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Subject: Morning Clips – Tuesday, November 15, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

The State: Schools chief should be a cabinet post, Haley urges lawmakers

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article114716428.html>

Cassie Cope

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley and schools chief Molly Spearman are encouraging lawmakers to make the state's top education post an appointed position. In a letter to legislators, Haley and Spearman urged the General Assembly to pass a resolution allowing the governor to appoint the superintendent of education. Voters would make the final decision through a referendum. South Carolina is one of 13 states where the education superintendent is elected. "Instead of moving the state forward with a common vision for education priorities, this divided leadership structure can result in ... a lack of coordination and fragmented accountability for failures in our pre-K-12 education system," the two Republicans wrote. State Sen. Chip Campsen, R-Charleston and state Rep. Greg Delleney, R-Chester, will pre-file a bill to make the post a cabinet position next month.

Post and Courier: Gov. Nikki Haley asks lawmakers to make education superintendent a cabinet position

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/gov-haley-asks-lawmakers-to-make-education-superintendent-a-cabinet/article_874bf8ec-aaa5-11e6-8ac1-73b96549fac2.html

Gavin Jackson

Gov. Nikki Haley and S.C. Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman called on lawmakers Monday to support upcoming bills that would make the top education job part of the governor's cabinet instead of being popularly elected. Haley's letter is a move to get a jump on one of her top remaining priorities in her final two years in office. The proposal will ask voters in 2018 to move the superintendent from elected office to a gubernatorial appointment in 2023. It is similar to other pushes rejected by lawmakers during the past two decades. "Instead of moving the state forward with a common vision for education priorities, this divided leadership structure can result in incompatible positions, a lack of coordination and fragmented accountability for failures in our Pre K-12 education system," her letter to lawmakers says.

Post and Courier: 2018 race for governor loses one hopeful while others still in the mix

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/race-for-governor-loses-one-hopeful-while-others-still-in/article_5dbf4e8c-aa8e-11e6-a869-af502382f816.html

Schuyler Kropf

South Carolina's 2018 governor's race saw its first casualty Monday but otherwise the field of those interested remained intact after last week's news that popular Republican U.S. Sen. Tim Scott and congressman Trey Gowdy are considering running as a ticket. Former federal judge Billy Wilkins, one of at least eight Republicans mulling bids, confirmed he will not be a candidate when the real politicking begins next year. "I plan to continue to be active in the political life of South Carolina, but not as a candidate for public office," Wilkins, a retired federal judge from Greenville, told The Post and Courier. Wilkins is the former 4th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals chief judge. He said Monday he was unaware of the possible Scott-Gowdy hook-up. Otherwise there were no losses in the field of probables Monday.

NOTE: Scott vies with Gov. Nikki Haley as the state's most popular Republican. He is the first black

Republican elected to represent South Carolina in the Senate since Reconstruction. Gowdy built name recognition after leading the Benghazi investigation panel, Winthrop University political scientist Scott Huffmon said.

NOTE: The pair's decision on a run is expected by year's end. South Carolina voters will elect a governor and lieutenant governor on the same ticket for the first time in 2018. Haley is not eligible for a third consecutive term.

Upstate Business Journal: Wilkins won't run for governor in 2018

<http://upstatebusinessjournal.com/news/wilkins-wont-run-governor-2018/>

David Dykes

Billy Wilkins, a Greenville attorney and former chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, said he won't run for governor in 2018. Wilkins, 74, told the Greenville Journal in August he was seriously considering a Republican bid, but had not made a final decision. In a statement, Wilkins said he plans to continue working in the private sector. "Shortly after Labor Day, friends from around the state began to call urging me to run for governor even though the race is not until 2018," Wilkins said. "I have served in public office for over 33 years – as Solicitor, as a federal judge, and as chair of a federal agency. Since retiring from public office, I have been practicing law for the past eight years and have decided to continue working in the private sector. "I plan to continue to be active in the political life of South Carolina, but not as a candidate for public office."

NOTE: Filing for the governor's race won't begin until 2018. If he had run, Wilkins would have joined what likely will be a crowded field to succeed Gov. Nikki Haley, a Republican.

Island Packet: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to begin 4-year Jasper Ocean Terminal study

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/business/article114641278.html>

Lucas High

Federal regulators are starting the reviews needed to jump-start construction of the long-awaited Jasper Ocean Terminal. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will begin a study — known as an Environmental Impact Statement — to "assess the potential social, economic, and environmental effects of the proposed construction and operation" of the port, according to corps documents. The study is expected to take four years to complete. The study is a critical step in the process of building the \$4.5 billion port on 1,500 acres in Jasper County, near the Tybee National Wildlife Refuge at the mouth of the Savannah River, officials with the joint Georgia-South Carolina venture overseeing the project have said. Specifically, the "detailed analysis" will look at issues such as air, noise and light pollution; fish and wildlife; transportation infrastructure; and impacts on the floodplain, the corps documents say.

NOTE: The port is expected to be operational by around 2025. But in a visit to Ridgeland earlier this year, Gov. Nikki Haley challenged regulators and the terminal board to work as quickly as possible. "We need this done yesterday," she said.

CBS Boston: Keller At Large: There Will Be Another Female Nominee

<http://boston.cbslocal.com/2016/11/15/women-for-president-candidates-nikki-haley-michelle-obama-elizabeth-warren-jon-keller-wbzt/>

Jon Keller

I was chatting with an acquaintance of mine Monday when he asked a question that brought me up short – who will be the next female major-party presidential nominee? Let's start with the Republicans. Carly Fiorina fits the Donald Trump mold in some ways, business background, tough-talking style. But it's hard to see her improving on her dismal showing this year. Sarah Palin? Let's see if she gets some kind of high-profile job from Trump, and does a decent job at it. But it feels like the moment has come and gone for her. Michelle Bachmann? No. **Gov. Nikki Haley** of South Carolina might make some sense. And when I review the list of Trump celebrity endorsers, Loretta Lynn jumps out at me. "The coal miner's daughter"... yes, that might work.

Tampa Bay Times: Donald Trump's shadow looms over Republican governors gathering in Orlando

<http://www.tampabay.com/blogs/the-buzz-florida-politics/donald-trumps-shadow-looms-over-republican-governors-gathering-in-orlando/2302834>

Adam C. Smith

It's Donald Trump's Republican Party now, but several of the Republican governors he repeatedly made uneasy over the past year will gather in Florida today to lay out their visions for governing. The Republican Governors Association holds its annual conference today and Wednesday at the Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek where governors including Florida's Rick Scott, will preside over the first major gathering of GOP leaders since the election. Scott is the most enthusiastic supporter of the president-elect among the governors scheduled to attend.

NOTE: Other governors expected include South Carolina's **Nikki Haley** (who denounced Trump early in the year but eventually said she would vote for him); Utah's Gary Herbert (who said he would not vote for him after the Access Hollywood tape came out); Incoming RGA Chairman Scott Walker of Wisconsin (who backed Ted Cruz over Trump at the end of the presidential primary); Arkansas' Asa Hutchinson (who eventually backed Trump and is said to be contender for Trump's attorney general); Arizona's Doug Ducey; New Mexico's Susannah Martinez (who openly sparred with Trump); Georgia's Nathan Deal; Greg Abbott of Texas; and Tennessee's Bill Haslam (who at one point called on Trump to step aside and let Mike Pence be the nominee).

General Assembly News:

Island Packet: Cigarette tax increase considered to save SC's failing pension fund

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/politics-government/article114691803.html>

Lucas High

Could a tax hike on cigarettes help South Carolina lawmakers save the state's employee pension fund? Rep. Bill Herbkersman, a Bluffton developer and co-chairman of the state's Joint Committee on Pension Systems Review, says it certainly might help. "Nothing is off the table," Herbkersman said Monday in reference to ideas that could give the pension fund — which is facing a \$20 billion shortfall — a quick cash infusion. "We are formulating a couple plans" to tackle the unfunded liabilities, including bumping taxes on items such as tobacco products, he said. The unfunded liability is the difference between what the state must shell out to pay for retiree benefits and the dollar amount held in the pension fund.

