

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Monday, November 21, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: The Latest: Haley asks for prayer amid 2 murder trials

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=TOobu4gt

SC State Wire

Gov. Nikki Haley is asking South Carolinians to pray for healing amid two racially charged murder trials in Charleston and the recovery from Hurricane Matthew. Haley on Monday called on all places of worship to hold a prayer vigil at noon Tuesday. She also wants church bells to be rung statewide. The governor says she will be at "Mother Emanuel" AME Church in Charleston, where nine black worshippers were gunned down last year. A judge is weighing whether the white man accused of killing them is competent to stand trial. The trial of former North Charleston officer Michael Slager is underway. He's accused of fatally shooting a black motorist in the back as he fled. Haley says "we don't know what's going to come out of these murder trials." She says it's important "we all come together" and reflect.

WCSC: Gov. Haley announces 50th annual Carolighting plans

<http://www.live5news.com/story/33764175/gov-haley-announces-50th-annual-carolighting-plans>

Patrick Philips

Gov. Nikki Haley Monday announced plans for the state's 50th annual Carolighting event in Columbia. The event, which is held on the steps of the South Carolina Statehouse, is scheduled for Dec. 1. "Each year, Michael, Rena, Nalin and I look forward to this special night when we can invite family and friends from every part of South Carolina to celebrate the holiday season and enjoy our beautiful Statehouse," Haley said. Family festivities begin at 6 p.m. while the program will begin at 7 p.m. It is free and open to the public. The state Christmas tree is a 35-foot-tall sheared Concolor Fir and comes from the Pinetum Christmas Tree Farm in Swanton, Maryland. Haley also encouraged residents to help those impacted by Hurricane Matthew in October and by the historic flooding in October 2015 by donating to the One SC Fund at www.onescfund.org. Family festivities begin at 6 p.m. while the program will begin at 7 p.m.

SC Agency News:

Associated Press: Gov. Haley names new director to tax-collection agency

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=zs2ckTS6

SC State Wire

Gov. Nikki Haley has chosen the director of an international accounting firm to be the next leader of South Carolina's Department of Revenue. Haley announced Monday that Director Rick Reames is leaving the tax-collection agency. Hartley Powell will officially replace him Jan. 2. Powell has been with KPMG since 2001. The Columbia native worked in the Department of Commerce from 1988 through 1998. Powell also has worked as a corporate lawyer. The Senate must confirm him. Haley says a new direction for the agency will include working closer with counties. Earlier this year, Richland County sued the agency over its threat to withhold local sales taxes. A judge ordered Revenue to release the money but said the agency can pursue its allegations that county officials were misusing it.

Post and Courier: Gov. Haley appoints new S.C. Dept. of Revenue director

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/gov-haley-appoints-new-s-c-dept-of-revenue-director/article_b4d16f1c-aff6-11e6-b966-8f54c993a332.html

Gavin Jackson

Rick Reames III announced Monday he is stepping down in January as director of the state's tax agency he's led for more than two years. Gov. Nikki Haley appointed tax attorney Hartley Powell as his replacement at the Department of Revenue during a Statehouse press conference. Reames will work with Powell for a "seamless transition" and officially turn over the reins in January. "What we want to do now is tune into how we can make the counties smarter from an economic development standpoint," Haley said. "This is one where we will now see the Department of Revenue work closely with the counties and with the Department of Commerce." The move will play to Powell's strengths. Powell, 60, joined the accounting firm KPMG LLP in 2001 focusing on state and local taxes. For the past nine years, Powell has been a principal at the firm. He worked at the Commerce Department for a decade as a project manager and chief of staff before joining a law firm in 1998 and consulting. Powell said he plans to maintain focus on agency security and accountability initiatives Reames spearheaded.

The State: Haley names new SC Revenue director

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article116189058.html>

Avery G. Wilks

S.C. Department of Revenue director Rick Reames is stepping down after three years in charge, Gov. Nikki Haley said Monday. The Republican governor has tapped Hartley Powell, a lawyer and tax professional from Columbia, to succeed Reames. Haley said Powell will focus more on advising counties to create tax policies that help attract economic development. "We will now see the Department of Revenue work closely with the counties and with the Department of Commerce as we continue to negotiate deals, bring jobs, continue to have higher numbers of people working," Haley said. Powell and Reames said they will work together on the transition until Powell takes over on Jan. 2. Haley praised Reames for tackling the Revenue Department's security issues, taking on tax fraud and building agency morale "back up so that they could be proud of who they were."

