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The Post and Courier

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Monday, June 13, 2016

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Charlotte, NC 28202

ORLANDO SHOOTING

'Act of terror, act of hate'

Deadliest U.S. shooting kills 50, wounds dozens

Shooter fired relentlessly inside gay nightclub

Gunman made pledge to Islamic State in 911 call



Terry DeCarlo, executive director of the LGBT Center of Central Florida (center), is comforted Sunday by Orlando City Commissioner Patrick Sheehan (right), after a shooting involving multiple fatalities at a nightclub in Orlando, Fla. At left is Kahlin Cuban, pastor of The Impact Church.

Charleston reacts with love, support

BY MELISSA BOUGHTON, PHILL RUFFLES and ORLANDO STAFF The Post and Courier

One massacre targeted people because of their skin color. The other for their sexual orientation. The aftermath of both was the same: shock and horror.

In an attempt to combat hate with love, Charleston LGBT leaders, community affiliates and business owners are planning a vigil Monday night for the victims of the early Sunday mass shooting in Orlando, Fla. Officials report that 50 people were killed and at least 53 were hospitalized, most in critical condition.

It's a cruel irony that not unlike in the wake of the June 17 shooting at Emanuel AME Church that left nine dead.

"So many groups of people deserve to be targeted on the basis of who they are,"

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Kadeem Sauleh (from left), Garrett Heckell, and Kelsey Cesar light candles during an informal vigil at Ember, a restaurant in Orlando, Fla.

Obama: Americans united in 'grief, outrage, resolve'

BY KEVIN FREKING and JOHN FEDERMAN A United Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama denounced the deadliest mass shooting in American history on Sunday as a terrorist act targeting a place of "solidarity and empower-

ment" for gays and lesbians. He urged Americans to take the kind of country we want to be.

Hours after a gunman killed at least 50 people in Orlando, Obama said the FBI would investigate the nightclub shooting as terrorism, but said

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Gallery

To see photos from the aftermath of the Orlando nightclub shooting, go to go.usatoday.com/gallery/orlando-shooting.

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Alan Williams' neighbors jumped in to help his wife's partner survive. A10

S.C. residents react to tragedy. A10

A history of violence at gay venues. A10

Charleston mosque leader 'angry' over violence. A11

Family friends recall shooting victims. A11

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EDITORIAL: Never surrender to terror. A12

BY MORE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — It had been an evening of drinking, dancing and drag shows. After hours of revelry, the partygoers crowding the gay nightclub known as the Pulse took their last steps before the place closed.

That's where authorities say Omar Mateen emerged, carrying an AR-15 and spraying the helpless crowd with bullets. Witnesses said he fired relentlessly — 20 rounds, 40, then 50 and more. In such tight quarters, the bullets could hardly miss. He shot at police. He took hostages.

When the gunfire finally stopped, he had slain 50 people and critically wounded dozens more in the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history. Mateen, who law enforcement officials said had pledged allegiance to Islamic State in a 911 call around the time of the attack, died in a gun battle with SWAT team members.

Authorities immediately began investigating whether the assault was an act of terrorism and probing the background of Mateen, a 29-year-old American citizen from Fort Pierce, Florida, who had worked as a security guard. The gunman's father recalled that his son recently got angry when he saw two men kissing in Miami and said that might be related to the assault.

Thirty-nine of the dead were killed at the club and 11 people died at hospitals. Mayor

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Charleston Dental Supply

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One-on-one surf lessons at Tarry Beach.
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The Greenville News

HEAVY HEARTS



JOHN L. MCGILL/AND SENTINEL VIA AP

Brett Morlan, from Daytona Beach, Fla., hugs an attendee during the candlelight vigil at Ember in Orlando on Sunday.

Upstate residents mourn those killed in Orlando nightclub

ROMANDO DIXON
RDIXON@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

Advocacy groups in the Upstate mourned the deaths of victims who were killed and injured in the deadliest mass shooting in United States history and vowed to continue working toward progress for LGBT rights and acceptance.

