

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
To:
Date: 10/6/2016 5:31:10 PM
Subject: Afternoon Clips – Thursday, October 6, 2016

Afternoon Clips – Thursday, October 6, 2016

Hurricane Matthew:

Associated Press: 'Not going to take any chances': Hurricane menaces Florida

<http://bigstory.ap.org/51dd6d3a6a234b6f8c748789bf865bb2>

Mike Schneider and Kelli Kennedy

Leaving more than 100 dead in its wake across the Caribbean, Hurricane Matthew steamed toward heavily populated Florida with terrifying winds of 140 mph Thursday, and 2 million people across the Southeast were warned to flee inland. It was the most powerful storm to threaten the U.S. Atlantic coast in more than a decade. "The storm has already killed people. We should expect the same impact in Florida," Gov. Rick Scott said as the skies began darkening from Matthew's outer bands of rain. The hurricane gained fury as it closed in, growing from a possibly devastating Category 3 storm to a potentially catastrophic Category 4 by late morning. It was expected to scrape nearly the entire length of Florida's Atlantic coast beginning Thursday evening. From there, forecasters said it would most likely push along the coast of Georgia and South Carolina before veering out to sea — perhaps even looping back toward Florida in the middle of next week as a tropical storm.

Associated Press : Hurricane death toll jumps sharply in hard-hit Haiti

<http://bigstory.ap.org/a9ad76fff7984a12ada42447ccde2ceb>

Haitian officials on Thursday dramatically raised the known death toll from Hurricane Matthew as they finally began to reach corners of the country that had been cut off by the rampaging storm. Interior Minister Francois Anick Joseph announced that at least 108 had died, up from a previous count of 23. That raised the hurricane's overall toll across the Caribbean to 114. Officials were especially concerned about the department of Grand-Anse, located on the northern tip of the peninsula that was slammed by the Category 4 storm, which severed roads and communications links. "(It) got hit extremely hard," said Guillaume Albert Moleon, Interior Ministry spokesman. Officials with the Civil Protection Agency said 38 of the known deaths were reported in Grand-Anse.

Associated Press: Airlines cancel hundreds of flights as hurricane hits US

<http://bigstory.ap.org/38af50cfffdc44d095a12b4bd8eea062>

Airlines canceled hundreds of flights for Thursday and again Friday as Hurricane Matthew pelted the Florida coast with high winds and heavy rain. The Fort Lauderdale airport shut down on Thursday morning, and further north the Orlando airport expected to do the same by nighttime. Before 2 p.m. Eastern time, flight-tracking service FlightAware.com reported that 1,500 Thursday flights within the U.S. had been scrapped, with the largest numbers at Fort Lauderdale and Miami. American Airlines, which has a major hub in Miami, was the hardest-hit carrier, followed by Southwest Airlines and JetBlue Airways. FlightAware said airlines had already canceled 1,300 more flights scheduled for Friday. Delta Air Lines said cancellations were likely to spread to coastal Georgia and South Carolina on Saturday. Airlines often cancel flights before storms hit to prevent passengers from being stranded at airports and to keep their planes in position to recover after the bad weather passes.

Associated Press : Tourists disappointed as storm shuts Orlando theme parks

<http://bigstory.ap.org/40782f5cb410489aa7f776aba69046da>

Tourists who flock to Orlando's major theme parks were disappointed Thursday when all of them closed early because of Hurricane Matthew and planned to stay shut down until Saturday. "I never get time off," said Amber Klinkel, 25, of Battle Creek, Michigan, who was visiting the Universal Studios park with her mother and younger sister. "I'm a little sad." Universal and Walt Disney World both planned to close down at 5 p.m. Thursday, with SeaWorld shutting its gates at 2 p.m. The parks are among the most-visited tourist destinations in the world. Anthony Leotta, who arrived Thursday from Long Island, New York, said he was going to try to get a refund at Universal. Leotta, who is visiting with his wife, said they are leaving on a cruise Sunday and will probably have just a single day at the theme park.

Associated Press: Clinton wants Florida sign-up deadline extended

<http://bigstory.ap.org/1b8776dc91634e81b864f276e7b3d1ce>

The Clinton campaign is calling on Florida officials to extend voter registration deadlines because of Hurricane Matthew. Voters in the state must register by Tuesday to be eligible to vote in the November election. Clinton campaign manager Robby Mook said: "We would hope a little bit more time would be given." Mook said the campaign is focused on ensuring the safety of residents and staff in affected states and will "get back to campaigning when it is appropriate." The hurricane has killed more than 100 people across the Caribbean and is headed toward Florida.

Associated Press: Can't compete with Matthew: Candidates cut Florida campaigns

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

Like thousands of other Americans, Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton scrambled their plans Thursday in Florida, where Hurricane Matthew threatened to wreak havoc on efforts to comb the state for votes in the campaign's final stretch. The ferocious storm barreling toward the coast, the Clinton campaign moved staff and out-of-state volunteers working on the east coast of Florida to hotels and other housing inland and was closing all offices in the affected areas until safe to return, the campaign said. Sensitive to being seen as trying to capitalize on the storm, the campaign temporarily pulled its ads running on local Weather Channel stations in Florida. The Trump campaign scrapped plans to hold a rally farther up in the coast in North Carolina, and canceled a Florida event featuring Trump's daughter, Ivanka. Trump offered prayers for those in the path.

Associated Press: Last-minute shoppers buy cups, icepacks ahead of hurricane

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=cNsSpi1J

One problem with stocking up ahead of a hurricane is you never know exactly what you'll need. Will the storm take out your power, your water - and for how long? "It's a little scary only because the meteorologists can't really predict exactly what's going to happen," Natalie Elizur, 25, said while joining lines of shoppers making last-minute purchases at a grocery store in Fort Lauderdale ahead of Hurricane Matthew. "They can only track the storm, but they can't really predict exactly what's going to happen." Elizur, who said she already had stocked up on water, was now buying cups, plates, icepacks, food and a flashlight. "A lot of styrofoam cups and plates so we have things to eat - because we're probably not going to be able to wash dishes without water. Ice packs to keep things cool - we're probably not going to have electricity, for a couple days - or we don't really know how long," she said. Her choices were somewhat limited, because the many shoppers before her already had left some of the shelves bare.

Associated Press: The Latest: Haley orders new Lowcountry evacuations

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=qasQKXs3

Gov. Nikki Haley is ordering additional evacuations along the southern part of South Carolina's coast to be safe from possible flooding from Hurricane Matthew. Haley said Thursday that additional people in Colleton and Jasper County must go inland to avoid storm surge. In Colleton County, the new evacuation routes are south of state Highway 63 and east of Interstate 95. In Jasper County, the order covers people south of state Highway 336 and west of U.S. Highway 321. Other evacuations are ongoing in Beaufort, Charleston, Dorchester, Berkeley, Georgetown and Horry counties.

Associated Press: Charleston mayor invites all to leave town

<http://bigstory.ap.org/dade98ba770f4e459b8f888fc2a23e02>

Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg says that although the city that draws millions of tourists a year is known widely for its hospitality, he wants everyone to leave town as Hurricane Matthew approaches. City officials warn that the heavy rains and storm surge from Matthew could combine to cause flooding worse than the floods the city saw a year ago. During a news conference Thursday afternoon, Tecklenburg asked residents to pack up what they need, secure their property and get out of town. City officials say that the first rains from the storm are expected to move in late Friday and conditions will deteriorate into Saturday. Police Chief Greg Mullen warns that at the height of the storm, police and emergency personnel will be pulled off the streets and there won't be the usual rapid response to 911 calls.

Associated Press: Man dies after shootout with deputies over evacuation route

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

Meg Kinnard

A motorist who fled a checkpoint along a Hurricane Matthew evacuation route and then fired a gun at law enforcement officers has died after deputies returned fire. Lucas M. Felkel, 35, of Moncks Corner died at around 7 p.m. Wednesday, according to a statement from Chief Deputy Coroner George Oliver. Less than two hours earlier, Felkel led officers and deputies on a chase that began at a checkpoint set up because of the approaching storm, Berkeley County Sheriff Duane Lewis told reporters. The sheriff said Felkel knocked down traffic cones and shouted at officers before speeding away. At some point, Lewis said, the officers stopped the man, but the chase resumed after he "drove in a reckless manner" toward them. Stopping a second time, the man got out of his vehicle and began shooting at deputies, who returned fire, Lewis said.

The State: Haley says 175,000 in SC have evacuated: 'That's not enough'

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article106358012.html>

Cassie Cope

SC Gov. Nikki Haley encouraged any residents who have not evacuated from South Carolina's coast to get out now before Hurricane Matthew passes by the state this weekend. The governor told a press conference on Thursday that 175,000 people have evacuated so far, but state officials expected 250,000 to move inland. "That's not enough," Haley said. "We need to have more people evacuating." Haley cautioned Lowcountry residents staying put that stores including gas and pharmacies will soon close and those services will be unavailable to those who stay. Haley ordered coastal residents to begin evacuating on Tuesday, and lanes on Interstate 26 were reversed Wednesday so drivers could head away from the hurricane zone in all lanes. Haley said the Interstate 26 east lane reversals "ran beautifully." The average travel time on the interstate is about an hour and a half, she said.

