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To:  
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Subject: Morning Clips – Friday, September 2, 2016

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## Morning Clips – Friday, September 2, 2016

Governor Nikki Haley News:

WIS: FIRST ALERT: Midlands is under High Winds Warnings as Hermine approaches

<http://www.newschannel10.com/story/32935972/first-alert-midlands-is-under-high-winds-warnings-as-hermine-approaches>

Rob Ellis

Hurricane Hermine continues to strengthen off the Florida coastline with an expected landfall around midnight Thursday night. It will impact Midlands during the day Friday and Friday night. Hermine is now the fourth hurricane of 2016 in the Atlantic basin. While the storm's track may shift slightly through Friday, here's a time line of what you can expect as the storm moves through the state. A High Wind Warning is in place for Richland, Lexington, Orangeburg, Calhoun, Sumter, Clarendon and Lee Counties until Saturday at 2AM. A High Wind Warning means a hazardous wind event is expected (Sustained winds of 40 mph or gusts over 58 mph). The U.S. National Hurricane Center says strengthening is forecast and Hermine is expected to churn up waters along the coast on Friday even if it remains inland. This could lead to rough surf and high chance for rip currents along the Carolina coastline.

NOTE: Gov. Nikki Haley released a statement Thursday, saying the state is ready for Hurricane Hermine. "The state is ready for Hurricane Hermine, and we need citizens to get ready, too," Haley says. "On Friday, be prepared for possible power outages, flash flooding and blocked roadways. Remember never to drive or walk through standing water, and always check on your neighbors and loved ones."

Post and Courier: Lowcountry still expected to get brunt of Hermine's winds, rain

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160901/160909969/lowcountry-still-expected-to-get-brunt-of-hermines-winds-rain>

Bo Petersen

A good soaking and some scary winds — that's what waits outside the door Friday as Hurricane Hermine pushes its way through the Lowcountry at tropical storm strength. All in all, though, Hermine shouldn't be as severe as 2004's Gaston. Hermine was expected to track across the Lowcountry just inland of the Charleston area, putting the region in the brunt of its winds and rain, according to the National Hurricane Center on Thursday night. At 11 p.m., Hermine had maximum sustained winds at up to 80 mph. It was forecast to move across the Florida Panhandle into southeastern Georgia early Friday with the center near or over eastern South Carolina on Friday night. Tropical storm force winds were expected to arrive to the Lowcountry about late morning into early afternoon and last into the evening with conditions expected to approve by nighttime, said Weather Service meteorologist Ron Morales.

NOTE: The Weather Service has been issuing rip-current warnings all week for the area, advising everyone to stay out of the water. A man drowned at Isle of Palms on Monday, possibly because of strong currents. The U.S. Coast Guard has upgraded port conditions and is urging mariners to prepare for the storm. "The state is ready for Hurricane Hermine," Gov. Nikki Haley said on her

Facebook page.

The Herald: Paul Luckadoo of Fort Mill, last York County prisoner of war from WWII, dies

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article99307267.html>

Andrew Dys

Paul Luckadoo, believed to be the last prisoner of war from World War II in York County, died Wednesday at age 93. Luckadoo was in a German prison camp for 10 months and 13 days, yet was very private about his confinement and rarely talked about it. At a ceremony at the Fort Mill Veterans Garden on Memorial Day weekend in 2015, Luckadoo talked briefly about the carnage of war and said this: "Freedom is not free." Luckadoo's brother, Hubert, was killed in the same war in the Pacific. "Paul Luckadoo was a great man and great American," said Wallace Coleman, longtime leader at American Legion Post 43 in Fort Mill.

NOTE: In September 2015, Luckadoo was one of 13 South Carolina World War II prisoners of war – along with widows of seven other WWII POWs – honored with a S.C. Prisoner of War medal sponsored by state Sen. Wes Hayes and conducted by Gov. Nikki Haley.