ONLINE

See photos, videos and get up-to-the-minute coverage today at GreenvilleOnline.com

Authorities said 50 people died in a shooting rampage early Sunday at a gay nightclub in Orlando. The tragedy was felt throughout the LGBT community, nationwide and world-wide, said Cody Owens, a board member of Upstate Pride SC.

"Our hearts are heavy for the moment and our thoughts and prayers go out to the people and their families and officers who were at the scene who defused the situa-



LAUREN PETH/ECUSTAFF

Ty Bauer, Allison Sullivan, Hannah Welch, and Elizabeth Scott-Hanks hold signs during a vigil for the victims of the mass shooting in Orlando at Falls Park on Sunday.

Investigation begins into worst mass shooting in US history

MIKE SCHNEIDER
ASOCIATED PRESS

ORLANDO, Fla. — It had been an evening of drinking, dancing and drag shows. After hours of revelry, the partygoers crowding the gay nightclub known as the Pulse took their last sips before the place closed.

That's when authorities say Omar Mateen emerged, carrying an AR-15 and spraying the helpless crowd with bullets. Witnesses said he fired relentlessly — 20 rounds, 40, then 50 and more. In such tight quarters, the bullets could hardly miss. He shot at police. He took hostages.

When the gunfire finally stopped, he had slain 50 people and critically wounded dozens more in the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history. Mateen, who law enforcement officials said had pledged allegiance to Islamic State in a 911 call shortly before the attack, died in a gun battle with SWAT team members.

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'NOBODY STOOD A CHANCE' **PAGE 1B**

'NOT JUST ANOTHER GAY CLUB' **PAGE 1B**

WITNESS DESCRIBES SCENE **PAGE 2B**

OBAMA: SHOOTING ACT OF HATE **PAGE 3B**

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Terror in Orlando

50 killed in gay nightclub shooting | 53 injured, most in critical condition | Shooter claimed allegiance to ISIS



Terry DeCarlo, executive director of the LGBT Center of Central Florida, center, is comforted by Orlando City Commissioner Patty Sheehan, right, after a shooting involving multiple fatalities at a nightclub in Orlando, Florida, on Sunday.

BY MIKE SCHNEIDER
Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — It had been an evening of drinking, dancing and drag shows. After hours of revelry, the party-goers crowding the gay nightclub known as Pulse took their last sips before the place closed.

That's when authorities say Omar Mateen emerged, carrying an AR-15 and spraying the helpless crowd with bullets. Witnesses said he fired relentlessly — 20 rounds, 40, 100 and more. In such tight quarters, the bullets could hardly miss. He shot at police. He took hostages.

When the gunfire finally stopped, 50 people were dead and dozens critically wounded in the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

INSIDE

- Interview at Orlando gay nightclub spurs grief and fear for LGBT Americans, 9A
- Florida governor of the nation's deadliest rampage since 2012, 10A

Mateen, who authorities said had pledged allegiance to Islamic State in a 911 call shortly before the attack, died in a gun battle with SWAT team members.

Authorities immediately began investigating whether the assault was an act of terrorism and probing the background of Mateen, a 29-year-old American citizen from Fort Pierce, Florida, who had worked as a security guard. The gunman's father recalled that his son recently got angry when he saw two men kissing in Miami and said that might be related to the assault.

Thirty-nine of the dead were killed at the club

and 11 people died at hospitals, Mayor Buddy Dyer said.

Jon Alamo had been dancing at Pulse for hours when he wandered into the club's restroom just in time to see the gunman. "You ever seen how Marine guys hold big weapons, shouting from left to right? That's how he was shouting at people," he said.

"My first thought was, oh my God, I'm going to die," Alamo said. "I was praying to God that I would live to see another day."

Pulse patron Eddie Justice texted his mother, Mimi: "Mommy, I love you. In club they shoot-

ing." About 30 minutes later, hiding in a bathroom, he texted her: "He's coming. I'm gonna die." As Sunday wore on, she worried worst on his fate.

At least 53 people were hospitalized, most in critical condition, and a surgeon at Orlando Regional Medical Center said the death toll was likely to climb.

The previous deadliest mass shooting in the U.S. was the 2007 attack on Virginia Tech, where a student killed 32 people before killing himself.

Mateen's family was from Afghanistan, and he was born in New York. His family later moved to Florida, authorities said.

