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MICHIGAN

2 dead, 8 wounded in church shooting



A firefighter works at the scene of a blaze and shooting at a Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints chapel in Grand Blanc, Mich., on Sunday, near a vehicle police say was rammed into the building. PHOTOS BY LUKAS KATILIUS — THE FLINT JOURNAL VIA AP

Police say suspect shot dead after opening fire, setting building ablaze

By Isabella Volmert and Corey Williams
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GRAND BLANC TOWNSHIP, Mich. — A gunman opened fire inside a Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints chapel in Michigan during a Sunday service and set the building ablaze, killing at least two people and injuring eight others before police shot him, authorities said.

Hundreds of people were inside the church in Grand Blanc Township when a man rammed a four-door pickup with two American flags in the truck bed through the front door, then got out of the vehicle and started shooting, Police Chief William Renye told reporters. Investigators believe he “deliberately” set the building on fire, Renye said.

Officers responded to a 911 call and were at the church within 30 seconds and killed the shooter about seven minutes

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People meet at a reunification area after a mass shooting and fire at a Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints chapel in Grand Blanc, Mich., on Sunday.

WASHINGTON

Shutdown standoff deepens in Senate

Leaders are holding firm ahead of Trump meeting

By Fatima Hussein and Mary Clare Jalonick
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer and Republican Majority Leader John Thune are digging in ahead of this week’s deadline to keep the government open, showing little evidence of budging even as both sides have agreed to meet with President Donald Trump at the White House today.

Republicans say Democrats need to help them pass a simple extension of government funding by Tuesday night to avoid a shutdown, and they will not agree to negotiate until after it’s approved. Democrats say they want immediate talks on health care, and they are willing to shut down the government if they don’t get concessions.

A shutdown is “totally up to the

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HEALTH CARE

Report says consolidation of physicians drives costs up

At a recent social gathering, my mouth fell open as a childhood pal explained his latest business venture: helping doctors affiliate with hospitals so they can charge more for services.

Which, I stammered, increases costs for the rest of us?!

Well, yes. Many researchers have found exactly that, including my favorite eggheads at the U.S. Government Accountability Office. “Studies indicate that physician consolidation with



Teri Sforza
COLUMNIST

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Emergency response overhaul proposed in wake of wildfires

By David Wilson and Steve Scauzillo
STAFF WRITERS

After months of waiting, a report critical of the protocols and organization of Los Angeles County’s emergency preparedness and response apparatus will be presented to the Board of Supervisors at its meeting Tuesday.

The meeting marks a moment when leaders could set in motion critical policies defining the county’s response in future disasters. In one case, an entire county department would be restructured under one proposal.

Supervisors Kathryn Barger and Lindsey Horvath both plan to make motions Tuesday in response to the report. Barger said during a Thursday afternoon news conference that her motion would “immediately advance implementation of the recommendations contained in the report,” emphasizing expanding, restructuring and bolstering the county’s Office of Emergency Management.

Barger on Friday said her focus will be to ensure all the recommen-



The Eliot Arts Magnet Academy in Altadena burns on Jan. 8 during the Eaton fire. SARAH REINGEWIRTZ — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

dations are implemented. She noted some changes are already in progress.

“The County Fire Department has integrated FireGuard into its operations and secured satellite-enabled hotspot tracking to enhance situational awareness, while the Sheriff’s Department has launched the Citizen Evacuation Tracker to better manage evacuations and keep residents safe,”

Barger said in an email.

The McChrystal Group’s review of fire alerts and evacuations pointed out that the Office of Emergency Management was “underresourced” and was operating with staffing levels that were inadequate to address the litany of disasters in a county of 10 million

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POLITICS

Can L.A. County rely on Trump administration for future wildfire aid?

By Linh Tat
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Elected officials from Los Angeles County are seeking to remedy issues that contributed to delayed alert notifications and confusion over evacuation orders during the Eaton and Palisades wildfires that swept through Los Angeles County in January after a report last week found a “series of weaknesses” in the county’s emergency-alert system.

It’s unclear how much money would be needed to make the various upgrades and investments called for in the report or where the funding would come from.

But at a time when California, and Los Angeles in particular, has been in the crosshairs of President Donald Trump or Republicans in Congress, it raises the question of whether L.A. County can rely on

federal support.

L.A. County Board of Supervisors Chair Kathryn Barger, the lone Republican on the five-member board, “has deeply appreciated the support the Trump administration and FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) have already provided for debris removal and recovery, and she will continue to explore every avenue of support,” Barger spokesperson Helen Chavez Garcia said in a Friday email.

County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, who represents residents who lost their homes in the Palisades fire, noted that recovery aid the county and state previously requested from the federal government still had not been provided.

Still, she said, “I remain hopeful that federal leaders will prioritize community

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