WIS: DOR Director Reames leaving, heading back to private sector

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33760096/dor-director-reames-leaving-heading-back-to-private-sector>

Jeremy Turnage

South Carolina Department of Revenue Director Rick Reames is heading back to the private sector, according to Gov. Nikki Haley. Reames, who presided over a highly controversial clash with Richland County over the use and implementation of the Penny Tax program, is leaving and a successor has already been picked. "The successes we've seen are in large part due to Governor Haley's leadership and it's due to the public servants that we have at the department," Reames said in a statement. "I appreciate everything they have done in working with South Carolina business and taxpayers to make the agency and our state better. I am thrilled that Hartley is here and is going to continue to build upon our success. We recruited him for that sole purpose and we are excited to have him in the saddle." Hartley Powell, principal at KPMG, LLP -- a major tax advisory and auditors group -- will become the next DOR director next year on Jan. 2.

WOLO: Haley Appoints Hartley Powell as New SCDOR Director

<http://live-abccolumbia.pantheonsite.io/2016/11/21/haley-appoints-hartley-powell-as-new-scdor-director/>

Kimberlei Davis

During a news conference Monday morning Governor Nikki Haley appointed a new director to the South Carolina Department of Revenue. Hartley Powell will assume the role on January 2. Rick Reames, III is the current SCDRO director. The 11 a.m. news conference was held at the State House. Powell has been with KPMG since 2001. The Columbia native worked in the Department of Commerce from 1988 through 1998. Powell also has worked as a corporate lawyer. The Senate must

confirm him. Haley says a new direction for the agency will include working closer with counties. Earlier this year, Richland County sued the agency over its threat to withhold local sales taxes. A judge ordered Revenue to release the money but said the agency can pursue its allegations that county officials were misusing it.

Gov. Nikki Haley Touted As Possible Sec. of State:

Post and Courier: Gov. Haley gives no details on talk with Trump, speculation on joining his administration

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/gov-haley-gives-no-details-on-talk-with-trump-speculation/article_d5f7b036-b003-11e6-8e63-e31a761bda8f.html

Gavin Jackson

Gov. Nikki Haley didn't provide any additional insight Monday into speculation that she may be joining President-elect Donald Trump's administration. Haley met Thursday with Trump in New York amid rumors that she was being considered for secretary of state, despite a heated 2016 campaign that saw the two pitted against each other for much of it. "We have had conversations," Haley said about her contact with Trump's transition team. "As long as the president continues to ask questions, I will continue to be supportive. We want a successful Trump transition and administration." On Sunday, however, Trump's incoming chief of staff Reince Priebus did not mention Haley on Meet The Press as one of four potential secretary of state candidates.

The State: Haley mum on details of Trump meeting, potential cabinet post

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article116186328.html>

Avery G. Wilks and Bristow Marchant

S.C. Gov. Haley did not offer many details on her meeting last week with President-elect Donald Trump, even as she continues to be the focus of talk about a potential cabinet appointment. Haley would not say Monday what she and Trump discussed in their meeting last week. The Republican governor, touted as a possible cabinet appointee under the New York real estate mogul, said they had a "very nice" conversation about several topics. "It was a private meeting," Haley said Monday at a press conference. Haley held a press conference at the S.C. State House on Monday to announce a new director of the state Department of Revenue, but was questioned about reports she could be named Trump's secretary of state. Haley was sharply critical of Trump at times during the campaign, but is one of several Trump critics from within the Republican Party reportedly being considered for jobs in the president-elect's administration. Trump met with former GOP nominee Mitt Romney over the weekend, another frequent critic who is also considered a candidate for secretary of state.

WIS: Gov. Nikki Haley speaks on Donald Trump administration speculation

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33761634/gov-nikki-haley-speaks-on-donald-trump-administration-speculation>

Jeremey Turnage

Gov. Nikki Haley said she enjoyed her discussion with President-elect Donald Trump on Thursday, but stopped short of discussing details surrounding the "private conversation" she had with him. During a news conference on Monday to discuss the new leader of the state's Department of Revenue, Haley finally publicly spoke about the speculation surrounding her in the Trump administration. "So, when the President-elect calls and asks for a meeting, I would absolutely not turn that down, so I was very happy to be invited," Haley said. "It was a good meeting. We talked about a multiple group of topics and it was a nice meeting." Haley would not say if she's being vetted for any cabinet-level position, but she is still talking to Trump and his transition team. "We have had conversations," Haley said. "As long as the president-elect continues to ask questions, I will continue to be supportive," Haley said.

