

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
To:
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Thursday, September 29, 2016

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Townville, SC Shooting:

Associated Press: More than another call: Chief talks about school shooting
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=CPOKa65x
SC State Wire

When two firefighters rolled up to an elementary school shooting, they said they found only a wrecked black pickup truck at the playground. There was no gunman, and no one inside the truck. Within minutes, though, they performed actions that led to them being hailed as heroes: One went inside to help treat the wounded and the other searched for the shooter. "This was more than just another call to us. This incident occurred in the school where our children and the children of the community attend," Townville Fire Chief Billy McAdams said Thursday during a news conference, pausing to collect himself as he recalled the harrowing events of the day before. Authorities say the teen shot his father at their home before driving the pickup a couple of miles to Townville Elementary School and shooting at a door as it was opened for recess. Bullets struck two students and a teacher and the school was immediately placed on lock down.

Associated Press: The Latest: Shooter fired at door as class exited for recess
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=2bsou4mj
SC State Wire

The superintendent of a South Carolina elementary school where a teen opened fire says a teacher and two students were shot as they left the building for recess. Anderson County District 4 Superintendent Joanne Avery posted online that the shooter never entered Townville Elementary. Authorities say the shooter opened fire Wednesday afternoon after crashing a pickup truck into the playground fence. Avery says on the district's website the teen shot at a door being opened for a class exiting for recess. Teachers then led the students to safety inside. She says the school was immediately put on lockdown as per district procedures. Authorities say volunteer firefighter Jamie Brock tackled the shooter and kept him on the ground until officers arrived and arrested him. Brock says the teachers and principal should be called heroes, not him.

Associated Press: Teen's mother 'shocked and saddened' by school shooting
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=RfAgeFFL
SC State Wire

The mother of a teen accused of killing his father and wounding two students and a teacher at a rural South Carolina elementary school says his family is "shocked and saddened." In a statement that Pastor James South provided to local media outlets, Tiffney Osborne says the family "cannot express the devastation we feel at the loss of our beloved Jeff." Authorities said the shooting began Wednesday afternoon at the teen's house about 2 miles from rural Townville Elementary School, where he gunned down his 47-year-old father, Jeffrey Osborne. Authorities have not released the suspect's name or age beyond saying he's a teen. South says Tiffney Osborne found out about the shooting through media reports. Anderson County Sheriff John Skipper said earlier that she was at work at the time of the shooting.

Associated Press: Officials: Firefighter halts teen who killed father, shot 3
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=RfAgeFFL

Kate Brumback and Jay Reeves

A volunteer firefighter stopped a teenager who shot two students and a teacher outside a South Carolina elementary school after killing his father at their home, authorities said. Anderson County Sheriff John Skipper said the shooter was apprehended Wednesday afternoon outside rural Townville Elementary School before he could get inside the building. Firefighter Jamie Brock, a 30-year veteran of the Townville Volunteer Fire Department down the road from the school, "just took him down," the sheriff said. He said the fire station is close to the school and Brock arrived before other officers responding to the dispatch. Brock has said he doesn't want attention for his actions. He "wants to remain humble and quiet about it" as he believes "he did nothing any of the other volunteer firefighters wouldn't have done," said Scott Stoller with Anderson County Emergency Management.

Associated Press: Sheriff to discuss 2015 quadruple slaying in South Carolina

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=w4rBk0Rq

SC State Wire

A South Carolina sheriff plans a news conference to discuss developments in an unsolved case in which four people, including two teenagers, were shot and killed in July 2015. A task force of local, state and federal investigators was formed last year to investigate the deaths. An announcement says Orangeburg County Sheriff Leroy Ravenell plans to meet with reporters at noon Thursday. Authorities say that 17-year-old Shamekia Sanders, 14-year-old Tamara Perry and 28-year-old Krystal Hutto all died of bullet wounds to the head in the July 15, 2015, shootings at a home outside of Holly Hill. Fifty-year-old Jerome Butler also was killed, while an 8-year-old boy was critically injured. Ravenell has said that drugs were being sold from the house where the slayings occurred.

Associated Press: The Latest: Grandparents of school shooter found father dead

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ACmh3ege

SC State Wire

Authorities say the grandparents of a teenager suspected of opening fire outside an elementary school in South Carolina found their son dead after receiving a call from the teen. Anderson County Coroner Greg Shore says the teenager called his grandmother's cellphone at 1:44 p.m. Wednesday, but he was so upset, she couldn't understand him. So the grandparents went to his home just 100 yards away. When they got there, they found 47-year-old Jeffrey Osborne shot and their grandson not there. Authorities say a teacher called 911 about a shooter at Townville Elementary about a minute after the teen called his grandmother. Officials are not releasing the teen's name or age. One boy remains in critical condition at a Greenville hospital. A teacher and another student were treated and released from an Anderson hospital.

Associated Press: Authorities: School shooter killed father before rampage

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

Kate Brumback and Jay Reeves

A teenager who killed his father at their home Wednesday was stopped by a volunteer firefighter as he opened fire outside a South Carolina elementary school, wounding two students and a teacher, authorities said. The teen was apprehended within minutes of the shooting in this rural town about 110 miles northeast of Atlanta. One student was shot in the leg and the other in the foot, Capt. Garland Major with the Anderson County Sheriff's Office said. Both students were male. The female teacher was hit in the shoulder. "We are heartbroken about this senseless act of violence," said Joanne Avery, superintendent of Anderson County School District 4. She canceled classes at the school for the rest of the week. Authorities said the shootings began at the teen's house about two miles from the school, where he gunned down his 47-year-old father, Jeffrey Osborne. Authorities have not released the suspect's name or age beyond saying that he's a teen.

Greenville News: Student shot at school was revived twice after shooting, remains in critical condition

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2016/09/29/student-shot-school-revived-twice->

[after-shooting-remains-critical-condition/91260116/](http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/09/29/after-shooting-remains-critical-condition/91260116/)

Nathaniel Cary

Jacob Hall, a 6-year-old Townville Elementary School student, remained in critical condition late Thursday afternoon at Greenville Memorial Hospital after being shot in the leg while on a playground Wednesday afternoon, according to a statement released by the hospital. The hospital said it would provide another update at 11 a.m. on Friday. Hall was revived twice in the moments after the shooting, according to State Rep. Alan Clemmons, who said he is a friend of the family. In a widely shared post on Facebook, Clemmons said Hall had been shot in the femoral artery. "He died twice, and was revived, during medical transport and again during surgery," Clemmons said. "He's in ICU now where a team of doctors are working to stabilize him. Once stabilized, he will face yet another surgery. PLEASE join me in fervent prayer for little Jacob's recovery. Thank you!!!" Clemmons said Hall is the nephew of close friends and former neighbors of his in Myrtle Beach.

Greenville News: Sen. Graham shares his own Townville story

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/09/29/sen-graham-shares-his-own-townville-story/91275454/>

Elizabeth LaFleur

A chance encounter on a later flight home from Washington, D.C. had Sen. Lindsey Graham changing his tune on an earlier cancellation. The Senator shared a story about the experience on Facebook Thursday afternoon. Graham said he ended up catching a Thursday morning flight on which he was seated next to Army Capt. D.J. Fredericks, who happens to be the son of the principal at Townville Elementary School. Sen. Graham says Fredericks was flying home to be with his mother during the difficult time following Wednesday's shooting. He said he even had the opportunity to speak with Fredericks' mom before taking off. "She was full of praise for her teachers, the school nurse who acted heroically in helping those who were shot, and how awesome volunteer firefighter Jamie Brock was. She constantly stressed how proud she was of her teachers, students, and how much she was praying for their recovery."

Greenville News: Osborne family speaks after Townville Elementary shooting

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/education/2016/09/29/osborne-family-responds-after-townville-elementary-shooting/91260840/>

Nathaniel Cary

The Osborne family released a statement Thursday following the shooting at Townville Elementary School. "Our entire family is absolutely shocked and saddened by the senseless actions of our son and grandson. We are praying and will continue to do so for the two precious children who were wounded, and for their courageous teacher who was wounded while rescuing the children. We cannot express the devastation we feel at the loss of our beloved Jeff. We are thankful to have friends who have expressed their sympathy and support to Tiffney that the loss of her husband. Please pray for our family that the Lord will help us as we face this unimaginable ordeal."

Greenville News: Funds and support pouring in for Townville victims

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/09/29/funds-and-support-pouring-townville-victims/91270720/>

Elizabeth LaFleur

Fundraising efforts and messages of support are growing for the victims in the Townville Elementary School shooting. A GoFundMe page was set up by a family friend of a 6-year-old victim. Jacob Hall was airlifted to Greenville Memorial Hospital Wednesday after authorities say a 14-year-old gunman opened fire on a playground at the school. Another student and a teacher were injured. Authorities say the gunman also killed his father before going to the nearby school. The GoFundMe goal is \$50,000. More than \$19,000 had been raised by lunchtime Thursday. Townville Elementary School is in Anderson School District 4 along with three other elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. Students and faculty from those schools are also sending support. LaFrance Elementary is holding a voluntary hat day on Friday. Students, teachers and staff can wear hats to school if they

donate a dollar for the victims of the shooting.