The State: SC man killed after shooting at officers during evacuation, officials said

<http://www.thestate.com/news/state/south-carolina/article106354642.html>

A Moncks Corner man is dead after he was shot by a deputy during an altercation during a Hurricane Matthew evacuation, according to officials. The Associated Press reported a motorist was at a check point in Moncks Corner around 5:30 p.m. Wednesday when he knocked down some traffic cones and sped off. When deputies were able to catch up to the driver a few miles away at Cypress Gardens Road, the man reportedly pointed a gun at deputies and started shooting, the AP reported. The deputies then shot back, wounding the man who was taken to a hospital. Berkeley County Chief Deputy Coroner George Oliver reported Thursday morning that the driver, Lucas M. Felkel of Moncks Corner, died at the hospital around 7 p.m. The coroner said an autopsy for Felkel, 35, has been scheduled. The AP reported no one else was hurt, but four deputies were placed on administrative leave. The coroner's office and the S.C. Law Enforcement Division continue to investigate this case.

The State: Governor updates progress of USC-Georgia game deliberations

<http://www.thestate.com/sports/college/university-of-south-carolina/usc-football/article106360222.html>

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley expects USC officials to make a decision Thursday afternoon about when to play their home football game against Georgia, Haley said during a Thursday morning news conference. "That is a complete school decision in terms of that," Haley said. "That's not anything I need to make." Haley communicated with Gamecocks athletics director Ray Tanner on Thursday morning, she said, and reiterated the state will not allow any highway patrolmen to work the game because those resources will be needed helping state residents evacuating the coast. "The 100 to 200 troopers that they usually request or need would not be available to them," Haley said. "They know what they are required to have. They are very conscious of safety and very conscious of making sure things move forward only if they can handle it. Right now they are looking to see if they can do it with the assets they have in place."

The State: SC voter registration deadline extended due to hurricane

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article106483332.html> S.C. residents have been given a little more time to register to vote in November because of office closures related to Hurricane Matthew. Would-be voters now have until midnight Sunday to submit online registration applications, including emailed applications. The S.C. State Election Commission also will accept mailed registration applications that are postmarked by Tuesday. Voters can register in person at county voter registration offices until Saturday, the previous deadline for all applications.

The State: Hurricane Matthew puts southern SC coast under hurricane warning

<http://www.thestate.com/news/weather/article106390102.html>

As Hurricane Matthew heads toward the mainland U.S., officials issued a hurricane warning for part of the South Carolina coast. The National Hurricane Center put northern Golden Beach, Fla., up to Edisto Beach, S.C., under a hurricane warning as of Thursday morning. Hurricane Matthew is expected to scrape nearly the entire length of Florida's Atlantic coast beginning Thursday evening. From there, forecasters said, it could push its way just off the coast of Georgia and South Carolina before veering out to sea. The S.C. counties under a hurricane warning are: Jasper, Beaufort, Colleton, Berkeley and Charleston. A warning means hurricane-force winds (greater than 74 mph) are expected within 36 hours.

The State: Thousands flee coast as Hurricane Matthew heads toward SC

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article106318782.html>

Thousands of people fled South Carolina's coast Wednesday, seeking to escape the looming threat of Hurricane Matthew and the potentially heavy toll the storm could take on communities across the Lowcountry. State officials estimated the number of evacuees from the Charleston-Beaufort-Hilton

Head Island areas at 250,000. Another 200,000 people could be evacuated Thursday from the Grand Strand. The hurricane's eye wasn't projected to make landfall in South Carolina, but forecasters said the storm could have wide-ranging effects far from its center by Saturday.

The State: Midlands stores busy as people prepare for Hurricane Matthew

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article106142622.html>

For Carolyn Jones, stocking up for Hurricane Matthew was prudent on Wednesday morning, as her children and grandchildren were coming up from the coast to stay with her. But unlike some customers at the Piggly Wiggly grocery store on Devine Street, her cart had only a few staples such as cereal and milk, not a large stockpile of bread and water that is typical before a major storm. "I wanted to get a little extra, but not go crazy," the former University of South Carolina administrator said. "I remember last year's flood, and I want to be respectful of other people's needs too." Gas stations, convenience stores and hotels all were doing a bustling business on Wednesday as Columbia residents piled in supplies in preparation for shortages, power outages or guests. Meanwhile, evacuees from the coast snapped up every available hotel room. The run on grocery stores began at noon yesterday, store owner Darrell Miller said. And when Gov. Nikki Haley ordered evacuations beginning Wednesday, the deluge began. "By midafternoon, people were buying strong," he said.

The State: As Hurricane Matthew approaches, Charleston mayor urges evacuation

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article106441917.html>

Cynthia Roldan

Echoing Gov. Nikki Haley's earlier remarks, Charleston officials urged residents to leave the city as soon as possible. Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg did not have estimates for how many city residents have left the city during his 2 p.m., news conference. He cited Haley's numbers, 175,000 residents, which she said were not enough. "It really goes against my grain and against my nature to be inhospitable, but we're asking everyone to please leave town," Tecklenburg said. "It's that time. Tecklenburg stressed businesses would not be operating as usual, making the city not a "great place to be hanging out over the next couple of days." He lauded Haley's evacuation order, calling it a "wise move on her part." Tecklenburg said that the evacuation during Hurricane Hugo in 1989 was last-minute and it was "pandemonium."

The State: Projecting Hurricane Matthew rainfall impact on South Carolina

<http://www.thestate.com/news/weather/article106403577.html>

South Carolina's coastal counties will receive more than 10 inches of rain from Hurricane Matthew, according to forecasts. Charleston and Georgetown are expected to receive 13 inches or more of precipitation, according to the National Weather Service. The Columbia area could see 2 to 3 inches of rain, with parts of the Eastern Midlands forecast for more than 4 inches. The Piedmont and Upstate areas are forecast to get less than an inch of rain.

The State: Will Hurricane Matthew affect SC State Fair opening?

<http://www.thestate.com/entertainment/local-events/article106397527.html>

Good news, SC State Fair fans. No delays are expected for the fair's scheduled opening next week, despite possible inclement weather over the weekend from Hurricane Matthew. "The State Fair is moving ahead with set-up operations and remains on schedule for next Wednesday's opening," Bertram Rantin, a spokesman with the fair, said Thursday.

Post and Courier: Hurricane Matthew causes extension of state's voter registration deadlines

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161006/161009603/hurricane-matthew-causes-extension-of-states-voter-registration-deadlines>

The approaching Hurricane Matthew has prompted the S.C. Election Commission to extend the deadline for those wanting to register to vote for the Nov. 8 election. There are several ways for voters to register, but sending a paper application through snail mail is the best option for those who procrastinate. The original deadline was Saturday for all registration methods. Voters registering by mail have until Tuesday to send it off with a postmark from that day and still have it accepted. Keep in mind that post offices are closed Monday in recognition of Columbus Day. Those registering online, by email or fax have until 11:59 p.m. Sunday.

Post and Courier: Storm surge could prove more devastating than wind

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161006/161009641/storm-surge-could-prove-more-devastating-than-wind>

South Carolina may escape a direct strike, but Hurricane Matthew's swirling mass will still send an enormous pulse of seawater toward us, an ocean flood that could put vast swaths of the Lowcountry under water. Forecasters on Thursday said there's a 60 percent chance that Matthew's surge will exceed 5 feet in the Charleston area. If that holds true, the Atlantic could flood both sides of peninsular Charleston, according to computer-generated maps used by emergency officials. Areas close to the marsh on James and Johns islands will be under water, as well as lower-lying areas in Mount Pleasant and Daniel Island. The National Weather Service is predicting inundations of 3 to 5 feet in South Carolina, with isolated areas seeing as much as 8 feet of water. Storm winds also will whip up seas. A computer model used by the military is predicting 9- to 12-foot waves just off Charleston. The power in those waves along with the incoming surge will pound large parts of Isle of Palms, Sullivan's Island, Folly Beach and South Carolina's other barrier islands.

Post and Courier: Gamecocks, Georgia continue to wait as SEC postpones LSU at Florida

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161006/161009647/gamecocks-georgia-continue-to-wait-as-sec-postpones-lsu-at-florida>

The decision when to play South Carolina's football game against Georgia this weekend is up to USC, according to Gov. Nikki Haley. "That is completely a school decision in terms of that," Haley said Thursday morning from S.C. Emergency Management Division headquarters in West Columbia, where she held a news conference on the state's preparations for Hurricane Matthew. "That's not anything I need to make." USC and Georgia are scheduled to play at Williams-Brice Stadium at 7:30 p.m. Saturday. According to the National Weather Service, Matthew is forecast to rake the South Carolina coast with conditions deteriorating from Friday night into Saturday. Another SEC game scheduled for Saturday, LSU at Florida, was postponed due to Matthew and may or may not be made up later this season. Haley said in earlier news conferences that she couldn't imagine USC holding the game as scheduled, and that the school would not have use of the state troopers it usually employs to help manage game day. Thursday, she said USC would be without 100 to 200 state troopers who would instead be managing evacuations.

Post and Courier: Haley: More need to evacuate the coast as Hurricane Matthew approaches

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161006/161009650/haley-more-need-to-evacuate-the-coast-as-hurricane-matthew-approaches>

Gavin Jackson

Gov. Nikki Haley said Thursday morning that "not enough" people are evacuating from Charleston and Beaufort counties despite the ongoing success of the Interstate 26 lane reversal. Of the 250,000 people Haley and officials would like to see evacuate about 175,000 have done so since the

evacuation order and lane reversals went into effect Wednesday at 3 p.m. "We want to continue to urge anyone in Charleston or Beaufort counties (that) they should already be evacuating," Haley said. Lane reversals aren't expected on US Highway 501 even as Horry and Georgetown County Zone A residents are under a noon evacuation order today. Overall 500,000 South Carolinians are under an evacuation order as of noon Thursday. Haley added that stores and gas stations will start closing today in coastal areas that Hurricane Matthew will bring hurricane-force winds, inundate areas with around 14 inches of rain, and 4 to 8 feet of storm surge.