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INSIDE TODAY

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AREA DEATHS

James Irvin Sumner, Aiken
CPT Bramble Robbins, Columbia
Herman W. Parker, Augusta
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

WEATHER

Residents participate in solidarity gathering



BY DEDE RULES
drules@aikenstandard.com

AUGUSTA — A crowd estimated at more than 100 held candles and sang "Let There Be Peace on Earth" during the Orlando Solidarity Gathering on Sunday night at the Metropolitan Community Church of Our Redeemer.

Some Aiken County residents attended the event, which offered comfort and an opportunity to grieve with others following the deadliest mass shooting incident in the history of the United States.

Early Sunday morning in Central Florida, a gunman opened fire and took hostages at Pulse, a gay nightclub. Pulse is the largest club in

ONLINE

- Find a gallery for photos from vigils from across the country at aikenstandard.com
- Watch videos from the vigil in Augusta at aikenstandard.com

ISIS before the attack.

"I found out about it when several of my friends from Orlando were reaching out on Facebook to communicate what was going on," said Jane Hamilton, of North Augusta. "One of my friends was there and is still missing, and we're waiting for word on him. I've experienced a confluence of feelings that have fluctuated between anger, between sadness and between confusion. It's also made me feel that some, more than

STAFF PHOTO BY MAURAN SCHNEIDER

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Jonathan Roman, front, holds a candle during

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Monday, June 13, 2016



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ORLANDO NIGHTCLUB MASSACRE WORST MASS SHOOTING IN US HISTORY

'UNIMAGINABLE'

■ Gunman kills at least 50 at gay club; another 53 critically injured

■ US officials: Shooter had pledged allegiance to Islamic State

■ Authorities say they are investigating attack as an act of terrorism



Ray Rivera, a DJ at Pulse Orlando nightclub, is consoled by a friend outside of the Orlando Police Department after a shooting early Sunday. At least 50 people were killed in the worst mass shooting in U.S. history. Another 53 people were injured — most critically — in a rampage by Omar Mateen, officials said. (JE BURNHAM/ORLANDO SENTINEL)

Obama: Americans 'united in grief, in outrage'

By Hayley Tsukayama, Adam Goldman, Peter Holley and Mark Berman
The Washington Post

ORLANDO — The gunman who opened fire inside a crowded nightclub here early Sunday morning, launching a rampage that killed 50 people and injured 53 others in the deadliest shooting spree in the country's history, had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State before the attack, according to U.S. law enforcement officials.

In a rampage that President Obama said the FBI was investi-



At a glance

MASS CASUALTIES: At least 50 people are dead, and 53 were hospitalized, most in critical condition, officials said. A surgeon at Orlando Regional Medical Center said the death toll was likely to climb.

THE SHOOTER: Authorities have identified the shooter as 29-year-old Omar Mateen of Port St. Lucie, Florida. They say that conversations he had with police in a 911 call the night of the shooting involved the Islamic State. They say he was a U.S. citizen and was not under surveillance. In 2014, they discovered he had ties to an American suicide bomber, but they were minimal, and he didn't constitute a threat at the time. Mateen's father, Mir Seddique, said his son got angry when he saw two men kissing in Miami a couple of months ago. He said that might be related to the attack.

Seddique said the attack had nothing to do with religion.