Greenville News: Townville fire chief: Teachers, community also heroes

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/pickens-county/2016/09/29/townville-fire-chief-teachers-community-also-heroes/91279668/>

Ron Barnett

While Fire Chief Billy McAdams was inside Townville Elementary School giving CPR to kindergartener Jacob Hall, volunteer firefighter Jamie Brock was on a solitary mission to find the gunman who had just shot two students and a teacher outside the school Wednesday, McAdams said. "As Brock made his way to the rear corner of the building, he observed the shooter a short distance away in the grass," the chief said in a firehouse news conference Thursday. "Feeling it was imperative to the safety of students, teachers and responders already inside, he immediately confronted and subdued the shooter." McAdams isn't denying that Brock, and other first responders were heroes in the way they helped the injured and secured the scene so no one else was hurt. But he said heroism was all around the school that afternoon. "We also believe the teachers and staff at Townville Elementary who protected the children in the moments following the gunshots are heroes as well," he said. "We also believe the entire Townville community are heroes for the support they have shown to everyone involved during the toughest time imaginable."

Greenville News: Townville Elementary shootings linked to nearby slaying <http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2016/09/28/shooting-reported-townville-elementary/91227346/>

Anna Lee, Romando Dixon and Ron Barnett

A 14-year-old armed with a handgun killed his father as he sat on the couch in their home on

Wednesday before he got behind the wheel of a black pickup, pulled onto a rutted dirt road and headed to Townville Elementary about three miles away, according to authorities. There, as children were led outside for recess, the teenager rammed the truck into a chainlink fence surrounding the playground, stepped out and opened fire, authorities said. A bullet struck student Jacob Hall in the leg and a second boy was shot in the foot. First-grade teacher Meghan Hollingsworth managed to herd the children to safety inside the building even as she was shot in the shoulder. Among those heading out to the playground was Katrina Jones' 6-year-old niece. She said her niece told her that she heard the gunman say, "I hate my life," moments before the shooting. The shooter, who authorities said never entered the school, was subdued by the first emergency responder on the scene — an unarmed 30-year veteran of the Townville Volunteer Fire Department named Jamie Brock.

Greenville News: Community rallies around shooting victims

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/09/28/two-students-one-teacher-injured-school-shooting-getting-medical-care/91241328/>

Liv Osby, Ron Barnett, Eric Connor and Donna Isbell Walker

The details were few, but some emerged Wednesday about the Townville Elementary teacher and two students shot by a teenage gunman. The teacher, Meghan Hollingsworth, was released from AnMed hospital later in the afternoon along with another student, who hasn't been identified. The third victim, young Jacob Hall, was still fighting for his life. The boy's parents, Rodger and Renae Hall, released a statement as their son was in critical condition after being air-lifted to the Pediatric Trauma Center at Greenville Health System, where the most-serious cases in the area are treated. "We appreciate the community's support, especially the Townville Rescue Squad who treated Jacob onsite and brought him to the hospital," the parents said. "We appreciate everyone's thoughts and prayers and ask for privacy during this difficult time." The hospital said Wednesday it expects to provide an update on the boy's condition by 11 a.m. Jacob was shot in the leg. The other student was shot in the foot.

Greenville News: Two children, one teacher hurt in elementary school shooting

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2016/09/28/shooting-reported-townville-elementary/91227346/>

A 14-year-old boy armed with a handgun shot two students and a teacher outside Townville Elementary School after killing his father, officials said Wednesday. The boy was subdued by a veteran volunteer firefighter and never entered the school. Law enforcement at a 5 p.m. news conference said the incident was not terrorism. The dead man was identified as Jeffery D. Osborne, 47, of 150 Osborne Road, Townville. They said the gunman was his teen-aged son, but did not identify him. A female teacher was shot in the shoulder and released from AnMed. A male student shot in the foot has been discharged from AnMed Health. Another male student was shot in the leg and flown to the Pediatric Center at Greenville Health System. His condition was not available. Authorities would not say why the teenager went to the school. Veteran Townville volunteer firefighter Jamie Brock subdued the teen outside the school and held him until armed police officers could arrive on the scene, officials said.

NOTE: "As we work together with law enforcement to make sure they have the support they need to investigate what happened in Townville, Michael and I ask that everyone across South Carolina join us in praying for the entire Townville Elementary School family and those touched by today's tragedy," Gov. Nikki Haley said.

Greenville News: Two students, one teacher, injured in school shooting getting medical care
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/09/28/two-students-one-teacher-injured-school-shooting-getting-medical-care/91241328/>

Liv Osby

The victims of Wednesday's shooting at Townville Elementary School were two students and a teacher, authorities said. At a prayer vigil Wednesday evening, one of the students was identified as Jacob Hall. The others haven't been identified. The teacher was a woman and the students were both boys, according to Capt. Garland Major of the Anderson County Sheriff's Office. One of the students was shot in the leg while the other was shot in the foot, Major said. The teacher was shot in the shoulder, he said. All three received medical care for their injuries Wednesday afternoon, authorities said. The teacher and one of the students were taken to AnMed Health in Anderson by ambulance, where they were both listed in good condition, hospital spokesman Ross Norton said. The child was discharged, he said. The second child was airlifted to Greenville Memorial Hospital by LifeFlight, but no information was disclosed about his condition. Greenville Memorial is a Level 1 trauma center, which means it handles the most serious cases. All three were shot with a handgun, Major said.

Independent Mail: Townville shooting suspect to appear in court Friday

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/crime/2016/09/29/suspect-school-shooting/91269266/>

Nikie Mayo and Mike Ellis

The 14-year-old who is accused in the Townville Elementary School shooting is expected to have his first court appearance Friday morning in downtown Anderson. Anderson County Clerk of Court Richard Shirley said the teen is scheduled to appear in front of Family Court Judge Edgar Long. The hearing is scheduled for 11 a.m. at the Anderson County Courthouse, Shirley said. James South, a minister and cousin of the shooter, said the family has hired former Anderson County Assistant Solicitor Rame Campbell and Greenville attorney Frank Eppes to represent the teen. Relatives of the teen said Thursday that they are "profoundly heartbroken" over the tragedy that has gripped the rural Anderson County town. South, said his family is praying for all the families who are affected by the shooting. "One of our great concerns is that this will never be erased for the families of the students and the teacher," South said. "It will never be erased for our family, either. It will never be erased for any of us."

Independent Mail: 'Too close for comfort,' says Pendleton mother

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/09/29/counselors-district-4-schools-after-shooting/91264760/>

Kirk Brown

Mary Lee had trouble sleeping Wednesday night. Lee, whose 7-year-old daughter attends Pendleton Elementary School, said she couldn't stop thinking about the shooting that had happened just a few

miles away at Townville Elementary School. The shooting in Townville "was too close for comfort," she said. Lee said she and her daughter watched TV news coverage of the shooting. "I couldn't help but just sit there and hold her all night," she said while waiting in her car to pick up her daughter from school Thursday afternoon. Lee said she talked to her daughter about hiding under a desk or lying on the ground if a gunman ever comes to her school. "I never thought about having that conversation with her before yesterday," she said. "It isn't something that I would imagine happening at the age level." Sharonda Greer also was thinking about the school shooting as she waited in the car line at Pendleton Elementary to pick up her four children, ages 4 to 11. "Just all kinds of stuff goes through your mind," she said. "You just feel the pain as a parent." Greer said her 8-year-old son suggested that their family pray Wednesday night for the teacher and two students who were shot near the playground at Townville Elementary.

Independent Mail: 2 children, teacher wounded in shooting at Townville Elementary

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/2016/09/28/possible-shooting-townville-elementary-school/91227360/>

A 14-year-old boy opened fire with a handgun at a playground at Townville Elementary School on Wednesday afternoon before he was stopped by a longtime volunteer firefighter, authorities said. Two 6-year-old children were injured, one critically, along with a teacher and Jeffrey Osbourne, the father of the teenager, was found shot to death at a home about three and a half miles away, said Captain Garland Major of the Anderson County Sheriff's Office and Anderson County Coroner Greg Shore. One of the children and the teacher have been released from AnMed Health Medical Center. The firefighter who stopped the shooting, Jamie Brock, has been in the fire service for about 30 years, said Chief Deputy Keith Smith of the Sheriff's Office. Smith said Brock was either not armed or did not use a weapon and it was not clear whether the shooter's gun had a malfunction that allowed Brock to apprehend the teenager. The shooter is believed to be 14 years old and officials could charge him as a minor, Smith said. The teenager was home schooled and was not a student at the Anderson County School District, according to the Sheriff's Office.

Independent Mail: Prayer service held after school shooting

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/09/28/prayer-service-held-after-school-shooting/91251718/>

Kirk Brown

More than 100 Townville residents joined in singing "Amazing Grace" during a prayer service Wednesday night that was held hours after a school shooting. The solemn service took place at Oakdale Baptist Church, the same place where students were brought Wednesday afternoon when Townville Elementary School was evacuated after a teen gunman shot two students and a teacher. "It has been a tragic day in our community," Anderson School District 4 Superintendent Joanne Avery said at the service. Avery said she was proud of how the staff at Townville Elementary reacted to the shooting. "You saved lives," she said. Townville Elementary Principal Denise Fredericks echoed Avery's comments. "I think we had some heroes in our school today," she said. South Carolina Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman, who attended the vigil, said she intends to use the response to Wednesday's shooting as an example for other schools throughout the state. David Blizzard, the senior pastor at Oakdale Baptist, said he was thankful that the shooting did not lead to more carnage.

Independent Mail: Parents relieved, overwhelmed with shooting at school

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/09/28/parents-relieved-overwhelmed-shooting-school/91238760/>

Frances Parrish

Parents clutched their phones and wiped tears from their faces as they stood outside Oakdale Baptist Church in Townville waiting for any information as their children were bused from Townville Elementary School. About 40 parents had arrived at the church before they received a phone alert from Anderson School District 4 saying there was a shooting at the school. The message said that

the shooter had been apprehended and told parents where they could pick up their children. The call came in at 2:39 p.m. Jamie Glenn, a mother of three children at Townville Elementary, had been at the church for 15 or 20 minutes before she got the automated call from the district, which she wasn't happy about. "I wished they had notified the parents earlier," Glenn said. She and her husband had found out about the shooting from new outlets and Facebook before receiving word from the school district. But some parents understood the later notification.