Post and Courier: More evacuations ordered in South Carolina, exits opened on reversed I-26
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161006/161009656/more-evacuations-ordered-in-south-carolina-exits-opened-on-reversed-i-26>

Gov. Nikki Haley on Thursday afternoon called for residents to evacuate from more of Colleton and Jasper counties, adding to an evacuation of all coastal counties in the state. Hurricane Matthew began to punish Florida with 140 mph, Category 4 winds at its core. The forecast remains for Matthew to pass offshore the Lowcountry on Saturday, and meteorologists are becoming more confident of that track, said Jeff Masters, of Weather Underground. "The longer the system hugs land as it treks up the coast, the faster it will weaken," said meteorologist Shea Gibson, of WeatherFlow. "I'm hoping we will see it knocked down to at least a Category 1 (winds 95 mph or less) by the time we see the worst effects." The governor called for evacuation of Zone B, in the upper stretch of both counties.

Post and Courier: Berkeley County: There's still time to get out before hurricane hits
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161006/161009636/berkeley-county-theres-still-time-to-get-out-before-hurricane-hits>

Berkeley County is not seeing as many people evacuate ahead of Hurricane Matthew as expected, but people still have time to leave before conditions deteriorate on Friday, a spokesman said Thursday. "What we are seeing is less than what we expected. People have 24 more hours to make their move if they are going to make their move," said Berkeley County spokesman Michael Mule. "One thing that is pretty important is that once there are sustained winds of 40-45 mph, then first responders can't go out because ambulances can't maneuver. Once it gets bad, people are stuck where they are, just like our first responders will be. This is their last chance to get out of Dodge. "Winds are expected to start picking up by Friday afternoon at Matthew nears Charleston. He also cautioned people staying home because they are worried about their belongings to think about their lives first.

Post and Courier: Construction job sites need to be secured ahead of hurricane
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161006/161009612/construction-job-sites-need-to-be-secured-ahead-of-hurricane>

Drive down any major street in the Charleston area, and it's not hard to see the area is booming with new construction. But in a hurricane, who's responsible for lumber, sheathing and piping on a job site when building materials become airborne projectiles, damaging other property? "It is the contractors' responsibility to secure all loose items on their job sites before the storm," said business preparedness expert Scott Cave of Charleston-based Atlantic Business Continuity Services. He also recommended that people who live near or have property beside a job site take photos and videos of the construction area without trespassing to document loose items. Concerned property owners can also report job sites to county emergency operations centers. "The EOCs should be able to document calls and addresses for job sites with potentially hazardous items that local law enforcement can inspect and possibly document for a citation, as they have time to do so," Cave said.

Post and Courier: What to expect on the roadways and bridges as hurricane approaches

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161006/161009635/what-to-expect-on-the-roadways-and-bridges-as-hurricane-approaches>

Traffic has thinned out across Charleston County, with only a smattering of vehicles using the roads in the metropolitan area, but those left in town are wondering whether — or when — authorities will restrict access to roadways, especially bridges. The short answer is they won't. You can use them all — the Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge over the Cooper River, Don Holt Bridge, James B. Edwards Bridge across the Wando River, Ashley River bridge, James Island connector, Stono River bridge — but you do so at your own risk, according to Inspector Chip Gooze of the Mount Pleasant Police Department. Law enforcement agencies throughout the area are coordinating efforts, stationing cruisers at various intersections to keep an eye both on the roads and on the weather. Ultimately they will determine when to issue travel warnings, said Pete Poore, communications director for the S.C. Department of Transportation.

Post and Courier: Hundreds seek shelter at North Charleston High School, but few are comfortable

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161006/161009607/hundreds-seek-shelter-at-north-charleston-high-school-but-few-are-comfortable>

Nearly 500 people had arrived at an evacuation center at the North Charleston High School by Thursday afternoon and more were on the way as Hurricane Matthew approached the eastern coast of Florida as a Category 4 storm, according to American Red Cross officials. A few people leaned against concrete ledges outside the school. Some smoked cigarettes; others just looked out into the parking lot with blank stares. Inside, the fluorescent-lit hallways were lined with dozens of people, many lying on top of blankets and articles of clothing. The most common complaint from people staying there earlier in the day was the lack of blankets, pillows and cots. Jennifer Heisler, a spokeswoman for the American Red Cross, said the organization had brought in about 400 cots in the afternoon and that another delivery was expected. The North Charleston shelter could accommodate about a thousand people, she said. "We're relocating some of the resources from other shelters that were not being utilized," she said.

Post and Courier : Troopers open some exits from reversed lanes of I-26

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161006/161009628/troopers-open-some-exits-from-reversed-lanes-of-i-26>

Andrew Knapp

State troopers on Thursday afternoon opened several exits from Interstate 26, including some from the reversed lanes of traffic. The openings give westbound drivers in the normally eastbound traffic lanes an option to leave the interstate before Columbia. At the start of the evacuation ahead of Hurricane Matthew, the S.C. Highway Patrol had previously allowed travelers leaving the Charleston area in the reversed lanes to exit only in Columbia. Still, the soonest motorists can exit the reversed lanes is at College Park Road in the Ladson area.

Post and Courier : Man killed after fleeing hurricane evacuation barricade had lengthy arrest record

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161006/161009652/man-killed-after-fleeing-hurricane-evacuation-barricade-had-lengthy-arrest-record>

The Moncks Corner man who drove around a barricade during the Hurricane Matthew evacuation and ended up in a fatal shootout with deputies had a lengthy record of arrests and traffic violations, according to the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office. Lucas Matthew Felkel, 35, died at 7 p.m. Wednesday after being taken to a hospital, Chief Deputy Coroner George Oliver said. The Coroner's Office and State Law Enforcement Division are investigating. Around 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Felkel

pulled up to Moncks Corner police officers stationed along the evacuation route at U.S. Highway 52 and Gaillard Road, according to Sheriff Duane Lewis. The driver exchanged words with the officers and tried to move a traffic cone and barricade before speeding off, he said. Moncks Corner police got the driver to stop briefly, but he backed up and tried to run over officers who were approaching his vehicle before speeding off again, Lewis said. Deputies took over the pursuit when Felkel left the town limits.

Post and Courier: Electric utilities on heightened alert as Hurricane Matthew approaches S.C. coast
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161006/161009639/electric-utilities-on-heightened-alert-as-hurricane-matthew-approaches-sc-coast>

Moncks Corner-based Santee Cooper now is on "Condition 2" alert status, which means there is the potential for disaster-level conditions within the next 24 hours and adverse impacts to the electric utility's service area appear likely. "Santee Cooper will make every effort to keep electricity flowing to our 175,000 customers in Berkeley, Georgetown and Horry counties, and to our wholesale and industrial customers across the state," Mike Poston, the utility's vice president of retail operations, said in a statement. "Our equipment is lined up, our vehicles are ready, and we are finalizing details to be sure we can respond to outages as soon as we safely can." Meanwhile, officials with Berkeley Electric Cooperative said they expect hurricane force winds will hit the utility's Johns Island and Awendaw districts for several hours on Saturday. "Members should be prepared for extended outages that may last up to a week, depending on the severity of the damages," the utility said in a statement. "Once conditions are deemed safe, crews will begin restoration efforts."

Post and Courier: Charleston, Georgetown ports to close Friday in preparation of hurricane conditions

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161006/161009633/charleston-georgetown-ports-to-close-friday-in-preparation-of-hurricane-conditions>

The State Ports Authority will close its cargo terminals in Charleston and Georgetown on Friday and Saturday in anticipation of severe weather conditions related to Hurricane Matthew, the maritime agency said Thursday. Also, SPA operations — including those at the North Charleston and Wando Welch cargo terminals — are normally closed on Sunday. Vessel operations will continue through Friday morning but will be halted when weather conditions deteriorate. Those operations could resume by Sunday evening if cleared by the U.S. Coast Guard. "Based on the current forecast, we anticipate resuming normal gate hours on Monday," the SPA said in a statement. "The schedule for reopening could shift depending on conditions." Normal gate hours at the SPA's inland port in Greer will continue for the deliver and receipt of cargo containers. Rail service between the inland port and Charleston will resume as conditions allow, the agency said.

Post and Courier: Lowcountry hospitals making final preparations as Hurricane Matthew approaches
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161006/161009638/lowcountry-hospitals-making-final-preparations-as-hurricane-matthew-approaches>

Hospitals around the Lowcountry were making their final preparations as Hurricane Matthew approached the region Thursday, as officials worked to make sure they had enough space and staff to handle the storm. Only one hospital was moving its patients out of Charleston: The Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center said about 50 patients were taken Wednesday to hospitals further inland, and only about five patients will ride out the storm here, spokeswoman Tonya Lobbestael said. (Its emergency department will stay open.) Elsewhere in the Lowcountry, hospitals were discharging patients when possible in an effort to focus their efforts and make way for anyone hurt in the storm. Roper Hospital in Charleston expects to have 150 patients in its care this weekend, down from about

270 earlier in the week, spokesman Andy Lyons said. Flooding is a concern at the downtown hospital, so new patients are being directed, when possible, to other hospitals like Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital in West Ashley and Mount Pleasant Hospital. Roper's Northwoods ER in North Charleston, however, will close at 6 p.m.

Post and Courier : Dorchester County providing transportation to shelters, sandbags go quickly
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161006/161009640/dorchester-county-providing-transportation-to-shelters-sandbags-go-quickly>

Dorchester County will provide transportation to its two emergency shelters, with three more shelters now on standby in case additional space is needed. Meanwhile, the county's Emergency Council will meet at 2 p.m. Thursday at the council's Summerville chambers to discuss preparations for Hurricane Matthew, which is expected to brush the South Carolina coast starting Friday. The county distributed a limited number of sandbags to residents starting Thursday morning but those sandbags were gone within two hours. County workers are traveling to the Midlands to replenish the sandbag supply and more should be available by about 6 p.m. Thursday. Residents who wish to relocate to the county's shelter at Summerville High School can board shuttles at...