SC Agency News:

WCIV: Cell phones in prisons putting public safety at risk, officials say

<http://abcnews4.com/news/crime-news/cell-phones-in-prisons-putting-public-safety-at-risk-officials-say>

Bill Burr

Prison officials say contraband is a common problem at all prisons in South Carolina. At Lieber Correctional Institution in Dorchester County, 169 cell phones were found during a 12-month period. So, what's being done to stop cell phones and other contraband from coming into prison dormitories? Miles of razor wire fence outside Kirkland Correctional Institution in Columbia isn't enough to prevent crimes from sneaking inside. Nearly every day a special group of corrections officer goes beyond the brick and mortar walls of the maximum security prison to find forbidden items. The video above provides a rare look at a contraband team tackling the task of detecting dangerous weapons like shanks. "Conduct a complete search, counterclockwise, clockwise," said Col. Gregory Wells. "Top and bottom of the floor. Checking every item in the cell." Uncovering contraband doesn't take officers long. Within moments they quickly come across banned products hidden in soap containers, cracks of walls and underneath toilet bowls.

NOTE: Bryan Stirling, the director of the South Carolina Department of Corrections said there are countless items confiscated from South Carolina's 25 prisons. Among those items taken from prisoners -- hundreds and hundreds of cell phones. He said cell phones are the top choice when it comes to the contraband prisoners want to get their hands on.

NOTE: "It allows them to reach out to victims. Things of that nature," Stirling said. "They can also continue their criminal ways because they can use their cell phones to exchange money and to come up with schemes to continue making money while they are incarcerated."

NOTE: Governor Nikki Haley and other governors are asking the FCC to reconsider blocking cell phone signals inside prisons.

The State: SC officials working to define roles between roads agency, bank

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article114745193.html>

Cassie Cope

S.C. transportation officials met Monday to begin defining the roles of the State Transportation Infrastructure Bank and Department of Transportation in picking bank projects. The Infrastructure Bank has been criticized for picking road projects based on politics, not statewide need. However, lawmakers changed state law this year to allow the Transportation Department to approve or reject the Infrastructure Bank's projects. But a specific process was not outlined. "The process for passing judgment on potential projects still needs to be resolved between the (Transportation Department) and Infrastructure Bank," said Transportation Department chief Christy Hall. The Infrastructure Bank has made progress toward prioritizing projects, said chairman Vince Graham of Charleston, citing a package of interstate-widening projects the bank board will consider next month.

SC Political News:

The State: SC Democratic leader Harrison considering a bid for party chair

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article114651093.html>

Avery G. Wilks

S.C. Democratic Party chair Jaime Harrison is thinking hard about running for the highest position in his party. The 40-year-old Orangeburg native and Yale University graduate wrote on social media over the weekend that he was considering a bid for the chairmanship of the Democratic National Committee. "I'm blown away by the tons of calls, emails and texts urging me to run for DNC Chair ... praying about it," Harrison posted to Twitter. "I'll decide soon!" Harrison has been touted for months as a potential candidate to lead the DNC, which coordinates the party's strategy and promotes its platform. In October, the website Politico listed Harrison as being among three front-runners for the job. But the field is growing. U.S. Rep. Keith Ellison, D-Minn., has support from the party's progressive wing. Former DNC chair Howard Dean also has said he would be interested in the job.

Post and Courier: Jaime Harrison mulls run for DNC chairman

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/jaime-harrison-mulls-run-for-dnc-chairman/article_50890026-aa95-11e6-9b34-978901f0470d.html

Emma Dumain

S.C. Democratic Party Chairman Jaime Harrison could be readying a bid to run the Democratic National Committee. "I'm blown away by the tons of calls, emails, and texts urging me to run for DNC Chair," Harrison tweeted Friday evening. "Praying about it. I'll decide soon!" The 40-year-old political operative is the first black chairman to lead the state party. He previously told The Post and Courier the opportunity to lead the DNC was something he wouldn't rule out of hand. Harrison's name has been on the short list for some time, starting from when it appeared Hillary Clinton would win the White House and she would be in the position to appoint the next DNC chair. Some of the odds were in his favor. He works out of the Columbia office of the Podesta Group, a political consulting and lobbying firm founded by John Podesta, Clinton's campaign chairman. Harrison is also a former senior aide to U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn of South Carolina, the third ranking House Democrat, who had the Clinton camp's ear on everything from campaign strategy to vice presidential picks.

The State: Columbia church holds post-election 'healing' service

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article114655858.html>

Bristow Marchant

To soothe whatever bitter feelings might be left over from the election, a Columbia church is hosting a "service of healing" to bring people back together. Reformation Lutheran Church will hold the service at 6 p.m. Monday to address "increasing anxiety among a broad spectrum of community groups who felt singled out during this long and divisive campaign cycle," according to a statement from the church. In an email, Pastor Tim Bupp said the church particularly wants "minority groups targeted by (President-Elect Donald) Trump during this campaign" to "feel safe and supported." "Community is woven together through relationships. This election has torn terribly at it," Bupp said. "Now, through faith and love, we must start mending the tapestry of our community." The service will feature Lutheran and other religious leaders as well as law enforcement officers. Reformation Lutheran Church is located at 1118 Union St., Columbia.

The State: Pro-Trump rally planned for State House is postponed

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article114734028.html>

Bristow Marchant

In response to protests since the presidential election, local supporters of Donald Trump said Monday that they would hold their own rally this weekend. However, the rally was postponed Monday night. It will be held on another unspecified date. The pro-Trump rally originally was scheduled for 3 p.m. Saturday at the S.C. State House. The State House was the site of a Friday rally by anti-Trump protesters, who oppose the New York billionaire's Electoral College victory. While Trump supporters might have cause to gloat after his come-from-behind victory, pro-Trump organizer Amanda Triguero said Monday that she didn't want the pro-Trump rally to be an "in your face" event. Instead, she hoped it would cool off tensions.

Aiken Standard: South Carolina Republicans praise Trump's choice of Priebus

http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/south-carolina-republicans-praise-trump-s-choice-of-priebus/article_d248e006-aabb-11e6-a855-9f470cac6c16.html

Dede Biles

South Carolina's Republican lawmakers are watching President-elect Donald Trump closely as he makes his transition from candidate to the nation's leader. In general, those interviewed by the Aiken Standard responded favorably to Trump's announcement Sunday that Republican Party Chairman Reince Priebus would be his new chief of staff. Trump also revealed that Steve Bannon would be his chief strategist and senior counselor. Formerly the chief executive of Breitbart News, Bannon was the Trump campaign's CEO. In an email, S.C. Sen. Tim Scott's press secretary, Michele Exner, sent the following statement from Scott: "I am excited for my friend Reince Priebus to join the Trump Administration as Chief of Staff. I look forward to working with their entire team to bring opportunity to every family, in every community, in every ZIP Code across the nation. We have a unique opportunity starting January 20th of next year, and I truly believe we can reenergize the American Dream."

President-elect Trump News:

Associated Press: Giuliani the favorite as Trump weighs secretary of state

<http://bigstory.ap.org/4a805e7c64ee42ba8937284839d76513>

Sequestered in his Manhattan high-rise, President-elect Donald Trump is preparing to fill key foreign policy posts. Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani has emerged as the favorite to serve as secretary of state, a senior Trump official said. Although Giuliani has little foreign policy experience, the official said there was no real competition for the job as the nation's top diplomat. However, a second official cautioned that John Bolton, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, remained in contention for the key post. Both officials requested anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the process by name. The New York billionaire also was considering tapping Richard Grenell as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, a move that would bring some experience and diversity to his nascent administration. Grenell, who served as U.S. spokesman at the U.N. under President George W. Bush, would be the first openly gay person to fill a Cabinet-level foreign policy post.