Post and Courier: 'Pokemon Go' returns to S.C. Statehouse

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160901/160909936/pokemon-go-returns-to-sc-statehouse>

Gavin Jackson

The "Pokemon Go" craze that took the nation by storm this summer returned to the manicured lawns of the Statehouse after a ban was lifted Thursday. Visitors can now scavenge the capitol's grounds through their cellphones for Pikachu, Dodrio and the ever-prevalent Pidgey after a month-long disappearance. Why the Pokemon game — where players "catch" and collect pokestops that provide game tokens — disappeared on July 29 remains a mystery. State officials said no formal complaints were made during the height of the craze when visitors besieged the Statehouse grounds. Through Twitter, Gov. Nikki Haley requested the game's maker, Niantic Labs, reinstate the location, which included several pokestops associated with public monuments and "gyms" that drew hundreds of players, many at night. Shortly after the release of "Pokemon Go" in July, the popular hunt game almost instantly became the top-downloaded app in Apple's App Store, and is the biggest mobile game in U.S. history.

NOTE: In July, Haley tweeted a picture of herself grabbing one of the cartoon monsters in the "Pokemon Go" app. The photo shows her catching a Poliwhg, which looks like a round blue tadpole for those who aren't familiar with the Japanese pocket monsters. Haley isn't the only high-profile Pokemon grabber in the state. North Charleston tweeted a photo of its mayor, Keith Summey, catching a Pokemon in his office.

The State: Pokemon Go again at the S.C. State House

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article99218857.html>

Bristow Marchant

"Pokestops" have reappeared at the South Carolina State House, more than a month after the popular game features mysteriously vanished from the state capitol grounds. Players of the mobile game Pokemon Go reported several of the previously missing pokestops reappeared on the State House grounds on Thursday, as suddenly and mysteriously as they had vanished. The State House had been a popular gathering place for players before about a dozen different stops vanished at the end of July. The disappearance of the pokestops – where users can load up on pokeballs and set "lures" to attract the digital creatures – was a mystery. No state agency would own up to asking developer Niantic Labs to remove the State House as an active spot for the game, and – despite publicized efforts to remove pokestops from inappropriate or unwanted locations elsewhere – a

spokesman for the developer couldn't say why the State House stops had been removed. Coming at the height of the Pokemon Go craze, users were upset by the sudden end to one of their favorite Pokemon hunting spots. The state Agriculture Department even planned a Pokemon-themed promotional event at the State House and were disappointed to discover the day of the event that the pokestops were no longer available.

NOTE: Even Gov. Nikki Haley took to Twitter to ask for the pokestops to return.

SC Political News:

Associated Press: Ethics panel: Donations can buy clothes but not clean them

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=5ztEvnbj](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=5ztEvnbj)

Sean Adcox

It's OK for state representatives to use campaign cash to buy clothes for the Statehouse, but it's never OK to pay the dry cleaning tab with donations, the House Ethics Committee said Thursday. That advice is part of a committee-approved list of what House members can and can't legally buy with donations. It won't be used to punish past spending. "We're all trying to tighten up and be as specific as we can. The laundry-list opinion is done to try to give people some guidance," said Ethics Chairman Kenny Bingham, R-Cayce. "People are petrified of making a mistake and getting a newspaper article written about them." The list of 25 do's and don'ts answered legislators' questions to the panel, asked amid prosecutor David Pascoe's investigation into possible Statehouse corruption. That probe continues, two years after former House Speaker Bobby Harrell pleaded guilty to six misdemeanor campaign finance violations. No one else has been charged. "The whole environment clearly has brought awareness to people, which is a good thing," Bingham said. "People ought to have some comfort and confidence in where the lines are."