Island Packet: Hurricane Matthew strengthens to Category 4 as millions warned: 'This storm will kill you'

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article106337637.html>

Meteorologists at the National Hurricane Center upgraded Matthew to a Category 4 hurricane Thursday as the colossal storm system tracked closer to the U.S. after slamming the Bahamas. A hurricane warning has been issued for Beaufort and Jasper counties as the area prepares for a fierce and relentless Hurricane Matthew to move up the Carolina coast later this week. The death toll from Matthew's furious pounding on Haiti climbed to more than 100 on Thursday, according to the Associated Press. President Obama declared Florida in a state of emergency Thursday as the colossal storm system churned toward Florida's east coast. Florida Gov. Rick Scott made a final plea for residents to evacuate Thursday morning, saying, "This storm will kill you." "It's definitely gaining strength right now, with maximum wind speeds reaching up to 140 mph," Mike Efferson, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Charleston, said Thursday morning.

Island Packet : If it's bad enough, even law enforcement will leave

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article106470917.html>

Need another reason to heed the evacuation order and leave the Lowcountry? Consider this: If the weather gets bad enough, law enforcement, first responders and safety personnel will be forced to leave the county. And then, truly, you'll be on your own. There's a "retreat plan" – a contingency – for safety personnel who are currently preparing for the arrival of Hurricane Matthew. That plan calls for them to fall back to Allendale County if the storm's intensity – and the storm surges that accompany it – renders them unable to "fight the fight," according to Beaufort County Sheriff P.J. Tanner. "You can't fight Mother Nature," Tanner said Thursday afternoon. "You have to watch Mother Nature. And Mother Nature will tell you what to do." The speed of Matthew and its intensity when it hits the county will factor into the decision to retreat, Tanner said, declining to elaborate on further specifics of the plan. The goal is to move safety personnel a safe distance away, but keep them close enough to quickly respond after the storm.

Island Packet: Bluffton's mayor has some choice words for evacuation naysayers

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article106426922.html>

Bluffton Mayor Lisa Sulka took to Facebook today to plead with residents to evacuate Thursday and protect themselves from Hurricane Matthew. "If you stay, you are putting your life in danger, as well as the first responders who are here working tirelessly to keep all of us safe and protected," Sulka said in a three-minute video posted by the Bluffton Police Department. "Those of you who stay behind, if you have an emergency, first responders will most likely not be able to get to you." Sulka reminded residents there are shelters open in Jasper, Hampton and Colleton counties and that Palmetto Breeze is still evacuating people today who have no other transportation.

Island Packet: Last bus out of Hilton Head leaves at 4 pm — here's where to catch it

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article106413037.html>

Hilton Head Island residents have one more chance to be transported to a shelter before Hurricane Matthew hits. A free Palmetto Breeze Transit bus will leave at 4 p.m. from the BiLo at Port Royal Plaza. The bus seats 55, but Hilton Head Island Fire & Rescue Chief Brad Tadlock says officials will find a way to transport more people if need be. Anyone who wants to evacuate but can't get to Port Royal Plaza must call the dispatch center to request a pickup. That number is 843-682-5125. All evacuees will be taken to Ridgeland-Hardeeville High School, which has been converted into a shelter. Remember to pack bedding, activities for any children, medicine and food for any dietary requirements.

Island Packet: National Guard prepares at Buckwalter Recreational Center

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article106352877.html>

After the first day of mandatory evacuation ended Wednesday and the second began Thursday morning, the SC National Guard stationed on Buckwalter Parkway is pleased with how many people have left the Bluffton area. "We've been surprised at the amount of people who have left already, even before the message came out from Columbia, and so it actually seems to be flowing ... well," Capt. Brian Gural said on Thursday. The nearly 400 Guard members are here to provide assistance to local law enforcement in directing traffic and helping with the evacuation, Gural said. Their base is at the Buckwalter Community Recreational Center, where cots have been set up to accommodate those deployed to the Bluffton area. Like many others in emergency services, Gural cautioned residents against staying as Hurricane Matthew approaches.

Island Packet: Firefighters encourage Beaufort's stubborn to leave: 'The message is evacuate'

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article106418567.html>

In case Beaufort and Port Royal residents haven't already gotten the message ahead of Hurricane Matthew, firefighters are around to remind them. Beaufort-Port Royal Fire Department trucks rolled through neighborhoods Thursday. Residents are encouraged to stop firefighters to ask questions. "The message is 'evacuate,'" Fire Chief Reece Bertholf said in a post to the department's Facebook page Thursday morning. Bertholf said some are leaving and some aren't in response to the message. "We may not have a clear picture until tonight," he said. A hurricane warning was issued for Beaufort and Jasper counties Thursday as Matthew continues its push toward the South Carolina coast. Beaufort Police Department has a double shift of officers working extra patrols and traffic controls, Sgt. Hope Able said. She said there had been no burglaries reported since the evacuation, and that there have not yet been any other storm-related issues.

Morning News: SCDOT warns motorists of bridges, high winds

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_be11dcf4-8bfe-11e6-879d-fbc4a320a426.html

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) is preparing for increased winds from Hurricane Matthew to impact the state later this week. When sustained winds reach speeds of 30

mph, law enforcement will warn operators of high profile vehicles such as semi-trucks, box delivery trucks, RVs and travel trailers not to use these bridges. Drivers of passenger vehicles should use extreme caution. At sustained winds of 40 mph, local law enforcement agencies will notify the public that travel over those bridges are unsafe for travel and not for public use. When winds reach a sustained 40 mph, anyone crossing the bridges is doing so at their own risk as law enforcement agencies may not be able to staff all locations. In addition, the public is warned that regardless of sustained wind speeds, unexpected and hazardous wind gusts of higher speeds could occur. SCDOT urges all drivers to use caution for your own safety, the safety of other drivers and for those are working to keep the highways open.

Sun News: Update: Flood impacts from Hurricane Matthew elevated to 'extreme'

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article106339572.html>

In the latest forecast, Hurricane Matthew still remains on track to ride up the South Carolina coast then make a dramatic curve out to sea, but weather authorities ramped up flood impacts to "extreme" Thursday afternoon. More rainfall than previously expected Wednesday is now expected to hammer Grand Strand coastal regions and trees could easily topple from wind gusts. Increased storm rainfall total amounts with a potential for more than 10 inches along coastal areas was announced as a possibility early Thursday morning, which could lead to road washouts and sinkholes, along with flooding at vulnerable structures in low-lying areas. That statement was echoed in an afternoon update as forecasters stressed extreme flooding was possible. "Heavy rainfall and flooding is likely, especially during Saturday with rainfall exceeding 10 inches at the coast," said Steve Pfaff, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Wilmington, N.C. in a 2 p.m. threat assessment.

Sun News: 'It's time to leave. It's time to go' Horry official warns in advance of Hurricane Matthew

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article106416137.html>

Horry County shifted to level one operating conditions at noon Thursday as officials urged the public to heed the governor's order and evacuate the coastal region of Zone A – the area east of Kings Highway. "It's time to leave. It's time to go. If you live in Zone A there are very vulnerable areas, especially in Garden City, Cherry Grove, and along the swashes," said Randy Webster, Horry County Emergency Operations Center Director at a media event Thursday. "We don't need people to be there when this happens." Gov. Nikki Haley gave the order for those in Zone A in Horry and Georgetown counties to evacuate ahead of Hurricane Matthew starting at noon on Thursday. Horry County officials held a press conference Thursday at noon at the Horry County Emergency Operations Center within the M. L. Brown, Jr. Public Safety Facility where they echoed the governor's order to residents and visitors within Zone A and urged others outside the doomed zone to prep or go if needed. Officials are concerned about the projected amount of rainfall, possible storm surge, and hard winds that may roar across the area, especially coastal regions.

Sun News: Hurricane Matthew now threatens to flood Waccamaw, Black Rivers

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article106351002.html>

National Weather officials are now watching the Waccamaw River and warn that heavy rainfall over the Carolinas this weekend with Hurricane Matthew increases the risk for flooding. In addition, officials are closely monitoring the northeast Cape Fear, Black, Sampit, and South Santee Rivers, given the bulk of the rainfall may end up in their basins. The risk for flash flooding will increase Friday and especially through Saturday as very heavy rainfall moves across the area. A flash flood watch was issued for Horry County Thursday morning. The chances of major flooding are 36 percent for the Waccamaw, 50 percent for moderate flooding and 70 percent for minor flooding on Saturday and Sunday. On Thursday morning, the Waccamaw River was more than one foot below action stage at

10 feet, minor flood stage is at 11 feet. During the historic rains one year ago, the Waccamaw rose higher than 16 feet — the third highest crest on record.

