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Subject: Morning Clips – Wednesday, September 28, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

The State: Plan surfaces for new nuclear disposal ground in SC

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article104316181.html>

Sammy Fretwell and Jeff Wilkinson

A plan has surfaced to establish another nuclear waste disposal ground in South Carolina, a state with a history of taking atomic refuse from across the country. An organization called the Spent Fuel Reprocessing Group wants federal approval to open a disposal area near Barnwell and the Savannah River Site nuclear weapons complex. Spent fuel, a type of highly radioactive waste, would be moved from the state's four nuclear power plant sites and stored indefinitely at the new facility, records show. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in July received notice of the plan. The proposal is a long way from becoming reality, but if eventually approved by the federal government, it would create a place for nuclear waste disposal that is likely to draw opposition. Several environmental groups said this week they are preparing to fight any effort to create what they called an atomic waste dumping ground. Politicians, including Gov. Nikki Haley, also expressed reservations Monday.

NOTE: Contacted Monday, Haley's office said: "South Carolina will not become a permanent dumping ground for nuclear waste regardless of where it would be housed or who would house it."

The State: More concerns about nuclear fuel plant surface as feds visit Columbia

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article104579546.html>

Sammy Fretwell

Federal regulators discovered "substantial potential" for a nuclear accident that could have injured workers at the Westinghouse atomic fuel factory near Columbia, according to preliminary results of an investigation into why uranium built up beyond safe standards at the 47-year old plant. The findings, presented during a public meeting Tuesday night, outlined a litany of problems federal officials say they are learning about at the Bluff Road fuel factory, a 550,000-square foot building nestled in the woods between Interstate 77 and Congaree National Park. Chief among the concerns is the company's inability to keep uranium from accumulating in equipment on the site. When uranium builds up, it can create a nuclear reaction that could cause a burst of radiation. Anyone in the area could be exposed. "Potential safety consequences to workers were high," according to a power point presentation highlighting what federal investigators have found so far. Even though no accident occurred and the general population of Richland County was in no danger, the potential for problems existed, according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. In this case, uranium had built up in an air pollution control device known as a scrubber.

Associated Press: Federal regulators discuss problems at Columbia fuel plant

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=cplLODb6

SC State Wire

Federal regulators say they've found there was a "substantial potential" for an accident that could have injured workers at the Westinghouse nuclear fuel plant near Columbia. Media outlets report the preliminary results of an investigation into a uranium built up at the plant were discussed Tuesday night. Westinghouse says it's working to resolve problems at the plant. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission says Westinghouse was unable to keep uranium from accumulating in plant equipment. The NRC says there was no accident at the plant and people in Richland County were in no danger. But the agency says there was the potential for problems. They say uranium built up in air pollution control devices known as a scrubbers. The most recent

uranium accumulation was found this past summer in a rooftop scrubber.

Aiken Standard: Barnwell potential new home for additional nuke facility

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160927/160929584/barnwell-potential-new-home-for-additional-nuke-facility&source=RSS>

Thomas Gardiner

Barnwell County could become the home of yet another nuclear waste repository, if an Aiken group sees its plans come to fruition. Mike Stake, president of the Spent Fuel Reprocessing Group in Aiken, penned a letter to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in July. In the letter, Stake officially announced intentions to apply for licensure that would allow the group to construct and operate a processing and disposition facility near Savannah River Site, just outside of Barnwell. Barnwell County is already home to the Chem-Nuclear low-level nuclear waste disposal facility, which has been leaking tritium for years. While the tritium leak may have caused alarm for some people, including multiple environmental groups, according to the Department of Health and Environmental Control website, radiation levels from that leak are low level and well below recommended exposure levels. According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission website, "High-level radioactive waste primarily is uranium fuel that has been used in a nuclear power reactor and is 'spent,' or no longer efficient in producing electricity. Spent fuel is thermally hot as well as highly radioactive."

NOTE: Gov. Nikki Haley has said over and over again that the Palmetto State will not become a dumping ground for nuclear waste. Her office added to that in an email statement, saying that stance would not change, regardless of where it would be housed or who would house it.

Post and Courier: Authorization to continue Charleston Harbor deepening could be victim to partisan squabbles

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160927/160929508/authorization-to-continue-charleston-harbor-deepening-could-be-victim-to-partisan-squabbles>

Emma Duman

The ability to stay on schedule with the Charleston Harbor deepening project could become a casualty of unrelated political disagreements. In the final days of the fiscal year and before Congress leaves for a month-long recess, House Democrats are threatening to withhold support for the Water Resources Development Act — which includes authorization to dredge the harbor 52 feet — in part because Republicans aren't guaranteeing they'll allow a vote on an amendment to help Flint, Mich., confront its contaminated drinking water crisis. The Senate's version of WRDA, which passed earlier this month, has money for Flint. GOP leaders say they support that provision, and when the two chambers meet after Election Day to negotiate a final bill that would be an appropriate time for a debate on the matter. But Democrats aren't satisfied with what they consider an empty promise to simply punt on the discussion. Though Flint money wouldn't be made available immediately following House passage of WRDA, at least both bills would have laid down a marker, significantly increasing the chances of the provision surviving a conference committee.

NOTE: "That would give me extreme discomfort," said U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford, R-S.C., who spearheaded a letter to leadership calling for a vote on WRDA before the pre-Election Day recess, an effort endorsed by Gov. Nikki Haley. "I just hope we can keep it out of the House version. We'll just have to take one step at a time."

NOTE: NOTE: "That would give me extreme discomfort," said U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford, R-S.C., who spearheaded a letter to leadership calling for a vote on WRDA before the pre-Election Day recess which was endorsed by Gov. Nikki Haley. "I just hope we can keep it out of the House version. We'll just have to take one step at a time."