Associated Press: Trump victory could imperil Roe v. Wade abortion ruling

<http://bigstory.ap.org/a9abff0bcdbe40c7a2f82018d614fc37>

Roe v. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion nationwide, could be in jeopardy under Donald Trump's presidency. If a reconfigured high court did overturn it, the likely outcome would be a patchwork map: some states protecting abortion access, others enacting tough bans, and many struggling over what new limits they might impose. Trump, who will have at least one Supreme Court vacancy to fill, has pledged to appoint "pro-life" justices who potentially would be open to weakening or reversing Roe. With one seat vacant, the high court now has a 5-3 majority supporting abortion rights, and thus one of those five would need to vacate his or her seat to give the court an anti-abortion majority. Trump broached that possibility in an interview aired Sunday night on CBS' "60 Minutes," suggesting that a reversal of Roe would return the matter to the states, leaving it up to their legislatures to decide the future of abortion access.

Associated Press: Mexico weighs grim prospect of deportation wave under Trump

<http://bigstory.ap.org/e1363d0fa9c248d9bf3ea79466a3fd1b>

Mexico is starting to seriously contemplate the possibility that millions of its migrants could be deported, and the picture is not pretty. Under proposals put forward by President-elect Donald Trump, Mexico could see millions of people streaming back with no jobs available; the country might lose some of the billions of dollars in remittances sent home annually; and some jobless deportees could swell the ranks of drug cartels, sparking more violence. Gov. Hector Astudillo of the southern state of Guerrero considered the possible scenario over the weekend. At least a million Guerrero residents live in the United States, many without proper documents, and the state is already reeling from drug gang violence and poverty. "Of course Guerrero is not in any condition to receive the million or more than one million migrants" in the U.S., Astudillo said. "On the contrary, they have been an important mainstay in supporting the economy of Guerrero."

Wildfires Across Southeast:

Independent Mail: Pinnacle Mountain fire may keep Upstate smoky for days

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/south-carolina/2016/11/14/pinnacle-mountain-may-flourish-after-fire/93793586/>

Ron Barnett and Mike Ellis

Smoke from the biggest wildfire in the South Carolina mountains since 1978 is likely to continue blanketing the Upstate for the rest of the week as firefighters continue to battle the blaze and the weather offers little hope for relief, officials said. The Pinnacle Mountain fire is about 25 percent contained, and the fight to extinguish it is expected to go on for at least another week, according to a spokesman for the state Forestry Commission. Authorities are urging motorists to avoid State 11 and U.S. 178 in northern Pickens County to keep the highways clear for vehicles involved in fighting the fire near Table Rock State Park. They're also informing residents in the area of ways to protect their property from the blaze that had consumed more than 2,300 acres by Monday morning.

Greenville News: Greenville Co. Schools take precautions due to smoke from wildfire

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/11/14/greenville-co-schools-take-precautions-due-smoke/93796930/>

Elizabeth LaFleur

Greenville County Schools is taking extra precautions to protect students from potentially dangerous air. The district has been in touch with South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and the National Weather Service about air quality due to ongoing fires in Pickens County and Western North Carolina, according to Elizabeth Brotherton, Greenville County Schools spokesperson. Principals were advised that students with asthma or other breathing conditions should be allowed to stay indoors instead of going outside for recess, according to Brotherton. GCS also told principals they should honor any parent requests that children stay inside. At least one school in

northern Greenville County cancelled recess and outdoor activities because of the thick haze. Schools were advised to take similar precautions for students involved in sports practices after school.

Greenville News: DHEC cautions residents about wildfire smoke

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/11/14/state-health-officials-caution-residents-wildfire-smoke/93806560/>

Liv Osby

State health officials on Monday cautioned residents about the potential effects of wildfire smoke enveloping the Upstate. Air quality monitors are detecting elevated levels of particulate matter in several regions, particularly in the Upstate counties, according to the state Department of Health and Environmental Control. Areas north of I-20 and west of I-77 are at risk, officials said, adding that the conditions may linger for the next several days. "Smoke from these fires can irritate the eyes and respiratory system, as well as aggravate or exacerbate chronic heart and lung diseases," said Rhonda Thompson, chief of DHEC's Bureau of Air Quality. People with respiratory health issues are advised to limit their time outdoors to avoid the smoke and to take measures to prevent outdoor smoke from getting inside, according to DHEC. Keep windows and doors closed and keep fresh-air intakes closed and filters clean in air conditioning and central heating units to prevent smoke from getting inside, officials said.

Herald-Journal: Smoke, haze from wildfires cover the Upstate

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161114/smoke-haze-from-wildfires-cover-upstate?rssfeed=true>

Zach Fox and Bob Montgomery

Imagine being stuck in a room full of smokers. That's what being exposed to smoke and haze from the western Carolina wildfires is like for some people who have breathing problems. "There are some similarities to second-hand smoke. It's an irritant," said Dr. Emmanuel Sarmiento of Allergic Disease and Asthma Center of Greenville and Spartanburg. Wildfires near Lake Lure in North Carolina and in Pickens County South Carolina continued to burn Monday and create smoke and haze that has covered many parts of the Upstate, with no relief expected anytime soon. Although weather conditions slowed the Pinnacle Mountain fire's progress some, the fire is still mostly uncontained, according to Pickens County emergency management officials.

Herald-Journal: Fire continues aggressive spread; firefighter describes blaze

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161115/fire-continues-aggressive-spread-firefighter-describes-blaze?rssfeed=true>

The Party Rock wildfire, burning more than 3,740 acres near Chimney Rock and Lake Lure as of Monday evening, has grown rapidly since it began Nov. 5. Fueled by extremely dry conditions and winds, it's behaving more like an aggressive Western wildfire than any the region typically sees. Over the weekend, more evacuations were enacted for the area, including in Henderson County communities near the fire along Highway 9 and Shumont Road. So far, the North Carolina Forest Service reports, the fire has prompted the evacuations of about 1,000 people. The fire is still 15 percent contained. Chief Rick Livingston, of Mills River Volunteer Fire Department, said firefighters from Mills River have been working the fire through the weekend and will continue to keep working it for the rest of the week, prepping structures by blowing away leaves and debris to clear out the areas in advance of the fire. As the fire gets closer to the Bat Cave area, Livingston's crew of paid and volunteer firefighters will likely do more front-line work, he said, and are already running at 100 percent.

Herald-Journal: Wildfires sideline tourism business near Lake Lure

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161114/wildfires-sideline-tourism-business-near-lake-lure?rssfeed=true>

Bob Montgomery

As wildfires rage across the South, Western North Carolina's tourism industry — typically at a high point during this time of year — has begun to take a hit. "My business has totally gone down the

tubes,” said Pat Cook with Four Seasons Cottage on Boys Camp Road in Lake Lure, N.C. “It’s impacting all of us who have businesses in the gorge.” Cook said reservations for six cabins she owns have been canceled through at least Thanksgiving. “We don’t know how long it will be,” she said. More than 1,000 residents near Lake Lure have been evacuated since Friday because of the nearly 3,500-acre Party Rock fire that firefighters fear will continue to spread. No new evacuations were ordered Monday. Mary Jaeger-Gale, general manager of Chimney Rock Management at Chimney Rock State Park in Rutherford County, N.C., said all tourism activities have been put on hold due to the wildfires.

Aiken Standard: Health agency issues smoke warning as nearby wildfires continue to burn

http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/health-agency-issues-smoke-warning-as-nearby-wildfires-continue-to/article_1e29595a-aa8b-11e6-812e-03735e5133a6.html

Tripp Girardeau

Firefighters battled brushfires in Aiken on Monday even after the area received much-needed rain over the weekend for the first time since Hurricane Matthew came through the Southeast. There were two brush fires on Monday afternoon on Wire Road and Rutland Drive, which firefighters with Aiken Department of Public Safety managed to quickly get under control. A volunteer firefighter on the scene at Rutland Drive said these kinds of small brush fires can get out of control fast because the area is so dry right now. The South Carolina Forestry Commission reported Monday that the State Forester’s Burning Ban is still effect for Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Chester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, Lexington, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Pickens, Richland, Saluda, Spartanburg, Union and York counties.

