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Subject: DR-4241-SC 10.28.15 Media Monitoring Afternoon Report

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FYSA-DR-4241-SC 10.28.15 Media Monitoring Afternoon Report

NEWS CLIPS

SOUTH CAROLINA-DR-4241

10/29/15

Afternoon

Issues:

- None.

Summary:

- Up to 3 inches of rain in Columbia area Sunday-through Tuesday.
- 81 percent of the roads that were closed during the flood are back open but Richland County deputies are warning people to be patient about the ones still closed; they may look fine but be washed out underneath the asphalt. Too often, they see blockades shifted and pushed aside.
- North Myrtle Beach has applied for emergency beach replenishment from Army Corps
- Gills Creek, Forest Acres area businesses work to re-open
- At Pawley's Island, the flood was followed by the king tides , so now emergency sand scraping is planned to protect structures within 20 feet of the beachfront.
- Private Timmerman school to reopen Nov. 2 following efforts by community to get it fixed up after flooding.

Analysis:

- Slow news day; beach reconstruction stories and road-opening progress dominated daytime developments.

Social Listening Analysis:

TOPICS FROM SOCIAL MEDIA:

- **FEMA.** Conversations around **FEMA** and flooding are low today, with most mentions coming from [local events](#) that include **FEMA** representatives.
- **Mosquitoes.** Conversation about the need for [spraying insecticide](#) to deal with high mosquito populations in counties such as [Williamsburg](#) has continued at a steady level for the last few days.
- **Community relief.** Community pages continue to actively share [specific needs](#) for [families](#) that are being coordinated with available items in volunteer distribution hubs. Local [collection events](#) and fundraisers are sharing some photos and updates throughout the day, while the majority of posts from affected residents deal with sharing updates on [aid received](#) and continuing needs. Updates about needs for the weekend are also continuing, with more groups [asking for volunteers](#) to help with distribution efforts.

Floods

[Rain system could be a soaker for the start of next week](#)

[North Myrtle Beach applies for emergency beach re-nourishment](#)

[Richland Deputies Urge Caution, Patience on Roads](#)

[SCDOT: Road closures down 81 percent after flood](#)

[Latest update: Roads and bridges closure list shrinks even more](#)

[City manager reviews flood relief efforts at CCN meeting](#)

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[Pawleys Island: Town makes plans for emergency sand scraping](#)

[Flooding Risk Rises for East Coast as Waters Recede in South Carolina and Georgia](#)

[Thanks to help from community, Timmerman School students hope to return to their campus November 2](#)

Floods

Rain system could be a soaker for the start of next week

[WIS TV 10 NBC Columbia, Oct 29, 2015](#)

COLUMBIA, SC (WIS) - Get ready for a wet start to the week next week as a storm system looks to form over the plains states and moves east by Sunday.

The system will be slow to move off to the northeast. Look for widespread showers and rain with some areas of heavy rain.

For South Carolina, we're looking at a possible 2 to 3 inches of rain from Sunday to Tuesday.

The ground is still saturated from rain over this past weekend and, of course, from the flood.

The system has yet to form, so the forecast remains fluid.

North Myrtle Beach applies for emergency beach re-nourishment

By Brennan McDavid

[WBTW Myrtle Beach CBS, October 28, 2015](#)

NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, SC - King tides have caused more flooding and beach erosion on the north end of the strand.

Pier Operations Manager Steve Gann says the beach in Cherry Grove is at least 15 feet further back than it was in the spring. The tide pushed all the way up into the dunes Wednesday morning.

"You have very little beach left during those times of the day," said Gann.

City spokesperson Pat Dowling says the erosion creates a problem for North Myrtle Beach's tourism based economy.

"People may decide well I don't want to stay at that location because I want a high tide beach," said Dowling.

The last beach re-nourishment took place in 2008. Dowling says North Myrtle Beach lost about 170,000 cubic yards of sand.