Post and Courier: U.S. House set to vote on Charleston Harbor dredging; GOP, Dems reach deal on water resources bill

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160928/160929437/us-house-set-to-vote-on-charleston-harbor-dredging-gop-dems-reach-deal-on-water-resources-bill>

Emma Duman

House Republican leaders appear to have reached a compromise with Democrats in a bid to rescue a water infrastructure bill that would, among other things, keep the Charleston Harbor deepening project on schedule. According to the new agreement announced late Tuesday night, House members will vote Wednesday on an

amendment to the Water Resources Development Act, or WRDA, that would give the city of Flint, Mich., \$170 million to address its ongoing contaminated drinking water crisis. The compromise is expected to pacify Democrats, who had been threatening to withhold support from the bill unless they were guaranteed some Flint money would be included in the final product. This new sum falls short of the \$220 million originally proposed – it was included in Senate's WRDA bill, which passed that chamber earlier this month. It's more than likely that when Congress returns from the October recess and representatives from the two chambers meet to negotiate a final product, arguments over the higher or lower number will ensue.

NOTE: Sanford was a driving force in compelling leadership to schedule a vote on WRDA before the end of the fiscal year, an effort also endorsed by Gov. Nikki Haley. "I just hope we can keep it out of the House version," Sanford said. "We'll just have to take one step at a time."

Greenville News: GHS fights objection to bond transfer

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/09/27/ghs-fights-objection-bond-transfer/91161750/>

Liv Osby

As Greenville Health System trustees meet today to go over the 2017 budget, officials say the hospital could see \$167 million in interest added to its bottom line if it can't move its bond debt to its new Strategic Coordinating Organization. And that could mean higher hospital rates or service and staff cuts, Mike Riordan, CEO of the SCO for GHS, told The Greenville News. "If we are now saddled with this increase," he said, "we can either raise rates, which impacts businesses and patients, or reduce costs ... closing programs and cutting staff." GHS is changing its governance structure so that it can remain a public nonprofit as part of a larger private, nonprofit multi-regional health system. Under that plan, GHS leases its assets to an Upstate Affiliate Organization, which would operate existing GHS hospitals and facilities, and the SCO makes decisions about the direction of the system and has the financial responsibility.

NOTE: The measure must be approved by Gov. Nikki Haley. But some members of the Greenville County legislative delegation have objected to it, he said.

Greenville News: GHS approves \$2.3 billion budget

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/09/27/ghs-approves-23-billion-budget/91162550/>

Liv Osby

Greenville Health System approved a \$2.3 billion 2017 budget Tuesday, the largest in the hospital's history. The budget, which takes effect Oct. 1, reflects 124 new employees and a 1-percent profit margin, officials said, but no hike in rates. About 65 of the new employees will be doctors, nurses and clinical support staff, said chief financial officer Terri Newsom. GHS has about 15,000 employees. The budget also includes funding for expansion projects, including the new GHS Medical Center in Boiling Springs, which will offer primary care, urgent care, psychiatry, physical therapy, labs, X-ray, mobile MRI and pharmacy services. That \$10 million, 21,000-square-foot facility is set to open in February and is part of a \$40 million expansion planned for Spartanburg County, Newsom said. Information about other projects wasn't available. The budget also accounts for the completion of the transition of low-risk obstetrics to Patewood Memorial Hospital, she said, and four new operating rooms there. The 2017 budget also reflects the implementation of the last phase of the Epic IT system, which will expand to remaining facilities, she said.

Marshall Project: In Some States, Raising the Age for Adult Court Is the Easy Part

<https://www.themarshallproject.org/2016/09/27/in-some-states-raising-the-age-for-adult-court-is-the-easy-part#.8dRQnpVVv>

Eli Hager

It has become a national trend: raising the age at which teenagers are tried in adult court. In just the last few years, Connecticut, Illinois, Mississippi, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire have all passed laws to shift the dividing line between juveniles and adults, usually from 17 to 18. And this summer both Louisiana and South Carolina joined the list, bringing the total number to 43. Yet it's one thing to raise the age, and quite another to prepare the juvenile system to respond. South Carolina, where the treatment of young people has been under a particularly harsh spotlight, is thus poised to become an intensive laboratory of change over the next couple of years. The state's new law, which passed easily and was signed by Gov. Nikki Haley in early June, would transfer 17-year-olds from the unforgiving adult system into a juvenile system intended to promote

their rehabilitation and education. That shift, however, will not take effect until 2019, because corrections officials need time to figure out how many of these 17-year-olds there are — and how much it will cost to relocate them. As it stands now, the juvenile system is in no position to offer the kind of substantially better environment that the raise-the-age movement had in mind.

Charlotte Protest Shooting:

Charlotte Observer: Keith Lamont Scott's funeral to be handled by S.C. mortuary

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/local/crime/article104492601.html>

Joe Maruska

The funeral for Keith Lamont Scott will be handled by a mortuary in North Charleston, S.C. Scott's fatal shooting by a Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officer on Sept. 20 has led to nightly protests, some of which have turned violent. Scott, 43, of Charlotte previously lived in James Island, S.C., according to his obituary on the website of Murray's Mortuary. He was married to Rakeyia Scott and had seven children and two grandchildren. Scott's obituary says his late father, Robert Scott Sr., was a detective. Rakeyia Scott's cellphone video, recorded in the moments leading up to her husband's death, has been viewed worldwide since she released it on Friday. Details of Scott's funeral service have yet to be announced.

Charlotte Observer: Scott background shows domestic violence allegations, weapon conviction

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/special-reports/charlotte-shooting-protests/article104513451.html>

Ames Alexander

Keith Lamont Scott's wife got a protective order against him last year after telling court officials he had beaten family members and threatened to kill them with his gun. In court papers on file in Gaston County, Rakeyia Scott alleged that her husband had a 9 millimeter gun, and that on Oct. 2, 2015, he threatened to use it. "He hit my 8 year old in the head a total of 3 times with is fist ..." Scott's wife wrote in her motion for a protective order. "He kicked me and threaten to kill us last night with his gun. He said he is a 'killer' and we should know that." Rakeyia Scott also said her husband was a felon, and that he did not have a permit for his gun. Scott, 43, was shot Sept. 20 by a Charlotte Mecklenburg Police officer during a confrontation that started when undercover officers saw him smoking what appeared to be marijuana and holding a gun in his car at The Village at College Downs apartment complex on Old Concord Road, in northeast Charlotte. His death sparked protesting, some violent, across the city. Scott's family has said he did not own a gun, but police said they recovered a gun at the scene of the shooting.