Sun News: Gov. Haley makes evacuation for Zone A official for Horry, Georgetown counties

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article106357732.html>

Evacuation of Zone A in Horry County is set to begin at noon Thursday, a process that is expected to take 15 hours and create traffic headaches for residents across the county. Gov. Nikki Haley made the evacuation official during a press conference Thursday morning. Traffic lanes are not expected to be reversed on U.S. 501, but the priority for public safety officials directing the evacuation is to move traffic away from the beach area, not allowing more traffic into the area. Residents who live inside the affected zone that runs along the beachfront areas who choose to ignore the evacuation order, may find themselves going to work in the morning and coming home to a residential area blocked by law enforcement. Local officials say it's their primary job to enforce the evacuation order, but will also look at individual circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

Georgetown Times: Update: NWS says rainfall, storm surge could bring 3-6 feet of water to parts of Georgetown County

<http://www.southstrandnews.com/20161006/161009935/update-nws-says-rainfall-storm-surge-could-bring-3-6-feet-of-water-to-parts-of-georgetown-county>

Evacuations in Georgetown County's Zone A began at noon Thursday in anticipation of Hurricane Matthew's projected arrival on Saturday, Oct. 8. Gov. Nikki Haley ordered the evacuations for Georgetown and Horry counties to begin one day after about 175,000 people chose to evacuate Charleston and Beaufort counties. In a recorded video message, Georgetown County Emergency Management Director Sam Hodge encouraged all Zone A residents to heed the governor's warning. "Conditions could get better or worse, but we are, naturally, planning for the worst-case scenario," Hodge said. "That's why it's important ... that we follow the governor's guidance. We ask that you evacuate Zone A." NWS meteorologist Steve Pfaff concurred with Hodge's assessment. On Thursday afternoon, Pfaff said there were three main concerns for Georgetown County residents ahead of Matthew's arrival.

Morning News: Hurricane Matthew evacuees flood Florence hotels

http://www.scnw.com/news/business/local/article_5421ab0e-8b53-11e6-bcbf-bba0b96da2d6.html

Two weeks ago Mike and Megan Staub moved from Philadelphia to settle along the coast of South Carolina. "Welcome to the south," Mike joked Wednesday afternoon. "We were used to snowstorms..." As Hurricane Matthew churned north and an untold number of folks fled the coast, the Staubs decided Tuesday evening to evacuate their new apartment on Daniel Island and found a room at the Courtyard Marriott along Hospitality Boulevard. Being unsure about how well traffic would flow, the couple "tried to beat the rush, so to speak," he said. "We'd just finished unpacking," Megan said, smiling despite the circumstances. "Welcome to Charleston – just kidding, get out of here," her husband said, laughing. As the Staubs worked on their laptops and plotted a drive to Charlotte or Raleigh, the hotel's general manager, Dan Paola, said the last 24 hours have "definitely been fast and furious." About 20 to 25 rooms at the nearby Residence Inn Marriott were snapped up in a half hour, he said. Ron Glancy, vice president of operations for parent company Raines Hospitality, which owns five hotels in Florence and partners with SpringBridge Development in operating Hotel Florence, said the phone traffic picked up considerably Tuesday following Gov. Nikki Haley's press conference.

Aiken Standard: Flash flood watch to be in effect for Aiken, Barnwell counties beginning Friday

morning

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20161006/161009715/flash-flood-watch-to-be-in-effect-for-aiken-barnwell-counties-beginning-friday-morning>

A flash flood watch will be in effect for Aiken and Barnwell counties starting at 6 a.m. Friday until 8 a.m. Sunday. A flash flood watch means that conditions may develop to lead to flash flooding. The National Weather Service in Columbia has issued the watch for the following counties: Aiken, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lee, Lexington, Orangeburg, Richland and Sumter. The NWS said Hurricane Matthew will approach the S.C. coast on Friday night and bring significant rainfall to the eastern Midlands and surrounding areas. Rainfall totals in the northern and central Midlands and CSRA could range from 3 to 6 inches, according to NWS.

Greenville News: Charleston evacuations slow to a trickle as storm approaches

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/10/06/hurricane-watches-issued-sc-matthew-strengthens/91654260/>

Evacuations from the Charleston region slowed to a trickle on Thursday as hundreds of buses idled at the evacuation staging point even as the outer bands of a killer hurricane began to hit south Florida. To the north of Charleston, people refusing to evacuate Pawley's Island were being asked to sign a waiver that includes listing contact information for their next of kin. Hurricane warnings have been issued in five South Carolina counties ahead of deadly Hurricane Matthew, which has already killed more than 100 people in Haiti and the Caribbean, and is set to strengthen over Florida before barreling toward the Carolinas. The warnings were issued in Jasper, Beaufort, Colleton, Berkeley and Charleston counties. Much of the rest of the South Carolina coast is under a hurricane watch that is expected to turn into a warning. In Florida, expected to be pounded by the storm Thursday night, Gov. Rick Scott warned residents they could be killed. "Time is up. You have to evacuate now." Matthew strengthened to an "extremely dangerous" Category 4 hurricane Thursday as it barreled toward a midnight landfall on the Florida coast, bringing the threat of deadly winds and storm surges along a 550-mile stretch from Miami to South Carolina, USA Today reported.

Greenville News: Why some people are choosing to ride out Hurricane Matthew

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/south-carolina/2016/10/06/why-some-people-choosing-ride-out-hurricane-matthew/91668226/>

Not everyone in the Charleston area is leaving in advance of Hurricane Matthew. In downtown Charleston Thursday morning, some people took advantage of empty streets to walk dogs, jog, ride bikes or take a stroll. And some of those said they had either decided to stay or were undecided about leaving, even in the face of Gov. Nikki Haley's evacuation order and Mayor John Tecklenburg's urging that people leave. "It's not in our nature to be inhospitable, but now is the time to leave Charleston," Tecklenburg said. "We are facing the threat of severe flooding caused by storm surge, high tide and potentially over a foot of rain hitting us all at once, and for that reason we are urging everyone to evacuate while there is still time." Hurricane Matthew's path is as dangerous as it is unpredictable with latest projections from the National Hurricane Center showing the storm is expected to be a Category 4 Hurricane over Florida before riding the coast from Florida to southern North Carolina then turning out to sea.

Greenville News : Hurricane Matthew track leaves residents, forecasters guessing

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/10/05/matthew-shifts-east-evacuations-begin/91597356/>

Roughly 250,000 residents and tourists fled the Lowcountry by Wednesday evening ahead of an approaching storm with a projected track that baffled residents, forecasters and state officials. At

least as many more are expected to evacuate Thursday. Westbound traffic flowed smoothly on both sides of Interstate 26 as evacuees headed out of Charleston and Beaufort. People in both coastal counties were told to evacuate by 3 p.m. Residents and tourists in Georgetown, Horry and other coastal counties are expected to evacuate Thursday morning. The latest predicted path of the storm from the National Hurricane Center had it hugging the east coast of Florida before approaching the South Carolina-Georgia border Saturday afternoon as a Category 2 hurricane and then taking an abrupt right turn to the east and another sharp turn south. Where it goes from there is anyone's guess as some forecast models suggested it could loop around and make a second landfall in a powerful one-two punch to Florida.

The Herald: Sorry, no hotel rooms here, you might try Charlotte

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article106444302.html>

Few hotel rooms remain in the non-coastal areas of South Carolina, and officials are now urging evacuees fleeing Hurricane Matthew to start looking in Charlotte. Most hotel and motel rooms in the Rock Hill and Fort Mill areas were filled Thursday, according to Chuck Haynes, director of York County Emergency Management. The bookings followed an evacuation order of some coastal counties by Gov. Nikki Haley in advance of Hurricane Matthew, which on Thursday strengthened to a Category 4 storm. "All of the hotels across the state not including the coast are pretty much full," Haley said during a press conference Thursday morning. "I think we have a few rooms left in Anderson, but your best bet now is Charlotte. They have a few rooms left too." Many Rock Hill hotels reported Wednesday that they were quickly filling up and were booked through the beginning of next week as thousands of coastal residents headed inland. The Deluxe Inn in York had only four rooms available Thursday night and "less than that" for Friday night, a representative said.

WMBF: Pawleys Island residents who refuse to evacuate asked to sign waiver

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33335068/pawleys-island-residents-who-refuse-to-evacuate-asked-to-sign-waiver>

Residents who are staying in Pawleys Island in spite of the Governor's evacuation order are being asked to signed a waiver. View the latest detailed forecasts, tracks, emergency information, and updates as Hurricane Matthew heads towards the Grand Strand. WMBF News has obtained a copy of the waiver form, which states: "I have been informed that Town of Pawleys Island is under an evacuation given by the Governor of the state of South Carolina. I have refused to comply with the evacuation and leave the Island. My next of kin can be reached as follows:" The resident is then provided a space to list their next of kin, their home telephone number, a cell phone number, their name, their address, and their signature. There is then a space for an officer's name as a witness. All of Pawleys Island is in Zone A, which was ordered to evacuate at noon Thursday by Governor Nikki Haley.

WMBF: Hurricane Matthew a major event, Horry County officials say

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33333547/hurricane-matthew-a-major-event-horry-county-officials-say>

Horry County officials held a news conference at noon Thursday to discuss Hurricane Matthew. View the latest detailed forecasts, tracks, emergency information, and updates as Hurricane Matthew heads towards the Grand Strand. Council Chairman Mark Lazarus said the county is there to support the community, with the Emergency Operations Center remaining open 24/7 until the threat is over, which is likely to be sometime Sunday. The county is confident that it is prepared, and Lazarus asked all citizens to adhere to warnings, especially those living in Zone A. Emergency Management Director Randy Webster reiterated those in Zone A and those in low-lying areas should heed the Governor's

noon evacuation order. He said all Red Cross shelters are opening. He anticipates rain from eight to 12 inches close to the coast as well as sustained winds of up to 40 miles per hour and wind gusts of up to 50 miles per hour. Webster said the beach has taken a serious hit over the past year and feels the dune line is extremely vulnerable. Storm surge levels will be four to six feet above ground, but those numbers could change. Coast RTA is running shuttles and you can find pick up points here.

WMBF: Coast RTA assisting with evacuation in Horry County

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33326017/coast-rta-assisting-with-evacuation-in-horry-county>

Coast RTA in Horry will assist with evacuation efforts on Thursday ahead of Hurricane Matthew. According to a press release, Coast RTA cancelled its fixed routes and paratransit services scheduled for Thursday in preparation for its role in the Zone A evacuations. "With the delivery of Gov Haley's executive order for evacuation, Coast RTA will begin evacuation services at noon TODAY," a Coast RTA official announced Thursday. "Anyone needing special transportation should call our customer service to discuss options (843.488.0865). Pets are not allowed at shelters." There are 20 designated hurricane evacuation bus stops/pick up locations served by Coast RTA along the Grand Strand. Officials ask residents to limit belongings, bedding and luggage to one bag per person.