The Grand Strand is not scheduled for a beach re-nourishment until 2017. According to Dowling, North Myrtle Beach applied for emergency funding through the Army Corp of Engineers. They also applied to move the 2017 date earlier.

"Lots of balls up in the air, we hope they all fall in our favor," he said.

Dowling says the king tides are 1 to 2 feet above the normal high tide. He expects it to gradually drop down throughout the week.

Richland Deputies Urge Caution, Patience on Roads

[WLTX 19 CBS Columbia](#)

Oct. 29, 2015

COLUMBIA, SC (WLTX)- As of Tuesday, of the 113 roads and bridges still closed in our state due to floods, almost a third are in Richland county alone.

"It hurts, because we're invested in the community," said Richland County deputy Phillip Darnell. "These are our homes as well, this is where we live, this is where our families live. We didn't take the job and chose this profession because we just thought it's something to do, we do it because we care about our community."

For Darnell, the sight and sounds of broken pavement have become part of the job.

"You can look on top and the asphalt there and it looks like the road is in good condition," he said, "but what you don't realize is its been tunneled out under the roadway and the roadway is going to collapse."

He says too often, they see blockades shifted and pushed aside.

"It's a life or death situation," he urged. "If you're coming down this road and somebody's moved the barricades

out of the way and you're doing 45 miles an hour, and drive into the hole, you're going to get hurt. There's no doubt about it, you're going to get hurt."

He's asking the public for caution and patience.

"DOT is working as hard and fast as they can to get them open as quickly as possible," he said, "and while it's an inconvenience for everybody—us at the sheriff's department included—that extra 10 or 15 minutes it might take you to drive around is not worth your safety or the safety of your family, loved ones, or someone else."

To avoid another loss, another heartbreak, or another tragedy.

"The community has gone through enough in all of this," Darnell said. "The last thing we need to do is add more to it by somebody doing something senseless and moving a barricade out of the way that is going to cause someone else an injury."

For a list of road closures, [click here](#).

SCDOT: Road closures down 81 percent after flood

[WISTV 10 NBC Columbia](#), Oct 29, 2015

Similar story on [WCIV ABC Mount Pleasant](#)

COLUMBIA, SC (WIS) - State Department of Transportation has released an update on the road situation in South Carolina in response to October's historic flooding.

SCDOT officials say road closures are down from 541 on Oct. 5 to 102 as of Oct. 29 -- a decrease of 81 percent.

Transportation officials also say that all interstate highways are now open and only 11 primary routes remain closed statewide.

Latest update: Roads and bridges closure list shrinks even more

By Dan Brown

[Aiken Standard](#), Oct 28 2015

The following Aiken County and state-owned roads remain closed as of 10 a.m. Wednesday.

A total of six roads remain closed in Aiken County.

State roads

- Old Shoals Road from Hwy. 1 to Mt. Pleasant Road Washout. Open after Nov. 26.
- Rocky Grove Road from Hoover Road to Warner Road. Road Washout. Open after Nov. 26

County roads

- Crim Hydrick Road from S.C. 302 for 0.5 miles
- Cumbee Trail Road from Clayton Road to Kedron Church Road
- Hoover Road from Walter Poole Road to Rocky Grove Road
- Old Chalk Bed Road from North Fork Road to SCDOT bridge

The Aiken County road closures list can be found on the Aiken County Facebook page.

The Aiken County Emergency Services Division will continue to update road closures on its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/AikenCountyEMD.

City manager reviews flood relief efforts at CCN meeting

By Josh Cruse

[Columbia Star](#), Oct. 30, 2015

At the Columbia Council of Neighborhoods meeting Thursday, October 22, Columbia City Manager Teresa Wilson provided updates on the flood relief efforts. Wilson says there are two paths the City of Columbia is working on. The first is the public assistance process which governmental agencies, such as the City of Columbia, must complete. This assistance helps the city recoup labor costs, such as overtime pay for first responders.