Charlotte Observer: Gun recovered at fatal Charlotte police shooting was reported stolen, sources say

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/special-reports/charlotte-shooting-protests/article104389076.html>

Mark Price

The gun police say they found in Keith Lamont Scott's possession last week after he was fatally shot by an officer was reported stolen, multiple sources confirmed to the Observer's news partner WBTV. The gun was reportedly stolen in a residential breaking and entering, WBTV reports, adding that sources also say the man accused of stealing the gun was interviewed and is on record stating he sold the gun to Scott. Police have not released any information about the man accused of stealing the gun and selling it to Scott. Scott, 43, was shot Sept. 20 during a confrontation that started when undercover officers saw him smoking what appeared to be marijuana and holding a gun in his car at The Village at College Downs apartment complex on Old Concord Road, in northeast Charlotte. His death sparked protesting, some violent, across the city. Scott's family has said he did not own a gun, but police said they recovered a gun at the scene of the shooting.

Charlotte Observer: CMPD headquarters evacuated after suspicious package found, protesters show up anyway

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/local/crime/article104490611.html>

Joe Marusak

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's headquarters on East Trade Street in uptown Charlotte was evacuated Tuesday afternoon after police found a suspicious package and called in the bomb squad. The bomb squad was brought in to investigate "out of an abundance of caution," police spokeswoman Jessica Wallin

said. "An alert employee spotted the package," CMPD said on Twitter. "There was no phone call or threat," police said. At about 8:30 p.m., a robot removed what CMPD spokesman Rob Tufano called a "suspicious device" from the building. That happened after a bomb dog "alerted on the package," according to a CMPD tweet. "Will be rendered safe at remote location," another CMPD tweet said.

Dylann Roof Case:

Post and Courier: Jury pool in Dylann Roof trial reaches 600; likely only one more day of screening

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160927/160929507/jury-pool-in-dylann-roof-trial-reaches-600-likely-only-one-more-day-of-screening>

Andrew Knapp

Dylann Roof's gaze was locked on the desk in front of him as people who one day might decide his fate filled the courtroom. If he had looked up Tuesday, Roof would have seen white people and black people. People of Hispanic and Asian descent. People wearing flip-flops, penny loafers and red Converse Chuck Taylors. People with pink hair, people with no hair. He might have seen the tattoo on one woman's hand that said, "Love." He might have seen the leather-bound Bible one man clinged tightly with both hands. The accused killer of nine worshippers at Emanuel AME Church never lifted his eyes while the prospective jurors sat in front of him on this second day of the jury-selection process for his death penalty trial. By the end of the day, the jury pool had nearly doubled to 595 people — representatives of many sects of the population across the Charleston region. This initial step involves the prospective jurors revealing any valid excuses for not serving on Roof's case, then filling out a questionnaire that gauges their knowledge of it. Though 3,000 area residents were randomly summoned to be in court this week, it's thought that only 700 are needed to create a jury of 12 members and six alternates.

Post and Courier: Judge in Dylann Roof trial: Jury qualification going well; could wrap up Wednesday

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160927/160929507/judge-in-dylann-roof-trial-jury-qualification-going-well-could-wrap-up-wednesday>

Andrew Knapp

A federal judge said the court will likely have enough jurors for Dylann Roof's death penalty trial by Wednesday morning. Though 3,000 residents from the Charleston area were randomly summoned to be in court this week for jury qualification, it's thought that 700 are needed to create a jury of 12 members and six alternates. The jury will decide whether Roof should live behind bars or die of a lethal injection for his June 2015 attack on Emanuel AME Church. He faces 33 federal counts in the shooting deaths of nine black church members. He is charged with hate crimes and obstruction of religion resulting in death among other counts in the case. Jury qualification is the process in which potential jurors relay to the judge any obvious excuses that would make service difficult. Those who do not have those excuses must fill out a questionnaire to gauge their knowledge and opinions of the case.

General Assembly News:

The State: Retired SC state workers urge legislators to preserve pension benefits

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article104528516.html>

A retired Forest Acres couple told legislators Tuesday they eat only two meals a day, and make house and car repairs themselves to hold down their living expenses. Combined, retired state employees Lynn and Richard Schmidt earn about \$50,000 a year in pension benefits — an incentive, they say, that caused them to work for the state instead of taking better paying jobs in the private sector. "You promised us when we were hired, that if we would accept a lower salary, you would take care of us," Lynn Schmidt, 62, told a panel of lawmakers grappling with how to fix the state's ailing retirement system. "Don't take that away." The S.C. Retirement System has \$18.2 billion in unfunded liabilities — the difference between the amount the pension fund has to pay for workers' retirement benefits and the amount it has promised to pay current employees and retirees in the system. Lawmakers are grappling with whether to fill that gap with money from S.C. taxpayers or ask state workers and their public-sector employers — state agencies, school districts and local governments — to pay more.

Associated Press: Employees: Don't dig deeper into our pay to fix pensions

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=6UDAQK4T

SC State Wire

Public employees are pleading with legislators to find a way to keep South Carolina's pension system solvent without taking more from their paychecks or further cutting retirees' benefits. Carlton Washington with the State Employees Association told a legislative study committee Tuesday "it's just not responsible" to make employees pay more. Legislators are trying to figure out how to reduce the state's growing pension debt. Committee members listened Tuesday without commenting. A state-funded report shows state workers in South Carolina are paid less than their counterparts in other states and give up more of their paycheck for benefits. Currently, employees in the main pension system contribute 8.7 percent of their salaries. Officers and firefighters in the smaller, law enforcement system contribute 9.2 percent. Retirees' annual cost-of-living raises max out at \$500.

Post and Courier: Pensioners sound off on state retirement liability

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160927/160929465/pensioners-sound-off-on-state-retirement-liability>

Gavin Jackson

Advocates for police officers, teachers and local public employees demanded state lawmakers find solutions to the state's underfunded pension fund without raising rates on underpaid employees or cutting benefits. "You promised us when we were hired that if we would accept a lower salary you would take care of us," retiree Lynne Schmidt told lawmaker-members of the Joint Committee on Pension Systems Review on Tuesday. "You take away our pensions we'll probably have to drop to one meal a day," said Schmidt, who along with her husband worked for the state as accountants for a combined 60 years. Now they eat only two meals a day to cut costs. Legislators are trying to tackle a ballooning \$20 billion state pension fund liability. The Schmidts told the panel they are trimming their own living costs since their personal investments — made to supplement their pensions — are not paying what they expected, a problem similar to what the state is facing.