MORE ON THE SHOOTER: Security company G4S said in a



Mateen

Lakelands softball player of the year recognized

Sports, 1B

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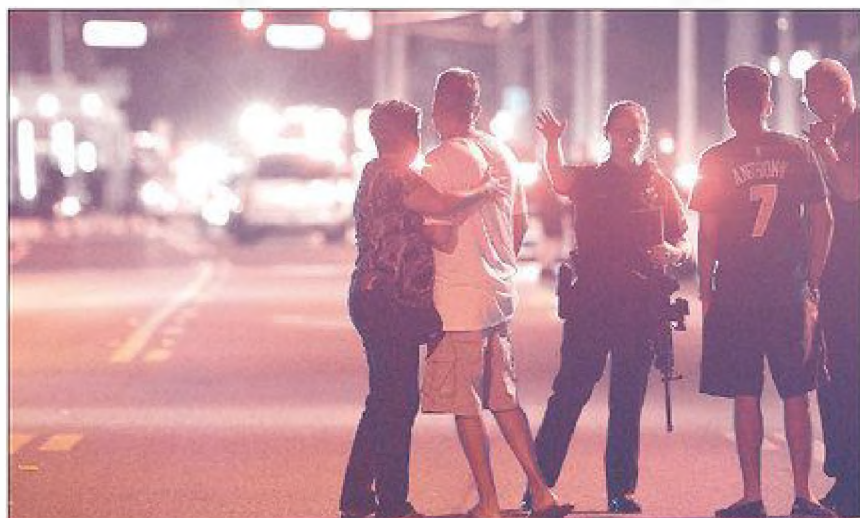
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2 SECTIONS, 16 PAGES

MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2016

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

'They're killing our babies!'



PHOTOS BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

Orlando Police officers direct family members away from a fatal shooting at Pulse Orlando nightclub Sunday in Orlando, Fla.

Worst mass shooting in US history: 50 slain at nightclub

By MIKE SCHNEIDER
Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — It had been an evening of drinking, dancing and drug shows. After hours of revelry, the party goes on. And then, in the gay nightclub known as the Pulse, took their last steps before the place closed.

That's when authorities say Omar Mateen emerged, carrying an AR-15 and spraying the helpless crowd with bullets. Witnesses said he fired relentlessly — 20 rounds, 40, then 50 and more. In such tight quarters, the bullets

could hardly miss. He shot at police. He took hostages.

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Authorities immediately began investigating whether the assault was an act of terrorism and probing the background of Mateen, a 29-year-old American citizen from Fort Pierce, Florida, who had worked as a security guard. The gunman's father recalled that his son recently

See SHOOTING, page 4A



People wait outside the emergency entrance of the Orlando Regional Medical Center hospital after a shooting involving multiple fatalities at Pulse Orlando nightclub in Orlando, Fla.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Winn Justice speaks to a reporter discussing texting with her son Eddie Justice, who was in a bathroom at Club Pulse, Sunday in Orlando.

As the shootings unfolded, a horror for 1 mother via text

By TAMARA LUSH
Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Mina Justice was sound asleep when she received the first text from her son, Eddie Justice, who was in the gay nightclub when a gunman opened fire, leaving 50 dead and more than 50 wounded.

This is the conversation she had over text message with her 20-year-old son:

"Mommy I love you," the first message said. It was 2:05 a.m.

"Is club they shooting?"

Mina Justice tried calling her 20-year-old son. No answer.

Alarmed and half awake, she tapped out a response.

"U ok."

At 3:07 a.m., he wrote: "Trippin' bathroom."

Justice asked what club, and he responded: "Pulse. Downtown. Call police."

"Then at 3:08: 'I'm gonna die.'"

Now wide awake, Justice dialed 911.

She sent a flurry of texts over the next several minutes.

"I'm calling them now."

"U still in there."

Answer our damn phone."

Call them."

Call me."

The 911 dispatcher wanted her to stay on the line. She wondered what kind of danger her son was in. He was normally a homebody who liked to eat and work out.

He liked to make everyone laugh. He worked as an accountant and lived in a condo in downtown Orlando.

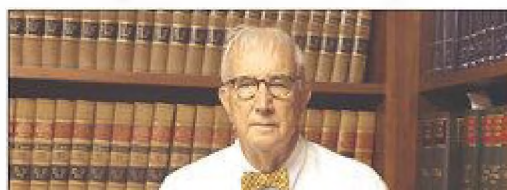
"Eaves in a sky house. Like the Jeffersons," she would say.

"He lives rich."

She knew he was gay and in a club — and all the complications that might entail.

See TEXT, page 4A

After years of service, Bishop inducted into the Abbeville Hall of Fame



By KATIE PEARSON
kpearson@indexjournal.com

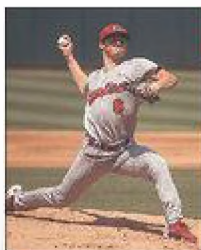
He might not have seen himself in the running for it, but Thurmond Bishop was inducted into the Abbeville County Hall of Fame, one of the highest honors that can come from the Abbeville Chamber of Com-



Abbeville Presbyterian Church since 1985. He has been married to Lucie Carmichael Bishop for 33 years, with whom he has four children.