Sun News: Dense fog advisory issued Tuesday morning

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article114836408.html>

Dense fog and low clouds will blanket the area Tuesday morning, impacting the morning commute for motorists. The National Weather Service in Wilmington, N.C. has issued a dense fog advisory until 9 a.m. Tuesday morning for the Grand Strand and inland Horry, Georgetown counties, as well as neighboring northeast South Carolina counties and southeast North Carolina counties, according to the warning. The advisory means visibility will be reduced to less than one quarter mile and near zero at times across some areas, weather authorities said. The reduced visibility will create difficult and hazardous driving conditions for motorists who should use extreme caution, forecasters said. Weather authorities recommended motorists slow down, use low beam headlights, and allow extra breaking distance between vehicles.

Hurricane Matthew Recovery:

Associated Press: Family vows to rebuild on Waccamaw River

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Q7IB7NQI

Audrey Hudson

Judy Cooke is determined to hang onto the few family heirlooms she has remaining - now contaminated by mold or damaged by the flood from Hurricane Matthew - to preserve her memories of loved ones. The home on Jackson Bluff Road where she has lived for more than a quarter century and raised her family was likely damaged beyond repair from the flood water and trees that struck her roof. But Cooke has FEMA-backed flood insurance she hopes will help take care of the structure. It’s what is left inside that brought Cooke to tears when she surveyed the damage on Saturday. Furniture made from teak wood that her parents bought in Italy and Germany 75 years ago were stacked upon beds and tables - a last minute effort to preserve the antiques as the Waccamaw River quickly rose and lapped at her front porch. But it wasn’t high enough to escape the flood waters that settled in her home for nearly three weeks.

Associated Press: Horry County uses drones to record Hurricane Matthew damage

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

SC State Wire

Horry County is using drones to analyze damage along Grand Strand beaches caused by Hurricane Matthew. The Sun News of Myrtle Beach reports (<http://bit.ly/2f0n949>) the county began using the drones just days before the storm struck in October. Tim Oliver of Horry County Information Technology and Geographical Information Systems says because the drones compile data so quickly that the county was able to file erosion information with the federal government within days instead of months. Now officials are using the drones create a baseline of the Grand Strand for future comparisons after storms. Oliver says the drones will be used once again for data mapping after renourishment work is completed. The project started simultaneously at Little River and Garden City and will meet in the middle to conclude in January.

Sun News: Drones patrolling Grand Strand to record dunes, sand data

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/latest-news/article114677408.html>

Audrey Hudson

That black mass hovering over Grand Strand beaches that sounds like an angry swarm of bees is part of the county's new drone system that is analyzing damage caused by Hurricane Matthew. The drones can be seen about 400 feet in the air on most sunny afternoons during low tide, snapping images from the dunes to the water to calculate erosion and sand loss, says Tim Oliver, chief information officer of Horry County Information Technology and Geographical Information Systems. The drones began working just days before Hurricane Matthew struck in October, and were able to capture data of dunes in Garden City that were later obliterated by the storm.

Sun News: Back-to-back disasters for county farmers creates uncertain future

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/latest-news/article114722403.html>

Audrey Hudson

The Double R Farm has produced abundant crops for four generations of Rabon family farmers here, and despite the double whammy of record rains during the October harvest last year and last month's hurricane, they are determined to weather the hardship. "I'll do whatever I gotta do, even if it means I'm worn out and broke," says Ronald Rabon. "But if I make it this year, it will take a miracle from the Lord." Tropical storm-force winds and 12 inches of rain from Hurricane Matthew battered 700 acres of his cotton just as the bolls began to open, resulting in hardlock that made picking nearly impossible. They were able to salvage about 100 acres, mostly from farm lands tucked among wooded areas protected from the wind. Instead of 1,400 bales of cotton this year, the Rabons will likely end up with about 450 bales.

Sun News: Roads still closed in Horry, Georgetown counties from Hurricane Matthew damage

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article114659608.html>

Hurricane Matthew is more than a month removed from the Grand Strand, but its effects can still be felt in Horry County and beyond. Twenty eight roads and four bridges throughout South Carolina are still closed because of the storm, with seven of those roads being in Horry County and one in Georgetown County.

Island Packet: Hurricane season not over yet: Tropical disturbance brewing in the Caribbean

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/article114680928.html>

Mandy Matney

The Caribbean could see one more tropical storm before the Atlantic hurricane season comes to an official close, according at the National Hurricane Center. Meteorologists at the National Hurricane Center are monitoring a disturbance in the western Caribbean that has potential to be the next named storm of the season. The tropical disturbance brewing has a 60 percent chance of developing into a tropical storm over the next five days, according to the National Weather Service. According to AccuWeather, the system poses a threat to Jamaica, eastern Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. Haiti, still recovering from Hurricane Matthew devastation, is especially vulnerable to heavy rainfall from this storm, AccuWeather reports.

Island Packet: Hilton Head Plantation to raise fees to cover hurricane costs

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article114702628.html>

Teresa Moss

Hilton Head Plantation property owner's will be paying an additional \$250 in fees next year to cover the costs of Hurricane Matthew. About \$1.1 million has been budgeted for 2017 to cover the costs of damage from the storm, a release from The Hilton Head Plantation Property Owner's Association said Monday. "HHPPOA has incurred significant costs for the initial clearing of our roads, common property, repairs to the pool, tennis courts, Bluff, leisure paths, fences, buildings, signs, etc.," the release states. It says the association's "Weather Casualty Fund" will be depleted by the costs. Higher property assessments this year may not even cover the final costs, the release states.

Morning News: Dec. 13 is the deadline to register for FEMA help

http://www.scnw.com/news/local/article_c81f9792-aad3-11e6-a966-6b055600bcfc.html

The last day to register to for federal disaster assistance related to Hurricane Matthew damage is Dec. 13. After survivors register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), they may receive a disaster loan application from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Survivors must complete and submit the SBA loan application to be considered for certain types of Other Needs Assistance, such as a grant to help pay for the replacement of their flood-damaged vehicle.

WSAV: Beaufort Sheriff, SC Governor give different stories on reentry after Matthew

<http://wsav.com/2016/11/14/beaufort-sheriff-sc-governor-give-different-stories-on-reentry-after-matthew/>

Holly Bounds

After Hurricane Matthew passed, evacuees stuck close to your phones and TV's waiting for the call to come back home.

And it was that Sunday night after the storm that the South Carolina Emergency Management Division announced the evacuation order for Beaufort and Jasper Counties had been lifted. Hundreds of families the road, only to find they weren't allowed back after all. There are two sides to the story of why that happened and they come from the sheriff of Beaufort County and the Governor of South Carolina. Press conference after press conference, email after email, Facebook posts and tweets, all made by the ones managing the evacuation and reentry to Beaufort County after the storm. You can't say they kept quiet, but the messages delivered didn't match up. "We had some communication glitches no doubt," State Representative Weston Newton said. The smooth operation of getting tens of thousands of people out of Beaufort County before Matthew's landfall was soon overshadowed by the tension of getting back home.

NOTE: "I went upstairs and followed through with what we talked about at the press conference," Tanner said. "And it was made clear during that time that Hilton Head was not open, it was closed and at that particular time we made it clear that the sea islands of Beaufort County were not open for return."

NOTE: But SC Governor Nikki Haley told NEWS 3 during a recent visit to Jasper County that a different message came through from Beaufort County officials. "We made sure from the EMD director to the sheriff, who was over the EMD director, as well as I think the mayor and county council, we make sure we get the all clear before we lift any sort of restriction," Haley said.