The State: SC House members can spend campaign money on clothing, charities

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article99269927.html>

Cassie Cope

The S.C. House ethics panel Thursday approved a list of items that state representatives can pay for with campaign money, including clothing and charities. The list — formulated in response to inquiries by House members — outlines "where's the line drawn," said Ethics Committee chairman Rep. Kenny Bingham, R-Lexington. The question of where that line is drawn has become more important to lawmakers in the wake of the prosecution of several legislators — including former House Speaker Bobby Harrell, R-Charleston — for improper use of campaign money. The panel passed an advisory opinion saying campaign money can be used to pay for...

Post and Courier: Lawmakers can't use campaign cash for their dry cleaning, House panel says

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160901/160909952/lawmakers-cant-use-campaign-cash-for-their-dry-cleaning-house-panel-says>

Maya T. Prabhu

Members of the state House of Representatives can't use campaign money to pay for their dry cleaning but they can use that cash account to buy tickets to political events, a panel ruled Thursday. Those scenarios were among a list of campaign expense guidelines approved by the House Ethics Committee as lawmakers sought to clear up some of the fuzzy boundaries of where their spending can legally go. "We're all trying to tighten up and be as specific as we can," Ethics Chairman Kenny Bingham, R-Cayce, said. "The laundry list opinion is done to try to give some people some guidance because people are petrified of making a mistake and getting a negative newspaper article." The advisory opinion provides direction for House members on 26 scenarios. Many of them came out of

lawmakers' own calls of requests for clarity at a time when special prosecutor 1st Circuit Solicitor David Pascoe is looking into possible Statehouse corruption on the part of legislators. Advisory opinions issued by the committee only act as a guideline for rulings on the actions of House lawmakers; they do not carry legal weight.

Associated Press: State senators to hold statewide meetings about gun laws

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=FJrmf27b](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=FJrmf27b)

SC State Wire

Some state senators plan meetings across South Carolina to get the public's thoughts on gun laws. The Post and Courier of Charleston reports (<http://bit.ly/2bHQnDj>) the hearings are being held after a measure to extend the time for gun purchase background checks died in the General Assembly. That bill proposed extending the period for background checks from three days to a month. It was proposed to close the so-called Charleston loophole after Dylann Roof was able to purchase a handgun before the shootings at Emanuel AME Church. State Sen. Gerald Malloy says the idea is to get a consensus from the public in writing a bill that will pass. Malloy and four other senators plan a hearing in Greenville later this month with others next month in Hartsville, Columbia and Charleston.

Post and Courier: S.C. senators coming to Charleston and crossing the state to hear from residents on gun laws

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160901/160909929/sc-senators-coming-to-charleston-and-crossing-the-state-to-hear-from-residents-on-gun-laws>

Maya T. Prabhu

Charleston residents will have a chance to tell a group of state senators this fall what they think should be done about South Carolina's gun laws. A hearing will be held at the College of Charleston's Stern Center Ballroom at 6 p.m. Oct. 3. Charleston is one of four locations where a panel of five state senators will take testimony to determine what, if any, gun reforms should be considered going into next legislative session. Meetings also will be held in Greenville, Hartsville and Columbia. The hearings come after bills introduced by Gerald Malloy, Senate Gun Issues Special Committee chairman, and Charleston Democrat Sen. Marlon Kimpson seeking to extend the firearm purchase background check period from three days to 28 days, got no traction. Both measures died in the Senate last session. "My intent is to hear citizens out and to have it open, such that we can get to the determine the pulse of our community and formulate a bill that will be a consensus bill, which is the only way the bill will pass," said Malloy, D-Hartsville.

Dylann Roof Case:

Associated Press: Judge won't order document release in shooting settlement

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=bCNsowP6](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=bCNsowP6)

SC State Wire

A South Carolina judge has refused to make the city of North Charleston turn over documents involving its \$6.5 million settlement of a lawsuit with the family of a black motorist shot and killed by a white city police officer. News outlets report that Judge Clifton Newman refused to make the city release the material during a hearing Thursday. Attorneys for former officer Michael Slager had asked for the documents to help prepare his defense. Slager is charged with murder in the April 2015 shooting death of Walter Scott. His trial begins next month. City attorneys argued the documents were protected by attorney-client privilege. A cellphone video showed Scott being shot several times in the back as he ran from a traffic stop.