WACH: Haley breaks silence on last week's meeting with Donald Trump

<http://wach.com/news/local/haley-breaks-silence-on-last-weeks-meeting-with-donald-trump>

Matthew Stevens

Governor Nikki Haley broke her silence about her meeting last week with Donald Trump about potentially joining his cabinet. At a news conference Monday, Haley reinforced that she had a good meeting with the president-elect and they discussed an array of topics. The governor didn't go into specifics and said it was a private meeting. Haley did add that with her and Lt. Governor Henry McMaster under consideration for cabinet positions it shows the strength of South Carolina. "It's not just a person. I think it's a state they've noticed, South Carolinians should be proud, they see us as a front runner," said Gov. Haley. The governor's name popped up last week to be as a candidate for the Secretary of State. Haley and Trump had been at odds on the campaign trail, but the governor did note she voted for Trump. Other names speculated as a potential Secretary of State include former presidential candidate Mitt Romney.

WYFF4: Gov. Nikki Haley talks about meeting with President-elect Trump <http://www.wyff4.com/article/gov-nikki-haley-talks-about-meeting-with-president-elect-trump/8348289>

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley spoke publicly Monday morning for the first time about her meeting with President-elect Donald Trump. Haley met with Trump last week in New York. CNN reported Wednesday that Haley has been tapped as a nominee for secretary of state, alongside top Trump adviser and former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani. Haley's first public comments came during a news conference where she announced Hartley Powell as the next director for the Department of Revenue. She said she was happy to be invited to meet with Trump. "So when the president-elect calls and asks for a meeting you respectfully, I would absolutely not turn that down. So I was very happy to be invited. It was good meeting," Haley said. She said they discussed a lot of topics. Haley said it was a private meeting and that she is very respectful of private meetings. Haley said it's now on the state of South Carolina and America to pray and support the new president and push for his success.

The State: Trump cabinet will include women, congresswoman says

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article116160158.html>

One GOP congresswoman promised Monday that Donald Trump's cabinet will include women, a good omen for South Carolina's Nikki Haley. The S.C. governor met with the president-elect last week amid speculation she could be named secretary of state in the new administration. On Monday, Tennessee Rep. Marsha Blackburn said Trump's "diverse cabinet" will include women in top positions, according to a report in The Hill. "I am not sure who that first woman is going to be but I know that you're going to see one," Blackburn said in an interview. Trump made his first cabinet pick Friday when he announced Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions would be his attorney general.

SC Political News:

Associated Press: Student ticketed for holding anti-Trump rally without permit

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=67nt7F9h

SC State Wire

A South Carolina college student wanted to make his feelings known about the outcome of the presidential election, but he's in trouble because he didn't tell police about it. The Post and Courier of Charleston reports (<http://bit.ly/2eZFikg>) College of Charleston freshman Noah Jones promoted an anti-Donald Trump rally last weekend on social media and in emails to local news outlets. However, Jones failed to get a permit from police. City spokesman Jack O'Toole said the city requires a permit for public gatherings of 50 people or more. Early estimates say 40 protesters showed up initially, but officers think as many as 125 people joined in. Protesting without a permit carries a potential fine of \$1,092, but if Jones appears in Charleston's Municipal Court, the penalty could be reduced substantially.

President-elect Trump News:

Associated Press: For Trump, lots of meetings, Cabinet picks still coming

<http://bigstory.ap.org/74c3815183d740f6afbe27ccc8428def>

President-elect Donald Trump returned to his perch high above Manhattan on Monday, meeting with former rivals and longtime allies a day after he indicated he had worked out agreements to fill major posts in his administration. Trump, after spending the weekend receiving a parade of visitors at his golf course in New Jersey, did the same at Trump Tower. Among his callers: former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who ran against him in the Republican primary, former Massachusetts Sen. Scott Brown, and Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin. "We've made a couple of deals," Trump told reporters at his Bedminster, New Jersey, golf club on Sunday. He gave assurances that "incredible meetings" would be bringing "incredible people" into the government. "You'll be hearing about them soon." The president-elect apparently is working to get important Cabinet jobs settled before heading to Florida for Thanksgiving. Aides said Monday he will spend the holiday at his Mar-a-Lago estate. He is expected to fly there either Tuesday or Wednesday, while Vice president-elect Mike Pence will spend Thanksgiving in Mississippi, where his Marine son is stationed.

Associated Press: The Latest: Trump meets with Gov. Fallin, former Sen. Brown

<http://bigstory.ap.org/cc4f3497805c4a119be21dfc378e5bf7>

A congressional Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee says she had a "frank and positive" conversation with President-elect Donald Trump about Syria. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii says in a statement Monday that she shared with Trump her opposition to creating a no-fly zone over Syria. Gabbard says that would "lead to more death and suffering," worsen the refugee crisis and strengthen the Islamic State group, as well as al-Qaeda. Gabbard says it could also bring the U.S. into direct conflict with Russia, "which could result in a nuclear war." Gabbard is also an Army National Guard major. She resigned her post in the Democratic National Committee earlier this year after endorsing Bernie Sanders over Hillary Clinton. Trump's aides say the president-elect wants to hear viewpoints from across the political spectrum.

