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To:
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Subject: Morning Clips – Tuesday, December 20, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Island Packet: Ready to take your golf cart out at night? Pump the brakes

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/traffic/article121927498.html>

Lucas High

It has been six months since state lawmakers passed a measure allowing counties to permit nighttime golf cart usage, but law-abiding Beaufort County cart drivers must still park their rides when the sun goes down. While municipal leaders in Bluffton, Beaufort, and Port Royal have voiced support for legalizing the use of carts at night, safety and traffic concerns were recently raised by Beaufort County Sheriff P.J. Tanner, sending county staff scrambling to draft an ordinance to address those issues. The state bill, co-sponsored by Rep. Bill Herbkersman of Bluffton and signed into law in June by Gov. Nikki Haley, allows golf cart drivers to use local roads with speed limits of 35 mph or slower, and requires that the cart is equipped with front and rear lights. Beside those stipulations, the law is relatively vague and leaves open the possibility for dangerous driving, critics say.

General Assembly News:

Independent Mail: Bill would require background checks to renew real estate licenses

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/12/19/bill-would-require-criminal-background-checks-renew-real-estate-licenses/95621006/>

Kirk Brown

Criminal background checks would be conducted on real estate professionals seeking to renew their South Carolina licenses under a proposed bill. The bill's sponsor, South Carolina state Rep. Chip Huggins, said he decided to propose the measure after Spartanburg County real estate agent Todd Kohlhepp was recently charged with kidnapping and seven counts of murder. Huggins, a Republican from Columbia who is a former realtor, said he also is working with Rep. Eddie Tallon on legislation that might specify which types of crimes would disqualify someone from being licensed as a real estate professional in South Carolina. Tallon, a Republican from Spartanburg, is a retired state law enforcement officer. Kohlhepp was a registered sex offender when state officials approved his application for a real estate license in 2006.

Independent Mail: Bills would allow S.C. teachers to be armed

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/12/19/bills-would-allow-sc-teachers-armed/95618888/>

Kirk Brown

Responding to the deadly shooting at Townville Elementary School, four legislators from Anderson County have proposed bills that would give school districts the option to arm teachers and other employees. Republican state Sens. Kevin Bryant from Anderson and Mike Gambrell from Honea Path introduced Jacob Hall's Law last week. The legislation named for the 6-year-old who was fatally wounded at Townville Elementary on Sept. 28 would allow authorized school personnel to be armed. The bill also says school officials could require employees to receive weapons training before carrying firearms. Bryant said he believes that an armed teacher may have prevented the carnage that happened on the playground at Townville Elementary when a teen gunman opened fire. In addition to Jacob's death, a teacher and two other students were hurt in the shooting.

Herald-Journal: New SC 'bathroom bill' would let businesses set rules

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161219/new-sc-bathroom-bill-would-let-businesses-set-rules?rssfeed=true>

Zach Fox

An Upstate lawmaker has pre-filed a measure that would allow businesses to determine which bathroom a transgender customer can use. The bill, filed by first-year state Rep. Steven Long of Boiling Springs, would prevent local governments from passing a law that requires a private business or other establishment to let someone use the restroom of their choice. "It says a local government or municipality or town can't force a business owner to do anything," Long said. "This allows business owners to make those decisions for themselves." The bill is similar to one proposed by former state Sen. Lee Bright last year. Bright's bill was ultimately killed, but not before it caused controversy. Deb Foreman, a member of the Spartanburg chapter of the Parents, Families, Friends and Allies United with LGBTQ People, was one of several residents who testified at a Senate hearing in April about Bright's "bathroom bill." Foreman, whose adult son is transgender, said she wasn't surprised to see the issue come up again.