The State: SC lawmakers may rethink controversial property tax law

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article104501406.html>

Jamie Self

State lawmakers may rethink a controversial property tax law passed before the Great Recession. Called Act 388, the 2006 law is among a host of tax policies a S.C. House panel is reviewing. The panel hopes to make recommendations for legislative changes before lawmakers to return to Columbia for work in January. On Tuesday, lawmakers heard an overview of the 2006 law from tax experts. The law's key feature was a tax swap that benefited homeowners. The law exempted owner-occupied homes from paying operating taxes for local schools, shifting that burden to commercial and other properties. In exchange, the state increased the state sales tax by a penny and agreed to send money back to school districts, theoretically, to make up for lost revenue.

SC Agency News:

Post and Courier: Prisoner from North Charleston killed in McCormick Correctional stabbing

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160927/160929468/prisoner-from-north-charleston-killed-in-mccormick-correctional-stabbing>

Gregory Yee

The S.C. Department of Corrections is investigating the fatal stabbing of an inmate from North Charleston at McCormick Correctional Institution. Michael Lorenzo Jones, 43, was pronounced dead shortly after 5 p.m. Sunday, said Dexter Lee, a spokesman for the department. The stabbing happened around 4:45 p.m. inside a housing unit at the high-security prison. The incident remains under investigation and no further information, including the name of the inmate who stabbed Jones, was available Tuesday afternoon, Lee said. Jones entered prison May 31, 2013, for eight counts of forgery and one count each of shoplifting and carrying a prohibited weapon, according to records. His projected release date was Feb. 14, 2018. His prison record shows he was disciplined five times for exhibitionism and public masturbation; twice for use of a narcotic,

marijuana or other drug; and once for possession of contraband.

The State: Officer assaulted at Turbeville Correctional Institution

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article104325921.html>

Noah Feit

A correctional officer was assaulted by at least one inmate at Turbeville Correctional Institution Monday. The correctional officer was injured and taken to an area hospital, where he was treated and released, Department of Corrections interim communications director Dexter Lee said. At 2 p.m., there was a disturbance inside in the Tawcaw Housing Unit, which normally houses 150 inmates, Lee said. The emergency response team was called and the institution was placed on lockdown, according to Lee, adding there were no other staff injuries, and no injuries to inmates. The incident remains under investigation and charges could be pending for the inmate, or inmates, involved, Lee said.

Morning News: Job fair in Florence draws hundreds looking for opportunity or a second chance

http://www.scnw.com/news/business/article_d9dd2078-850b-11e6-94bb-a3de68b732a2.html

Joe Perry

Traquan Dillon wants a job and needs a chance to prove himself. The 19-year-old Florence resident spends his weekdays filling out applications and pounding the pavement in search of gainful employment. "Anything right about now," he said. "Something to keep me motivated." He fills out applications online and walks from his downtown home all around Florence in search of steady, honest work. "It's tough," he said. "Real tough. All I'm waiting on is that phone call." One day he'd like to own a business. He knows he needs to get his GED. For now, though, he needs a steady paycheck. "I'm trying hard to have a job in the next two weeks. I came here to see what they got," he said mid-morning on Tuesday. He was one of hundreds of hopeful Pee Dee residents who came to the job fair at the state's Vocational Rehabilitation center on West Darlington Street. Dillon is serving three years of probation for a second-degree nonviolent burglary charge and has to come up with \$1,200 to \$1,400. He said the prosecutor explained that his probation could be shortened and his record expunged if he completes his court requirements and becomes employed. "I can't pay it if I'm lollygagging. But that's not me. I want to work. I want money, but it's hard out here nowadays. My car's in the shop and it's hot and I'm walking on my own two feet," he said. "I almost walked here but my mama caught me walking and gave me a ride."

SC Political News:

Greenville News: Supreme Court case opposes Greenville college voter registration policy

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/09/27/supreme-court-case-opposes-greenville-college-voter-registration-policy/91182084/>

Nathaniel Cary

The Greenville County Election Commission faces a challenge to defend its policy that effectively bars college students from registering to vote using their on-campus address as the weight of case law opposes its policy, including a ruling by the highest court in the land. Greenville County is clinging to a 1973 federal court decision rendered by a judge in Greenville that allowed the county to issue questionnaires to college students who live on campus as a way to verify their eligibility to register to vote in Greenville. But the Supreme Court, in a 1979 ruling in *Symm vs. the United States*, upheld college students' right to register to vote at either their college address or their previous home address. That case dealt with a similar policy held by a voter registrar in Texas to issue questionnaires to college students who registered using their campus address. "It's a Supreme Court decision summarily affirming a decision that struck down these challenged questionnaires," said Jon Sherman, counsel for Fair Elections Legal Network, a national nonpartisan voting rights organization. "It's certainly very persuasive authority that these questionnaires are unconstitutional."

McClatchy DC: Clinton beats Trump in South Carolina Google searches

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/election/article104463601.html>

Vera Bergengruen

Hillary Clinton dominated Google searches in South Carolina during Monday night's first presidential debate,

surpassing Donald Trump as the top-searched candidate in the state. The only exception was the Augusta metro area, which includes Aiken and Edgefield counties, according to Google Trends. Besides her name, the top trending search for Clinton in South Carolina was "Hillary Clinton dot com," after she asked viewers to follow along in real time on her website to fact-check Trump's statements. Another top search was "Hillary Clinton fact checker." The top trending search for the Republican nominee in South Carolina was "Did Donald Trump support the Iraq War." When Clinton said that Trump supported the war in Iraq, he called her statement "mainstream media nonsense," likely triggering the spike in searches for his record on the conflict. There is no evidence that Trump ever expressed public opposition for the war, but he did express lukewarm support. In the last year, South Carolinians' most frequent searches have included "Hillary Clinton seizures," "Hillary Clinton indictment" and "Hillary Clinton dead," according to Google Trends. Among the most frequent Trump queries over the last 12 months were "Donald Trump SNL" and "Donald Trump family."