Independent Mail: Video: Second Townville shooting press conference

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/2016/09/28/live-video-press-conference-townville-elementary-school-shooting/91232440/>

Mike Ellis

This live video from Independent Mail staff writer Mike Ellis, who is at the press conference for the shooting at Townville Elementary School. Two children were shot Wednesday afternoon at Townville Elementary School.

Post and Courier: Townville fire chief on school shooting: 'We're going to feel this for a real long time'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160929/160929351/townville-fire-chief-on-school-shooting-were-going-to-feel-this-for-a-real-long-time>

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley visited with Jacob Hall's parents for an extended amount of time Wednesday evening at Greenville Health System Children's Hospital shortly after the school shooting that injured the 6-year-old. "The governor is keeping all of those impacted in her prayers and asks everyone in South Carolina to do the same," said press secretary Chaney Adams. "She will continue to communicate with Jacob's family and the families of those two who were released throughout the weekend." Hall remains in critical condition, a hospital spokeswoman said Thursday afternoon. Haley spoke with the mother of the other Townville Elementary School student who was wounded by a teenage gunman, as well as teacher Meghan Hollingsworth who sustained a gunshot wound to her shoulder. Both were discharged from an Anderson County hospital hours after the Wednesday incident.

Post and Courier: Officials: 2 students, 1 teacher wounded after shooting at Townville Elementary School in S.C.

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160928/160929402/officials-2-students-1-teacher-wounded-after-shooting-at-townville-elementary-school-in-sc>

Gavin Jackson

A teenager opened fire outside Townville Elementary School on Wednesday afternoon — shortly after killing his father at home, authorities said — as this rural northwestern corner of South Carolina joined the national stage of gun violence attacks. The shooter also wounded two students and a teacher. He was stopped by a volunteer firefighter. Anderson County Coroner Greg Shore said the teen used a handgun to kill his father Jeffrey Osborne, 47, at their home. He then proceeded to nearby Townville Elementary where one student was shot in the leg, one was shot in the foot and a female teacher was shot in the shoulder, Capt. Garland Major with the Anderson County sheriff's office said. One male student was flown to Greenville Hospital Systems Pediatric Trauma Center for surgery. His condition is unknown. The teacher and the other male student have been released from Anderson's AnMed Health Medical Center. It is unclear what the shooter's motive was, his connection to the victims and if they were his intended targets. Anderson County Sheriff John Skipper said the shooter and victims are white and no racial overtones were associated with shooting.

NOTE: Despite earlier reports, officials said Gov. Nikki Haley will not be flying to Anderson. "As we work together with law enforcement to make sure they have the support they need to investigate what happened in Townville, Michael and I ask that everyone across South Carolina join us in praying for the entire Townville Elementary School family and those touched by today's tragedy," Haley said in a statement.

WSPA: Kids practiced for active shooter days before Townville Elem. shooting
<http://wspa.com/2016/09/29/kids-practiced-for-active-shooter-days-before-townville-elem-shooting/>
SC Senator Lindsey Graham says Townville Elementary School practiced for an active shooter days before it happened. He says the principal, Denise Fredericks, told him they practiced last Friday. Deputy Chief Keith Smith says the incident happened on the playground behind the school and the shooter never entered the school. The sheriff says the 14-year-old suspect got out of his vehicle and started firing immediately. The teen is in custody. Deputies say there is no known relationship between the suspect and the victims. The suspect is home-schooled and is not a student at any school in the Anderson Co. School District. A family friend says he was expelled from his school last year for bringing a hatchet to school and attacking a child. Deputies say they were on-scene within seven minutes and the suspect was apprehended on the school grounds before 2:00pm. The initial apprehension was made by Firefighter Jamie Brock, a 30-year veteran of the Townville Volunteer Fire Department.

WSPA: Townville school shooting suspect in court Friday
<http://wspa.com/2016/09/29/townville-school-shooting-suspect-in-court-friday/>
The suspect in the shooting of two students and a teacher at Townville Elementary and the shooting death his 47-year-old father will be in court Friday morning in Anderson County. The suspect will go before a judge at 10:45 a.m. Friday at the Anderson County Courthouse. 7News will have a crew at the hearing. Deputy Chief Keith Smith says the shooting happened on the playground behind the school and the shooter never entered the school. The sheriff says the suspect got out of his vehicle and started firing immediately. Anderson District 4 Superintendent Joanne Avery said a teen suspect is in custody and there is no longer an active threat. Deputies say there is no known relationship between the suspect and the victims. The suspect is home-schooled and is not a student at any school in the Anderson Co. School District.

WSPA: Anderson Co. to fly flag at half-staff after Townville shooting
<http://wspa.com/2016/09/29/anderson-co-to-fly-flag-at-half-staff-after-townville-shooting/>
All Anderson County buildings will fly the Anderson County flag at half-staff beginning Friday evening to honor the victims of the Townville Elementary shooting. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the teacher, the two 6 year old boys, their families and the school faculty as they begin the road of healing; to the firefighter who selflessly gave his all for the safety of others; Anderson County law enforcement and paramedics, and all first responders and agencies who assisted during the tragic events of Wednesday, September 28th," said the county's spokesperson in a statement. The flags will be lowered through the next Wednesday.

WSPA: Teen shoots 3 at Townville elementary, police say; School closed for the week
<http://wspa.com/2016/09/29/teen-shoots-3-at-townville-elementary-police-say-school-closed-for-the-week/>
Officials say a 6-year-old is in critical condition after being shot in the leg at Townville Elementary, Wednesday. The 6-year-old, Jacob Hall, is at Greenville Memorial and we expect to learn more about his condition. Another student and a teacher were shot; they were released from the hospital. A 14-year-old boy is accused of those shootings after killing his father at home. An autopsy is planned for the father, Jeffrey Osborne, on Thursday. Jeffrey was found dead at the family's home on Osborne Road, just a few miles from Townville Elementary. The teen is now in custody, waiting on a family court hearing on Friday. Anderson County Sheriff John Skipper says firefighter Jamie Brock "just took him down" after responding to the shooting. Brock is a 30-year veteran of the Townville Volunteer Fire Department just down the road from the school and arrived before other officers responding to a 911 call from the school. Deputies arrived minutes later. Authorities say they don't yet know a motive for the shooting and they weren't sure if the students and teacher were targeted.

WSPA: Boy shot at Townville Elementary in critical condition
<http://wspa.com/2016/09/28/6-year-old-shot-at-townville-elementary-in-critical-condition/>

One of two children injured in Wednesday's shooting at Townville Elementary is still in critical condition at a hospital in Greenville. 6-year-old Jacob Hall was taken to the Greenville Memorial Hospital after the shooting Wednesday afternoon. Hall's parents released a statement Wednesday evening through the hospital thanking the community for their support and prayers. "We appreciate the community's support, especially the Townville Rescue Squad who treated Jacob onsite and brought him to the hospital," said Rodger and Renae Hall, "We appreciate everyone's thoughts and prayers and ask for privacy during this difficult time." The hospital expects to have an update on Jacob's condition Thursday morning. If you would like to help, you can find the GoFundMe page [here](#).

WSPA: Townville Elementary releases statement on school shooting

<http://wspa.com/2016/09/29/townville-elementary-releases-statement-on-school-shooting/>

Ron Norman

Townville Elementary released a statement after a shooting incident happened at the school, Wednesday...

WYFF4: Sen. Tim Scott lays flowers at Townville Elementary

<http://www.wyff4.com/news/south-carolina-officials-call-for-townville-prayers-on-social-media/41869792>

U.S. Sen. Tim Scott stopped by Townville Elementary Thursday morning. Scott prayed, met with first responders, dispatchers and firefighters. He then went to Greenville to take flowers to the family of Jacob Hall. Jacob is a 6-year-old who was shot and remains at Greenville Memorial Hospital. On Wednesday Scott tweeted: " My heart is sick for Anderson & South Carolina. Praying initial reports of no loss of life remain true & for those injured and their families." Other South Carolina elected officials reacted to the school shooting in Townville through statements or social media.

NOTE: Gov. Nikki Haley released the following statement: "As we work together with law enforcement to make sure they have the support they need to investigate what happened in Townville, Michael and I ask that everyone across South Carolina join us in praying for the entire Townville Elementary School family and those touched by today's tragedy." He laid a bouquet of flowers next to the pole outside the crime scene tape.

WYFF4: Fire chief gives first-person account of shooting at Townville school

<http://www.wyff4.com/news/fire-chief-gives-firstperson-account-of-shooting-at-townville-school/41885318>

A day after a 14-year-old was accused of killing his father and opening fire at an elementary school, wounding a teacher and two students, the fire chief shared new details of how the events unfolded. First-grade teacher Meghan Hollingsworth and a 6-year-old boy were wounded in the shooting at Townville Elementary School and were treated and released from the hospital. Jacob Hall, 6, was seriously injured and remains in critical condition after surgery. (Previous story on shooting | Full story on Jacob) Jesse Osborne is believed to have killed his father, 47-year-old Jeffrey Osborne, shortly before he went to the school. Officials said Jesse Osborne was outside the classroom when he encountered Hollingsworth as she was about to take the children out to the playground, and he fired as they retreated back in the door. Jesse Osborne is in custody and charges are pending. Chief Billy McAdams read a statement at a news conference Thursday afternoon that said: "Yesterday our community experienced a devastating and life-changing event. We're going to feel this for a real long time."