The second is helping citizens with the **FEMA** assistance process. So far, Wilson says, she has attended four community meetings to discuss the flood assistance process with citizens who can also begin the process by going to 1136 Washington Street.

One significant milestone the city must reach is getting a commitment from **FEMA** and the State of South Carolina about who will make the decisions about reimbursement and hazard mitigation.

Wilson says it is important for the City of Columbia to have a person to contact considering only a percentage of the funds the state receives will go to hazard mitigation.

There are three designated disaster recovery centers: the Eastover branch of the Richland County Library, the Southeast branch, and the main library on the corner Assembly and Hampton Streets.

As of Thursday's meeting, Wilson says there are 60 displaced individuals. They have been moved to Trinity Baptist Church at 2003 Charleston Highway in Cayce. She says the state is trying to find permanent or transitional

housing, food, and clothing for the individuals.

The impact is also affecting the Development Block Grant funds. According to Deborah Livingston, with Community Development, the funds for the grant in 2016 will not be made public and instead will be used to help with the flood relief.

Livingston believes the last two attempts to receive a hosting bid for the Neighborhood USA conference have failed in part because of the lack of attendance from Columbia. The next conference will be held in Memphis, Tennessee, and Livingston has found transportation to Memphis for \$ 4,300. Along with the transportation, Livingston believes residents should be able to attend the conference for approximately \$1,000 a person. The total cost also includes the registration fee and the hotel.

Marie Stallworth, with Sustainable Midlands, announced a new program for storm drains, the storm drain marking program. According to Stallworth, anything that is poured into the storm drain ends up in the waterways; although, it doesn't necessarily end up in the wastewater treatment plants.

For those interested in cleaning storm drains, the City of Columbia and Richland County provides the needed supplies: a wire brush, a broom, adhesive, safety vest, and drain markers.

Volunteers must clean the area with the wire brush, remove the debris with the broom, and place the marker in front of the drain by applying an eighth of an inch bead of adhesive around the marker in a spiral design.

Stallworth recommends this project be done during warmer weather, since the adhesive doesn't respond as well in cold weather.

CCN president Emma McGraw Myers announced the 2016 CCN Awards Banquet will be Thursday, April 28. She suggested the location of the event be Seawells.

Rebuilding

By Bill Hughes

[Columbia Star](#), Oct. 30, 2015

Columbia's business community is beginning a slow but steady recovery from the historic October 4 flood.

Some are setting up temporary operations while others may never reopen.

Here are snapshots of three recovering businesses The Columbia Star featured in its pages in the past year.

Battery Street Book Company

Battery Street Book Company, a Forest Acres shop offering rare and vintage South Carolina books, lost virtually all the store's collection from the flood, says owner Lee Burton.

Down, but not out, Burton still has books in a Percival Road storage facility he is continuing to market online.

He has created a storefront on Amazon.com where visitors can browse the collection. The address is Amazon.com/shops/batterystreetbookcompany. He has also set up a GoFundme account at gofundme.com/Battery-St-Book-Co.

Battery Street shared a location inside the Webb Rawls Gallery at 5210 Trenton Road when Eightmile Branch spilled over on Oct. 4.

Burton and his colleague Jeremy Floyd set out to salvage what little they could, pitching the rest into a huge pile of pulp beside Trenholm Road.

"It's not like a shoe store where you can order new inventory from the factory. These were unique books that have to be collected and curated. It takes something out of you when you have to throw away what used to be a nice collection of South Carolina books," Burton said.

It took some three-and-a-half years for Burton to assemble and catalog the diverse collection of more than 6,000 volumes.

Burton was amazed and grateful to those who helped clean up after the flood. "We had lots of students, customers, neighbors, and a lot of help from the First Presbyterian Church. We even had a group of Navy guys who were a huge help," he said.

Without costly flood insurance, Burton said it is unlikely he will reopen at the same location. First Citizens Bank, the landlord, is asking tenants along the creek bank to vacate. The City of Forest Acres has a plan to redevelop the creekside into a green area.