North Carolina News:

Associated Press: North Carolina's 'bathroom bill' set on fast path to repeal

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/a4d10c77afb44d679d78a07038e8a3bf>

North Carolina lawmakers appear poised to repeal a controversial law widely derided as the "bathroom bill" because it requires transgender people to use restrooms corresponding with the sex on their birth certificate in many public buildings. As part of the deal, the Charlotte City Council voted Monday to repeal the local nondiscrimination ordinance that first prompted legislators to pass the state law. Opposition to the state law, called HB2, cost the state hundreds of jobs, several high-profile sports events and perhaps Gov. Pat McCrory a second term. The repeal would be a remarkable sign of cooperation for Democratic Gov.-elect Roy Cooper and the GOP-controlled legislature. Just last week, lawmakers called a special session and stripped Cooper of some of his authority when he takes office next month. The council's move is contingent on North Carolina fully repealing HB2 by Dec. 31.

SC Delegation News:

Associated Press: Ex-Benghazi Panel Staffer Settles Lawsuit Against Rep. Gowdy

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/aa9452a702be41f494d0d9f48a6939dd/ex-benghazi-panel-staffer-settles-lawsuit-against-rep-gowdy>

Matthew Daly

A lawyer for a former House Benghazi committee staffer says the ex-staffer has settled a lawsuit against the panel and its chairman, South Carolina Rep. Trey Gowdy. Air Force Reserve Major Bradley Podliska had claimed he was unlawfully fired because he was unwilling to focus solely on Hillary Clinton and the State Department during the panel's inquiry into the deadly 2012 attacks at U.S. facilities in Libya. Lawyer Peter Romer-Friedman said Monday that Podliska settled the case under undisclosed terms. Gowdy said last year that Podliska was fired for mishandling classified information. Podliska denied that and claimed Gowdy defamed him. Podliska said in the suit that the now-defunct Benghazi committee was engaged in a partisan investigation of the Benghazi attacks, which killed Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans.

Greenville News: Trey Gowdy and veterans group defend free speech

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/12/19/gowdy-and-veterans-group-defend-free-speech/95621464/>

Paul Hyde

U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy joined with a national veterans group Monday night to sound the alarm on

threats to free speech in America. Gowdy and Concerned Veterans for America were critical about what they see as retaliatory actions against whistleblowers within federal governmental agencies such as the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Internal Revenue Service. "I don't like bullies," Gowdy said, speaking to an audience of a few hundred at the Old Cigar Warehouse. "Government against whistleblowers is an unequal fight." Gowdy, a Republican who represents parts of Greenville and Spartanburg counties, blasted the IRS for the controversy in which conservative groups saw their tax-exempt status targeted for intensive scrutiny. "Free speech is the ability to speak truth to power without consequences," Gowdy said.

SC Political News:

Associated Press: New Hampshire party chair bids to lead national Democrats

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=jD5mfik6

Kathleen Ronayne

New Hampshire Democrats weren't accustomed to success or power when Ray Buckley was first elected to the Legislature in 1986. But by the time he was elected chairman of the New Hampshire Democratic Party in 2007, he had successfully led Democrats' efforts to retake the state Senate in 2006 for just the second time in decades. His party also won the House and the governorship. He has been party chairman since, helping turn New Hampshire from reliably Republican to a place where Democrats have withstood national GOP waves. "For a long time, it was known as a political graveyard for Democrats," said Paul Hodes, a Democratic former congressman from New Hampshire. "Ray has had a lot to do with turning that around."

NOTE: Buckley is now a long shot to lead the Democratic National Committee against Minnesota U. S. Rep. Keith Ellison, Labor Secretary Tom Perez, Idaho Democratic Party Executive Director Sally Boynton Brown and South Carolina Party Chairman Jaime Harrison. Ellison and Perez are considered front-runners; DNC members vote in February.