WYFF4: 6-year-old shot at Townville Elementary still in critical condition

<http://www.wyff4.com/news/update-expected-on-6yearold-shot-at-townville-elementary/41879826>

The 6-year-old shot at Townville Elementary remains in critical condition as of Thursday morning, according to a Greenville Health System spokesperson. Jacob Hall was shot, along with another student and a teacher, shortly before 2 p.m. Wednesday at Townville Elementary School. Hall was airlifted to Greenville Memorial Hospital where he underwent surgery Wednesday afternoon,

according to officials. A GoFundMe page has been set up for Jacob. The page says it was started by a friend of Jacob's family. The friend said the page was set up to help to parents due to the fact they will miss work. An update on Jacob's condition was posted on the page around 8 a.m. Thursday. It said "Just wanted to give an update. Over the night, there have been no changes in his condition. He is due to have surgery on his other main artery as soon as hes stable enough to do so. Thank yall so very much for all your donations and continue to spread the word and most importantly, PRAY for this little boy. I will continue to keep this open as long as ppl will donate because he has a long road to recovery. Thanks again and God Bless!!"

WYFF4: Mother of teen suspect in Townville shooting releases statement

<http://www.wyff4.com/news/coroner-investigates-death-at-home-near-school-connected-to-shooting-coroner-says/41868542>

The mother of the teen in custody for the shooting at Townville Elementary released a statement Thursday morning. The teen's father, Jeffrey Dewitt Osborne, was found dead Wednesday afternoon at the family's home on Osborne Road, which is about three miles from the school, Coroner Greg Shore said. The teen is the suspect in his father's death, according to Anderson County Sheriff John Skipper. Shore said the teen called his grandparents on his cellphone at 1:44 p.m. The grandmother said he was crying and so upset she couldn't understand him, so she and her husband went to Osborne's home to see if their grandson was there. The grandson was not there, but they found their son's body. At 1:45 p.m., a teacher called to report the shooting at the school.

Fox Carolina: Kindergartner in critical condition, teen in custody after school shooting injures 3

<http://www.foxcarolina.com/story/33271132/school-district-emergency-situation-reported-at-townville-elementary-school>

Dal Kalsi and Amanda Shaw

School has been canceled for the rest of the week at Townville Elementary School after deputies said a teenager opened fire on the school playground, wounding three people on Wednesday. Deputies said two boys, both kindergarten students at the school, and an adult teacher were shot on the playground behind the school, located on Townville School Road. One of the students, Jacob Hall, was airlifted to the Greenville Hospital System pediatric trauma unit after being shot in the leg. A GHS spokesperson said Jacob was in critical condition as of 8 p.m. His parents, Rodger and Renae Hall, said, "We appreciate the community's support, especially the Townville Rescue Squad who treated Jacob onsite and brought him to the hospital. We appreciate everyone's thoughts and prayers and ask for privacy during this difficult time." The other student, who was shot in the foot, and the teacher, shot in the shoulder, were taken to AnMed Health System for treatment. As of 6 p.m. officials at AnMed said both were released from the hospital.

SC Quadruple Slaying:

Associated Press: The Latest: Defendant appears in court in quadruple slaying

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=fzoCq9Qx

SC State Wire

A man charged in a quadruple slaying in South Carolina says he's not a murderer and would never hurt anyone. Robert Lee Bailey appeared before an Orangeburg County magistrate late Thursday. Authorities say he's one of three men charged in the July 2015 killings of four people outside the community of Holly Hill. The other two were arrested this week in Alabama and should be returned to South Carolina in the next few days. The 37-year-old Bailey, charged with murder and other counts, appeared before Magistrate Don West in an orange prison jumpsuit and with his hands shackled. The judge said he couldn't set bond on a murder charge and that a circuit judge would have to set bond. He also gave Bailey a form to request a public defender.

Associated Press: The Latest: 3 charged in South Carolina quadruple slaying

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=54iDnZ77

SC State Wire

A South Carolina sheriff says that after more than a year and thousands of hours of investigation, three people face charges in the July, 2015 slayings of four people at a home in rural South Carolina. Orangeburg County Sheriff Leroy Ravenell told reporters Thursday that two suspects were arrested this week in Baldwin County, Alabama, and the third was arrested in Orangeburg County, about 35 miles south of Columbia. All are from the Holly Hill area where the slayings occurred. The sheriff said all three face murder and other charges. He said 27-year-old Derrick Warren Coleman and 35-year-old Anthony Jermaine Scott were arrested in Alabama where Coleman is originally from. Ravenell said the two are expected to be brought back to South Carolina in the next few days. The third man arrested, 30-year-old Robert Lee Bailey, was to have a bond hearing later Thursday in Orangeburg.

Associated Press: Sheriff to discuss 2015 quadruple slaying in South Carolina

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=w4rBk0Rq

SC State Wire

A South Carolina sheriff plans a news conference to discuss developments in an unsolved case in which four people, including two teenagers, were shot and killed in July 2015. A task force of local, state and federal investigators was formed last year to investigate the deaths. An announcement says Orangeburg County Sheriff Leroy Ravenell plans to meet with reporters at noon Thursday. Authorities say that 17-year-old Shamekia Sanders, 14-year-old Tamara Perry and 28-year-old Krystal Hutto all died of bullet wounds to the head in the July 15, 2015, shootings at a home outside of Holly Hill. Fifty-year-old Jerome Butler also was killed, while an 8-year-old boy was critically injured. Ravenell has said that drugs were being sold from the house where the slayings occurred.

Post and Courier: Three charged in 2015 quadruple homicide near Holly Hill

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160929/160929348/three-charged-in-2015-quadruple-homicide-near-holly-hill>

Angie Jackson

Three men have been arrested in connection with a shooting that left four people dead and a young boy wounded during a break-in last year in Orangeburg County. Antly Jermaine Scott, 35, and Derrick Warren Coleman, 27, were captured Tuesday in Foley, Alabama, Sheriff Leroy Ravenell announced at a press conference Thursday. A third man, Robert Lamont Bailey, 37, was arrested Tuesday in Eutawville. All three men live in the Holly Hill and Eutawville areas. The men face four counts of murder as well as one count each of attempted murder, first-degree burglary and possession of a firearm during the commission of a violent crime. Scott and Coleman are awaiting extradition to South Carolina, while Bailey is jailed in Orangeburg County and was expected to be arraigned Thursday. Armed with handguns, the trio allegedly forced their way into a home at 7050 Old State Road near Holly Hill in the middle of the night on July 15, 2015. Two teenagers and two adults were fatally shot in what the Sheriff's Office called a drug-related robbery attempt. An 8-year-old boy was critically wounded but survived his injuries.

Charlotte Protest Shooting:

Charlotte Observer: CMPD chief reverses course on police videos – vows more openness after Scott killing

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/special-reports/charlotte-shooting-protests/article104692471.html>

Fred Clasen-Kelly

Following intense criticism and calls for his resignation, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Chief Kerr Putney said Wednesday that his department would reverse course and be more open about releasing videos of police shootings to victims' families and the public. The department will still have broad discretion on whether to release video and decisions on when to make it open to the public will be handled on a case-by-case basis, Putney said. He did not elaborate on the criteria that would be used to determine when footage would be released. "It is a new day," Putney said. "There is an opportunity

to move a bit and to give the public what it wants.”His comments come after the Observer began looking into the department’s refusal to turn over video following officer shootings. In the days after the Sept. 20 fatal police shooting of Keith Lamont Scott, Mayor Jennifer Roberts assured the public that CMPD releases video recordings after an investigation is closed.

The Herald: Tillman Hall protest begins, ends peacefully at Winthrop

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article104801971.html>

David Thackham

The protest began with a number: 715 victims of police violence in 2016. The movement intensified with a building: Winthrop University’s Tillman Hall. Around 70 students and faculty participated in a lively, exuberant and peaceful march on campus Wednesday to raise support for renaming the school’s administration building, which protesters say represents a man who espoused racist ideals. The group, made up primarily of members from four different student organizations, marched and chanted from Winthrop’s DiGiorgio Campus Center to Tillman Hall, where they staged a five-hour sit-in that included passionate speeches, high emotion and a letter-writing campaign. “Ben Tillman is rolling in his grave,” said Candace Livingston, with the Winthrop chapter of the NAACP. “We won’t stop until (police) stop shooting innocent black lives.” The protesters said the building’s name promotes a racist legacy. They want it changed to reflect the diversity on campus. Some students and faculty called for changing the name of the building to Main Building – its name before 1962.

Dylann Roof Case:

Associated Press: Jury pool narrowed to 750 in church shooting trial

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

SC State Wire

The jury pool has been narrowed to just under 750 people in the federal trial of Dylann Roof, who stands charged in the shooting deaths of nine churchgoers in Charleston, South Carolina. Roof could face execution if convicted of hate crimes and obstruction of religion resulting in death, among other charges in the massacre inside Emanuel AME Church. About 3,000 potential jurors were summoned, and began reporting this week. A total of 41 were excused or had their jury service moved. But midday Wednesday, the court passed its goal of 700 when 748 potential jurors filled out questionnaires about the June, 2015 church shooting. The others who were summoned don't have to report. The questionnaires will be reviewed by attorneys before jurors return again in early November for individual questioning.

The State: Jury for Dylann Roof’s federal trial will be chosen from pool of 748 people

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article104784211.html>

John Monk

Some 748 prospective jurors in the upcoming Dylann Roof federal death penalty trial have been picked to go on to a second, more intensive, phase of jury screening that will begin Nov. 7. The 748 who survived the initial screening process this week were picked over a two and a half day period that began Monday in a small federal courtroom in Charleston. About 3,000 were initially summoned for this week’s screening process. Federal Judge Richard Gergel had said he would like to come up with a pool of 700 potential jurors. This week’s screening went faster than expected. By around noon Wednesday, the court had surpassed that goal and wound up with 748 – a number that should be more than enough to produce a final jury panel of 12 jurors and six alternates.