Associated Press: 'Hamilton' actor: 'There's nothing to apologize for'

<http://bigstory.ap.org/9fad31dadd234c3da1fecc915999b2ed>

If Donald Trump is waiting for an apology from the cast of "Hamilton," he will have to continue to wait. Actor Brandon Victor Dixon, who plays Aaron Burr in the celebrated musical, told "CBS This Morning" on Monday that "there's nothing to apologize for." Dixon gave Vice President-elect Mike Pence an onstage earful about equality at the end of Friday's performance. Trump has taken to Twitter several times to demand an apology. Pence on Sunday said he wasn't offended by the message. Dixon said "Hamilton" creator Lin-Manuel Miranda had a hand in crafting Dixon's remarks, although Dixon said he "made some adjustments." Dixon said that both Trump and Pence are welcome to come backstage and meet with the cast at any time, adding, "Art is meant to bring people together." From the stage on Friday night, he sparked controversy by saying he and the cast were "alarmed and anxious" that the Trump administration "will not protect us, our planet, our children, our parents, or defend us and uphold our inalienable rights."

Associated Press: Trump drives teens to demonstrate though they can't vote

<http://bigstory.ap.org/adc6eccbd5054bfcaa73d1f5c809b3c7>

A high school senior, Yaocihuatl Reyes didn't pay much attention to the presidential race until she found her teacher sobbing and her east Los Angeles classmates terrified that the election of Donald Trump would lead to the deportation of their families. At that moment, the 17-year-old daughter of a nurse and security guard with little political upbringing said she felt driven to act. She and a friend asked students from nearby high schools in the predominantly Latino neighborhood to meet at a park, where they decided to lead a walkout. They made signs, wrote chants and mapped routes for the march to City Hall days later. Hundreds took part. "We just wanted to go and tell our community that we're here for them, we're scared, too, but we're not going to give up," said Reyes, whose family is in the U.S. legally. "This walkout was kind of for unity, to unify each other." Though too young to vote,

thousands of high school students from Seattle to Silver Spring, Maryland, have taken to the streets since Trump's election to protest his proposed crackdown on illegal immigration and his rude comments about women.

Associated Press: For Trump and GOP, 'Obamacare' repeal is complex and risky

<http://bigstory.ap.org/d2412faba5004f9b89c53a8fe461f674>

Here's the idea: Swiftly pass a repeal of President Barack Obama's health care law, perhaps soon enough for Donald Trump to sign it the day he takes the presidential oath. Then approve legislation restructuring the nation's huge and convoluted health care system — despite Republican divisions, Democratic opposition and millions of jittery constituents. What could go wrong? With Republicans controlling the White House and Congress in January, they're faced with delivering on their long-time promise to repeal and replace "Obamacare." Here are hurdles they'll face...

Associated Press: Trump Tower: President-elect HQ and a political sideshow

<http://bigstory.ap.org/b049a1e3c3be49d3be8ca7606941ad03>

Welcome to Trump Tower. Upstairs, the president-elect is planning his administration. Downstairs, it's a full-on political carnival. Since Donald Trump's stunning presidential victory, the celebrity businessman has largely been ensconced in his penthouse home at his 664-foot glass tower on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue. But as he works, the political circus that has accompanied his spectacular rise unfolds in the building's marble-floored, gold-plated public lobby before crowds of journalists, supporters and wide-eyed gawkers. Campaign manager Kellyanne Conway smiling for selfies with Trump fans. Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani telling reporters the proper way to eat a New York slice. Fox News personality Jeanine Pirro posing for photos with a police dog on the sidewalk. Professional skateboarder Billy Rohan talking about spreading peace with skate parks. The Naked Cowboy strolling by. One afternoon, a man came into the lobby, did a series of handsprings and shouted "Wu Tang!" before he was escorted out by security.

Wildfires Across Southeast:

Independent Mail: Pinnacle fire evacuees go home; blaze spreads north

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/2016/11/21/pinnacle-fire-evacuees-go-home-blaze-spreads-north/94225480/>

Mike Eads

About 100 evacuees displaced by the mountain fire around Table Rock were cleared to go home Monday afternoon, as firefighters kept up containment efforts. The wildfire that jumped the South Saluda River this weekend has surrounded Rocky Mountain and was headed toward Buzzard Mountain. Over 40 firefighters were working hand lines and bulldozers around those two mountains Monday, while the rest of the personnel on the scene watched the burned out area extending from Pinnacle Mountain north and east to the South Saluda River and Table Rock State Park for hot spots. South Carolina National Guard helicopters continue to drop water on the burn out areas and the fires on Rocky and Buzzard mountains. Gov. Nikki Haley said several local, state and federal agencies are working well together to battle the 5,400-acre blaze. She said the containment strategy seems to be working, but there are lingering concerns.