WIS: SC pollster called Trump's electoral win from the start

<http://www.wistv.com/story/34093745/sc-pollster-called-trumps-electoral-win-from-the-start>

Chad Mills

It was an election that embarrassed scores of pollsters and so-called political experts. "I think this election definitely has definitely cast the reputation of polling in an unfair light," said Robert Cahaly, a senior strategist with the Trafalgar Group. But Donald Trump's resounding victory over Hillary Clinton didn't embarrass Cahaly, a political consultant who calls Columbia one of his homes. He called the results before the November election. "We thought he was going to win Pennsylvania and Michigan and some of the other big states. In fact, he was going to win Ohio in a large way and that North Carolina and Florida were not really states he was going to lose," he said. Cahaly and his firm got national attention for nailing the electoral projection and being so right when most others were so wrong. "A lot of my friends and family would just call me and text me on Election Day, 'Hey! Are you sure? Because, you didn't give yourself any wiggle room there.'" One of the quotes I gave to one of the articles is, "You know, I'm either going to be the guy who got it right or nobody's going to listen to me anymore," he said.

Opinion/Editorial:

The State: SC Senate has new ways, but the same old questions about will

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scope/article121772053.html>

Cindi Ross Scopes

TO UNDERSTAND how hard it is to legislate a reduction in hostage-taking procedural delays in the Senate, consider this new rule that the Republicans adopted this month over Democrats' objections: "No member may make any dilatory motion, including placing amendments on the desk, or take any other action or use any parliamentary tactic for the purpose of delaying or obstructing business." You don't have to be a lawyer to ask what in the world that actually means. Since there's no definition in

the Senate Rules, it means ... well, it means whatever a majority of the Senate thinks it means at a given moment, since a majority of the Senate can overturn any decision about the rule by the presiding officer. And that means it will be useful only on those occasions when a majority of the Senate wants it to be useful. Which means it doesn't mean a whole lot, since a majority of the Senate already can bring the debate to a close and force a vote on a matter if it wants to. Of course, this rule will give the majority a way to speed up the debate without ending the debate, which could be helpful. Or not. These speed-things-up rules don't always do what they're designed to do.

Times and Democrat: S.C. legislative negligence

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/columnists/s-c-legislative-negligence/article_d2a56090-f2a6-51b4-b5c5-cba7da3a2788.html

Opinion: Hannah Hill

The constitutional conundrum South Carolina will face if Nikki Haley is confirmed as U.N. ambassador is evidence of at least one thing: Its legislators take a casual approach to the rule of law. How did we get to this point? The amendment to the constitution that voters approved in 2012 would have been enacted in 2018, but when the bill to ratify the amendment was filed in the Senate in 2013 it left out a key portion – which changed the effective date. Here is what happened... The bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee, received two floor votes in the Senate, passed the House Judiciary Committee and received two floor votes in the House – with no amendment to correct the missing date. The fact that no one caught that error – presumably that no one actually read the bill that changed the constitution – is alarming enough.

Local News:

Associated Press: Man charged in death of woman found at Edgefield County dump

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=4wnQR5Xs

SC State Wire

Authorities say they have charged a man with killing a Ridge Spring woman whose body was found at a trash dump in Edgefield County. Saluda County Sheriff John Perry said in a news release that 46-year-old Kincaid Mitchell of Ridge Spring was arrested Friday. Perry didn't say what led investigators to Mitchell or how Nancy Lott was killed. He did praise the six-month investigation into the killing. Authorities say Lott was last seen in June. Her body was found in August at the dump which takes trash from Aiken, Edgefield and Saluda counties. It wasn't known if Mitchell has a lawyer.

Post and Courier: Alleged rape victim sues College of Charleston, Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/alleged-rape-victim-sues-college-of-charleston-alpha-epsilon-pi/article_4078d594-c601-11e6-8271-1f1732470c4f.html

Deanna Pan

A former College of Charleston student is suing the school and the fraternity that hosted a party in August where she was allegedly disrobed, served drugs and alcohol, and raped while one of her attackers recorded the assault on his cellphone. The lawsuit, filed Friday in the Charleston County Court of Common Pleas, accuses C of C, its Board of Trustees, the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity and its Chi Omicron chapter of negligence for failing to "take proper precautions" or "develop adequate policies and procedures" that would have ensured the young woman's safety on the night she was allegedly raped. The woman was a 17-year-old freshman at C of C at the time of her alleged assault in August. She is seeking unspecified damages for her "serious personal injuries" that have required hospitalization, doctor's care and other treatment, according to the lawsuit. The Post and Courier does not name victims of alleged sex crimes.