Governor Nikki Haley News:

Greenville News: Gov. Haley approves GHS bond transfer

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/09/29/governor-approves-ghs-bond-transfer/91271478/>

Liv Osby

Gov. Nikki Haley on Thursday approved Greenville Health System's plan to move its \$600 million bond debt from the public nonprofit to its new private nonprofit Strategic Coordinating Organization. "This very technical tax issue has high stakes for GHS patients," Haley wrote in a letter to the hospital and to legislators who opposed the transfer. "If I do not approve this request, IRS regulations would cost GHS \$167 million in financing fees starting Oct. 1," she said. "For these reasons, I have approved the bond reclassification request." GHS has changed its governance structure so that it can remain a public nonprofit as part of a larger private, nonprofit multi-regional health system. As a result, GHS leases its assets to an Upstate Affiliate Organization, which operates existing GHS hospitals and facilities, and the SCO makes decisions about the direction of the system and has the financial responsibility. Because of that restructuring, officials want to shift \$600 million in bond debt from GHS to the SCO. The move would reclassify the bonds from governmental to nonprofit and would not add any new debt, according to Michael Riordan, CEO of the SCO.

Greenville News: Haley, Scott rate popular in new Winthrop Poll

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/09/29/haley-scott-rate-popular-new-winthrop-poll/91262300/>

Amanda Coyne

Gov. Nikki Haley and U.S. Sen. Tim Scott both received positive approval ratings in the September Winthrop Poll, released Thursday morning. Haley was viewed favorably by 57 percent of the poll's respondents, with a disapproval rating of 29 percent. Scott, a Republican facing re-election in November, had a 52 percent approval rating and a 21 percent disapproval rating. The poll reached 694 South Carolina residents on cell phones and landlines, with a 3.7 percent margin of error. Less popular were President Barack Obama and U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham. While 48 percent of respondents approved of Obama's performance as president, 50 percent disapproved. Graham's approval rate was the lowest of the four politicians, coming in at 38 percent, with 41 percent of respondents disapproving of his performance.

The Item: The New South Carolina Part 1: People of the Palmetto State

<http://www.theitem.com/stories/the-new-south-carolina-part-1-people-of-the-palmetto-state,276960>

Opinion: Phil Noble

Editor's note: This is the first of a three-part series on how new demographics, economy and politics trends are changing South Carolina. There is a New South Carolina being born. You can see evidence of it in a recent Time Magazine special issue featuring the 100 Most Influential. There are four South Carolinians in the magazine - two were chosen among the 100 Most Influential, and two were chosen to write short profiles. Who they are and what they wrote says a lot about our state and who we are becoming - the New South Carolina. How were they chosen? Editor Nancy Gibbs said, "One way or the other they each embody a breakthrough; they broke the rules, broke the record, broke the silence, broke the boundaries to reveal what we're capable of each in their own way have lessons to teach." So who are the four South Carolinians, and what are the lessons they have to teach us?

NOTE: The first is Gov. Nikki Haley, a 21st Century South Carolinian. When she was chosen for the list, it got lots of media attention, as well it should. She was pictured seated at a big desk surrounded by a crowd of former governors, politicians and church people as she held a pen to sign the bill to take down the Confederate flag. Haley was born in Barnwell to Indian immigrant parents. She grew up different - not white, not black - with all the challenges that brought. From childhood, she worked in the family clothing business, and she graduated from Clemson with a degree in accounting. Her husband has a military career as an officer, and they have two beautiful children.

NOTE: Sen. Lindsey Graham wrote the tribute to Haley. After citing the challenges she and our state faced with the Emanuel and Walter Scott shootings and the 1,000-year flood, he said, " Gov. Haley led with determination, grace and compassion From shaking up the system to providing kindness and understanding to the individuals and families affected by these tragedies, she put a face on South Carolina that we are all extremely proud of."

General Assembly News:

The State: Women's rights group backs Finlay opponent

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article104879086.html>

Avery G. Wilks

A women's rights group on Thursday endorsed state Rep. Kirkman Finlay's general election opponent and denounced the Richland County Republican's votes for a 20-week abortion ban passed this spring. Planned Parenthood Votes South Atlantic, a political action committee formed last year to support Planned Parenthood, cast its first ever S.C. legislative endorsement for Richland County Democrat Tyler Gregg. Gregg promised Thursday at a press conference on the State House steps that if elected, he will support women's reproductive rights, equal pay for women and providing paid family leave to help parents care for a newborn or adopted child. "I won't play politics with women's health," the Columbia attorney said. Eve Stacey, a member of the group's board, called South Carolina's new anti-abortion law "radical" and "blatantly unconstitutional." "Let's elect someone who will be a champion for women's rights, and that person is Tyler Gregg," she said. S.C. House members voted 80-28 in favor of the ban. Reached Thursday, Finlay noted that state Rep. Robert Ridgeway, D-Clarendon, a gynecologist, also voted for the ban. "It strikes me that I'm with the medical expert in our body," Finlay said.

SC Agency News:

WRDW: UPDATE: Irish Travelers continue to fight to get girls back

<http://www.wrdw.com/content/news/Irish-Travelers-continue-to-fight-to-get-girls-back-395009061.html>

The South Carolina Department of Social Services arrived at the home of an 11-year-old girl in Murphy Village. DSS allegedly got a tip that the girl was engaged and wanted to question her alone, according to the child's mother. Her parents said their daughter has medical problems and needs a feeding tube so they did not want DSS taking her away. When the parents gave DSS a letter to sign saying they wouldn't take their daughter away, DSS left. DSS also couldn't answer whether they had a court order. Parents were concerned because the other six children DSS took for questioning were removed from the home. Some of the parents of the children DSS took already were also outside the home of the 11-year-old girl when DSS arrived. The mother of the girl DSS was allegedly trying to question called her attorney to go over her rights.

The Herald: DSS: How you can help 6 Rock Hill children in protective custody

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article104862681.html>

David Thackham

The York County Department of Social Services has released three hotline numbers to help concerned citizens donate to help six children who were put in protective custody earlier this week. Six children were taken from a Rock Hill home Sunday after York County deputies found they were living with no running water and little food. Marilyn Matheus, director of media relations at the DSS, said monetary gifts are always preferred, which keeps the department from having a surplus of other items. Matheus released the following numbers to reach agents who can help donate money or items.... York County sheriff's deputies were called to a Porter Road home near Rock Hill on Sunday after they received an anonymous call to check on the children, ages 8 months to 8 years, and the living conditions. A deputy met with the father, who allowed the deputy inside a home that smelled of garbage, urine and feces, according to a sheriff's report. The father told the deputy the home had not had running water for three or four weeks.

Post and Courier: Charleston ports agency sues contractors over alleged defects in Leatherman terminal design

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160929/160929337/charleston-ports-agency-sues-contractors-over-alleged-defects-in-leatherman-terminal-design>

David Wren

The State Ports Authority is suing a pair of contractors over the initial design of a containment area that ultimately will support the wharf of a new cargo terminal at the former Navy Base in North Charleston. The SPA, in a lawsuit filed this week, says engineering firms Moffatt & Nichol and S&ME Inc. failed to properly test soils at the site before designing containment area walls that would not be strong enough to support the ship-to-shore cranes, trucks, cargo containers and other equipment that eventually will be placed at the terminal. The design flaws have cost the SPA more than \$35 million in additional work, materials and construction delays, according to the lawsuit, filed in circuit court in Charleston. In addition, the maritime agency says it has suffered financial losses due to its delayed use of the terminal, which originally was scheduled to open in 2013. The first phase of the facility, now known as the Hugh K. Leatherman Sr. Terminal, now is slated to open by late 2019. Randy Paulson, chief marketing officer for Long Beach, Calif., based Moffatt & Nichol, said it is "unfortunate" that the project has resulted in a lawsuit.

SC Delegation News:

Associated Press: \$500 million Charleston Harbor deepening clears hurdle

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=rEhEOUP6

SC State Wire

The half-billion dollar Charleston Harbor deepening project has cleared another hurdle now that the House of Representatives has passed the Water Resources Development Act. The measure approved Wednesday includes \$200 million in federal money for the channel deepening project. Differences between the House and the Senate version approved earlier must now be worked out. South Carolina Ports Authority president and CEO Jim Newsome is applauding the state's congressional delegation for working to get the federal bill passed. The authority wants the shipping channel deepened to 52 feet from 45 feet to accommodate larger containerships. South Carolina lawmakers have already set aside \$300 million to pay for the state's share of the deepening.

Post and Courier: U.S. House passes water infrastructure bill authorizing Charleston Harbor dredging

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160928/160929437/us-house-passes-water-infrastructure-bill-authorizing-charleston-harbor-dredging>

Emma Dumain

The House of Representatives passed a key water infrastructure bill Wednesday that would, among other things, ensure the Charleston Harbor deepening project stays on schedule. Lawmakers voted 399-25 to pass the Water Resources Development Act, or WRDA. All members of the South Carolina congressional delegation voted "yes." Just 24 hours earlier, the legislation appeared in peril. Democrats threatened to withhold support as Republicans refused to allow a vote on an amendment that would provide aid to the city of Flint, Mich., which is still grappling with a major contaminated drinking water crisis. Republicans pointed to the Senate-passed version of WRDA, which had that language included. They forecast that when both chambers meet to hash out the details of a final bill in November or December, it was likely that money would survive the negotiations. Democrats weren't willing to trust Republicans at their word, fearing that unless the money was in their WRDA bill, too, they would come to the negotiating table with a weaker hand.