Chocolate Nirvana Bakery & Café

Chocolate Nirvana owner Phil Waddell says the business is now working out of a temporary kitchen off Main Street since Gills Creek floodwaters reached five feet inside his 4405 Fort Jackson Boulevard location October 4.

"We can produce the cakes we sell to a lot of restaurants in town and do some catering. The only thing we can't do is serve lunch from the front like we used to," said Waddell. The Fort Jackson Boulevard location is where he consolidated three businesses last summer: Chocolate Nirvana bakery, The Happy Cookers Café, and full service caterer and The Lunch Box Co., a specialty caterer

"Customers can call me at 553-3930 or my wife, Lisa, at 260-1891," he said.

Waddell says the city has granted permission to rebuild the Fort Jackson Boulevard business building, but a core issue is over how much that will cost him and his landlord. If the Federal Emergency Management Agency requires the new structure to be flood proofed, the rebuilding costs are likely to be dramatically higher.

“We definitely want to rebuild at this site,” said Waddell, who selected the area because of a resurgence of business activity in the area, particularly the Crosshill Mall, anchored by Whole Foods, and the Rosewood Crossing, where Marshals, Michaels, and Pet Smart have located.

Since opening, the lunchtime service has become a popular choice for midday diners, he said.

Waddell said volunteers, customers, and friends descended on the business shortly after the flooding abated. He had high praise for the United Way of the Midlands for its “tremendous help in getting the word out to the community about those who needed help.”

Early on, Waddell called in workers from SERVPRO, a flood restoration specialist, who gutted the building, piling carpet, drywall, and ruined equipment into a dumpster. Chairs and booths were moved outside to dry in the sun.

“Right now the whole issue is still unsettled until we get a better picture of what the rebuilding costs are going to be,” said Chocolate Nirvana manager Jon Rogers.

Labrasca Five Minute Pizza

Labrasca’s Pizza reopened last Saturday, offering only take-out service from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Complete restoration of the 4365 Fort Jackson Boulevard business is expected to take about another three weeks.

Owner Brett Wilson said flooding from Gills Creek spilled only about a foot of water inside the building, sparing upholstered booths and concrete walls. “We were able to get into the place early Monday (October 5) and get all of the carpet ripped out and floor tiles taken up,” he said.

The damage, while substantial, could have been worse except for the building’s site on a high ground section of the road. Next door, Chocolate Nirvana Bakery and Café is about five feet lower and was swamped by the floodwaters.

Like many businesses owners, Wilson says he is grateful to customers and volunteers who helped with the cleanup.

Among those was Robin Bullock, who “just likes Labrasca’s pizza.” Two days after the flood, on her own initiative, Bullock set up a GoFundMe page that early this week had donations of \$11,165. The page’s address gofundme.com/qf5us4v4.

With cleanup under way at the restaurant, Wilson took to the road to keep his cash flow alive. He set up his mobile food truck, “Tower of Pizza” at the Orangeburg and State fairs.

With a legion of fans wondering what the refurbished restaurant will look like, Wilson says he intends to keep any changes to a minimum. That means keeping the cozy dim atmosphere with Chianti demijohns strung from the ceiling.

Labrasca’s telephone number is 782-1098.

Richland One board approves additional makeup days

Contributed by Richland One Schools

[Columbia Star](#), Oct. 30, 2015

Richland One Board of School Commissioners has approved additional makeup days for students and employees.

The district announced its initial plan for students to make up the seven days of school they missed when schools were closed due to the historic flooding.

At an emergency meeting, the board approved November 6, February 12, and May 31 as the three remaining student makeup days. November 6 and February 12 had been designated as professional development days/student holidays, and May 31 would have been a teacher workday. Instead of May 27 being the last day of the 2015- 2016 school year for students, their last day of school will be May 31.

February 15 and May 30, which were originally designated as district holidays, will be regular work days for employees at all sites. The board also approved making November 7 a regular work day and June 1 a teacher workday. The district will provide employees with additional information regarding makeup days.