Sun News: Heroin epidemic continues: Myrtle Beach police respond to 9 drug overdoses in one week

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article121880923.html>

Emily Weaver

In the hustle and bustle of the holiday season this past week while others were shopping, wrapping presents and baking goodies, nine people in Myrtle Beach were overdosing on heroin — a drug that has stolen at least 70 lives this year in Horry County. Capt. David Knipes of the Myrtle Beach Police Department says they have responded to 170 drug overdose reports this year, averaging out to a little more than two a week. The nine last week “would seem higher than normal,” he said, but police have yet to unlock a rhyme or reason for the occasional spikes they see. Police and medics were able to respond in time to revive eight of the nine who overdosed with the drug Narcan, which reverses the effects of heroin and opiate overdoses. The overdose victims — male and female, black and white — ranged in age from 18 to 65 years old. From lower-income homes to country club dwellings, the calls for service echoed the threats of a drug county officials say does not discriminate.

Associated Press: Suspects arrested from fiery crash in Mount Pleasant

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=b09Wfvb3

SC State Wire

Two suspects were rescued after a police chase resulted in a fiery crash in Mount Pleasant. The Berkeley County Sheriff's Department tells local media that the chase began at about 3 a.m. Monday in Moncks Corner. Police received reports of an alarm at a Citgo in St. Stephen, as well as a suspicious Ford Explorer. Police chased the vehicle through Berkeley County. Eventually, the Explorer hit another vehicle, flipped over and caught on fire at U.S. Highway 17 and S.C. Highway 41. The suspects - 50-year-old Joseph Edward Cobb and 48-year-old Ernest Clifton Davis - were pulled from the burning Explorer and taken to a hospital. The suspects had stolen an ATM machine, and during the crash Cobb became trapped underneath it. Officials are investigating the ATM theft and the crash. It's unclear if Cobb and Davis have attorneys.

Associated Press: Former Anderson County deputy charged with forgery, perjury

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=o4B6KwQ3

SC State Wire

State agents say a former Anderson County deputy has been arrested after he used his police credentials and forged documents to buy a truck. The State Law Enforcement Division said in a news release that 30-year-old Jake Pelfrey was arrested Monday and charged with forgery, perjury and misconduct in office. Authorities say Pelfrey used his police credentials to access state records and buy a 1999 pickup, then forged documents to make the \$2,500 sale appear to have been \$700. Agents say a second man involved in the scheme, 34-year-old Larry Myers, was arrested because he falsely reported the truck stolen after selling it to Pelfrey with a lien. Pelfrey resigned as a deputy Sunday. It wasn't known if Pelfrey or Myers had attorneys.

WACH: Letter thanks Lexington PD for role in apprehending escaped inmate

<http://wach.com/news/local/letter-thanks-lexington-pd-for-role-in-apprehending-escaped-inmate>

Matthew Stevens

A Lexington family reached out to the Lexington Police Department for their efforts in apprehending an escaped inmate December 8. The family wrote the letter to the department, thanking for their response to Northside Christian Academy and apprehension of inmate Michael Williamson who was on the run for nearly 24 hours. The family's three-year-old daughter attends the school and was there that day. "Needless to say, our holidays could look completely different if it not for the hard work, quick-thinking and action taken that day," the letter reads in part. Officers were searching for Williamson after he escaped McCormick Correctional December 7 and stabbed a Columbia officer at the Wal-Mart on Bush River Road around 9:30pm that night.