NOTE: "The air quality is a concern. It's something we are watching very closely as we go forward," said Haley at a Monday news conference. "It's all hands on deck. It's Forestry, PRT (Parks, Recreation and Tourism), DNR and Emergency Management Division, as well as the National Guard. They have really been working day and night tirelessly since this all started."

NOTE: All told, county officials said the cost of the firefighting efforts has exceeded \$1.6 million. Haley said her office is working closely with FEMA, which could cover up to 75 percent of the costs racked up from fighting the mountain fires in northern Pickens County.

Hurricane Matthew Recovery:

Post and Courier: Charleston County sets date for final debris sweep

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/charleston-county-sets-date-for-final-debris-sweep/article_6870e8f2-b01c-11e6-807a-bbe926b27da3.html

Prentiss Findlay

Charleston County will be making its final hurricane debris pick-up during the two weeks after Thanksgiving. The operation has collected nearly 375,000 cubic yards of hurricane debris caused by Hurricane Matthew's strike early last month. The public is asked to place any remaining storm-related debris curbside as soon as possible for final pick-up. Hurricane debris should be placed near the road, away from power lines, mailboxes and other obstructions. Crews will no longer pick up yard waste bags.

Island Packet: A few Hilton Head parks still remain closed after Hurricane Matthew

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article116250673.html>

Five parks on Hilton Head Island remain closed more than six weeks after Hurricane Matthew, but most have reopened, with some restrictions, to the public in time for the busy Thanksgiving holiday. The large tourist attraction — beaches — are all open. Town officials have cited debris clean-up and some damage for the reason why many of the parks and beaches were closed following the Oct. 8 storm, with the exception of Honey Horn and Chaplin Community Park, which are being used as debris-processing sites. Honey Horn and Chaplin Community Park will likely remain closed for up to six months, town officials have said.

Michael Slagger Case:

Associated Press: The Latest: Witness: Officer uniform damage caused by Taser

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=5Xp6Jn8r

SC State Wire

The defense is laying out a case that Michael Slager, the white former South Carolina patrolman charged in the death of an unarmed black motorist, was stunned by his own Taser in a struggle before the shooting. Slager faces 30 years to life if convicted of murder in shooting death of Walter Scott in April of 2015. The 50-year-old motorist was killed as he fled a traffic stop in North Charleston, the shooting captured on a bystander's dramatic cellphone video. Mark Kroll, an expert on the effects of electrical shocks, testified Monday that melted fibers on Slager's uniform could only have been caused because he was stunned at close range with a Taser. A South Carolina Law Enforcement analyst testified earlier that she wasn't aware of any other heat source that could cause the damage but couldn't say definitively that it was the result of a stun gun. The defense contends Slager and Scott struggled over the stun gun on the ground before Scott was shot as he ran away.

Post and Courier: SLED expert: Taser not ruled out as cause of marks on Michael Slager's uniform

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/sled-expert-taser-not-ruled-out-as-cause-of-marks/article_3d10a08e-af9b-11e6-854c-174c200ca7a0.html

Andrew Knapp and Brenda Rindge

A state investigator testified Monday that she didn't know what besides a Taser could have caused the burn marks found on former North Charleston police officer Michael Slager's uniform. But the expert, who was the fifth defense witness to take the stand in the murder trial, acknowledged that the small holes in the uniform did not look like the ones she made by using a Taser on a test shirt. Slager got into a struggle with Walter Scott during which he said Scott grabbed his Taser and tried to use it against him, though the patrolman said he didn't know if Scott ever pulled the trigger. The officer then shot Scott as Scott ran away. The only way the Taser could have shocked someone at that point in the deadly confrontation was for it to be used in "drive stun" mode, or pressed directly into a person's body.

Dylann Roof Case:

Post and Courier: Dylann Roof competency hearing will continue Tuesday

http://www.postandcourier.com/church_shooting/dylann-roof-competency-hearing-will-continue-tuesday/article_a10879ce-afe9-11e6-aa2b-1758388abee9.html

Jennifer Berry Hawes

A federal judge's closed-door competency hearing to discuss a new psychiatric evaluation of church shooter Dylann Roof stretched through Monday and will resume Tuesday, a court official said. U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel is presiding over the hearing to determine if the self-avowed white supremacist is competent to face his looming death penalty trial. Last week, Gergel banned the public from the hearing despite pleas from many of the nine Emanuel AME Church shooting victims' families and the survivors who wanted to observe the proceedings. Several media outlets, including The Post and Courier, also objected to the closure. Gergel said that once the competency hearing is completed, he would release a public order stating whether he has found Roof competent to stand trial, although he did not say when he would do so. The judge also pledged to review a transcript of the hearing and release portions that don't need to be kept confidential. His staff, he added, will be working through the Thanksgiving holiday to complete those tasks.