Aiken Standard: Charles Bierbauer, former CNN correspondent, to speak on 2016 election at USC Aiken
<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160927/160929639/charles-bierbauer-former-cnn-correspondent-to-speak-on-2016-election-at-usc-aiken->

Charles Bierbauer, formerly CNN's senior White House correspondent, will lead a panel discussion on the 2016 election at 7 p.m. Oct. 5 in the Etherredge Center at USC Aiken. The discussion, which also will include USCA faculty members, will center on questions from the audience. The panel discussion is free and open to the public. Bierbauer is currently the dean of the College of Information and Communications USC Columbia. Bierbauer was a correspondent for CNN in Washington from 1981 to 2001, and for nine years covered the Reagan and Bush administrators as CNN's senior White House correspondent. Bierbauer became CNN's Pentagon correspondent. He covered five presidential campaigns from 1984 to 2000 and spent five terms as the network's Supreme Court correspondent.

Morning News: Florence political analysts say debate did little to change 'big picture'

http://www.scnw.com/news/election_2016/article_307ed004-8505-11e6-9a3e-8725dfd912dd.html

Joshua Lloyd

Some political commentators in Florence say the debate Monday night between New York Billionaire Donald Trump and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton likely had little effect on whatever the outcome may be this November. A common theme among local analysts was the view that neither candidate did much out of the ordinary to gain or lose any votes. Bill Pickle, host of the Internet radio show "Inside the Pickle Barrel" and a former Florence County Republican Party chairman, said neither candidate wowed him Monday night enough to choose a clear winner. "Neither one did anything to earn any more votes than they had going in; neither really did anything to cost them any votes either," Pickle said. "I was hoping to see both candidates do something to get more specific with their plans but we didn't see that. It was more of the same."

The Herald: Blacks 'living in hell,' says Trump? Not in Rock Hill the day after he said it

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/andrew-dys/article104485696.html>

Andrew Dys

If Donald Trump said African-Americans are "living in hell" in American cities at a presidential debate Monday night, then surely the flames must have been licking the city of Rock Hill on Tuesday – just hours after Trump said it. Of more than 71,000 people in the city at least 38 percent are black – 27,000-plus. On Saluda Street, home to so many black businesses and homes, Tim Nelson was at work at his auto body shop. It is hot work, but he just shook his head at any notion that his life or place is hell. He had been up half the night pulling a car out of a ditch with his tow truck, then Tuesday he had to get up before dawn to go to work. Down Heckle Boulevard to Crawford Road, hell was sought – but all to be found was a cross at the intersection. The cross was put up after a woman died in a crash there earlier this month. The accused driver who smashed into her was black, a convicted felon just out of prison. He now faces more charges that could keep him in prison forever.

The State: SC Democrats announce keynote speaker for weekend conference <http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article104437451.html>

Avery G. Wilks

The CEO of the 2008 and 2016 Democratic National Conventions be the keynote speaker at the S.C. Democratic Party's annual issues conference this weekend. The Rev. Leah Daughtry will deliver the main address at the Spratt Issues Conference on Saturday, the party announced Tuesday. She will speak a day after actor Jeffrey Wright gives the keynote speech at the party's Jefferson-Jackson Dinner on Friday. S.C. Democrats also announced the theme for Saturday's conference: "A New Southern Strategy: Building A State That Works For Everyone."

Post and Courier: Speakers for S.C. Democratic Party weekend meetings announced

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160927/160929486/speakers-for-sc-democratic-party-weekend-meetings-announced>

Schuyler Kropf

The Reverend Leah D. Daughtry is the keynote speaker for the S.C. Democratic Party's Spratt Issues Conference on Saturday in Columbia. Daughtry served as the CEO of the 2008 and 2016 Democratic National Conventions, making her the first person in Democratic Party history to hold the position twice. She also previously served as chief of staff of the Democratic National Committee, where she created Faith In Action, the party's outreach program to communities of faith. She was named by Religion News Service as one of 12 most influential Democrats in the nation on faith and values politics. A fifth generation pastor, she is pastor of The House of Lord Church in Washington, D.C., and serves as jurisdictional elder of the Southeast Region. She is also on the executive committee of the National Council of Negro Women.

Savannah River Site/MOX News:

Aiken Standard: Nuclear watchdog lawsuit against DOE stalls in court after attorney withdraws

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160927/160929583/nuclear-watchdog-lawsuit-against-doe-stalls-in-court-after-attorney-withdraws>

Thomas Gardiner

A lawsuit filed against the Department of Energy over proposed shipments of liquid nuclear waste to the Savannah River Site has stalled in court. Legal counsel recently withdrew from a coalition of environmental and nuclear watchdog organizations that filed suit against the Department of Energy over proposed shipments of liquid nuclear waste from Chalk River in Ontario, Canada, across American roadways to SRS. Washington, D.C.-based attorney Diana Curran, legal counsel for the coalition, submitted a notice of withdrawal last week, notifying the judge in the case, Tayna S. Chutkan. The coalition was given until Nov. 1, 2016 to obtain allowable counsel and notify the courts, at which time the hearing motion can be submitted again. According to a spokesperson from Beyond Nuclear, one of the plaintiffs from the watchdog coalition, the group plans to find new counsel soon.

Aiken Standard: Citizens Advisory Board focuses on liquid waste and community involvement plans

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160927/160929625/citizens-advisory-board-focuses-on-liquid-waste-and-community-involvement-plans>

Thomas Gardiner

At the bimonthly meeting of Savannah River Site's Citizens Advisory Board on Tuesday, the board voted to send official recommendations to the Department of Energy and highlighted ongoing negotiations surrounding the newly constructed Salt Waste Processing Facility, or SWPF. One of the recommendations came before the board from the Strategic and Legacy Management Committee regarding the community involvement plan. That plan is a requirement for Energy Department projects that last for longer than 120 day. The baseline plan was developed from interviews and conversations with community residents. According to the recommendation, the plan was revised and updated several times since its inception, but a new baseline has not been set since it was implemented in 1991. The recommendation calls for a new baseline to be established because of technological and waste management evolution in the last 25 years. The second recommendation came from the Waste Management Committee and honed in on the DOE models for liquid waste management in the future. According to the recommendation, the CAB looked at three model plans laid out by DOE, each with variables for timelines and equipment.