WIS: Fourth-graders share power of prayer after crime scene unfolds outside

<http://www.wistv.com/story/34092013/fourth-graders-share-power-of-prayer-after-crime-scene-unfolds-outside>

Allie Spillyards

Every morning at Northside Christian Academy, students begin the day with the Pledge of Allegiance

and prayer. For Ms. Jeffrey's fourth grade class, that prayer will now always ask for the safety of first responders after an incident in which Lexington Police saved their lives. On Dec. 8, a 15-hour manhunt came to an end in the school's parking lot. After escaping McCormick Correctional Institution, an inmate led agents from multiple departments on a chase. He was accused of stabbing an officer while on the run before showing up at Northside. "The children jumped out of their seats and ran over to the window. And I had 19 students plus myself looking out of the window when low and behold, when we looked out of the window, the parking lot was surrounded by police cars and police officers and the lights were on," Tahma Jeffrey said. Jeffrey said she quickly realized there was no way to continue her lesson. So when some students began to cry, she did the only thing she knew to do.

Herald-Journal: Murder victims' families struggle to find comfort

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161219/murder-victims-families-struggle-to-find-comfort?rssfeed=true>

Daniel J. Gross

The families of homicide victims are struggling to find comfort this holiday season. But some were given a respite Monday morning as they picked out Christmas presents during the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office's Shop with the Sheriff program. The annual program pairs deputies with children of families who lost loved ones to homicides this year. Twenty-five children strolled through aisles inside the Boiling Springs Walmart as they told deputies and investigators what they would like for Christmas. Each child was given up to \$100. The carts full of toys, figurines, jewelry, clothing and shoes briefly provided a break from the trauma the families continue to cope with. Among those attending the event were the Carver and Coxie families. The bodies of Charlie David Carver and Spartanburg couple Johnny and Meagan Coxie were found in November on property owned by accused serial killer Todd Kohlhepp. Carver's half-siblings — Zackery, 13, Erika, 11, and Erin, 7 — walked around with their parents as deputies helped them fill up shopping carts.

Post and Courier: Report: Boeing on track to deliver 500th Dreamliner today

http://www.postandcourier.com/business/report-boeing-on-track-to-deliver-th-dreamliner-today/article_7630b258-c63b-11e6-965b-bfe310ed056e.html

David Wren

Just a day before Boeing Co.'s production facilities are scheduled to go dark for the holidays, the aerospace giant could hit a 787 Dreamliner milestone. The company on Tuesday is expected to make its 500th Dreamliner delivery, according to production records kept by Uresh Sheth, a New York investment banker and author of the "All Things 787" website. Aviation icon John Glenn dead at 95 Boeing's official delivery tally stood at 489 through November. Sheth - a self-avowed Dreamliner enthusiast - shows 10 of the 787s delivered so far this month, including a North Charleston-built 787-8 turned over Monday to Air Europa. No. 500, according to Sheth, will be a 787-8 built at Boeing's other Dreamliner plant in Everett, Wash. Officials there are expected to hand over that plane to Colombia-based Avianca Airlines. It will be the last delivery of the year, with Boeing set to go on holiday break beginning Dec. 23.

President-elect Trump News:

Associated Press: Trump blames terrorists for killings in Turkey, Berlin

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/74d9293547db41e986182d293eafe4dd>

Jumping ahead of investigators, President-elect Donald Trump is blaming Islamic terrorism for deadly violence in Turkey and Germany and vowing anew to eradicate their regional and global networks. Authorities in both countries were still investigating Monday when Trump issued a pair of statements condemning the incidents. The White House had already described the episode in central Berlin, in which a truck rammed into shoppers at a Christmas market, as an apparent terrorist attack. Trump called the brazen shooting of Russia's ambassador to Turkey as he attended a photo exhibit "a violation of all rules of civilized order." He added that a "radical Islamic terrorist" had assassinated the

diplomat, Andrei Karlov. Turkish authorities identified the gunman as Mevlut Mert Altintas, a member of Ankara's riot police squad, and said he was later killed in a shootout with police. Altintas shouted in Turkish about the Syrian city of Aleppo and also yelled "Allahu akbar," the Arabic phrase for "God is great."