## Michael Slager Case:

Post and Courier: Judge: North Charleston won't have to turn over documents on settlement with Walter Scott's family

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160901/160909954/judge-north-charleston-wont-have-to-turn-over-documents-on-settlement-with-walter-scotts-family>

Brenda Rindge

North Charleston city officials won't have to turn over documents related to settlement negotiations with Walter Scott's family, Circuit Judge Clifton Newman ruled Thursday. During a hearing in the case against former North Charleston police officer Michael Slager, Newman granted a motion to quash four of six items subpoenaed from the city by Slager's defense team, led by attorney Andy Savage. Newman agreed with the city's objection to supplying documents showing whether Slager or anyone else is responsible for Scott's death, any records that would exonerate Slager and any records that show a failure of institutional procedures that contributed to Scott's death. North Charleston had objected to the requests "because Mr. Slager asks to see inside the minds of the city's lawyers," according to court documents.

## SC After Recent Violence:

The State: First Muslim chaplains among Richland Sheriff's Department additions

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article99284807.html>

Glen Luke Flanagan

The Richland County Sheriff's Department swore in its first two Muslim chaplains and first Seventh-day Adventist chaplain Thursday. The ceremony added six new chaplains to the force, bringing the total up to 21 at the department. The department has one full-time chaplain, and the rest are volunteers, officials said. "We have lots of religions within Richland County, and we want to make sure that all those religions are represented," Sheriff Leon Lott said. Deputy Mohanad Gabr, who has been with the sheriff's department for almost 10 years, said it's good to have chaplains available who understand his Muslim faith. "It's a stressful job, and sometimes we face a lot of difficulties," Gabr said. "Sometimes you just feel like talking to someone to get a piece of advice – how to deal with issues at work or at home." Gabr said it's also good for Muslim residents of Richland County to see that there are people on the force who understand their beliefs and their community.

## Opinion/Editorial:

Aiken Standard: Editorial: Follow weather safety tips during Hurricane Hermine

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160901/160909955/editorial-follow-weather-safety-tips-during-hurricane-hermine>

What was earlier considered Tropical Storm Hermine is now considered a hurricane, and officials are warning residents to use extreme caution when driving on the roads this Labor Day weekend. On Thursday, Aiken County officials, including Emergency Management Director Paul Matthews, said Aiken County could see under 10 inches of rain, unlike parts of the Lowcountry, where Hermine is expected hit the worst in the Palmetto State. Parts of Aiken County are still recovering from the heavy rainfall experienced in October 2015, which caused widespread flooding, road closures and bridge failures. In anticipation of Hermine, early Thursday the South Carolina Emergency Management Division raised its Operation Condition (OPCON) level to OPCON 4. This warning level could increase as the storm makes landfall into the Florida panhandle and crosses southern Georgia into South Carolina. The storm path is expected to sweep over Aiken County and possibly the Augusta area on



Friday, with winds reaching around 30 mph, according to the National Weather Service.

#### South Carolina News:

Associated Press: The Latest: Heavy rains moving into Carolinas from Hermine

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=hu9AhEnL](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=hu9AhEnL)

SC State Wire

Heavy rains from Tropical Storm Hermine have moved into the Carolinas. Virtually all of South Carolina is under some sort of weather warning - tropical storm warnings near the coast to high wind warnings farther inland. Flash flood watches are posted everywhere except the state's far northwest corner. Strong thunderstorms moved through Charleston early Friday although no downtown streets were immediately closed because of flooding. Scattered power outages were reported around the state. Forecasters at the National Weather Service in Charleston say the flood threat has eased a bit and about 3 to 5 inches of rain are forecast - down from as much as 10 inches predicted a day earlier. The center of Hermine is expected to move roughly along Interstate 95 through South Carolina through the day Friday. Hermine made landfall in Florida early Friday as a Category 1 hurricane.