NOTE: The governor said based on what she heard local officials say, Beaufort County was safe for return. "We rely on the county and to tell us when we lift the evacuation," Haley said in a press conference.

Kingstree News: Announcement of Funding for Families and Individuals Made Homeless by Hurricane Matthew

http://www.kingstreenews.com/news/announcement-of-funding-for-families-and-individuals-made-homeless-by/article_2650267c-aaa4-11e6-a07e-c72264461db2.html

Eastern Carolina Homelessness Organization, Inc. (ECHO), a non-profit organization that provides housing for families and individuals that are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness,

announced today that they have received a special grant for victims of Hurricane Matthew. The grant will provide temporary housing during the transition back into victim's original residence or into new permanent housing. ECHO has been serving the 12 counties of upper-eastern South Carolina for 11 years and is proud to be of service to the many residents affected by this disaster. ECHO President/ Executive Director Joey Smoak said, "Thanks to the One SC Fund, Central Carolina Community Foundation, and Governor Haley, ECHO will be able to help families and individuals that are homeless because of the hurricane that do not qualify to receive assistance from federal disaster programs. This grant will help fill the gaps in assistance already being provided with temporary housing while getting these residents back into permanent housing."

NOTE: Governor Nikki Haley, with the help of Central Carolina Community Foundation and a team of South Carolinians from entertainment, business, and public service, announced the One SC Fund in November 2015 after flooding touched South Carolinians from every walk of life. For more information about the One SC Fund, visit www.onescfund.org.

Serial Killer Todd Kohlhepp:

Herald-Journal: Community members urge togetherness, respect during vigil

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161114/community-members-urge-togetherness-respect-during-vigil?rssfeed=true>

Zach Fox

In a county still recovering from the shocking discoveries made during the investigation into suspected serial killer Todd Kohlhepp, dozens of residents came together Monday night to spread a message of unity and respect through faith. "Look at you. This is #OneSpartanburg. We wanted a night to bring everyone together after the events in our community, our nation and our world," said Kim Shell. "There's still a lot of good out in the world, and we want to make sure people don't lose sight of that." Shell organized a prayer vigil at the Spartanburg County Courthouse on Monday. Dozens of community members, families of victims of violent crimes and law enforcement representatives came out to show support for the community and to urge healing. Luchana Smith, a Spartanburg resident, said the messages of respect and being willing to look beyond differences struck a chord with her. "It was very nice to see," she said. "To see the sincerity of the people here was refreshing."

Herald-Journal: Sheriff calls on lawmakers to expedite records requests

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161114/sheriff-calls-on-lawmakers-to-expedite-records-requests?rssfeed=true>

Daniel J. Gross

Spartanburg County Sheriff Chuck Wright said he plans to speak with lawmakers about expediting cellphone records requests after a missing persons case out of Anderson led to the discovery of a suspected serial killer hiding in plain sight. "It's just not a fast process. I want to see if we can request something sooner, but there has to be oversight," Wright said. "We can't just say, 'Hey, I need this today.' They're private businesses. They're not government-owned." Wright has spoken with U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., about a potential change in the law governing records requests. It's an issue that's been before Congress in the past, and likely will continue to be discussed as digital records become even more important in investigations. "Law enforcement has a very difficult job, where seconds can mean life or death," Gowdy said in a statement. "The cellphone providers certainly can make the information available in as timely a fashion as they want. To the extent these providers need additional incentive, I anticipate Congress continuing to look at this and related issues."

Michael Slagger Case:

Associated Press: Prosecution wrapping up case in black motorist's death

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=JXGdyxI9

Bruce Smith

The prosecution is wrapping up its case in the murder trial of Michael Slager, the white former South Carolina patrolman charged in the shooting death of an unarmed black motorist. Prosecutor Scarlett Wilson says the state plans to rest Tuesday. The trial in Charleston is in its third week and prosecutors have called 30 witnesses to try to lay out a case that the shooting of 50-year-old Michael Scott as he ran from a traffic stop was murder. The defense contends the two men wrestled and Scott got ahold of Slager's stun gun before the shooting. Cellphone video of the shooting recorded by a bystander shows Scott being shot in the back from yards away as he fled the April 2015 traffic stop.

Associated Press: Jury hears that ex-cop's account contradicted by video

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=DzEZR3MB

Bruce Smith

Jurors in the murder trial of a former South Carolina police officer heard testimony Monday that the white officer's initial account of the shooting of an unarmed black motorist contradicted what a cellphone video of the shooting shows. They also saw enhanced video of the incident. The trial of Michael Slager, who was fired from the North Charleston police department and charged with murder in the death of 50-year-old Walter Scott, entered its third week Monday. Slager faces 30 years to life if convicted of murder in the shooting death of Scott as Scott ran from an April 2015 traffic stop. Cellphone video of the shooting recorded by a bystander shows Scott being shot five times in the back. It stunned the nation and was seen around the world on the internet. Eleven white and one black juror are hearing the case of the 35-year-old Slager.

Post and Courier: Eight days into trial testimony, state to wrap up case against Michael Slager

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/eight-days-into-trial-testimony-state-to-wrap-up-case/article_39167944-aae7-11e6-b8cf-6f54cfa2aafd.html

Andrew Knapp

Eight days into testimony, prosecutors are expected Tuesday morning to rest their case against the former North Charleston police officer who fatally shot Walter Scott. Video footage that landed patrolman Michael Slager behind bars is expected to take a central role in the state's final flourish before the finish. An FBI video analyst, Anthony Imel, first will complete his testimony about how he worked to clear up the bystander's video that is blurry and shaky at times in a bid to iron out who was doing what before the shooting. One witness will follow. Slager faces between 30 years and life in prison if he's convicted of murder. He also is charged with three federal counts, including a civil rights violation, in Scott's death. Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric Klumb, the prosecutor of the federal case, was in the courtroom this week for the closing moments of the state's case.

Post and Courier: Private investigator: Slager demonstrated Scott was 'moving towards him' when he opened fire

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/private-investigator-slager-demonstrated-scott-was-moving-towards-him-when/article_7af5f598-aa23-11e6-870b-fb5710222cbb.html

Andrew Knapp and Brenda Rindge

Preparing to wrap up their murder case against the North Charleston policeman who killed Walter Scott, prosecutors on Monday offered testimony to paint the officer as a liar whose account of the shooting does not line up with key video evidence. But the defense team for Michael Slager continued to assert that the state's case and the investigation into Scott's death have ignored a crucial element: what was going on in the patrolman's mind when he opened fire at the fleeing black man. It continued a theme of labeling the probe as flawed and deficient. The most vivid testimony Monday came from Levi Miles, a private investigator for Slager's former attorney. Miles and Slager re-enacted the officer's confrontation with Scott during Slager's interview with state agents. Slager said Scott wrested control of his Taser and came after him, prompting his gunfire in self-defense. But the video that later emerged showing Slager shooting a running man in the back wasn't how Slager said it went down, Miles testified.

Dylann Roof Case:

Associated Press: Judge delays Dylann Roof competency hearing for a day
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=mLvJRUIr
SC State Wire

A federal judge has delayed a hearing to determine whether Dylann Roof is competent to stand trial in the deaths of nine people at a Charleston church. U.S. Judge Richard Gergel issued a ruling Monday saying the psychologist examining Roof won't finish a report until Tuesday. So Gergel delayed the competency hearing by a day to Thursday. It is still unclear whether the hearing will be open to the public. Roof's lawyers say it must be closed to protect his right to a fair trial. Prosecutors in the death penalty case and several news organizations want the hearing to remain open. Roof's lawyers also filed a request Monday to be allowed to file briefs after the hearing, which if granted could further delay jury selection, set to start next Monday.