WMBF: Locals upset over pharmacy closures ahead of Hurricane Matthew

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33328152/locals-upset-over-pharmacy-closures-ahead-of-hurricane-matthew>

Walgreens stores across Horry County have closed up shop days before Hurricane Matthew's arrival. Some have voiced concerns about not being able to get prescriptions filled after the stores closed apparently without warning. "I came up to get water. The hurricane's coming, you might know. I'm kind of worried about it. I want to be sure we've got enough water." said Louie, a local. Louie lives right on the beach in Zone A, which by Thursday could become an evacuation zone if Matthew worsens. He said he was shocked when he saw Walgreens closed their locations before some had a chance to get essential items. "I'm baffled. I think it's kind of stupid and not very thoughtful," he said. "Well people want their medicines. Luckily I picked mine up yesterday." Others weren't so lucky. Some people who came by the store said they were planning on getting their prescriptions today and weren't told the store would be closing. Phil Caruso, media relations for Walgreens, said those needing to fill prescriptions should get to a safe location first before going to a pharmacy. WMBF News asked how many locations were closed and where, but did not get a response.

WPDE: Georgetown County out of sand bags; bigger supply expected Thursday evening

<http://wpde.com/news/local/limited-number-of-sandbags-available-to-georgetown-county-residents>

With residents still concerned about possible flooding from Hurricane Matthew, many are searching for sandbags and information on how to use them effectively, according to a news release from Georgetown County. As of 4:20 p.m. on Thursday, Georgetown County said they had run out of sand bags. They said a larger supply of sand bags is expected sometime Thursday evening. Those still needing sand bags are asked to call the hotline at 843-545-3273 to check supply later today. When sand bags become available again, officials will continue to distribute them at Eight Oaks Park (no delivery available), located on Highway 521 in Georgetown. When supplies arrive, Georgetown County will conduct a public distribution of sandbags until 7 p.m. Thursday or until supplies run out, according to Jackie Broach, spokesperson for Georgetown County.

WPDE: Myrtle Beach Boardwalk businesses brace for Hurricane Matthew

<http://wpde.com/news/local/boardwalk-businesses-brace-for-hurricane-matthew>

Governor Nikki Haley wants South Carolina to prepare for the worst, and local businesses are

responding. In Myrtle Beach, businesses along the Boardwalk are starting to prepare for whatever Hurricane Matthew may bring. Justin Plyler, the owner of the Gay Dolphin Gift Shop, said he's been around for a long time and has seen his fair share of hurricanes. He said his shop will stay open until Governor Haley evacuates the area, but he is taking some precautions. "We'll clear the drains, check the generator and make sure it's operating correctly, work on our pumps and make sure they're in good shape," said Plyler. Plyler said he will close up shop if the area is evacuated, but hopes that doesn't happen.

WBTW: Myrtle Beach Police encourage people to evacuate

<http://wbtw.com/2016/10/05/myrtle-beach-police-encourage-people-to-evacuate/>

Parts of Horry County and Georgetown County may be asked to evacuate Thursday, and police say they've already seen an influx in traffic along Highway 501 and 544 leaving the beach. Lt. Joey Crosby with Myrtle Beach Police says their crew met Wednesday to prepare for the storm, and they're asking people who live along the coast to leave. "As you can see, the track is changing daily and hourly even sometimes, so take it very seriously. Make sure that you're making your preparations, and if you can, evacuate because it's making sure that you and your family are safe," said Crosby. If you're in North Myrtle Beach or further North starting from Briarcliffe Acres, you will take Highway 9 North to 95. If you are in the areas between Briarcliffe Acres South to 10th Avenue North, you will take SC 22 to 501. That will lead you to Marion, and when you're there you can take 75 to Florence to get to 95 Southbound. Or, you can stay on 501 to 38 to 95 North Bound.

WBTW State Insurance officials remind residents to create a home inventory list

<http://wbtw.com/2016/10/05/state-insurance-officials-remind-residents-to-create-a-home-inventory/>

With Hurricane Mathew shifting toward South Carolina, Ray Farmer the South Carolina Director of Insurance wants you to plan and prepare in the days before. One way to prepare for the storm includes homeowners contacting their insurance agencies to know exactly what the insurance policy does and does not cover. Planning and preparation are two very important parts of weathering the storm. Farmer wants you to not only have an emergency kit ready and know your evacuation route but to also create a home inventory. "It's almost impossible for us to remember what we have in every room of the house. I'm urging all of our citizens, especially those in the affected areas, to take time today and make time to make a home inventory," Farmer said. Your home inventory list should include the name, description, and estimated value of each item throughout your entire home.

WCSC: Charleston International Airport operating normally Thursday

<http://www.live5news.com/story/33332415/charleston-international-airport-operating-normally-thursday>

Charleston International Airport will operate normally Thursday as Hurricane Matthew approaches the Lowcountry, according to a Charleston County Aviation Authority spokeswoman. Authorities expect the airport to be very busy throughout the day as many of the passengers have rescheduled flights out of the area. Officials urge customers to allow extra time to park, check in with airlines and go through the security screening checkpoint. Lines are expected to be longer during the check in and screening process. Passengers and those meeting arrivals should contact their airline for up-to-date flight status information, to include delays, cancellations and, if necessary, rebooking flights. Operation hours for Friday were not immediately available. Authorities said information will be posted at a later time and will be dependent upon weather conditions, forecasts for the hurricane and airline operations.

WCSC: Buses from Greenville ready to transport evacuees from North Charleston Coliseum

<http://www.live5news.com/story/33324670/buses-from-greenville-ready-to-transport-evacuees-from-north-charleston-coliseum>

About 200 school buses were in the parking lot of the North Charleston Coliseum Wednesday, waiting to take hurricane evacuees to the Upstate. The buses, which were brought to town under orders from Gov. Nikki Haley, started arriving around 11 a.m. Charleston County officials say the buses will be used only if all of the evacuation shelters in the Charleston area fill up. If that's the case, any evacuees who come to the coliseum will be taken to Greenville, Spartanburg and possibly Anderson. An official with the Greenville County School District says it was a coordinated effort. "It's huge. We got word about 2:30 yesterday so our drivers have really stepped up to the plate and our supervisors, our entire staff, and administration got us down here," David Goad said. Goad said actual drivers for the school district drove the buses to Charleston.

WIS: Gov. Nikki Haley: Further evacuations on Grand Strand begin at noon

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33331102/gov-nikki-haley-further-evacuations-on-grand-strand-begin-at-noon>

Gov. Nikki Haley says 175,000 people have already evacuated the Lowcountry ahead of Hurricane Matthew, but she wants more to leave before the storm's impact begins Friday. "That's not enough," Haley said. "We need to have more people evacuating, and this is the part that I want you to think about: If you are still sitting at home, if you have not evacuated, gas stations are getting ready to close. Your pharmacies are getting ready to close. Everything is going to leave because people have to protect their families, so they're all going to do that." Appearing at a news conference Thursday morning, Haley said she is also activating evacuation efforts in parts of Horry and Georgetown counties effective at 12 p.m. Specifically, Haley is calling for evacuations in Zone A in those counties.

WIS: Still awaiting word on USC-UGA game, but Haley stresses USC be 'responsible'

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33331887/still-awaiting-word-on-usc-uga-game-but-haley-stresses-usc-be-responsible>

We still don't know the status of the University of South Carolina's game against the Georgia Bulldogs on Saturday night, but Gov. Nikki Haley is stressing that the school is "responsible" on whether or not it is held at its scheduled time. Emergency Management Division headquarters on Thursday morning, Haley said the normal amount of South Carolina Highway Patrol troopers dedicated to traffic enforcement and safety at Williams-Brice Stadium will not be available due to ongoing evacuation efforts along the coast. "We have to make sure they're on the roads and taking care of the drivers," Haley said. Instead, Haley said, USC could borrow resources from the Richland County Sheriff's Department to supplement what they usually receive from the state.

WACH: Haley orders additional evacuations for Jasper & Colleton Counties

<http://wach.com/news/local/haley-orders-additional-evacuations-for-jasper-colleton-counties>

Governor Haley has announced additional evacuations for counties along the coasts. The governor is ordering residents of Colleton and Jasper Counties in Zone B to evacuate immediately. An evacuation for the two counties for residents in Zone A was issued Wednesday.

WACH: Haley continues to urge Lowcountry residents to evacuate

<http://wach.com/news/local/haley-continues-to-urge-lowcountry-residents-to-evacuate>

Governor Nikki Haley was back at the podium Thursday to give an update on the ever-moving Hurricane Matthew. Haley was joined by other top officials and said Hurricane Matthew is strengthening on the coast in Florida and is headed for South Carolina. It's expected to bring eight to 14 inches of rain. Beaufort, Charleston, Georgetown and Horry Counties are continuing to evacuate,

according to Haley. She also said they are coordinating with Georgia and Florida to help in the evacuations. Lane reversals also continue and Haley said the average travel time from Charleston to Columbia is an hour and 20 minutes. Haley said 175,000 people have been evacuated from the Lowcountry as of 6 a.m. Thursday, but that 250,000 still need to move out of the area. Thirty-eight shelters are currently open around the state and 677 residents are living within those shelters, according to Haley.