Post and Courier: Dam owners issued heavy rain alert warning ahead of Hurricane Hermine

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160901/160909955/dam-owners-issued-heavy-rain-alert-warning-ahead-of-hurricane-hermine>

Gavin Jackson

State officials want dam owners to evaluate and possibly lower their pond levels ahead of the heavy rains expected to douse the state as Hurricane Hermine descends on South Carolina. Department of Health and Environmental Control officials said dam owners should ensure that spillways are clear and functioning properly so that water can pass safely through. Such issues led, in part, to the failure of 50 dams during last October's catastrophic historic flood. "We are closely monitoring the status of the tropical storm system and are working with the S.C. Emergency Management Division to directly notify dam owners of the potential for significant rainfall and the need to monitor the condition of their dams," DHEC Bureau of Water Chief David Baize said in a statement. Baize issued the statement shortly before the storm in the Gulf of Mexico was upgraded to Category 1 hurricane Thursday afternoon.

Post and Courier: 'Stakes couldn't be higher:' Obesity an issue in South Carolina, nationwide

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160901/160909967/stakes-couldnt-be-higher-obesity-an-issue-in-south-carolina-nationwide>

Derrek Asberry

South Carolina's ranking in adult obesity has slightly improved, mainly because obesity in other states is becoming more of a problem. The state ranks 13th in the nation for highest obesity rates in 2015 compared with being 10th in 2014, according to a report released Thursday by Trust for America's Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. "We've dropped down the list slightly, which is good news, but we've still got a major problem," said Dr. Justine DeCastro, a family health physician affiliated with East Cooper Medical Center. The Palmetto State had an obesity rate of 31.7 percent in 2015 compared with 32.1 percent in 2014. However, the 2015 rate is still a significant uptick from 27.8 percent a decade ago and 12 percent in 1990. The report shows that other states, particularly in the South, are also struggling with obesity.

#### Local News:

Sun News: New lawyer joins aid for Myrtle Beach man paralyzed in drug raid

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article99415212.html>

Emily Weaver

A prominent lawyer who gained notoriety working to exonerate three Duke University lacrosse players falsely accused of rape in 2006 has joined Julian Betton's legal team. Accused of marijuana distribution, the 31-year-old is suing leaders of the 15th Circuit Drug Enforcement Unit and the drug agents, who shot him nine times during a raid of his Myrtle Beach apartment in 2015. Betton was crippled by the gunfire and remains permanently paralyzed from the waist down, according to one of his attorneys. "Julian Betton has suffered greatly and I intend to do everything I can to help ease his suffering going forward," said Bradley Bannon, who joined Betton's legal team last month. The Raleigh, N.C., criminal defense attorney has devoted much of his practice to defending civil rights. Earlier this year, Bannon was featured on the documentary "Fantastic Lies" that detailed the Duke case and the lacrosse players, who were found innocent of the charges.

Associated Press: Teacher's aide accused of assaulting 5-year-old autistic boy

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=47jQrFbi](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=47jQrFbi)

SC State Wire

Police say a South Carolina teacher's aide grabbed a 5-year-old autistic child by the arm, pulled him down the steps and threw him on his back across the school hallway. News outlets report that 37-year-old Brittany A. Bell, who worked at Summit Drive Elementary School in Greenville, turned herself in to police Wednesday. She is charged with cruelty to children. A police report says several teachers saw the boy being assaulted last Friday afternoon during school hours. Authorities say the child had fingertip bruises on his forearm. The boy's father told police his son also had an injury to his back. District officials say Bell is no longer an employee of the school district. It is unclear whether she has an attorney.