Associated Press: Revolt fizzles as Trump easily wins Electoral College vote

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/ecd33cee46cc4147902395e08e6db9c6>

So much for an Electoral College revolt. Despite weeks of lobbying and a day of protests, President-elect Donald Trump won all but two of the Electoral College votes he claimed on Election Day, ensuring he will become America's 45th president. There were more protest votes among Democratic electors — five — than there were among Republicans. All 538 electors met in state capitals across the country Monday to cast their votes. Trump's polarizing victory in November and the fact that Democrat Hillary Clinton won the popular vote by more than 2.8 million votes had stirred an intense lobbying effort. But the endeavor produced more noise than results. With all states reporting, Trump finished with 304 votes and Clinton had 227. It takes 270 Electoral College votes to win the presidency. Texas put Trump over the top, despite two Republican electors casting protest votes. "We did it!" Trump tweeted Monday evening. "Thank you to all of my great supporters, we just officially won the election (despite all of the distorted and inaccurate media)."

Associated Press: Michelle Obama tells Oprah that 2016 election 'was painful'

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/87032d18801b48918d0e577248bcf2ac>

First lady Michelle Obama tells Oprah Winfrey that this past election was "painful." Mrs. Obama sat down with Winfrey at the White House for an hourlong special that was broadcast Monday on CBS. On the topic of the recent campaign she said: "This past election was challenging for me as a citizen to watch and experience. It was painful." Still, Mrs. Obama says she and the president are supporting President-elect Donald Trump's transition because "it is important for the health of this nation that we support the commander-in-chief." She says the same thing wasn't done for her husband, but that "this is what's best for the country." As for her own political future, Mrs. Obama says she won't run for public office.

Untied Nations News:

Associated Press: The Latest: UN official says monitors to go to Aleppo soon

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/fa4fec04742e47549e332ea9dca00091>

The U.N. humanitarian aid agency says Syria's government has authorized U.N. plans to send about 20 staffers to monitor evacuations of people from rebel-held parts of eastern Aleppo. Spokesman Jens Laerke of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs told reporters in Geneva on Tuesday that "we stand ready to increase our presence there." The plan comes after the U.N. Security Council unanimously approved a resolution on Monday urging the quick deployment of monitors. Laerke said U.N. staffers "will go there as soon as they can." He said OCHA cannot estimate how many people remain in eastern Aleppo after buses shuttled some out on Tuesday. He said about 90 of OCHA's 100 staffers already in Aleppo are Syrians, and the new deployment would "almost triple" the number of international staffers there.

Associated Press: UN approves Aleppo monitors as evacuations from city proceed

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/7339f057d0ec4f7082b40decbea8a328>

The leaders of Russia and Iran, military allies of Syria's president, talked Monday about joining forces to reach a quick political settlement in Syria, as the country's largest city, Aleppo, was poised to return to full government control. Syrian state TV said it expected the evacuation of thousands of civilians and fighters from the last opposition footholds in Aleppo to be completed by early Tuesday. As more people left the city, the U.N. Security council approved a compromise French-Russian resolution urging the immediate deployment of U.N. monitors to watch over the evacuation and "the well-being of civilians" remaining in the city. U.N. officials said more than 100 U.N. humanitarian staff

already on the ground in Aleppo, most of them Syrian nationals, could be used in that role. France's U.N. Ambassador Francois Delattre said the goal of the resolution is "to avoid new mass atrocities by the forces on the ground and the militias in particular." But thousands of people have already been evacuated from the city and the operation could be completed before the observers arrive.