The State: The State newspaper, other media urge open competency hearing for Dylann Roof
<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article114764388.html>
John Monk

State and national media organizations, including The State newspaper, are opposing a possibly secret court hearing Thursday that could decide whether Dylann Roof goes to trial or to a mental facility for an undetermined amount of time. The Associated Press, National Public Radio, The State Media Co., as well as Charleston's Post & Courier newspaper and WCSC-TV are fighting a closed-door hearing on the accused hate criminal's mental state. Roof, 22, of Columbia, an avowed white supremacist, is accused in a federal indictment of killing nine African-Americans in a mass shooting in June 2015 at a historic downtown Charleston church. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty. Thursday's hearing will determine whether U.S. Judge Richard Gergel orders Roof's trial, now scheduled to begin Nov. 21 with jury selection, will go on as scheduled or postponed indefinitely.

Opinion/Editorial:

The State: Of course he's my president; that's how our country works
<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scoppe/article114657013.html>
Cindi Ross Scoppe

IT WAS THE spring of 2015, way too early for anyone except the political class to be talking about the presidential election, yet that was the topic of conversation at a church social gathering, where one woman had just declared of Hillary Clinton: "Well, if she's elected she won't be my president." Then she looked straight at me, and said, "Will she be your president, Cindi?" I don't usually participate in conversations about federal matters, because I don't believe my knowledge is sufficient to form opinions I can defend, but this one was easy. "Of course so," I said. "Whoever is elected will be my president." The way I felt when Donald Trump won the election last week was far more intense but similar to the feeling of dread and worry I had experienced twice before: when Jim Hodges was elected governor, and when Nikki Haley was first elected governor. I would be exponentially more comfortable with either one of them in the White House than Mr. Trump. But of course Donald Trump will be my president. And I pray that he will be a good president.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Charleston students beat state average on new SC READY tests
http://www.postandcourier.com/news/charleston-students-beat-state-average-on-new-sc-ready-tests/article_d7f9ab76-aa79-11e6-a5d3-7bb6efe98871.html
Paul Bowers

spots in the Charleston County School District, but district leaders stressed that a lot of work remains to be done. In the first year of the new state-mandated SC READY tests for grades 3-8, Charleston County students passed at higher rates than students around the state. Forty-nine percent passed

the English Language Arts section of the test compared to 43 percent statewide. Superintendent Gerrita Postlewait has been critical of the tests, which are meant to demonstrate college and career readiness but do not show how students stack up against national averages. Board members asked district staff to break down test scores by individual schools and by schools with Title I status, which is based on poverty rates. Postlewait agreed to take a closer look at the data.

The State: Clemson fans unhappy that head ref for Pitt game is a USC grad

<http://www.thestate.com/sports/college/acc/clemson-university/article114676983.html>

Several Clemson fans on social media and message boards are displaying frustration over the head referee for last Saturday's game against Pitt, Duane Heydt, being a South Carolina grad. Tigers fans used hashtags such as #rigged and #fishy. According to Heydt's Linked In page, he attended the University of South Carolina and is a real estate agent living in Columbia who also works as an ACC football official. The Tigers were penalized nine times for a season-high 101 yards in the loss to the Panthers. Heydt was previously the head referee this season for Clemson's 26-7 win over Georgia Tech when the Tigers were penalized a season-high 10 times. Clemson was averaging six penalties for 56 yards entering Saturday's game.

The State: Potential Listeria contamination prompts recall of cookie dough products

<http://www.thestate.com/living/food-drink/article114826978.html>

Noah Feit

The FDA announced a recall on cookie dough products because of the potential presence of Listeria monocytogenes. Aspen Hills supplied cookie dough to Chocolate Shoppe Ice Cream Company, Inc. and Smith Foods Pacific, which have recalled various flavors of cookie dough – including Weight Watchers Smart Ones Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough Sundae frozen dessert and Ashby's Sterling Ice Cream's Peanut Butter Landslide. According to USfoods.com, Listeria monocytogenes is an organism which can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. Although healthy individuals may suffer only short-term symptoms such as high fever, severe headache, stiffness, nausea, abdominal pain and diarrhea, Listeria infection can cause miscarriages and stillbirths among pregnant women.

Post and Courier: More coastal flooding possible Tuesday, advisory issued through 10 a.m.

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/more-coastal-flooding-possible-tuesday-advisory-issued-through-a-m/article_420b418c-ab29-11e6-b6e3-3bfb4fbde4f4.html

Angie Jackson

More coastal flooding is possible Tuesday in downtown Charleston and other low-lying areas. The National Weather Service has issued a coastal flood advisory through 10 a.m. High tide is expected to peak between 7.6 and 7.9 feet between 8 a.m. until 9 a.m. in Charleston. Flooding is possible one to two hours before and after high tide, which may lead to road closures and flooding of properties. Flooding shut down several roads during the Monday morning rush hour in Charleston. Meteorologists expect the impacts to be similar Tuesday. Forecasters also say smoke from wildfires in the southern Appalachians could reach the Lowcountry today as winds shift. The weather service said people with sensitivity to smoke should take precautions, as it can irritate eyes and the respiratory system, as well as aggravate heart and lung diseases.

Local News:

Sun News: Robinson sentenced to 40 years for dismembering Angie Pipkin

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article114710883.html>

Emily Weaver

Randy Gale Robinson was sentenced to a total of 40 years for the slaying of Angie Pipkin in 2014. Resident Judge Steven John of the 15th Judicial Circuit sentenced Robinson to 30 years for voluntary manslaughter and 10 years for obstruction of justice in an Horry County courtroom Monday. Robinson will be given credit for the time he has already served since his detention began in March 2014.

Pipkin, a 32-year-old mother of two, was reported missing on Jan. 16, 2014. Authorities say Robinson, 49, killed Pipkin at his Sullivan Drive home in the Inlet Estates subdivision off S.C. 707. After her killing, authorities say Robinson dismembered her body and disposed of it in the Great Pee Dee River in Darlington County. Some of Pipkin's remains were found four months later in a Florence County wooded area at a private hunting camp about five miles south of the U.S. 76 bridge over the river. Robinson was arrested in March 2014 and was charged with murder and obstruction of justice. His trial was slated to begin Monday.

Sun News: State files to move Heather Elvis kidnapping trial back to Horry County

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article114687338.html>

The state of South Carolina has filed a request to overturn the change of venue in the Heather Elvis kidnapping trial. According to court documents, the 15th Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office has filed for a change of venue to move the venue from Georgetown County back to Horry County, as reported by WBTW. The trial was moved to Georgetown with a Nov. 9 ruling, and the motion to change it back was filed Nov. 10. Sidney Moorhead is accused of kidnapping Elvis, who disappeared in December 2013. Her car and belongings were found at the Peachtree Landing boat ramp. A deadlocked jury earlier this year resulted in a mistrial in the first attempt at a verdict in June.

Associated Press: Feds shut down for-hire church bus involved in fatal crash

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=1H5Uo5Fr

Jeffrey Collins

A South Carolina church that owned the bus involved in a collision that killed four people in September was ordered on Monday to stop for-hire operations, federal authorities said. Sandy River Baptist Church failed to make sure its drivers were properly licensed and followed rules about rest, according to the order from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. The church's bus operations were "reckless, with almost nonexistent management supervision," the agency ruled. The bus owned by the Chester church was carrying the Ramah Jucco Academy football team from Rock Hill to an away game when it crashed Sept. 17 in Hamlet, North Carolina. Four people, including bus driver Brian Kirkpatrick, died after the bus had a flat tire and slammed into a guardrail and bridge support on U.S. Highway 74.

Post and Courier: Charleston County jail inmate's death under investigation

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/charleston-county-jail-inmate-s-death-under-investigation/article_9f12bf96-aa9c-11e6-8f19-b38880e655a7.html

Angie Jackson

The State Law Enforcement Division is investigating the death of a female inmate who was found unresponsive in a bathroom at the Cannon Detention Center. The Charleston County Sheriff's Office said a detention deputy making security rounds in the medical ward found the woman unresponsive in a restroom shortly after 4 a.m. Monday. She was pronounced dead at Medical University Hospital. The woman was booked into the jail Oct. 29 on an outstanding bench warrant for disorderly conduct, according to the sheriff's office. An autopsy will be conducted and the coroner's office will release the name of the inmate.