South Carolina News:

The State: Time names The State contributor as top Instagram photographer in SC

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article116230483.html>

Erin Shaw

Sean Rayford made Time's list of 51 Instagram Photographers to Follow in the United States. For the second year running, Time selected 51 users out of 100 million in the U.S. to highlight. Rayford was the pick for South Carolina. He is a frequent contributor to The State and also freelances for Getty, The Associate Press and The New York Times. "His feed mixes personal images with the work he's doing as a photojournalist, which sees him covering riots in Charlotte to Hurricane Matthew in Charleston," Time reporter Olivier Laurent wrote. Rayford states in his bio that all of his Instagram photos are taken with an iPhone. "With his phone, he was suddenly 'exploring the medium in ways I never would have with just a DSLR,'" he said to Laurent.

Associated Press: General: Fort Jackson training 2,000 more soldiers next year

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=iwUp61NE

SC State Wire

The general in charge of the Army's largest training installation says his post is on track to train an additional 2,000 soldiers next year. Maj. Gen. Pete Johnson says Fort Jackson is adding an eleventh training battalion, allowing the total number of soldiers trained annually to grow from 46,000 to 48,000. The 53-year-old general took command at Fort Jackson in June. Johnson told reporters Monday the long-term plans to add the new battalion gives military instructors more time with each soldier. He said it's similar to deciding how many students should be in a classroom for any single teacher. Fort Jackson trains 61 percent of all the service's female soldiers, and more than half of all male soldiers. The fort is located outside Columbia.

Greenville News: Report: SC mental health system making progress, but much more to do

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/health/2016/11/21/report-sc-mental-health-system-making-progress-but-much-more-do/93256376/>

Liv Osby

South Carolina's mental health care system is slowly making progress but has a long way to go before it can meet the needs of those who suffer with mental illness in this state, a new report concludes. The analysis from the South Carolina Institute of Medicine & Public Health comes about a year since the group took stock of the state of mental health care in South Carolina and made 20 recommendations for improving it. It outlines areas of forward momentum as well as those where little progress has been made, said Maya Pack, associate director for research and strategic initiatives

with the institute. "Like with any effort, we know that not everything can happen at once," she said. "But we're encouraged by some recent investments of new dollars and a collective feeling of an elevation of the topic of behavioral health and the patients who need those services. "It boils down to financial and human resources constraints."

Post and Courier: Thanksgiving gasoline prices below \$2 a gallon across South Carolina

http://www.postandcourier.com/business/thanksgiving-gasoline-prices-below-a-gallon-across-south-carolina/article_717c5e38-affc-11e6-b43f-5f2210223ad4.html

Warren L. Wise

Motorists traveling across South Carolina this Thanksgiving will find average gasoline prices under \$2 a gallon once again this year, but not quite as cheap as last year. The average price per gallon on Monday across the Palmetto State stood at \$1.93, down a nickel since last week, according to gas price gauger GasBuddy. Motor club AAA puts the price two cents higher. The GasBuddy price is a little more than 8 cents a gallon over last year at this time. About 670,000 people across South Carolina will travel more than 50 miles over the five-day Thanksgiving period, according to AAA Carolinas. Nationally, the average price dropped close to 2 cents a gallon during the past week to \$2.13. That's about 5.4 cents higher than this time last year. "As motorists pack their bags and prepare to head out for Thanksgiving, gas prices are falling across much of the country," said Patrick DeHaan, senior petroleum analyst for GasBuddy.

Island Packet: Gas prices are changing in time for Thanksgiving travel (in the good way)

<http://www.islandpacket.com/entertainment/holidays/article116182148.html>

Mandy Matney

Motorists preparing for Thanksgiving travel have something to be thankful for: Falling prices at the pump. According to GasBuddy, prices in 44 of the 50 U.S. states are lower than a week ago, coming just in time for when millions of Americans will be hitting the road. In South Carolina, the seventh cheapest state in the nation for gasoline, the average price per gallon is \$1.93, below the national average price of \$2.14. The average price of gasoline per gallon in South Carolina is 5.3 cents lower than last week and 11 cents lower than last month, according to GasBuddy.

The State: Wrecks on South Carolina roads kill 7 during weekend

<http://www.thestate.com/news/state/south-carolina/article116213448.html>

Jane Moon Dial

South Carolina Department of Public Safety officials said there were seven road deaths reported during this past weekend. Officials said five of the deaths occurred on U.S. routes, S.C. roads and secondary roads, one occurred on a county road and another happened on an interstate. In four of the deaths, officials said a seat belt was not used. Two people who died were pedestrians and the other was an unhelmeted moped operator. As of Monday, 875 people have died on state highways, compared to 884 highway deaths during the same time period in 2015. Of the 866 motor-vehicle occupants who have died in 2016, 277 were not wearing seat belts. According to DPS, 121 pedestrians have been killed compared to 113 during the same time period in 2015. So far 126 motorcyclists have been killed compared to 130 this time in 2015. Twenty-two bicyclists have died in 2016 compared to 15 this time last year.