South Carolina News:

Greenville News: Feds focus on SC heroin epidemic

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2016/09/27/feds-focus-sc-heroin-epidemic/90819224/>

Anna Lee

Federal authorities are ramping up efforts to combat South Carolina's heroin epidemic as the number of overdose deaths in the state continue to climb. At least 95 people died from heroin in 2015, up from 57 the year before, according to state health department estimates. More than 560 people died from opioids, which includes heroin, over the same time period. Federal authorities say the increase is linked to prescription opioid abuse. "It often starts out with the family medicine cabinet," said Beth Drake, Acting U.S. Attorney for the District of South Carolina. Opioid addiction, Drake said, "knows no bounds. It's our children. Our neighbors. And it's moms. It's every aspect of society." Recognizing heroin's devastating impact, the U.S. Attorney General designated the week of Sept. 19 National Heroin and Opioid Awareness Week. As part of the public awareness campaign, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Columbia invited media representatives to meet with federal and local authorities at a roundtable in Columbia. The event comes after a series of stories published by The Greenville News examining heroin's toll in Greenville County and the Upstate.

Associated Press: DOJ reaches \$1M settlement with former SC hospital chief

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Y0K1uwID

SC State Wire

The U.S. Justice Department says it's reached a \$1 million settlement with the former head of Tuomey Healthcare System in South Carolina for his involvement in illegal Medicare and Medicaid billings. Department officials said in a news release Tuesday that Ralph Cox III also can't participate in federal health care programs for four years. They say the illegal billings involved services referred by physicians with whom the hospital had improper financial relationships. The arrangement resulted in a judgment of more than \$237 million against Tuomey following a jury verdict. In October of last year, the federal government resolved its judgment against Tuomey for payments totaling more than \$72 million. The hospital was sold to Palmetto Health based in Columbia, South Carolina. Tuomey was based in Sumter.

Associated Press: Safer State Parks: South Carolina parks have defibrillators

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

SC State Wire

South Carolina's state parks are now safer for visitors who have heart conditions. The state Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism announced this week that all 47 of South Carolina's state parks have now been equipped with heart defibrillators. The devices deliver a small electric shock to the heart to restore a normal heartbeat. PRT says grants from the state Office of Rural Health and the South Carolina Chapter of the American College of Cardiologists provided money toward the more than \$55,000 needed to buy the devices. Several hospitals and local rescue units also donated. And an Eagle Scout in Pawleys Island raised money to buy two of the defibrillators.

Associated Press: Greenwood company gets \$34.5M in defense contracts

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ORs5PC34

SC State Wire

A Greenwood company has received defense contracts totaling \$34.5 million this week for work in South Carolina. The Pentagon's daily lists of contracts signed include two for R.C. Construction Co. Inc. - both at facilities in South Carolina. Tuesday's list included a \$22.9 million Navy contract for firing range improvement and modernization at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island. It was one of six bidders on the job. The Pentagon said Monday that the company was getting an \$11.6 million Air Force contract to repair a taxiway at Joint Base Charleston. Two other bids were received for the work.

The State: SC scores improve on SAT, Advanced Placement tests <http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article104533251.html>

Jamie Self

S.C. high school students scored better this year on Advanced Placement exams than last year, state education officials said Tuesday. Participation in the test also is on the rise in the state's public schools, including among minority students. This year, 6.5 percent more students took AP tests than last year. Fifteen percent more minority students took tests this year than last. And the number of tests taken also increased by 6.6 percent. Nearly a quarter of students who took tests – or 23 percent of 28,487 students – were named AP scholars for scoring three or higher, out of a possible score of five, on three or more exams.

Local News:

Associated Press: Homicide investigation: Man found shot near Beaufort

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=IOhva10q

SC State Wire

Beaufort County sheriff's deputies are investigating a homicide after a man was found shot by a road in the community of Burton near Beaufort. The sheriff's department said in a release that Coroner Edward Allen says the man was 61-year-old Benjamin Campbell of Burton. His body was found about 9 a.m. Tuesday by a passing motorist. Allen says that Campbell was shot several times. No arrests have been made.

Associated Press: Woman dead, man hurt in Travelers Rest hotel shooting

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=UldU6Gt3

SC State Wire

A woman has been killed and a man critically injured in a shooting at a hotel in Travelers Rest. Police Chief Lance Crowe told local media outlets that officers were called to the hotel shortly before 10 p.m. Tuesday. The Greenville County coroner's office said 61-year-old Deborah Atkins Winkler of Travelers Rest was found dead from a gunshot wound to the head. A man in the room has been taken to Greenville Memorial Hospital for treatment. Crowe says there is no reason to believe that there is a danger to the public. Police have not released a motive for the shooting.

Associated Press: 17 homeless after fire destroys apartments near Myrtle Beach

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=4TzXh8NT

SC State Wire

Fire officials are trying to determine the cause of a fire that damaged 12 apartments near Myrtle Beach leaving 17 people homeless. Media outlets report that the fire broke out late Tuesday afternoon at the complex in the Carolina Forest development on the mainland side of the Intracoastal Waterway. Nobody who lived in the apartments was injured although one firefighter was treated for smoke inhalation and a second was treated for heat exhaustion. Both firefighters are expected to make full recoveries. About 100 firefighters responded to the fire that took more than an hour to bring under control. Firefighters say the fire broke out in a second floor apartment and quickly spread to the third floor of the three-story building.

The State: Body cams will cost \$716,000 more for 350 Richland sheriff's deputies

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article104556656.html>

Sarah Ellis

Body-worn cameras are a small step closer to being issued to 350 Richland County sheriff's deputies. The sheriff's department is asking Richland County Council to approve more than \$716,000 this year for cameras, associated technology, data storage and salaries for two employees to manage the information collected. The issue of video-recording police encounters has been of high national interest after a string of high-profile police shootings. The most recent was the fatal shooting of Keith Lamont Scott by a Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officer. A South Carolina law signed in June 2015, spurred by the shooting death of Walter Scott at the hands of a North Charleston police officer, requires all of the state's roughly 300 law enforcement agencies to purchase body cameras as they can afford to. The law, though, does not specify who is responsible for paying for the cameras.