Associated Press : Ex-leader of Anderson nonprofit pleads guilty to conspiracy

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=TzOYDIlb](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=TzOYDIlb)

SC State Wire

The head of a now-defunct Anderson County nonprofit has pleaded guilty to conspiring to pocket money meant to help the poor. The Anderson Independent-Mail (<http://bit.ly/2bXE323>) reports that 40-year-old Erick Bradshaw Sr. was the executive director for Fresh Start, an organization that received money from the state to repair houses for low-income county residents. Bradshaw pleaded guilty Thursday to conspiracy after he and Augustina Cabral-Rice, the organization's housing services coordinator, were accused of lying about the work that was done and keeping some of the money for themselves. Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Watkins Jr. says the co-defendants profited to the tune of more than \$280,000. In exchange for Bradshaw's plea, federal prosecutors dropped money laundering charges against him. Bradshaw could face at least five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Associated Press: Columbia VA Med Center cancels Friday appointments

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=kJ72zS78](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=kJ72zS78)

SC State Wire

The Dorn Veteran Administration Medical Center in Columbia has canceled appointments for several clinics in advance of the storm expected to hit South Carolina. VA Center spokesman Bob Hall said in a release that Friday's appointments for patients at the Sumter, Orangeburg and Florence clinics have been canceled. Hall said the VA wanted to take the precautionary measure because it did not want patients out in such weather. The National Weather Service is predicting the Hermine storm will

affect the midlands of South Carolina Friday afternoon and evening. VA staff will contact patients to reschedule their appointments.

The State: SCE&G, opponents reach settlement over nuclear plant costs, completion

<http://www.thestate.com/news/business/article99375627.html>

Rode Burris

SCE&G reached a proposed settlement agreement Thursday with state regulators and several parties contesting a proposed change in the construction contract at the V.C Summer Nuclear Station in Fairfield County, the utility said. Under the proposed settlement, which must be approved by the South Carolina Public Service Commission, the requested increase in the cost of constructing the plant would be cut to \$831 million; Westinghouse Electric's portion of the additional cost would be fixed at \$505 million, with SCE&G shareholders or Westinghouse picking up any additional overruns; and SCANA's return on equity to shareholders would be cut from 10.50 percent beginning in 2017 to 10.25 percent. SCE&G, the principal subsidiary of SCANA Corp., last year asked state regulators to convert the deal for completing two new nuclear reactors at the Summer plant to a fixed price contract and to raise the remaining construction cost of the \$11 billion project by another \$852 million.

The State: Gamecocks win a thriller to start Muschamp era

<http://www.thestate.com/sports/college/university-of-south-carolina/usc-football/article99446137.html>

Josh Kendall

Much of Will Muschamp's first game as South Carolina's coach didn't look pretty, but the ending looked perfect for the Gamecocks. South Carolina beat Vanderbilt 13-10 on Thursday thanks to a career-long 55-yard field goal by senior place-kicker Elliott Fry with 35 seconds left in the game. A crowd of 30,304 fans, many of them Gamecock fans, at Vanderbilt Stadium watched USC start the season 1-0 and the Commodores fall to 0-1. The Gamecocks trailed for the first 52 minutes and 30 seconds, but tied the game on an 8-yard run by sophomore wide receiver Deebo Samuel that tied the game at 10-10 with 7:30 left in the fourth quarter.

Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press: Black vote concentrated, but key in Trump-Clinton matchup

<http://bigstory.ap.org/a8454c8f07384a74b138548254670a2a>

Bill Barrow

Donald Trump will visit a predominantly black church in Detroit this weekend and, his campaign says, "outline policies that will impact minorities and the disenfranchised in our country." It's the latest move in the Republican presidential nominee's outreach to non-whites. The trip comes in response to sharp criticism from many African-Americans incensed by Trump's sweeping generalizations about black life in America. "You live in your poverty, your schools are no good, you have no jobs," he has argued to black voters. While he usually speaks to mainly white crowds, Detroit itself is 83 percent black. A look at how African-Americans will help determine whether Trump or Democrat Hillary Clinton is elected the 45th president...