Associated Press: Appellate court agrees on throwing out SC death sentence

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

Meg Kinnard

An appellate court says a South Carolina man should be released from death row because a prosecutor's "racially coded references" made a fair sentencing impossible. The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Monday that a lower federal court was right to throw out the death sentence against Johnny O. Bennett. Bennett has been on South Carolina's death row for two decades for the killing of a 24-year-old man, stabbed more than 60 times with a screwdriver. He was first sentenced to death in 1997, but that was overturned. A jury sentenced Bennett to death again in 2000. In that second trial,

before an all-white jury, Solicitor Donnie Myers compared Bennett, who is black, to "King Kong on a bad day."Myers didn't return a message seeking comment.

Local News:

Associated Press: Man found shot to death at home in Aiken County

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=c2FM5rh2

SC State Wire

Aiken County sheriff's deputies are investigating the shooting death of a man in Graniteville. Capt. Eric Abdullah said in a news release that deputies were called to a home shortly before 3 a.m. Monday. Abdullah said deputies found a man with an apartment gunshot wound. He was pronounced dead when emergency medical workers arrived. The victim's name has not been released. Investigators said a man in the home is being questioned. No charges have been filed. Abdullah says the coroner's office is helping with the investigation. No other details were immediately available.

Post and Courier: Students to hold first-ever C of C "SlutWalk" to fight rape culture

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/students-to-hold-first-ever-c-of-c-slutwalk-to/article_f75a2326-b003-11e6-ac96-33a9e6498854.html

Deanna Pan

In the spirit of suffragettes who traded their skirts for trousers in their fight for equal rights, College of Charleston students will hit the streets at the end of this month — many in so-called "provocative" dress — for the campus' first-ever "SlutWalk," a protest against sexual assault and the double standard that extols promiscuous men for their conquests and shames women for theirs. "It just seems really timely given the Brock Turner case, given the fraternity chapter at College of Charleston being suspended because of sexual misconduct and because of Donald Trump's recent 'grab them by the (genitals) claim," said 21-year-old Corazon Stegelin, a senior majoring in theater, who, along with a few friends and classmates, are organizing the march. "I think now more than ever people need to be reminded it's never the victim's fault, no matter what they are wearing. The SlutWalk originated five years ago in Toronto, Canada, after a police constable advised women to "avoid dressing like sluts in order not to be victimized" during a routine public-safety talk at local law school. More than 3,000 people descended on the city's Queen's Park in protest.

The Herald: What does \$10 million in renovations mean for your York County Courthouse?

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article116062338.html>

David Thackham

Kirk Broom says, in about a month, the long task of bringing the 102-year-old York County Courthouse into the 21st century will be completed. It's taken several years, about \$10 million in taxpayer money, countless working hours and buckets of elbow grease. "I hope I can start sleeping at night," he said, with a smile. Spirits were high in downtown York earlier this week for Broom, the on-site manager for Cumming Construction Management, and his crew as they began to put the finishing touches on a long-stalled renovation. At least 75 to 100 workers from his team and from Leitner Construction Co. of Rock Hill have put in shifts each weekday for the past two years. There's no hard re-opening date as of yet (estimates are mid to late December), but workers say they feel confident the public will be proud of the work. After spending a stretch as the home of a hodge-podge of different uses, such as a tax assessor's office and register of deeds office, the courthouse needs to be just a courthouse again, said chief deputy clerk of court Angie Smarr.

National News:

Associated Press: StoryCorps urges conversations on election this Thanksgiving

<http://bigstory.ap.org/6a6d1153d0154726ab706ab95d8eaa04>

That electoral elephant in the room threatening political tension this Thanksgiving? StoryCorps

believes it could be a unifying main course. The oral history project's "Great Thanksgiving Listen 2016" is urging Americans, particularly teens, to use the holiday weekend to record a conversation with a grandparent or another elder on their feelings about the election, their hopes and fears for the country and their thoughts on how to bring people together in a time of division. Dave Isay, StoryCorps' founder and president, said the project could strengthen ties across the country when the chasm is deep. "We're living in a moment where the divide is just so massive," and the discussions will give people a chance to reflect on what happened in the last two weeks, he said. "I can't think of anything more important right now than listening to each other and finding a way forward." StoryCorps debuted the Thanksgiving project last year, prompting intergenerational conversations just as this time around, though without the election theme. The result was staggering: more than 50,000 recordings, as many as StoryCorps amassed in its first decade of operation combined.