The board approved November 6 and March 18 as makeup days for students and staff at Forest Heights Elementary School, which operates on a modified year-round calendar. June 1 also was approved as a teacher workday for Forest Heights. Additional information regarding makeup days will be provided to Forest Heights employees.

Pawleys Island: Town makes plans for emergency sand scraping

By Charles Swenson

[Coastal Observer](#), Oct. 29, 2015

Five days after a team from the Corps of Engineers assessed beach erosion on Pawleys Island caused by the “1,000-year storm,” an extreme high tide coupled with strong northeast winds compounded the damage. This week’s events amounted to the perfect storm that Mayor Bill Otis hoped to avoid.

“There was significantly more damage, particularly toward the south end,” Otis said.

At high tide Tuesday morning, the surf broke under several houses on the narrow south end of the island. At the same time, the highest tide of the year – created by the proximity of the moon to the Earth – brought the water in Pawleys Creek over the road. The town closed the public parking lot on the south end because erosion left a steep escarpment below the walkway.

At Litchfield Beach, where six of seven public walkways were closed after a storm earlier this month, the walkway next to the Litchfield Inn was closed after Tuesday’s tides. A Georgetown County work crew had already repaired two of the walkways and was at work on a third.

Otis is now making plans to utilize a general state permit that allows emergency sand scraping to protect structures within 20 feet of the beachfront. “It’s a matter of us basically determining how many houses there are where the beach is within 20 feet,” he said.

The town also hopes to get federal funds to restore the beach to its condition before it was eroded by a combination of Hurricane Joaquin moving offshore and a low pressure system that came up from the Gulf of Mexico earlier this month. That storm caused record flooding across the state.

A team from the Army Corps of Engineers prepared a preliminary estimate of damage to the beach that will be presented to the **Federal Emergency Management Agency**. The total for the state is \$95 million, according to people familiar with the report.

For Georgetown County, the damage estimate is \$12 million. For the town of Pawleys Island, it’s just under \$3 million.

The team looked at four places on the island with Town Administrator Ryan Fabbri. “It was more or less to confirm what they had already suspected,” he said.

The figures the Corps staff gave him were based on an average of 5 cubic yards of sand lost along every linear foot of shoreline.

The exception was at Folly Beach in Charleston County where a beach nourishment project was just completed and the town had current engineering data. The Corps team put the loss there at 14 cubic yards per foot.

Pawleys Island and Georgetown County hope to get similar data from a survey by Coastal Carolina University. The town already has data from a 2014 beach survey to establish the condition of the beach before the storm.

Otis believes that data will allow the town to make repairs to the beach before winter storms can threaten structures that have little or no protection from sand dunes. That work would follow any emergency sand scraping, he said.

“If we’re going to do any of that, the question is how can we pay for it,” Otis said. “The most obvious answer to that is **FEMA** money.”

Otis also hopes that the town will be able to do a long-term beach nourishment project. “You’ve got substantial permitting that you’ve got to do,” he said. “It’s a two year project at minimum.”

Flooding Risk Rises for East Coast as Waters Recede in South Carolina and Georgia

[Claims Journal](#), October 29, 2015

According to catastrophe risk modeling firm, RMS, persistent onshore winds coupled with monthly spring tides led to higher than predicted tides and coastal flooding across parts of South Carolina and Georgia this week causing localized property damage.

Commenting on the floods, Emily Paterson, senior manager of the event response team at RMS, said that while many areas of South Carolina are still recovering from the severe rainfall and flooding event that inundated the state earlier this month, “the worst of flooding is likely now over for South Carolina and Georgia.”

Hurricane Joaquin caused water to be driven onshore as a result of the pressure gradient between an area of high pressure centered over the Northeast U.S. and a low pressure area over the northern Gulf Coast.

Tides peaked at 8.68 feet above mean lower low water (MLLW) in Charleston Harbor, the location’s fourth highest tide since records began in 1921.