Associated Press: Last remaining rebels and civilians await Aleppo evacuation

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/375dad50e30d4f27919b10afd69b3ba5>

Hundreds more Syrians left the rebels' last foothold in eastern Aleppo in convoys of buses escorted by the Syrian Red Crescent and the international Red Cross on Tuesday under a cease-fire deal brokered by Ankara and Russia. The evacuations came as Moscow was hosting the foreign ministers of Iran and Turkey in three-way talks on Aleppo's future and prospects for peace in Syria. The development followed a U.N. Security Council resolution that was agreed on Monday night to send observers to monitor the exodus. The talks in the Russian capital, however, are likely to be overshadowed by the assassination of Russia's ambassador to Turkey the previous night by an Ankara policeman, who after killing his victim cried out: "Don't forget Aleppo! Don't forget Syria!" Dmitry Peskov, the spokesman for Russian President Vladimir Putin, said that Ambassador Andrei Karlov's murder plays into the hands of those who want to derail peace talks for Syria as well as "drive a wedge between Russia and Turkey."

Reuters: U.N. chief fears genocide about to start in South Sudan

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-southsudan-security-un-idUSKBN1482EP>

Michelle Nichols

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said on Monday he feared genocide was about to start in South Sudan unless immediate action is taken, renewing his plea for the Security Council to impose an arms embargo on the world's newest country. "If we fail to act, South Sudan will be on a trajectory towards mass atrocities," Ban told the 15-member Security Council. "The Security Council must take steps to stem the flow of arms to South Sudan." Noting that his special adviser on the prevention of genocide, Adama Dieng, has described genocide as a process, Ban said: "I am afraid that process is about to begin unless immediate action is taken." Political rivalry between South Sudan President Salva Kiir, an ethnic Dinka, and his former deputy Riek Machar, a Nuer, led to civil war in 2013 that has often followed ethnic lines. The pair signed a shaky peace deal last year, but fighting has continued. Machar fled in July and is now in South Africa. Ban said reports suggested Kiir and his loyalists "are contemplating a new military offensive in the coming days" against Machar-allied opposition troops, while "there are clear indications that Riek Machar and other opposition groups are pursuing a military escalation."

World News:

Associated Press: Police uncertain they have right suspect in Berlin attack

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/b1f826e4db504a0ea18fd386b206b287>

Germany must assume a truck plowing through a crowded Christmas market in Berlin was a "terrorist attack," Chancellor Angela Merkel said Tuesday, while authorities expressed uncertainty over whether they had arrested the correct suspect. Twelve people were killed and nearly 50 others injured when the truck drove into the popular Christmas market filled with tourists and locals outside the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church near Berlin's Zoo station late Monday. Police detained an asylum-seeker from Pakistan shortly afterward, but he denied involvement, Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said. The man had entered Germany on Dec. 31 last year and arrived in Berlin in February. Berlin police chief Klaus Kandt said Tuesday it wasn't clear whether the man detained was really the driver. "We haven't been able to confirm it yet," he told reporters.

Associated Press: Turkey, Russia vow cooperation after ambassador's killing

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/21b4575aa4af4bedb90260acc0e02236>

Russian investigators worked Tuesday to determine whether the assassination of their ambassador

to Turkey was the work of a lone gunman or part of a wider conspiracy as the two countries, which have backed opposing sides in the Syrian war, said they would not let the killing disrupt efforts to repair their relationship. In a separate attack, a man with a shotgun was detained after he fired into the air outside the U.S. Embassy in Ankara, the Turkish capital. No one was hurt. Ambassador Andrei Karlov was shot dead Monday by a Turkish policeman who shouted slogans about Aleppo, a Syrian city where Russian bombardments have targeted rebel factions. Authorities identified him as a 22-year-old member of Ankara's riot police squad, but did not disclose any motive for the attack. On Tuesday, the foreign ministers of Russia and Turkey attended a previously scheduled meeting in Moscow, where they said they were committed to advancing peace efforts in Syria.

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