



Last year's loss motivates Bulldogs back to Atlanta

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Candy, soda restricted from food stamps

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Saturday, December 13, 2025

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ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Trustees OK \$2,000 bonus, new helmets

GENE ZALESKI
T&D Staff Writer

Orangeburg County School District employees will receive a \$2,000 bonus.

Orangeburg County School District's Board of Trustees unanimously approved a \$3 million budget request, of which \$2,098,460 will go toward giving employees the bonus.

Assistant Superintendent for Finance Gail

Sanders said the district's budget already called for a \$1,000 bonus.

The additional \$2.1 million will allow employees to receive an additional \$1,000.

The remainder of \$3 million budget request will include \$601,540 in athletic safety equipment. The money will be allocated specifically to upgrade the district's football helmets to meet safety concussion protocols.

The South Carolina General Assembly has discussed requiring the helmets, although it hasn't yet passed legislation doing so.

OCSD Superintendent Dr. Shawn Foster said the district's helmets currently meet federally accepted standards but says a financially sound district has the "opportunity to provide the very best as opposed to providing the minimum."

"I felt the need to take advantage of that opportunity," Foster said. "These helmets are extremely expensive. They can range up to \$1,000 per helmet, but it gives the technology to protect children."

Foster said his goal is to "ensure all of our students are in five-star (the highest rating)

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MORE CHARGES FOR MURDER SUSPECT



MARTHA ROSE BROWN, T&D STAFF WRITER

Tristan Lamar Mack, 19, appears in Orangeburg Municipal Court on Dec. 10, 2025.

19-year-old accused of instigating Food Lion confrontation, more

MARTHA ROSE BROWN
T&D Staff Writer

An Orangeburg murder suspect is facing charges from other, unrelated incidents.

One of them includes an incident at Orangeburg's Food Lion on Nov. 14, when someone fired a shot in the store. That's just three days before Tristan Lamar Mack allegedly took part in the shooting death of 21-year-old Kyree Latrell Walker of Mingo Street.

Mack, 19, of Bayne Street, is charged with breach of peace aggravated in nature stemming from a confrontation at the Food Lion on Chestnut Street.

No one was physically injured

when the shooting occurred in Food Lion.

Mack turned himself in to the Orangeburg County Detention Center on Monday at 3:30 a.m.

Orangeburg Department of Public Safety investigators claim Mack wasn't the person who shot the gun in the store but rather instigated the confrontation.

During the incident, Tajari Laseon-Davario Riley, 21, of Elloree, allegedly fired a single shot in the store.

"The bullet went through the wall, over the meat department door area located at the back of the store," the incident report states.

At his bond hearing Wednesday

morning before Orangeburg Municipal Judge Chasity Avinger, Mack denied "antagonizing" the situation.

"I want to tell you that I did not antagonize the situation. I was working with my girl on Instacart and on Instacart they tell you what aisle to go to get items from and they tell you where to pick it up from and I happened to run into him while I was going down to grab an item from aisle 14 and that's what caused the incident. I did not antagonize," Mack told the court.

Mack's warrant claims otherwise. It claims, "It also appeared that

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6th person charged in drive-by shooting

MARTHA ROSE BROWN
T&D Staff Writer

Six people are now charged with murder in the shooting death of a 21-year-old Orangeburg man.

The most recent suspect arrested by the Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office is an 18-year-old Columbia man.

Ja'Tarrius Martrez Pencil, of Longcreek Drive, is charged with murder and criminal conspiracy. Pencil was arrested Wednesday and appeared before Orangeburg County Magistrate Wanda Govan that afternoon.



Pencil

Kyree Latrell Walker, 21, of Mingo Street, was shot in the face as he was standing in his yard around 5:30 p.m. Nov. 17. Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office investigators say the occupants of a Ford Explorer Sport Trac shot Walker.

Warrants claim Pencil was a back-seat passenger.

Walker died on Nov. 22 at Prisma Health Richland in Columbia.

Four Orangeburg residents are also charged with murder and criminal conspiracy. They are:

- Jaden Mehki Ferguson, 21, of Northwood Drive
- Anthony Jermaine Fersner, 18, of Saxon Drive
- Darreon Holloway, 19, of 1120 Wolfe Trail
- Tristan Lamar Mack, 19, of Bayne Street

Kamari Williams, 17, of Tall Pines Drive, Orangeburg, is charged with murder only, not criminal conspiracy.

Ferguson allegedly confessed to investigators that he was driving the Sport Trac, according to warrants.

If the six suspects are convicted, they each face up to life in prison. In South Carolina, life sentences mean the length of a person's natural life

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Cold snap coming to Orangeburg

GENE ZALESKI
T&D Staff Writer

The coldest air of the season is coming to Orangeburg Monday and Tuesday mornings.

The National Weather Service is forecasting low temperatures on Monday morning to be 19 degrees Fahrenheit and 22 degrees on Tuesday morning.

The high for Monday is forecast to be 39.

Wind chills early Monday morning could be as low as 11 degrees in Orangeburg, according to the NWS.

People venturing outside should plan to bundle up in layers by wearing appropriate clothing, hat and gloves. The NWS notes that

exposing skin to the low temperatures for 15 to 30 minutes could lead to frost bite.

Travelers should pack extra blankets and clothes in the event they have car trouble.

Consider the following actions during the cold weather:

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• Henry Dickerson -- Olar

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Weather

Sunny
High 59
Low 37
FORECAST • A12

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