WOLO: Governor Announces Evacuation of Georgetown & Horry Areas

<http://www.abccolumbia.com/2016/10/06/governor-announces-evacuation-georgetown-horry-areas/>

As Hurricane Matthew continues to threaten the southeastern United States, Governor Nikki Haley today ordered an evacuation of coastal areas in and around Horry and Georgetown, South Carolina. Residents and visitors in certain parts of Horry and Georgetown Counties should begin evacuating no later than 12 p.m. today, Thursday, October 6. To verify whether you are located in an evacuation zone, please visit scemd.org and click, "Know your Zone," to enter your home address. Evacuation details, by region, are listed below and detailed via an interactive map at that South Carolina Emergency Management Division's website. Maps of coastal evacuation routes, including interactive and downloadable maps, are available at the South Carolina Department of Transportation's (SCDOT) website.

WLTX: Gov. Haley: 'This is A Storm We Want to Take Seriously'

<http://www.wltx.com/weather/forecast/tracking-the-tropics/gov-haley-this-is-storm-we-want-to-take-seriously/329519631>

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley says is urging residents in that--particularly along the coast--to heed warnings and consider evacuating now. "Our number one goal is to keep everyone safe," Haley said at a news briefly Thursday morning. "This is a storm we want to take seriously." Here are some of the key points from her briefing...

WSPA: SC voter registration deadline extended to Oct. 11

<http://wspa.com/2016/10/06/sc-voter-registration-deadline-extended-to-oct-11/>

The State Election Commission announced that the deadline to return voter registration applications by mail for the November election has been extended until October 11 due to Hurricane Matthew. The online voter registration and faxed or emailed applications must still be submitted by 11:59pm on Sunday, October 9. For in-person applications, voters must register by Saturday, October 8. Remember, post offices will be closed on Monday, October 10 due to a federal holiday.

Townville, SC Shooting:

Associated Press: SC school officials hope to turn shooting site into park

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=7sPpuP1P

An elementary school playground where a South Carolina gunman opened fire could be turned into a "tranquility park" to honor the 6-year-old boy who died after being shot. Anderson 4 Superintendent Joanne Avery says a new playground for Townville Elementary students will "help with the healing." The district hopes to raise \$750,000. That estimate includes putting new play equipment elsewhere on school property and creating an open park in the existing space. Avery says just 10 students were absent when classes resumed Thursday, a day after Jacob Hall's superhero-themed funeral. Authorities say a 14-year-old boy killed his father before driving to the school Sept. 28. Bullets struck Jacob, a classmate and his first-grade teacher. Jacob died Saturday. The other two were treated and released on the day of the shooting.

Associated Press: Superheroes honor school shooting victim dressed as Batman

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=D8SwHYvV

Seanna Adcox

Six-year-old Jacob Hall was dressed as Batman for his funeral on Wednesday, and many of more than 1,000 mourners appeared as superheroes to honor the school shooting victim. The first-grader's mother, choking back tears, wore a Robin costume. Jacob's family had asked mourners to celebrate the boy's life by dressing as the superheroes he loved, and so they did. Captain Americas and Wonder Women filed past his small blue casket, along with Supermen and Supergirls, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and Power Rangers. His teachers came in handmade blue capes with a Ninja Turtle face and Jacob's name. Jacob loved to pretend he was a superhero, imagining himself as the good guy, the Rev. David Blizzard recalled. He encouraged mourners to honor his wishes by forgiving the 14-year-old boy charged with killing him at Townville Elementary School. "Preacher, I know what Jacob would say to me," Blizzard said Jacob's mother, Renae Hall, told him. "He'd say, 'Mama, forgive that boy and love him like Jesus loves him because Jesus loves him.' That's exactly what Jacob would probably say."

Independent Mail : We must forgive, mourners at Jacob Hall service told

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/2016/10/05/mourners-gather-jacob-halls-funeral/91601074/>

Nikie Mayo and Kirk Brown

As more than 1,500 mourners gathered Wednesday for the funeral of Townville Elementary School student Jacob Hall, the message they heard again and again was clear: We must forgive. Jacob, 6, was mortally wounded Sept. 28 when a shooter opened fire on the school playground. Jacob died Saturday, surrounded by his family and wrapped in a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles blanket. A teenager, 14-year-old Jesse Osborne of Townville, is accused in the shooting, in which a first-grade teacher and two other students were also hurt. "I can't make sense of it; I cannot," said Tim Marcengill, associate pastor of Oakdale Baptist Church in Townville. "In 30 years of ministry, this is the most difficult thing that I have ever experienced with a family, a church, a community and even the world."

NOTE: Gov. Nikki Haley and U.S. Rep. Tim Scott were among those who attended Jacob's funeral.

Independent Mail: Hero shirts bring students closer

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/south-carolina/2016/10/05/hero-shirts-bring-students-closer-jacob-hall-townville-elementary/91620812/>

Mike Ellis

Kimmie Gonzalez, a 17-year-old junior at Palmetto High School, heard about the Townville Elementary School shooting last week soon after it happened, because her mother was near the school and saw the rows of police cars. Kimmie said she worried in that first hour as her brother, Alfonso, a fifth-grader at the elementary school, was hunkered down safely with his classmates as they heard police running around the halls. Nearly a week later, Kimmie wore a Batman shirt as she sat at an outdoor table at her high school of about 900 students, eating a lunch of grapes and pizza with her friends. Gonzalez was one of thousands of students in the Upstate, and beyond South Carolina's borders, to wear superhero shirts or costumes in honor of 6-year-old Jacob Hall, who was killed in an attack that also injured two other students and a teacher. The father of the 14-year-old accused gunman also was killed at his home nearby.

Independent Mail: School officer to be permanent at Townville Elementary

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/10/05/school-officer-permanent-townville-elementary/91620536/>

After the Sept. 28 shooting at Townville Elementary School, Anderson School District 4 plans to have a permanent school resource officer at the school. The Anderson County Council voted Tuesday to authorize the creation of an SRO position for Townville Elementary School, said Anderson County Administrator Rusty Burns. At the time of the shooting, there was not an officer on duty at the school. Superintendent Joanne Avery said Pendleton-based District 4 is working with the sheriff's office to have a permanent SRO at the school. As of now, it will be District 4's responsibility to pay for that position, said District 4 school board Chairman Tom Dobbins. But Dobbins said he believes the district will be eligible for federal money to help pay the SRO because there was a shooting at the school. U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, a South Carolina Republican, already is working to secure those federal dollars, Dobbins said.

Herald-Journal: Remembering Jacob Hall, superhero

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161005/remembering-jacob-hall-superhero?rssfeed=true>

Zach Fox

People across the area dressed like superheroes to honor Hall, 6, who was killed after a shooting at Townville Elementary School in Anderson County.

WSPA: Superhero funeral to honor 6-year-old fatally shot at school

<http://wspa.com/2016/10/05/superhero-funeral-to-honor-6-year-old-fatally-shot-at-school/>

A 6-year-old boy who died after a teen gunman opened fire at a South Carolina elementary school is remembered as a superhero. Jacob Hall's family has encouraged people to dress as superheroes to celebrate his life, and many people obliged at his visitation Tuesday. His funeral Wednesday comes a week after authorities say a 14-year-old boy killed his own father before driving to Townville Elementary School. Jacob, a classmate and a teacher were struck as they left for recess. That student and the teacher were treated and released from a hospital later that day. A bullet struck Jacob in a main artery in his thigh. District Superintendent Joanne Avery says there will be a district-wide moment of silence at 1:42 p.m. to mark one week since the shooting.

WSPA: Students in Townville return to class after shooting

<http://wspa.com/2016/10/06/students-return-to-class-at-townville-elementary/>

Townville Elementary school officials say they're trying to balance law enforcement presence to make sure students feel safe and not scared. The school says a school resource officer will be added in the upcoming weeks. During the shooting, there wasn't an officer at the school. The new officers are expected to start next week, but for now, there will be two sheriff deputies on campus. School administrators say instructors were able to speak with counselors and talk about some of the horrific things they witnessed last Wednesday. They tell us teachers have also been taught how to answer their student's questions about the shooting. There will be a normal car line and parents are welcomed to eat breakfast with their kids. Counselors are available to talk to kids as early as 7AM.

WYFF4: Superhero-themed funeral held for Townville shooting victim

<http://www.wyff4.com/news/funeral-today-for-townville-shooting-victim/41970830>

The funeral for Jacob Hall, the 6-year-old who died after being shot at Townville Elementary, was held Wednesday morning at Oakdale Baptist Church. Jacob died Saturday. Hospital officials said a bullet struck him in a main artery in his leg, causing him to lose a lot of blood. People, many dressed as in superhero costumes, started gathering at the church an hour before the service. Gov. Nikki Haley and her husband, Michael, arrived around 10:45 a.m. Sen. Tim Scott is also attending the

service. The front of the funeral program read "God's Super Hero," with the words of the song "Jesus Loves Me" printed inside. Photos from his life were on display on two large screens. Jacob's blue casket was decorated with Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle stickers, and a bright floral spray on top included large figurines of Ninja turtles and Captain America. The Rev. David Blizzard has delivered the eulogy. Blizzard says Jacob loved everybody, and would "pretend he was a superhero. He imagined himself being the good guy and sure enough, it's almost surreal to think what's happened. This little boy has spoken to us and said, 'I want you to love each other like Jesus loves us.'"

WYFF4: Thousands attend visitation for Townville shooting victim

<http://www.wyff4.com/news/school-shooting-victim-to-have-superherothemed-funeral/41924160>

Corey Davis

A visitation was held Tuesday night for Jacob Hall, the 6-year-old victim of a shooting last week at Townville Elementary School. Jacob died Saturday. Hospital officials said a bullet struck him in a main artery in his leg, causing him to lose a lot of blood. Families paid tribute to his life Tuesday as thousands attended his visitation service at Oakdale Baptist Church in Townville. "Just to see how sweet his smile was when I saw his picture and it just touched my heart," Elisabeth Googins said. People of all ages wore superhero costumes at the request of Jacob's family. "So we're here to support Jacob and his family. That's the only reason why I'm here," Karen Harmon said.

