilla’s mission would be to explore tourism opportunities along the river from Columbia to Charleston.

The mayor added that the flotilla also could serve as a fundraiser for the Congaree Riverkeeper, a non-profit corporation that works to protect and improve water quality, wildlife habitat, and recreation on the Congaree, Lower Saluda and Lower Broad rivers.

The expedition was just one of a host of ideas that Benjamin offered during a nearly half-hour long speech delivered in the City Council chambers and streamed over the city government’s website.

Benjamin used the speech to note that some \$1.3 billion in public and private investment has been poured into the city in the past five years. Some of that total includes projects such as the proposed \$100 million Kline City Center, a mixed-used development planned for the corner of Huger and Gervais streets, and the \$45 million conversion of the Palmetto Compress building into apartments and retail shops.

The mayor also cited progress on the Commons at BullStreet, which is taking shape on the former state mental hospital campus on the edge of downtown.

Developers recently announced plans for 414,000 square feet of retail space for shops and restaurants, and also apartments and offices. Another piece of the Bull Street project is the \$37 million Spirit Communications Park, which will be home to the region’s new minor league baseball team.

Benjamin also suggested the city could boost construction of low-cost, good quality residential housing with similar tax abatement tools offered to private developers to incentivize construction of student dorms.

And the city needs to get ready for a projected resurgence in the downtown population, Benjamin said. In the past couple of years, 3,500 students have moved into the downtown area and a commercial real estate publication predicts 40,000 people could be living downtown by 2030.

“It’s so ambitious. It’s almost unimaginable,” Benjamin said.

Citing the ongoing recovery efforts from October’s 1,000-year flood, Benjamin announced the creation of the Small Business Disaster Relief Fund. The fund would help firms pay for losses not covered by FEMA grants, Small Business Administration loans and private insurance, he said.

The mayor referred to the memory of the disastrous storm that led to the failure of 45 dams and a major disruption in the city’s water supply caused by damage to the Columbia Canal.

A disaster like October’s floods can bring out the worst in people, Benjamin said. However, people “found the strength to instead pull their feet back under themselves and not only stand but march forward.

“I saw a world-class city become a city of heroes.”