Post and Courier: Justice Ministry requesting federal investigation of North Charleston Police

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/justice-ministry-requesting-federal-investigation-of-north-charleston-police/article_1e790dba-aa86-11e6-931e-b74579ff0d5a.html

Paul Bowers

An interfaith advocacy group is calling for a Department of Justice Civil Rights Division investigation of the North Charleston Police Department to look for "patterns or practices" of racial discrimination. "We've come to recognize that peace cannot happen unless there is justice," said the Rev. Charles Heyward, co-president of the Charleston Area Justice Ministry (CAJM). "And so we call upon our community leaders to pursue justice not just in the courtroom, but also in the policies and practices of our police departments." The group made its announcement Monday morning beside the federal

courthouse in downtown Charleston, standing beside a statue of former federal judge J. Waties Waring, a pivotal figure in several civil rights cases. Their announcement comes as former North Charleston police officer Michael Slager faces a murder charge in the shooting of Walter Scott at a routine police stop.

Associated Press: Artists hang black nylons to protest post-Civil War racist

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=vedf4jzj

Jeffrey Collins

A group of artists said it left black nylon stockings resembling human figures hanging from trees outside a South Carolina university hall to protest that the building is named for a post-Civil War-era racist. The 18 stockings filled with dirt were found Sunday morning outside Tillman Hall, with a sign reading "Tillman's Legacy" taped over the plaque with the building's name, according to a police report from Winthrop University in Rock Hill. A group called the Association of Artists for Change said each stocking represented a lynching victim when "Pitchfork" Ben Tillman was governor from 1890 to 1894 and was intentionally placed after Donald Trump won the presidential election last week because of the climate of racial distrust he has created, according to a statement posted on Twitter. "One should question, why this artwork is offensive and not the building itself?" the group said.

Associated Press: The Latest: Black stockings in trees anti-racism protest

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=BSA0qOcq

SC State Wire

A group of artists says it is responsible for hanging black nylon stockings in a tree on a South Carolina university campus near a hall named for a post-Civil War-era racist. The group called Association for Artists for Change posted a statement on Twitter on Monday asking why the artwork they put up early Sunday is more offensive than the name of Winthrop University's Tillman Hall. The group said the display was meant to provoke change. "Pitchfork" Ben Tillman helped lead a mob that killed four blacks in July 1876 as racist whites pushed to regain control of state government during Reconstruction. He served as South Carolina governor from 1890 to 1894. Eighteen stockings filled with dirt to look abstractly like a human head and body were left hanging on branches and a sign with "Tillman's Legacy" was taped to a plaque. The university called the display "hurtful."

The Herald: Black figures found hanging from tree in vandalism at Winthrop's Tillman Hall

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/crime/article114620828.html>

Tedy Kulmala

Police are investigating vandalism that was found Sunday at Winthrop University's Tillman Hall, and a group has apparently claimed responsibility for the display. The display was found around 4:45 p.m. Sunday in front of Tillman Hall, according to a Winthrop University police report. Officers found "numerous" black stockings that had been hung from a tree by the building, according to the report. The stockings were filled with dirt and mulch, and due to them being wet from the morning rain, police believe that they were placed sometime Saturday night or early Sunday. On the sign with the building's name, someone taped a sign that read "Tillman's Legacy," police said. "The Winthrop University Police investigation of a display near Tillman Hall on Sunday has yielded a claim of responsibility by a group who asserts its action is a protest over the Tillman name on the main administration building," Winthrop spokesman Jeff Perez said in an email Monday afternoon.

The Herald: Winthrop display depicting lynching of blacks meant to create 'aesthetic dialogue,' group says

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/education/winthrop-news/article114807283.html>

Teddy Kulmala

A display in front of Winthrop University's Tillman Hall that depicted the lynching of black people was erected by a group of students to protest the racist history of the building's namesake. The display, found late Sunday afternoon in front of Tillman Hall, included 18 black nylon stockings filled with dirt or mulch. The stockings were suspended by rope from a tree in front of Winthrop's main

administrative building. On the sign denoting the building's name, someone taped a white sign that read, "Tillman's Legacy." Tillman Hall is named after Benjamin Ryan Tillman, who served as South Carolina governor and as a U.S. senator from 1890 to 1918. A group known as the Association of Artists for Change has claimed responsibility for the display, which Winthrop University police were initially investigating as an act of vandalism.

Associated Press: Black chamber president to talk about fire at new building

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=3XkMFUNM

SC State Wire

The leader of the Beaufort County Black Chamber of Commerce says he will talk about the fire that destroyed the organization's new headquarters. Chamber CEO and president Larry Holman plans to talk to reporters at 10 a.m. Tuesday at the chamber's current offices in Beaufort. The new building was under construction when it burned Saturday, causing at least \$2 million in damages. Federal and state investigators are trying to determine the cause of the blaze. The chamber has been the target of vandals in the past. Someone spray painted "Racist" in red letters on its sign in July 2015 - the same month the Confederate flag was removed after 15 years in front of the South Carolina Statehouse. The new building was to be completed in December.

Island Packet: ATF's National Response Team poring over Chamber fire scene

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article114648318.html>

Stephen Fastenau

Federal, state and local investigators continue to examine a downtown Beaufort site for clues about the cause of the blaze that destroyed the new Beaufort County Chamber of Commerce building early Saturday morning. Chamber president and CEO Larry Holman plans a news conference at 10 a.m. Tuesday to give a statement and answer questions from news outlets. He said he had not received an update from investigators as of Monday afternoon. The federal team of fire investigators and special agents in Beaufort is an experienced group with varied skills. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives sent about 20 investigators and agents to help determine the cause of the fire and where it began. Known as the National Response Team, they include fire investigators, forensic mapping experts, accelerant-sniffing dogs, engineers and chemists, an ATF news release said.

Morning News: Duo of fires spark investigation as abandoned house, old tire store in Florence burn

http://www.scnw.com/news/local/article_717135c8-aad2-11e6-ac08-277bdc22db0a.html

Joshua Lloyd

Florence firefighters worked for hours Monday morning to contain a large blaze at the old Heafner Tire warehouse on Irby Street. Approximately 45 minutes before the tire fire was called in, crews responded to an abandoned house fire near Pine Street and Railroad Avenue.

Associated Press: Man charged with felony after setting puppy on fire

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=DI7BTnuC

SC State Wire

Authorities say a 21-year-old man has been charged with a felony after setting a puppy on fire in a church parking lot, killing the animal. Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott said in a news release that Hykeem Golson was arrested Monday at his home and charged with ill treatment of animals. Deputies found the 10-week-old pit bull puppy suffering from burns Saturday night in a church parking lot near Irmo after a witness called 911 and said the animal was set on fire. The puppy was rushed to an emergency veterinarian, but died from its injuries. Lott's release did not say why Golson set the dog on fire. It wasn't known if Golson had a lawyer.

The State: Harbison man arrested on charge of setting puppy on fire

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article114739828.html>

Cynthia Roldan

A Harbison-area man who is accused of using an accelerant to set fire to a pit bull puppy in a church parking lot over the weekend was arrested Monday. Hykeem Dontavious Jabar Golson, 21, is facing charges of ill treatment of animals. He is being held at the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center. Golson was taking out his frustrations over a domestic situation when he burned the puppy, which belonged to an acquaintance, Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott said Monday. When investigators tracked down the puppy's owner, they were able to find who burned it, Lott said. Golson used accelerant and other materials to set the puppy on fire, the sheriff said. A witness saw the puppy burning, as a suspect fled. The puppy was so badly injured it was put down at an animal hospital, Lott said.