Aiken Standard: Aiken County School Board approves expansion of 10-point grading scale to lower grades

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160927/160929587/aiken-county-school-board-approves-expansion-of-10->

point-grading-scale-to-lower-grades

Larry Wood

Aiken County's move to a 10-point uniform grading scale was completed Tuesday as Board of Education members voted unanimously to expand the grading scale to all middle and elementary grades effective immediately. High school students in Aiken County Public Schools began the 2016-17 school year using the new grading scale following direction from the S.C. Department of Education, which approved the change in April. The decision whether or not to implement the 10-point scale among lower grades remained with each district's school board and district administrative teams. Aiken County Superintendent Dr. Sean Alford said Tuesday's vote allows the district to operate with clarity and consistency across all grade levels. "While providing a level playing field for South Carolina students as they compete for post-secondary opportunities and aligning our grading scale with most colleges and universities, this now means that our grading scale will be consistent for all students in all of our schools," Alford said.

Post and Courier: School board member's eligibility questioned as governance vote looms

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160927/160929469/school-board-members-eligibility-questioned-as-governance-vote-looms>

Paul Bowers

Some Charleston County School Board members are questioning North Area member Tom Ducker's eligibility for office just as the board considers a significant change that could dilute its power. Ducker supports the proposed "coherent governance plan" that would shift responsibilities from the school board to the superintendent. A vote could come next month, and board members are split on the idea in early discussions. Ducker, who is not seeking re-election, owns a house on Sorentrue Avenue in North Charleston but bought a second house on Dunbury Drive in Summerville in September 2013. The second house is in Dorchester County. Ducker told district officials in January that he would split his time between the two houses until his term ends in November, maintaining his residency in Charleston County.

The State: Richland park built without proper contract, county manager admits

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article104558841.html>

Sarah Ellis

An expensive and extensive "Phase II" expansion of Pinewood Lake Park is to include an amphitheater, event center and other amenities totaling \$4.5 million in hospitality-tax-funded upgrades. However, that construction is contingent on what Richland County Council decides to do next after the initial phase of design and construction was apparently completed without an appropriate contract, according to interim county administrator Gerald Seals. "For reasons that are unclear, the project was not solicited pursuant to the county's procurement code," Seals wrote in a memo to council on Aug. 24. The county's procurement procedures are meant to assure that the county fairly bids out jobs to contractors, who present competitive cost projections to the county. Columbia-based engineering company Chao and Associates completed the design for both phases of the park and construction for the first phase. Sticking with Chao for the second phase of construction, rather than bidding out the work, "appears the least complicated and cost efficient path forward" for Pinewood Lake, Seals wrote to council.

Associated Press: No Manicured Greens: Abandoned links Horry County eyesore

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=uHF6v5ZG

SC State Wire

Horry County officials say a half dozen abandoned golf courses in the county are eyesores with overgrown weeds, but in some cases a state law prevents them from addressing the problem. The Sun News of Myrtle Beach reports (<http://bit.ly/2dz8Gdfh>) the owners of four courses have reclassified their properties as agricultural land, exempting them from county mowing ordinances. County Council Chairman Mark Lazarus says there are no crops growing on the properties, only weeds. The state's Right to Farm Act prohibits local laws from restricting agriculture activity. Now the county is rewriting an ordinance requiring property owners to clean up their property in emergency situations or if public health is at stake such as a Zika outbreak. Lazarus thinks the ordinance will at least make the owners mow the courses.

Post and Courier: Charleston City Council OKs mayor's appointments to West Ashley Revitalization Commission

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160927/160929455/charleston-city-council-oks-mayors-appointments-to-west-ashley-revitalization-commission>

Abigail Darlington

Charleston City Council on Tuesday approved Mayor John Tecklenburg's appointments to the West Ashley Revitalization Commission, a 19-member task force charged with developing a comprehensive plan to improve the suburb. The decision came after some back-and-forth between the mayor and council about who should be able to name the members. Tecklenburg proposed forming the commission, but after asking council to approve his list of appointees earlier this year, a majority of council members decided they wanted to take over the appointment process. Council then gave the authority back to the mayor after its own list of appointees appeared to lack enough members of the business community. Several council members voiced their support for the mayor's appointments at Tuesday's meeting.

Island Packet: Why are rabies cases on rise in Beaufort County?

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article104602726.html>

Kelly Meyerhofer

Beaufort County is outpacing the rest of the state in the number of positive rabies cases this year. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control reported 10 cases of animals testing positive for rabies in Beaufort County as of Aug. 31. That's the highest number of cases in the county since 2010, as far back as DHEC data is available online. But the uptick isn't necessarily cause for concern, said DHEC spokesman Jim Beasley. "While there is no definitive reason that Beaufort County has had the highest number of animal rabies cases this year, it is not unusual to see this number rise and fall over time," he said in an email.

Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press: Trump has turned over tax returns _ for lawsuits and loans

<http://bigstory.ap.org/a0eab81225bd478f812034aa1f4d9a47>

Chad Day and Jeff Horowitz

While Donald Trump won't publicly release his income tax returns, the New York businessman has turned them over when it suited his needs — if he stood to make a profit, needed a loan or when a judge forced him. Pennsylvania gaming regulators were given at least five years' worth and eight boxes full of Trump's tax documents. Nevada, Michigan, Missouri, Indiana and other state gaming officials also had access to multiple years of his returns. Large banks that lent Trump money over the years have also obtained Trump's returns. One common thread ties all those who have seen the documents: They can't talk about them. Such legal restrictions leave the public with only small glimpses into what Trump's taxes might hold. In Monday night's debate, Democrat Hillary Clinton cited documents unearthed by reporters to question whether Trump doesn't want to release his tax returns because he has paid little or no federal income taxes.