Fox Carolina: Sandy Hook mom writes open letter to Jacob Hall's mother

<http://www.foxcarolina.com/story/33328793/sandy-hook-mom-writes-open-letter-to-jacob-halls-mother>

As the mother of Jacob Hall begins a very long and painful healing process following the loss of her son, another mom who endured a similar tragedy has reached out. Nicole Hockley lost her 6-year-old son Dylan in December of 2012. Dylan was killed when a gunman attacked Sandy Hook Elementary School. Renae Hall lost her 6-year-old son Jacob on Saturday, a few short days after a teen gunman opened fire on the playground of Townville Elementary School. In her letter, Hockley expressed her own shame in the complacency she felt when she learned that initially, no one had been killed in the school shooting. Hockley said that the news of Jacob Hall's passing on Saturday killed her inside. Her letter went on to highlight the importance of working to combat gun violence, noting that the loss of both Dylan and Jacob were too high a price to have paid for a lack of action on this issue. In the letter Nicole Hockley expressed her anger with God, politicians, everyday citizens and organizations too misinformed or apathetic to make steps toward change and addressing gun violence. She finished her letter to Renae Hall with a promise. She promised never to become complacent with the issue of gun violence again.

Fox Carolina: Townville Elementary students return to school Thursday

<http://www.foxcarolina.com/story/33329405/townville-elementary-students-return-to-school-thursday>

Students at Townville Elementary School head back to class on Thursday for the first time since a shooting on the school's playground claimed one student's life and injured three other people. Deputies said a 14-year-old armed with a gun traveled to the school after shooting and killing his father, Jeffrey Osborne, on Sept. 28. Investigators said the teen jumped a fence at the school and began opening fire on the school playground. Three students and a teacher were injured. One of the injured students, six-year-old Jacob Hall, died on Oct. 1 after three days on life support. Funeral services for Jacob were held on Wednesday. Anderson County District 4 Superintendent Joanne Avery said teachers returned to work at Townville Elementary on Monday and counselors instructed them on how best to answer questions from children and shape lesson plans in wake of the tragedy. "On Thursday, we are encouraging all Anderson 4 schools and the community to be 'Townville Strong' by wearing the school colors, red and black in support of the staff and students at Townville,"

Avery stated on Facebook. Parents are also welcome to have breakfast with their children at the school.

SC Political News:

The State: Obama shortens prison sentences of 4 South Carolinians

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article106489082.html>

President Barack Obama commuted the sentences of 102 felons Thursday, including four South Carolinians. The commutations continue a series of commutations by Obama shortening the prison sentences of defendants convicted of crack cocaine crimes. Critics have said crack crimes carried heavier mandatory sentences than similar cocaine crimes.

The State : Strong VP debate gives Pence – and Trump – a big win in our poll

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article106344782.html>

The pundits mostly awarded Tuesday night's vice presidential debate to the GOP's Mike Pence, and readers who took our Twitter poll overwhelmingly agreed. Eighty-four percent of the 3,543 people who responded to the poll said the Indiana governor was the debate winner, versus just 13 percent who thought Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine had the better night. The pundits mostly awarded Tuesday night's vice presidential debate to the GOP's Mike Pence, and readers who took our Twitter poll overwhelmingly agreed. Eighty-four percent of the 3,543 people who responded to the poll said the Indiana governor was the debate winner, versus just 13 percent who thought Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine had the better night.

Local News:

Associated Press: NRC: Duke could get license this year for Gaffney reactors

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=x0R95dp6

Federal regulators say Duke Energy could receive a license by the end of this year to build and operate two nuclear reactors near Gaffney. But Nuclear Regulatory Commission spokesman Scott Burnell tells the Herald-Journal of Spartanburg (<http://bit.ly/2dgbif1>) that it could still be several years before the reactors are built. It's been nine years since Duke Energy Carolinas applied for a combined license to build and operate two 1,100-megawatt reactors in Cherokee County. The NRC says it's already determined the planned William S. Lee III Nuclear Station plant can be operated safely and is environmentally sound. A hearing Wednesday at the agency's Rockville, Maryland, headquarters was for commissioners to take final testimony from Duke Energy and NRC staff.

Post and Courier : Students will deliver signed petition to MUSC dean

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161006/161009682/students-will-deliver-signed-petition-to-musc-dean>

A group of Medical University of South Carolina students who wrote a petition calling for an outside investigation into an alleged cheating scandal plan to deliver hundreds of signatures to the dean's office next week. More than 300 people have signed the petition on Change.org. "We want to believe that our classmates would never cheat. We want to believe that the involved parties are innocent and honorable," said medical student James Spearman, who helped write the petition. "However, the way the university addressed this situation brought these beliefs into question. And because of the possible involvement of political figures, we need an independent investigation to answer that question." According to several sources, two students were brought before the MUSC Honor Council earlier this year because they were suspected of cheating on an exam. Both of them have ties to

prominent public officials, sources said. The Honor Council voted to sanction the students, but College of Medicine Dean Raymond DuBois overturned that decision.

Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press: Debate minefield: Town hall will test candidates' stagecraft

<http://bigstory.ap.org/6e80622278eb43ddb2ecf59f04891995>

President George H.W. Bush conspicuously checked his watch. Al Gore got too close for comfort. Mitt Romney strode across stage to confront President Barack Obama face to face. For presidential candidates, a town hall debate is a test of stagecraft as much as substance. When Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump meet Sunday night in St. Louis, they'll be fielding questions from undecided voters seated nearby. In an added dose of unpredictability, the format allows the candidates to move around the stage, putting them in unusually close proximity. "There's a lot more interaction, physical interaction," says Judd Gregg, the former New Hampshire senator who helped President George W. Bush prepare for debates. He said a candidate who is too aggressive in a town hall, either with the voters or a rival, "can come across looking really chippy, not looking presidential." After an uneven showing in his first debate, Trump's candidacy may rise or fall on his ability to avoid falling into that trap. The Republican repeatedly interrupted Clinton in their opening contest and grew defensive as she challenged his business record and recited his demeaning comments about women.

National News:

Associated Press: Ag secretary announces program to reduce rural poverty

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=QWDR6vy9

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has been in Kentucky to announce a program to reduce rural poverty nationwide. The project involves a partnership with 26 community development organizations to give long-term, low-interest financing to local entities for community facilities and services, such as education, health care and infrastructure. The Agriculture Department said in a news release the partnership will provide \$401 million of Community Facilities program funds. Vilsack made the announcement Thursday at Berea College, which has received Agriculture Department funding to help businesses become more energy efficient. The agency said many of the projects will be in some of the poorest areas of the U.S., such as communities in Appalachia, the colonias along the U.S.-Mexico border and the Mississippi Delta region.

Associated Press : NSA contractor arrest highlights challenge of insider threat

<http://bigstory.ap.org/50b6e5ec13384b9abebd2ee16bb2999e>

The arrest of a former National Security Agency contractor accused of stealing classified information represents the second known case since 2013 of a government contractor being publicly accused of removing secret data from the intelligence agency. The latest case comes as the NSA has worked to reform security after the Edward Snowden disclosures, especially in regard to insider threats. Harold Thomas Martin III, 51, of Glen Burnie, Maryland, was arrested by the FBI in August, after federal prosecutors say he illegally removed highly classified information and stored the material in his home and car. A defense attorney said Martin did not intend to betray his country. The arrest was not made public until Wednesday, when the Justice Department unsealed a criminal complaint that accused Martin of having been in possession of top-secret information that could cause "exceptionally grave danger" to national security if disclosed.

Associated Press: Officers trained to deal with mental illness in short supply

<http://bigstory.ap.org/4f9c164ebefc4ef1b9770a44e88b31d0>

Many police departments have specially trained officers and mental health professionals whose job is to help defuse the sometimes-volatile "5150" calls that involve people in the throes of mental illness. But those officers are in short supply, and often they are unavailable in a crisis, as happened in Sacramento and the San Diego suburb of El Cajon, where police encountered men with mental problems and ended up shooting them to death. Both cities would like to add additional resources but neither has the money. "Funding for mental health services has been cut, and we are responding to more of those types of calls," El Cajon police Lt. Rob Ransweiler said.

World News:

Associated Press : UN Syria envoy warns Aleppo could be 'destroyed' this year

<http://bigstory.ap.org/ebb08bbb89724c03bc30abbae8df25d0>

The U.N. envoy for Syria called on al-Qaida-linked militants to leave the embattled city of Aleppo in exchange for an end to government and Russian bombardment, warning Thursday that thousands of civilians could be killed and the historic city "destroyed" by year end if conditions do not soon change. Special envoy Staffan de Mistura urged fighters from Fatah al-Sham Front to leave the city in exchange for peace. The group was previously known as Nusra Front and changed its name after announcing it had split from al-Qaida earlier this year. The U.N. considers it a terrorist organization. De Mistura entreated both sides to "look at my eyes" before offering to "personally" escort the fighters to a refuge of their choosing, provided they agree to lay down their arms. The combined Syrian government and Russian bombardment of the city's rebel-held east has killed 376 people over the last two weeks, the envoy said. While far fewer have been killed in the western side, which has a population of over a million, presumed rebel shelling killed at least eight people on Thursday, Syrian state media and observers said. It marked one of the bloodiest days in recent memory for government-held neighborhoods of the city.

--

Camlin Moore

Cell: 803-206-8236

Office: 803-734-8044