Only three recorded events have produced higher tides at Charleston Harbor; Hurricane Hugo in September 1989 (12.56 feet), an August 11, 1940 hurricane (10.27 feet), and a New Year’s Day 1987 coastal storm (8.84 feet). According to Paterson, major coastal flooding at this location typically occurs when gauge levels reach 8 feet above MLLW.

The tide level this week was around 5 in (125 mm) higher than the peak measured earlier this month during the South Carolina flooding and coastal flooding event, though no heavy rainfall occurred concurrently, said Paterson.

Along the Georgia coast, near Savannah, tides peaked at 10.43 feet above MLLW, at the Ft. Pulaski river tide gauge, the third highest recorded since 1935. Even including hurricanes, this is the third highest recorded tide at Fort Pulaski on record since 1935. Only two hurricanes have produced higher tides above MLLW at this location; a

hurricane in October 1947 (10.87 feet) and a hurricane in August 1940 (10.47 feet). Major tidal flooding at this location typically begins when the gauge levels reach 10 feet above MLLW, Paterson said.

Elsewhere, minor flooding inundated some streets in Miami Beach, Delray Beach and West Palm Beach, Fla., with minor flooding also reported in Waveland, Miss., and Slidell, Louisiana.

Thanks to help from community, Timmerman School students hope to return to their campus November 2

By Bill Hughes

Columbia Star, Oct. 30, 2015

http://www.thecolumbiastar.com/news/2015-10-30/Business/Thanks_to_help_from_the_community_Timmerman_School.html

With a nod to the late singer Jerry Reid, If the Lord's willin' and the creek don't rise, Timmerman School students hope to return to their Forest Acres campus on November 2.

Robert Braciszewski, Timmerman's middle school chief, said the tentative date hinges on the pace of repairs to the flood-damaged school at the foot of Atascadero Drive.

The October 4 flood displaced 265 students when Eightmile Branch spilled over its banks, sending several inches of water into most of the private school's classrooms and offices.

School officials say the damage could have been worse but thanks to the generosity of two area churches, Timmerman's kids were able to continue their studies, missing only one week following the flood.

"It's amazing. We were the only school in the Midlands to have flood damage, but we were the first to resume classes," said Braciszewski.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, four miles from Timmerman on downtown Bull Street, took in preschool and kindergarten classes. Crossing Community Church, 13 miles away on Clemson Road, offered use of its Sunday School facilities to grades one through eight.

Braciszewski said Community Church Senior Pastor Paul Pepin told Timmerman's staff, "This is not my church. It's God's church. Who am I to deny the use of it for students to go to school?"

Pepin's attitude was just one reflection of the spirit of dozens of teachers, students, parents, and volunteers who rushed to help begin the cleanup—ripping out wet carpet, drywall, and flooring tile. Joining the effort was a group from Greenwood Christian School that appeared early with supplies of bottled water, snacks, and its football team.

But perhaps the key to getting back open early has been help from Timmerman Principal Liz Jordan's husband, Steve.

Jordan is a vice president of Bonitz Inc., a multi-state, Columbiabased specialty contractor. "He was able to divert crews from other jobs to start work here," Braciszewski said.

Among the flood's property casualties were about anything placed on the floor. Books, computers, the contents of some student lockers, landscape equipment in outbuildings, and picnic tables. Braciszewski said the water destroyed all the school's administrative computers. He is now sharing a single PC with the executive staff.

Storm water also flooded the school's cafeteria, but Braciszewski said carpeting had been removed after flooding two years ago. "All we had to do was pressure wash the floors and disinfect," he said.

The luckiest stroke was the school's new gymnasium escaped damage literally by inches. "You can see the water line on the steps," Braciszewski said.

Altogether, the classroom building was flooded for only three to four hours, but the carpeted interior required immediate attention because of the threat of further damage and mildew.

Through the whole ordeal, Braciszewski said the students and their parents are in for a lot of praise. "After being out for a week, they were excited to get back to school," he said.