Associated Press: Columbia neighborhood threatens to sue over stench

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=q72OtNi7

SC State Wire

Residents of a Columbia neighborhood on Little Lake Katherine are threatening to sue a local utility if officials don't take steps to end a powerful stench that keeps people indoors at times. The State newspaper in Columbia reports (<http://bit.ly/2ftK0G6>) the source of the odor appears to be the East Richland County Public Service District. Neighbors say they first noticed the stench after the utility finished an \$8 million improvement project at a sewage pump station last spring. Residents recently filed a legal notice threatening to sue East Richland by January if the utility doesn't stop the odor. Attorney Scott Elliott who represents East Richland said the utility doesn't deny that odor is a problem. He says the district is trying to determine the exact cause.

The State: Stinking air chokes neighborhood

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article114779728.html>

Sammy Fretwell

The stench that hangs over Quail Lane is so powerful at times that people stay indoors, hoping to escape the nauseating odor that causes some of them to feel queasy. Cookouts, jogs through the neighborhood, tennis games at a community racquet club — even raking leaves — are less appealing with the smell of raw sewage in the air, say residents of the area near Trenholm Road. Last month, the odor soured a Halloween party at the club, according to emails from residents to a local lawyer. Children ask “‘What is that smell? That is gross,’” neighborhood resident Ramsay Bokinsky said in an interview Monday with The State newspaper. “I don't think it is acceptable that there is a constant sewage smell in the middle of a residential community.” The source of the odor appears to be the East Richland County Public Service District. After the utility finished an \$8 million improvement project at a sewage pump station last spring, neighbors said they began to notice the consistent and pervasive stink. Not only does it curtail outdoor activities, but some residents say they won't open windows or French doors.

Independent Mail: Synthetic drug U-47700 called 'threat to public health'

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/11/14/synthetic-drug-u-47700-called-threat-public-health/93795010/>

Nikie Mayo

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration put the synthetic opioid U-47700 on its most restrictive list of controlled substances Monday, calling it an imminent threat to public health. The action comes as Anderson County is poised to enact its own ban on these types of drugs. The drug, which has some morphine-like qualities, has been linked to at least 46 deaths in the United States in a period of about a year, including 10 deaths in neighboring North Carolina. Federal DEA officials believe the nationwide death toll may be much higher, but say the presence of U-47700 may be overlooked if a person is also testing positive for more commonly known drugs, such as heroin or the painkiller oxycodone.

Morning News: Brewery coming to downtown Florence, \$180k in incentives coming from city

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_178ce056-aad3-11e6-ac64-3368439a726f.html

Joshua Lloyd

Florence's blossoming downtown is about to get an extra boost of culture with a new brewery and pub team planning to open shop on North Dargan Street. City officials say the pub developers probably will start construction within the next month, with progress ramping up after the holidays.

Herald-Journal: Company plans to create 480 jobs in Spartanburg County

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161114/company-plans-to-create-480-jobs-in-spartanburg-county?rssfeed=true>

Spartanburg County Council on Monday approved a first reading of a tax incentives package for a company that would invest \$29 million here and create 480 jobs. Dubbed "Project Lockdown," the fee-in-lieu-of-tax agreement requires three readings and a public hearing. Spartanburg County Councilman David Britt said the name of the company should be made public next month. "It's a good company," Britt said. "It's a great company, and where they will be going will open up other opportunities in the area." The unidentified company anticipates that the first phase of the project will begin in 2017, according to the proposed agreement with the county. The company is considering a 20-acre parcel of land in Poplar Springs near Highway 290.

National News:

Associated Press: AAA predicting biggest Thanksgiving travel rush in 9 years

<http://bigstory.ap.org/a504adfdadc04d8ba11bfe6001f75c5f>

The slowly improving economy could boost travel over the Thanksgiving holiday to levels not seen in nine years. AAA forecasts that 48.7 million Americans will travel, the busiest Thanksgiving period on U.S. roads and skies since 2007, the year before the global financial crisis plunged the U.S. economy into a deep recession. The auto club AAA said Tuesday that it expects 1 million more Americans to venture at least 50 miles from home, a 1.9 percent increase over last year. The forecast was assembled at research firm IHS, which said it considered jobs, household net worth, the stock market, prices for gasoline and airline tickets, and other factors. The researchers did their number crunching in mid-October, about three weeks before the surprising outcome in the presidential election. The AAA forecast predicts that from Wednesday, Nov. 23, through Sunday, Nov. 27, about 43.5 million Americans will take long car trips, 1.9 percent more than last year. AAA expects 3.7 million will travel by air, a 1.6 percent increase. Bus and train trips will grow less than 1 percent, the auto group said.

Associated Press: Robert Kennedy Jr. to join Dakota Access pipeline protests

<http://bigstory.ap.org/f1edf6b6a80f46b18a2624680b0922d7>

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is slated to join protesters of the Dakota Access pipeline in North Dakota. Also Tuesday, demonstrators across the county are expected to converge on Army Corps of Engineers offices and offices of banks that are financing the pipeline project. The protesters want President Barack Obama to permanently halt the construction of the \$3.8 billion pipeline. Kennedy is an environmental attorney and president of the New York-based Waterkeeper Alliance, which seeks to protect watersheds worldwide. The pipeline is to run beneath a Missouri River reservoir in North Dakota that provides drinking water to the Standing Rock Sioux tribe, which says the pipeline threatens drinking water and cultural sites. The pipeline would deliver oil from North Dakota through South Dakota and Iowa to a shipping point in Illinois.

World News:

Associated Press: The Latest: Obama touts NATO before first Greek meeting

<http://bigstory.ap.org/35e360dbbf554b3caf7304a9a12f9c4f>

President Barack Obama is assuring the Greek people that the United States considers the NATO alliance a cornerstone of its security and that its commitment to it is unwavering. President-elect Donald Trump campaigned saying he would look at NATO and complained that the U.S. has been paying more than its fair share. Obama says the strong NATO relationship between the United States

and Greece is of the utmost importance. Obama is meeting with President Prokopis Pavlopoulos as part of his final foreign trip. Obama says he considered it important to visit the birthplace of democracy. As they begin their meeting, Pavlopoulos is telling Obama that the U.S. has every reason to look forward to a strong and prosperous Europe, and that Greece is committed to the European Union.

Associated Press: Obama offers Greeks reassurance about US commitment to NATO

<http://bigstory.ap.org/dec253ca6c874236931869bf841a4c68>

President Barack Obama opened his final foreign trip as president Tuesday with reassuring words about the U.S. commitment to NATO even as he prepares to hand off to a Donald Trump administration, saying Democratic and Republican administrations alike recognize the importance of the alliance to the trans-Atlantic relationship. Without mentioning Trump by name, Obama told Greek President Prokopis Pavlopoulos that a strong NATO is of "utmost importance" and would provide "significant continuity even as we see a transition in government." Pavlopoulos, for his part, thanked Obama for the U.S. support of the Greek people in a time of social and economic crisis, and said he was confident that Trump "will continue on the same path." Trump's election has generated significant unease in Europe because of his tough talk during the campaign suggesting the U.S. might pull out of the alliance if other countries don't pay more.

Associated Press: ICC prosecutors: US forces may have committed war crimes

<http://bigstory.ap.org/7ebe643c029d4e01b4a2e794118b3b1e>

U.S. armed forces and the CIA may have committed war crimes by torturing detainees in Afghanistan, the International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor says in a report, raising the possibility that American citizens could be indicted even though Washington has not joined the global court. "Members of US armed forces appear to have subjected at least 61 detained persons to torture, cruel treatment, outrages upon personal dignity on the territory of Afghanistan between 1 May 2003 and 31 December 2014," according to the report issued by Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's office on Monday. The report added that CIA operatives may have subjected at least 27 detainees in Afghanistan, Poland, Romania and Lithuania to "torture, cruel treatment, outrages upon personal dignity and/or rape" between December 2002 and March 2008. Most of the alleged abuse happened in 2003-2004, the report said.

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