NOTE: The effort to pass the House bill before the October recess, even though it won't be signed into law until after Election Day, was also being closely watched by the S.C. Chamber of Commerce and Gov. Nikki Haley.

Post and Courier: Seven out of nine S.C. lawmakers vote against bill to prevent a government shutdown

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160929/160929350/seven-out-of-nine-sc-lawmakers-vote-against-bill-to-prevent-a-government-shutdown>

Emma Dumain

Congress passed a bill late Wednesday to avert a government shutdown; seven of the nine members

of the South Carolina delegation voted against it. The bill, which will float federal operations between Oct. 1 and Dec. 9, was guaranteed to go to the president's desk. Once certain terms were agreed to, there was no risk of a shutdown like the one that occurred in 2013. This essentially gave all but one of the Palmetto State Republicans on Capitol Hill a pass to go on the record opposing legislation they said fell short on a few critical fronts. In the Senate, U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham was angry the stop-gap spending measure didn't fully fund the Export-Import Bank, an important fixture of the South Carolina economy that helps U.S. companies finance goods for sale overseas, and which has come under fierce scrutiny from conservatives in recent years. In the House, U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan was pushing for Congress to take a stand against allowing Syrian refugees into the country at a moment where terrorists could be using every loophole to enter the United States and do harm on the homeland.

The State: SC Democrats slam GOP congressmen over votes against spending bill

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article104892591.html>

Avery G. Wilks

Congress avoided a government shutdown on Wednesday by approving a short-term spending bill, but S.C. Democrats are railing against Palmetto State lawmakers who voted against the measure. The spending bill pays to operate the government until Dec. 9 and includes \$1.1 billion to fight the Zika virus. The Democratic Party specifically called out Republican U.S. Sens. Lindsey Graham and Tim Scott and U.S. Reps. Mark Sanford, Jeff Duncan, Trey Gowdy, Mick Mulvaney and Tom Rice for voting against the spending bill. "Make no mistake: If the votes of these Republicans had carried the day, our government would be on the brink of a shutdown and the Zika virus would be on the brink of a U.S. epidemic," the party said in a statement Thursday.

McClatchy DC: GOP congressman proposes deporting all non-citizens on the terror watch list

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/congress/article104759881.html>

Vera Bergengruen

Rep. Jeff Duncan calls it "No-fly, goodbye," but the official name is the Terrorist Deportation Act. The South Carolina Republican introduced legislation Tuesday that would deport all non-citizens living in the United States who are on the terror watch lists, revoking their visas and bans them from re-entering the country. "Freeing up law enforcement resources by reducing the number of people residing in the United States who are suspected of terrorism will keep America safer," Duncan said Wednesday in a statement. "Freeing up law enforcement resources by reducing the number of people residing in the United States who are suspected of terrorism will keep America safer," Duncan said Wednesday in a statement. A bipartisan bill backed by Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., this summer sought to prevent people on the no-fly list from buying firearms. The "no-fly, no buy" legislation was shot down by Republicans worried that possible errors on the list could result in innocent Americans losing their Second Amendment rights. The push for the gun law came after an attack on a gay nightclub in Orlando in June, which left 49 people dead. The 29-year-old shooter, Omar Mateen, had previously been on the watch list.

Post and Courier: Bill filed to designate National Medal of Honor Museum in South Carolina

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160928/160929401/bill-filed-to-designate-national-medal-of-honor-museum-in-south-carolina>

John McDermott

A \$98 million addition to Patriots Point in Mount Pleasant would be designated by Congress as the National Medal of Honor Museum, according to a proposal from a South Carolina lawmaker. U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., filed the House bill on Sept. 22 and announced it Wednesday. "Recipients of the Medal of Honor showed courage, bravery, and selflessness when defending our country," Wilson said in a written statement. "They deserve to have their stories told in a dedicated museum where all Americans can pay tribute to their sacrifice and learn of their heroism. I look forward to visitors across the nation and around the world to tour Patriots Point soon." His co-sponsors include three Palmetto

State lawmakers: Rep. Mark Sanford, Rep. Jeff Duncan, and Rep. Trey Gowdy. "Mount Pleasant would be lucky to have such a prestigious museum in the shadow of the USS Yorktown, and the National Medal of Honor Museum could find no better home than one of the top tourist destinations in the world," Sanford said.

Greenville News: Gowdy, Fedalei to participate in forum 'conversation' Oct. 24

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/09/29/gowdy-fedalei-participate-forum-conversation-oct-24/91224462/>

Amanda Coyne

U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) and Democratic challenger Chris Fedalei will participate in a moderated "conversation" at Furman University on Oct. 24, the university announced. U.S. Sen. Tim Scott (R-S.C.) and Democratic challenger Thomas Dixon will also participate in the event. The forum-style event will have Gowdy and Fedalei participate in a 40-minute conversation moderated by Furman Professor Danielle Vinson, followed by a moderated 40-minute discussion between Scott and Dixon. The event will be capped by a 20-minute moderated discussion between all four candidates. Gowdy and Fedalei are running for the fourth congressional district, which includes much of Greenville and Spartanburg counties. Scott and Dixon are running for South Carolina's junior senate seat, which Scott has held since being appointed by Gov. Nikki Haley in 2013 to fill the vacancy created by outgoing Sen. Jim DeMint. Scott won a special election in 2014 to finish DeMint's term and is running for his first full term in the senate.

SC Political News:

The State: Trump narrowly leads Clinton in SC, new poll says

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article104839496.html>

Bristow Marchant

South Carolina voters prefer Republican Donald Trump as their next president only slightly more than they prefer Democrat Hillary Clinton, according to a new Winthrop Poll. But they also mostly dislike the candidates while feeling strongly that the outcome of the election is important to their personal future and the future of the country. Released early Thursday, the poll shows GOP presidential nominee Trump with 42 percent support from S.C. likely voters. Clinton, the Democratic nominee, trails close behind with 38 percent support. The poll surveyed 694 S.C. residents from Sept. 18-26 and has a margin of error of 3.7 percentage points. Among the 475 likely voters in November's general election who were surveyed, the margin of error of 4.5 percentage points.

Post and Courier: Donald Trump holds small lead against Hillary Clinton in new state poll

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160929/160929356/donald-trump-holds-small-lead-against-hillary-clinton-in-new-state-poll>

Maya T. Prabhu

While South Carolina residents said they found neither candidate for president to be honest, likely voters said they prefer Republican businessman Donald Trump to Democrat and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, according to a poll from Winthrop University. Of likely voters surveyed earlier this month, 42 percent said they prefer Trump, while 38 percent said they would vote for Clinton, according to the results released Thursday morning. "While Clinton is seen as the more capable candidate, she is also viewed as more dishonest," Winthrop Poll Director Scott Huffmon said. "However, both candidates are setting records for being viewed unfavorably. While Trump has the lead, these factors may contribute to why he is underperforming expectations of a hypothetical generic Republican versus generic Democrat matchup." The poll was conducted from Sept. 18 to 26 and ended before Monday's first presidential debate.

Aiken Standard: Poll: S.C. voters prefer Trump but not as much as Republican presidential

candidates before <http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160929/160929524/poll-sc-voters-prefer-trump->

[but-not-as-much-as-republican-presidential-candidates-before--](#)

Maayan Schechter

South Carolina voters prefer Donald Trump, rather than Hillary Clinton in the White House. But Trump's numbers in the Palmetto State still lag behind previous Republican presidential candidates in the state. The latest Winthrop Poll, conducted between Sept. 18-26 before Monday's first presidential debate, shows Trump with 42 percent approval from likely voters in South Carolina, compared to Clinton with 38 percent. At least 7 percent of likely voters in the state were undecided, while none of the third party candidates registered support in the double digits, the poll said. Meanwhile, a majority of state residents surveyed did not view Trump or Clinton as favorable or "honest." The poll said only 1 in 5 of those surveyed described Clinton as honest, with Trump being described using the same description from a third of residents.

Greenville News: Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein to visit USC Upstate

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/09/29/green-party-presidential-candidate-jill-stein-visit-usc-upstate/91277658/>

Amanda Coyne

Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein will appear at USC Upstate on Oct. 4 with senate candidate Thomas Dixon, who is running on the Democratic, Green and Working Families party lines. Stein is polling at an average of 2.3 percent in national polls, according to the RealClearPolitics average. In Thursday's Winthrop Poll of South Carolina voters, Stein had 3 percent support. Stein and Dixon will appear at USC Upstate's Campus Life Center at noon on Tuesday to discuss the Green Party's platform. In addition to focusing heavily on environmental issues, the party supports single-payer healthcare and student debt reform.

Savannah River Site/MOX News:

Aiken Standard: Employee reports potential drone sighting over Savannah River Site

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160929/160929515/employee-reports-potential-drone-sighting-over-savannah-river-site->

Thomas Gardiner

An employee at the Savannah River Site on Thursday reported a potential unmanned aerial systems sighting, otherwise known as a drone, flying over the site. The drone was reported in a site-wide security alert around 10:30 a.m. Thursday. Since the first sighting earlier this year, investigators have been searching for the drone operations. If investigators confirm that Thursday's sighting was a drone, and not another aerial vehicle, it would be the tenth drone sighting since June. According to previous reports by the Aiken Standard, the sightings started on June 19, and SRS officials told the newspaper the remote controlled aircraft has been spotted all over the Site. Every sighting initiates an internal email to employees with information about the situation. Many of these devices are built with photo and video equipment on board and can be flown considerable distances through streaming video sent back to the controller.