Associated Press: Authorities say Texas, Missouri officers shot in ambushes

<http://bigstory.ap.org/c404f9ff7567461ca5bdb6adf9d4b490>

A manhunt was underway Monday in Texas for a suspect wanted in the fatal shooting of a veteran police detective in what authorities say was one of several attacks targeting law enforcement in multiple states. The San Antonio detective as well as officers in Missouri and Florida were conducting routine tasks Sunday when they became the targets of violence. The detective was writing a traffic ticket when he was shot to death in his squad car late Sunday morning outside police headquarters. In Missouri, a St. Louis police sergeant was shot twice in the face Sunday evening while he sat in traffic in a marked police vehicle. The sergeant is expected to survive. Police officers were also shot and injured during traffic stops in Sanibel, Florida, and Gladstone, Missouri, on Sunday night, but authorities have not suggested these were targeted attacks. The shootings come less than five months after a black military veteran killed five white officers at a protest in Dallas — the deadliest day for American law enforcement since Sept. 11, 2001.

Associated Press: The Latest: Threat of another pipeline protest clash eases

<http://bigstory.ap.org/a17928a954c64e28be8baedb0e7a7a8e>

Another potential clash between Dakota Access oil pipeline protesters and law officers over a disputed bridge in southern North Dakota has eased. The bridge on state Highway 1806 is near the protesters' main camp. It's been shut down for weeks because authorities say it might be unsafe due to earlier fires set by protesters. Protesters say the closed bridge blocks emergency services and their access to pipeline construction sites. The two sides clashed overnight, with officers using tear gas, rubber bullets and water sprays against protesters they say assaulted officers with rocks and burning logs. Protesters and police massed at the bridge again Monday morning. Protesters went back to the camp Monday afternoon at the request of Standing Rock Sioux elders, after reports of firearms in the crowd.

Associated Press: Officers douse pipeline protesters in subfreezing weather

<http://bigstory.ap.org/81fd519653da4f59a418226501ceda15>

Authorities on Monday defended their decision to douse protesters with water during a skirmish in subfreezing weather near the Dakota Access oil pipeline, and organizers said at least 17 protesters were taken to the hospital — including some who were treated for hypothermia. Protesters trying to push past a long-blocked bridge on a state highway late Sunday and early Monday were turned back by authorities using tear gas, rubber bullets and water hoses. At least 17 protesters were injured severely enough to be taken to hospitals, said Dallas Goldtooth, an organizer with the Indigenous Environmental Network. "Hypothermia, a number of head injuries from being shot with rubber bullets, one individual had a heart attack," he said. Daniel Kanahale, 64, a native Hawaiian who joined the protest last week, said he was hit with tear gas, water spray and a rubber bullet in a leg, and "it took me off my feet." He was treated at the scene but said many other protesters suffered more serious injuries.

World News:

Associated Press: Pope allows all priests to absolve "grave sin" of abortion

<http://bigstory.ap.org/8a9c47baf0764ae683ec20a618dd4c63>

Saying nothing is beyond the reach of God's mercy, Pope Francis told Catholics worldwide he is allowing all priests to absolve the faithful of abortion — women and health workers alike — even while stressing that it is a grave sin in the eyes of the church to "end an innocent life." In an Apostolic Letter made public Monday, Francis said he was extending indefinitely the special permission he had granted to all rank-and-file priests during the just ended Holy Year of Mercy. "There is no sin that God's mercy cannot reach and wipe away when it finds a repentant heart seeking to be reconciled" with God, the pope wrote in the 10-page letter, signed Sunday, the day the Holy Year ended. But, he added: "I wish to restate as firmly as I can that abortion is a grave sin, since it puts an end to an innocent life." Because the Roman Catholic Church holds abortion to be such a serious sin, absolution had long been a matter for a bishop, who could either hear the woman's confession himself or delegate it to a priest considered an expert in such situations, a potentially intimidating scenario for many of the faithful.

Associated Press: Tsunami warning issued after quake off Fukushima in Japan

<http://bigstory.ap.org/7f207bc1f51b42f6bcbfe1eb92b61722>

An earthquake with preliminary magnitude of 7.3 has struck off the coast of Fukushima prefecture in Japan. A tsunami warning for waves of up to three meters (10 feet) has been issued. The Japan Meteorological Agency says the quake struck around 6 a.m. at a depth of 10 kilometers (6 miles). Fukushima prefecture is north of Tokyo and home to the nuclear power plant that was destroyed by a huge tsunami following an offshore earthquake in 2011.

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Camlin Moore

Cell: 803-206-8236

Office: 803-734-8044