As the nephew of the late U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond, it might not be surprising that Bishop has been successful. He grew up around politics.

"I used to visit my uncle in D.C.," he said. "I would always ask him



SPORTS South Carolina falls short of CWS with 3-1 loss to Oklahoma State. **Page 1B**

Morning News

MONDAY JUNE 13, 2016

TODAY'S WEATHER

Mostly sunny and not as hot.
High 91, low 65.
DETAILS 2A

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The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 CENTS



TERROR in ORLANDO 'Act of hate' leaves 50 victims in deadliest U.S. shooting. **Page 8A**

USC poll

Most SC blacks oppose death penalty for Roof

BY CASSIE DOPE
The State
cassiedope@thestate.com

COLUMBIA — A majority of black South Carolinians say Dylann Roof should be sentenced to life without parole — not death — if he is found guilty of killing nine African-American members of Charleston's Emanuel AME Church.

But most white South Carolinians say Roof should be sentenced to death if he is found guilty, according to a University of South Carolina poll.

Roof faces federal and state charges in connection with the Charleston massacre. Both federal and state prosecutors have said they will seek the death penalty.

The difference of opinion over Roof reflects historically differing attitudes toward the death penalty between black and white South Carolinians, according to the USC poll, released Sunday.

The poll — on race relations a year after the Emanuel AME massacre — also found stark differences in how South Carolina's white and African-American residents view the criminal justice system.

The poll found:

- A majority of black South Carolinians — 64.7 percent — said Roof should be sentenced to life without parole if found guilty.

- Just 3 in 10 African-Americans — 30.9 percent — said Roof should be sentenced to death.

- An additional 4.4 percent said they didn't know what the punishment should be, according to the poll, which surveyed 800 random S.C. adults.

- The majority of whites — 64.6 percent — think Roof should be sentenced to death.

- Only 29.9 percent of whites think Roof should be sentenced to life without parole; 5.6 percent of those surveyed said they didn't know.

'We can empathize with anyone'

The question of whether to seek the death penalty against Roof divides the families of those slain in Charleston.

Some family members oppose the death penalty. Others say it would be justice.

The findings of the USC poll reflect most black South Carolinians' consistent opposition to the death penalty and most whites' consistent support for it, said Monique Lyle, a USC political scientist who conducted the poll along with USC's Bob O'Dendick.

The majority of black South Carolinians — 64.7 percent — oppose the death penalty, according to the poll. The majority of white South Carolinians — 69.4 percent — favor it.

The African-American communi-



Each Monday, the Morning News features a good news story on a person, place or organization in the Pee Dee. If you have a suggestion for someone or something to profile, send it to news@scnw.com.

Youth of the Year



SHAWN MCCOY/MORNING NEWS

Janey Sow of Hemingway was named the Boys and Girls Club of the Pee Dee Youth of the Year in April.

Janey Sow wins Boys and Girls Club of the Pee Dee recognition

BY SHAMIRA MCCRAY
Morning News
smccray@peedeemorningnews.com

HEMINGWAY — Janey Sow of Hemingway is the most re-

cent winner of the Boys and Girls Club of the Pee Dee Youth of the Year title. Now a recent high school graduate, Sow has attended the Rick & Susan Goings Boys and Girls Club in

Hemingway since she was a young girl.

To be considered for Youth of the Year, Boys and Girls Club members from across the Pee Dee had to submit three dif-

ferent stories for judging. Sow said, "One was about their personal life."

"And with that, we had to

See **SOW**, Page 3A

House of Hope of the Pee Dee



Nonprofit grows retail efforts

BY JOE PERRY
Morning News
jperry@peedeemorningnews.com

FLORENCE — House of Hope of the Pee Dee has a new mission in 2016.

WANT TO GO?

- **WHAT:** House of Hope of the Pee Dee's new mission retail.
- **WHERE:** 953 S. Inby St.
- **WHEN:** 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon-

Camlin Moore

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