South Carolina News:

McClatchy DC: South Carolinians' incomes grew 4.3 percent last year, but still lag behind nation

<http://www.thestate.com/latest-news/article104950861.html>

Vera Bergengruen

South Carolinians saw their household incomes rise in 2015 – but not as fast as the rest of the country. Real median household income for South Carolinians grew by 4.3 percent, the equivalent of \$1,944 in income, the White House said on Thursday. According to new census data, the national figure was \$2,800, or 5.2 percent per household. That's the first time annual real income growth exceeded 5 percent since 1967, when the Census Bureau began reporting household income data, the White House said. The Sumter metro area had the fastest growth in South Carolina last year, with the typical household income rising 12.2 percent. The second fastest was the Myrtle Beach area,

where income grew by 7.6 percent. At the same time, the poverty rate fell by 1.3 percentage points in the state. In the last year, 53,100 people were lifted out of poverty in South Carolina, according to the new census data. The unemployment rate in South Carolina was hovering around 5.1 percent as of August, the lowest it has been since 2001. During the recession the unemployment rate peaked at 11.7 percent in December 2009. Since 2010, the state's economy has added 266,200 jobs, the White House said.

The State: How do SC colleges stack up in rankings?

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/education/article104843766.html>

Bristow Marchant

What's the best college in South Carolina? The state is full of alumni — and diehard fans— of the Gamecocks and Tigers, but size wasn't the deciding factor in drawing up the newest school rankings, released by the Wall Street Journal. Furman University scored the highest on the Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education rankings of U.S. colleges. The private Greenville school came in at No. 130 in the national rankings with a score of 64.5 out of 100. The survey looks at student outcomes in terms of salary earned 10 years after graduation and the rate of student debt repaid. Resources available to students and student surveys about the campus and community environment also played into the rankings. Furman graduates earn an average of \$47,100 a decade after leaving school, according to federal loan records, and have a loan repayment rate of 97 percent. Clemson University is next best in the Palmetto State, coming in at No. 207. But Tigers earn a higher income — \$50,100, according to the survey.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Local law enforcement agencies hold active shooter training at North Charleston Coliseum

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160928/160929362/local-law-enforcement-agencies-hold-active-shooter-training-at-north-charleston-coliseum>

Gregory Yee

The sound of gunfire ripped through the North Charleston Coliseum and Performing Arts Center on Wednesday night. A screaming crowd ran for the doors and encountered officers moving in tight phalanxes through the hallways with guns drawn, all part of active shooter training for Charleston area law enforcement and first responders. "It's a (multidisciplinary) exercise," said Scott Deckard, deputy chief with the North Charleston Police Department. "Of course, you have all of the first responders involved in a major incident like this. With the number of people at our venues in North Charleston — for concerts, for hockey games, for events at the convention center — we felt that it was necessary and especially relevant in today's times to involve all the disciplines, to make sure that we can do our job effectively." The active shooter drill ran from 7-10:30 p.m. and also involved the North Charleston Fire Department, Charleston County Sheriff's Office, Charleston County Emergency Medical Services, State Law Enforcement Division and S.C. Emergency Management Division.

Aiken Standard: Location of murdered Jackson couple's car revealed

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160929/160929506/location-of-murdered-jackson-couplex2019s-car-revealed->

Tripp Girardeau

Nearly 10 months have passed since the bodies of an elderly Jackson couple were discovered murdered at their Green Pond Road residence, and it has finally been revealed where police found their stolen car. Louis, 74, and Sandra Cochran, 70, were found shot to death in their Jackson residence on Dec. 8, 2015. Aiken County Coroner Tim Carlton determined they were killed approximately 72 hours before being found and their car had been stolen. The Aiken County Sheriff's Office located the Cochrans' 2002 Mitsubishi Eclipse Spyder on Dec. 10, but at the time the agency would not say where they had found it. A supplemental report obtained by the Aiken Standard has revealed that the vehicle was located on the woodline of Apple Valley Road in Jackson, which is not

far from the Cochrans' residence. It is still not known why the Sheriff's Office did not release the location when the car was found.

Greenville News: No charges to be filed in deaths of Travelers Rest couple

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2016/09/29/no-charges-filed-deaths-travelers-rest-couple/91276860/>

Romando Dixson

A Travelers Rest man died Thursday morning, two days after he and his wife were each found with a gunshot wound to the head in a hotel. Glenn Jowett Winkler, 67, died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head, Coroner Parks Evans said Thursday. The manner of death was suicide, the Coroner's Office said. His wife, 61-year-old Deborah Atkins Winkler, was found in the same room at the Hampton Inn with a gunshot wound to the head. The manner of death was homicide, Evans said. Police retrieved a firearm from the room. "Strong evidence indicates that no other subjects were present in the Winklers' hotel room at the time of this incident," Travelers Rest Police Chief Lance Crowe said in a statement. "Evidence also indicates that both parties were most likely willing participants in this event. As of this time there is nothing that would lead the TRPD to file criminal charges against anyone else in this case."

Associated Press: Man charged in bicyclist's death arrested again for DUI

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=7ynf8kpf

SC State Wire

A man charged with driving under the influence in the hit-and-run death of a bicyclist on South Carolina's Hilton Head Island last month has again been arrested for DUI. The Island Packet of Hilton Head reports (<http://bit.ly/2dwGP0H>) that an incident report shows 64-year-old Richard Alford was arrested Wednesday afternoon after he was seen swerving on a road on the resort island. Jail records show he was booked into the Beaufort County jail Wednesday evening but did not indicate if he has an attorney. At the time of his arrest, Alford was out on bond on charges of felony driving under the influence and leaving the scene of an accident resulting in a death. Those charges stemmed from the August hit-and-run death of 66-year-old Jeff Garske.

Sun News: Number of vehicle deaths rises in Horry County

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article104909686.html>

Emily Weaver

Two men have been killed in car crashes in the Myrtle Beach area since Friday. Thirty-six-year-old Bryan Patrick Langley of Easley died at Grand Strand Medical Center five days after his vehicle collided with another at 29th Avenue North and U.S. 17 Bypass on Sept. 23. Langley died of his injuries sustained in the wreck, according to Horry County Deputy Coroner Michelle McSpadden. The Myrtle Beach Police Department is investigating the collision. Fifty-nine-year-old Randy Keith Hutchins of Columbus, Ga., was pronounced dead at the scene of a wreck on U.S. 501 near the Tanger Outlet just after 9 p.m. on Wednesday. The South Carolina Highway Patrol is investigating that collision. So far this year, 719 people have been killed in 663 wrecks on South Carolina roads. The count is up from last year, when 701 people were killed in a total 654 crashes in the Palmetto State.

The Herald: Civil penalties, no criminal charges in deadly N.C. bus crash, troopers say

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article104641591.html>

Reddy Kulmala

No criminal charges will be filed in the charter bus crash that killed four people and injured more than 40 others traveling with a Rock Hill football team, the N.C. State Highway Patrol announced Wednesday. The church that owned the bus, however, will have to pay civil penalties. Four people, including an 8-year-old boy, were killed in the Sept. 17 crash on U.S. 74 near Hamlet, N.C. Investigators determined the left front tire on the bus blew out, causing the driver to lose control and sending the bus crashing into a guard rail in the median before slamming into a concrete bridge support. The bus was carrying the team, made up of students from several schools, from Rock Hill to

Fayetteville, N.C., for a football game that night at the University of God's Chosen. Killed in the crash were the driver, Brian Kirkpatrick, 43; Clinton College students Devonte Gibson, 21, and Tito Hamilton Jr., 19; and 8-year-old Darice Hicks Jr., whose father is one of the team's coaches.

Associated Press: Berkeley Co. school bus driver accused of sexual misconduct

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

SC State Wire

A Berkeley County school bus driver has been arrested on allegations of sexual misconduct with a girl. Charleston Police spokesman Charles Francis tells local media that 30-year-old Kevin Michael Wesley Jr. was recently arrested on charges of criminal sexual conduct with a minor 11-14 years old and criminal sexual conduct with a minor in the third degree. Francis says Wesley met the victim while he was her bus driver. The alleged criminal actions between Wesley and the girl happened from September to December 2015, while he was no longer the driver on her route. The incidents allegedly happened at Wesley's West Ashley apartment. It's unclear whether Wesley has an attorney.

Associated Press: Columbia mayor, Marcus Lattimore celebrate heart health

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ubAhd4ek

SC State Wire

Columbia's mayor and one of the University of South Carolina's most beloved football stars are teaming up to celebrate heart health. Mayor Steve Benjamin on Thursday has invited Marcus Lattimore to mark World Heart Day in Columbia. Lattimore and others are joining the mayor for a roundtrip walk from City Hall to the Statehouse. That will be followed by a heart-healthy lunch and free cholesterol screenings. The event is in partnership with the National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention. That group says mayors across the country are hosting similar events today. Benjamin's office says heart disease is the leading cause of death in Columbia. Stroke is the fourth leading cause of death.

Island Packet: What you need to know — and probably didn't — about the school board sales-tax plan

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article104707901.html>

Rebecca Lurye

The county council and school district of Beaufort County have been talking sales tax plans for the past year, but it seems some crucial information has been lost in translation. Despite an informational campaign about the educational sales-tax plan, there is a lingering perception that it was concocted by the superintendent himself, in part because of lingering distrust of Jeff Moss and the school board after last year's nepotism scandal. Come November, both bodies are asking voters to consider 1-percent sales tax referendums in order to pay for their respective capital projects, like road improvements for the county and new schools and building upgrades for the district. If both pass, the county's sales tax would increase from 6 percent to 8 percent during the life of both taxes. But unlike the county, the school district has placed a second question on the ballot — a \$217 million bond referendum question that would allow the school district to carry out its projects as needed, like taking out a mortgage on a home and paying it down each month. The board says it would pay down the new debt using revenue from the sales tax, which is expected to generate about \$313 million over 10 years.

Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press: Clinton struggling to win over the young voters she needs

<http://bigstory.ap.org/a2ad85f193134915824de98847bc86a3>

Nicholas Riccardi

John Morales was interning for Bernie Sanders' campaign when the longshot Democratic candidate's hopes started to fade in the spring. That's when Libertarian Gary Johnson caught his interest. In many ways Johnson and Sanders are ideological opposites. The Vermont senator is an opponent of foreign

trade deals and won over many younger voters in the primaries by calling for enormous government spending to guarantee universal health care and free college tuition. Johnson, the former New Mexico governor, supports smaller government and the Trans-Pacific Partnership. But he shares Sanders' outsider, tell-it-like-it-is style, social liberalism and skepticism about military intervention overseas — attributes that have won over enough Sanders supporters to worry Democrats he could jeopardize Hillary Clinton's chances in November. Morales, a 22-year-old community college student and Army Reservist, is one of those converts — he's now interning for Johnson.

Associated Press: Clinton presses early voting in bid to boost Dem turnout

<http://bigstory.ap.org/f329429b2a4d4a61b22fcac8be894475>

Josh Lederman and Catherine Lucey

With early voting poised to play a bigger role in this year's election, Hillary Clinton was urging voters in Iowa to start casting ballots on Thursday, more than five weeks before Election Day. Clinton's 10-city tour of Iowa brought the Democratic presidential nominee back to a state where she eked out a win in the caucuses over Bernie Sanders. With her focus now on defeating Donald Trump, Clinton was hoping that an emphasis on early voting could help her replicate President Barack Obama's successful strategy in the battleground state four years ago. For Clinton, the early voting strategy is key to any prospects she may have for pulling off victories in states like Arizona and Georgia, which traditionally vote Republican in presidential races. Other states have already begun in-person early voting, but Iowa is getting attention because it's the first battleground state to do so. In Des Moines on Thursday, Clinton sought to offer a hopeful message about the future that would contrast with the doom-and-gloom themes that Trump has made staples of his campaign. Laying out ideas for addressing childcare challenges faced by middle-class families, Clinton recounted for supporters at a rally her own background of working on children's issues and her father's struggles as a small businessman.

Associated Press: The Latest: Pence to spend weekend on debate prep in IN

<http://bigstory.ap.org/23988820fab3440caa958f2e3a0ec31f>

Donald Trump's running mate plans to spend the weekend before the one and only vice presidential debate off the campaign trail preparing back home in Indiana. Mike Pence's spokesman Marc Lotter said Thursday that the Indiana governor plans to spend the weekend relaxing with his family and continuing with his preparation for Tuesday's debate against Democrat Tim Kaine. Pence spent two days in Wisconsin this week doing mock debates with Gov. Scott Walker, who was standing in for Kaine. Lotter says Pence has been preparing for the debate since being picked as Trump's running mate. Trump has faced criticism for not preparing as much as Hillary Clinton for their debate on Monday that was watched by more than 84 million people.

National News:

Associated Press: Train crashes at New Jersey station; 1 dead, 74 hospitalized

<http://bigstory.ap.org/7b2c4caec6f747939e8b1b713cb3f37f>

David Porter and Karen Matthews

A rush-hour commuter train crashed through a barrier at the busy Hoboken station and lurched across the waiting area Thursday morning, killing one person and injuring more than 100 others in a tangle of broken concrete, twisted metal and dangling wires. People pulled chunks of concrete off pinned and bleeding victims, passengers kicked out windows and crawled to safety, and cries and screams could be heard in the wreckage at the station just across the Hudson River from New York City as emergency workers tried to reach trapped victims. The New Jersey Transit train ran off the end of its track as it pulled into the station, smashing through a concrete-and-steel bumper. It apparently knocked out pillars as it ground to a halt in the covered waiting area, collapsing a section of the roof onto the first car. "All of a sudden, there was an abrupt stop and a big jolt that threw people out of their seats. The lights went out, and we heard a loud crashing noise — like an explosion — that turned out to be the roof of the terminal," said Ross Bauer, who was sitting in the third or fourth car

when the train was pulling into the historic 109-year-old station for its final stop. "I heard panicked screams, and everyone was stunned."

Associated Press: Family, friends of Marlins' Fernandez to attend funeral Mass

<http://bigstory.ap.org/3f4194d73cdb4000b5ddc58922f30680>

Curt Anderson

A day after fans said goodbye, family members and friends of Miami Marlins pitcher Jose Fernandez gathered for a private funeral Mass on Thursday afternoon. Fernandez and two friends were killed in a boat crash off South Beach early Sunday. Marlins owner Jeffrey Loria, manager Don Mattingly, hitting coach Barry Bonds and the players including Marcel Ozuna and Giancarlo Stanton wore white T-shirts emblazoned with Fernandez's image and the letters "RIP" as they slowly walked the hearse away from Marlins Park in Miami's Little Havana neighborhood on Wednesday. Many in the crowd of about 1,000 chanted "Jose! Jose!" and some waved Cuban flags in honor of the popular Cuban-American player. Hundreds of fans streamed into St. Brendan's Catholic Church later Wednesday for a public viewing, which was scheduled to last into the night. Many said they felt compelled to come not only because of Fernandez's popularity as a player but also because he was a hero to many in the Cuban-American community.

World News:

Associated Press: Russia accuses US of nurturing aggressive nuclear strategy

<http://bigstory.ap.org/81c2ada7456d402ea363a9608daf58ee>

Vladimir Isachenkov

Amid the widening U.S.-Russian spat over Syria, the Russian Foreign Ministry on Thursday issued a strongly-worded statement accusing the Pentagon of nurturing an aggressive nuclear strategy threatening Russia. The ministry cast a recent speech by U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter as a veiled threat to back a hypothetical attack on Russia by its allies in Europe with U.S. nuclear weapons. The angry statement reflects a growing degree of mistrust and tensions between Moscow and Washington after the collapse of a U.S.-Russian cease-fire deal in Syria. On Monday, Carter accused Russia of "nuclear saber-rattling" and argued that even though the Cold War is long over, nuclear weapons are still needed to deter Russia and other potential aggressors from thinking they could get away with a nuclear attack. "Across the Atlantic, we're refreshing NATO's nuclear playbook — to better integrate conventional and nuclear deterrence, to ensure we plan and train like we'd fight, and to deter Russia from thinking it can benefit from nuclear use in a conflict with NATO," Carter said. He emphasized that "obviously, we do not seek such a conflict to begin with, rather, we seek to prevent one."

Associated Press: Russia accuses US of siding with 'terrorists' in Syria

<http://bigstory.ap.org/5d5ef1d4a5f94ff0926f8b83e0f0bfaf>

Vladimir Isachenkov

Russian officials accused the U.S. on Thursday of siding with "terrorists" in Syria, in a sign of escalating tensions between Moscow and Washington amid the battle for the northern Syrian city of Aleppo. U.S. State Department spokesman John Kirby's warning that the collapse of U.S.-Russian cooperation in Syria could lead to a rise in extremism and potential attacks against Russia drew Moscow's anger. The Russian Foreign and Defense Ministries both cast it as U.S. encouragement of terror attacks on Russia. "We can't assess those statements as anything else but a call, a directive for action," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said at a briefing. Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said Kirby's statement amounted to "the most frank confession by the U.S. side so far that the whole 'opposition' ostensibly fighting a 'civil war' in Syria is a U.S.-controlled international terrorist alliance." "What makes Kirby's statement particularly shocking is that the scale of direct U.S. influence on terrorists' activity is global and reaches as far as Russia," he said.

Associated Press: The Latest: Bill Clinton, Netanyahu meet in Jerusalem

<http://bigstory.ap.org/8e05519173fc495388c7bfeefcf6d0e5>

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with former U.S. President Bill Clinton ahead of the funeral for former Israeli President Shimon Peres. Netanyahu said it was a warm meeting and that Clinton signed a guest book Thursday night. He did not elaborate. Earlier in the day Clinton joined thousands of mourners paying respects outside Israel's parliament building in Jerusalem where Peres' casket lay in state. Clinton is among dozens of world leaders and dignitaries attending Peres' funeral on Friday. It is expected to be the largest such gathering in Israel since the funeral of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, assassinated by a Jewish nationalist in 1995.

Associated Press: Israel pays respects to Peres as leaders arrive for funeral

<http://bigstory.ap.org/19bd818fb31643fe855a1ef464a28ba8>

Aaron Heller

Thousands of Israelis flocked to parliament Thursday to view the casket of Shimon Peres, paying final respects to the former president and prime minister whose life story mirrored that of his country. Dignitaries began arriving for a funeral that is expected to be Israel's largest since that of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Peres' partner in peace who was slain by a Jewish nationalist in 1995. Peres' office said more than 90 delegations from 70 countries have confirmed their participation, including U.S. President Barack Obama, French President Francois Hollande, German President Joachim Gauck, Prince Charles of Britain and King Felipe VI of Spain. After an initial hesitation due to the collapse of peace efforts, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas also confirmed his participation, as did representatives from Egypt and Jordan — the two Arab countries at peace with Israel. That was a testament to the wide reach of Peres, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate who was his country's strongest advocate for ending the conflict in the Middle East.

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Camlin Moore

Cell: 803-206-8236

Office: 803-734-8044