Associated Press: The Latest: Clinton, Sanders to campaign in New Hampshire

<http://bigstory.ap.org/6339071d5d294f4e97749f8e5c56a780>

Hillary Clinton is trying to build on her widely praised debate performance by making a direct appeal to younger voters. Clinton is campaigning Wednesday in New Hampshire with Bernie Sanders. It's their first joint campaign appearance since their "unity" rally after Sanders endorsed Clinton. She's struggled to win over the young voters whose enthusiasm drove his primary campaign. Donald Trump is claiming that the debate was a success for him, too. His campaign is celebrating what it says is about \$18 million Republicans raised in the day after the debate. Trump is campaigning in Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin. Clinton's campaign is also dispatching Michelle Obama to campaign for her in Pennsylvania. The first lady has been one of the most effective campaigners for Democrats this year.

National News:

Associated Press: Democrats: Deal reached to help Flint, keep US gov't open

<http://bigstory.ap.org/4de2f643190c43c3a051d11a6c3ffe26>

Andrew Taylor and Alan Farm

Congressional leaders have broken a stalemate over money to address the Flint, Michigan, water crisis, top House aides said Wednesday, clearing the way for a spending bill needed to keep the government running until December. The spending measure also would provide long-delayed money to fight Zika. The accord is a first step for providing aid to rid Flint of its lead-tainted water. Aides to House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and the chamber's Democratic leader, Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., confirmed the accord early Wednesday. They spoke on condition of anonymity so they could discuss the pact, which has not been announced publicly. The agreement promises to provide \$170 million to help Flint and other cities with water emergencies, the aides said. It would be added as an amendment to a separate water projects bill. The Ryan aide said the House was expected to vote on the water legislation containing the Flint provision on Wednesday.

Associated Press: 9 states to vote soon on expanding legal access to marijuana

<http://bigstory.ap.org/b48abf31b65040b19c7df82e09f96130>

Paul Elias and David Crary

From California, with its counterculture heritage, to the fishing ports and mill towns of Maine, millions of Americans in nine states have a chance to vote Nov. 8 on expanding legal access to marijuana. Collectively, the ballot measures amount to the closest the U.S. has come to a national referendum on the drug. Five states — Arizona, California, Maine, Massachusetts and Nevada — will consider legalizing the recreational use of pot. Three others — Florida, Arkansas and North Dakota — will decide whether to permit marijuana for medical purposes. Montana will weigh whether to ease restrictions on an existing medical marijuana law. As the most populous state, with a reputation for trend-setting, California is attracting the most attention — and money — in an intensifying debate over Proposition 64. Silicon Valley tycoons and deep-pocketed donors with connections to the legal medical marijuana industry are among the top financial backers of a pro-pot campaign that has raised almost \$17 million. Opponents have raised slightly more than \$2 million, including a \$1.4 million contribution from retired Pennsylvania art professor Julie Schauer.

Associated Press: Police shoot, kill man in San Diego area; protesters gather

<http://bigstory.ap.org/357db96ba80642f7bf3406f8241cc892>

A black man reportedly acting erratically at a strip mall in suburban San Diego was shot and killed by police after pulling an object from his pocket, pointing it at officers and assuming a "shooting stance," authorities said. One of the officers tried and failed to subdue the unidentified man with a stun gun before the other officer fired several times, El Cajon Police Chief Jeff Davis said at a late night news conference. Davis would not say what the object was, but acknowledged it was not a weapon. Before police announced the death, dozens of protesters gathered at the shooting scene, with some claiming the man was shot with his hands raised. Police disputed that and produced a frame from cellphone video taken by a witness that appeared to show the man in the "shooting stance" as two officers approached with weapons drawn. The fatal shooting comes just weeks after black men were shot and killed by police in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and in Charlotte, North Carolina, where violent protests broke out.

Associated Press: AP: Across US, police officers abuse confidential databases

<http://bigstory.ap.org/699236946e3140659fff8a2362e16f43>

Sadi Gurman and Eric Tucker

Police officers across the country misuse confidential law enforcement databases to get information on romantic partners, business associates, neighbors, journalists and others for reasons that have nothing to do with daily police work, an Associated Press investigation has found. Criminal-history and driver databases give officers critical information about people they encounter on the job. But the AP's review shows how those systems also can be exploited by officers who, motivated by romantic quarrels, personal conflicts or voyeuristic curiosity, sidestep policies and sometimes the law by snooping. In the most egregious cases, officers have used information to stalk or harass, or have tampered with or sold records they obtained. No single agency tracks how often the abuse happens nationwide, and record-keeping inconsistencies make it impossible to know how many violations occur.

World News:

Associated Press: Israel mourns as preparations begin for Peres' funeral

<http://bigstory.ap.org/98e2d0ffc1e74cfa9d00988d0d7fcf81>

Aron Heller

Israel on Wednesday mourned the death of Shimon Peres, a former president and prime minister whose life story mirrored that of the Jewish state, as the government began preparations for a funeral that is expected to bring together an array of world leaders and international dignitaries. Peres, celebrated around the world as a Nobel Prize-winning visionary who pushed his country toward peace during a remarkable seven-decade career, died early Wednesday from complications from a stroke. He was 93. News of Peres' death was met with an outpouring of tributes from around the world. "There are few people who we share this world with, who change the course of human history, not just through their role in human events, but because they expand our moral imagination and force us to expect more of ourselves. My friend Shimon was one of those people," said President Barack Obama.

Associated Press: Shimon Peres witnessed Israel's history, and shaped it

<http://bigstory.ap.org/9e28add46db948d8bab30d5503caba5c>

Josef Federman

At every corner of Israel's tumultuous history, Shimon Peres was there. He was a young aide to the nation's founding fathers when the country declared independence in 1948, and he played a key role in turning Israel into a military power. He was part of the negotiations that sealed the first Israeli-Palestinian peace accord, garnering a Nobel Peace Prize. He was welcomed like royalty in world capitals. But only at the end of a political career stretching more than 60 years did Peres, who died Wednesday at the age of 93, finally win the widespread admiration of his own people that had eluded him for so long. Peres began a new chapter at age 83, assuming the nation's presidency following a scandal that forced his predecessor to step down. The job cemented Peres' transformation from down-and-dirty political operator or naive peace proponent to elder statesman and a wise, grandfatherly sage who transcended political divisions.

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