Associated Press: Clinton offers plan to prevent 'excessive' drug price hikes

<http://bigstory.ap.org/ed6ef1eca55345b188e73e74daedefde>

Catherine Lucey

Following the public outcry over steep increases in price for an emergency allergy treatment, Hillary Clinton is pledging to better protect patients from such costs. Clinton is rolling out a plan Friday designed to give the federal government more power to push back against what she calls "excessive



unjustified costs" for medications that have long been on the market. In a statement, Clinton said that "all Americans deserve full access to the medications they need," adding that she is "ready to hold drug companies accountable when they try to put profits ahead of patients, instead of back into research and innovation." Clinton plans to create a drug-pricing oversight group that will monitor price increases. If this group of federal officials decides that an increase is excessive, it could take a number of enforcement actions, including making emergency purchases of an alternate version of the drug, allowing emergency imports of a similar product from other developed countries, and imposing penalties on the companies, such as fines.

#### National News:

Associated Press: Hermine hits Florida coast as 1st hurricane in a decade

<http://bigstory.ap.org/ffecf1b7cd124a96817868710f1d80e3>

Josh Replogle and Brendan Farrington

Hurricane Hermine made landfall in Florida's Big Bend area early Friday as the first hurricane to hit the state in more than a decade, bringing soaking rain, high winds and thousands of power outages. The Category 1 storm hit just east of St. Marks around 1:30 a.m. EDT with winds around 80 mph, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center. Hermine later weakened to a tropical storm as it moved farther inland. Projected storm surges of up to 12 feet menaced a wide swath of the coast and an expected drenching of up to 10 inches of rain carried the danger of flooding along the storm's path over land, including the state capital Tallahassee, which hadn't been hit by a hurricane since Kate in 1985. As of 5 a.m. EDT Friday, Hermine was weakening as it moved into southern Georgia, the Hurricane Center said. It was centered about 20 miles west of Valdosta, Georgia, and was moving north-northeast near 14 mph.

Associated Press: 5th suspect arrested in slaying of New York governor's aide

<http://bigstory.ap.org/3ac5ede895a547a0af3ffbf65bcb24e2>

Authorities say they've arrested a fifth suspect in the slaying of an aide to Democratic New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo in the hours before last year's West Indian Day Parade in Brooklyn. Kenny Bazile was arrested Thursday in Palm Desert, California. WNBC-TV reports he's accused of firing shots during a gang-related gun battle last year in which Carey Gabay (guh-BAY') was fatally shot by stray gunfire. Bazile won't be charged until he's returned to New York. Gabay, a 43-year-old Harvard-educated lawyer, was a first deputy general counsel at the Empire State Development Corp. Four other suspects have been arrested in the shooting. It's unclear if Bazile has an attorney who could comment.

Associated Press : Man pleads not guilty in slaying of imam, aide near mosque

<http://bigstory.ap.org/902a26cd985149bcb9201bd0b1e51f75>

A man has pleaded not guilty to charges he gunned down an imam and his assistant as they left a New York City mosque. Thirty-six-year-old Oscar Morel entered the pleas on Thursday to charges of first-degree murder, second-degree murder and criminal possession of a weapon in the Aug. 13 attack. Prosecutors say Morel approached 55-year-old Imam Maulana Alauddin Akonjee and 64-year-old Thara Miah from behind and shot both of them in the head near a mosque in Queens. Defense attorney Michael Schwed questioned how authorities have handled the investigation, saying witnesses couldn't identify Morel in a lineup. Schwed says he's confident he can prove his client is innocent. Morel is due back in court on Oct. 18.

#### World News:

Associated Press: Cuba reports remarkable success in containing Zika virus

<http://bigstory.ap.org/cd434e1050d04036afbc7139c0595170>

Michael Weissenstein

Six months after President Raul Castro declared war on the Zika virus in Cuba, a militarized nationwide campaign of intensive mosquito spraying, monitoring and quarantine appears to be working. Cuba is among the few countries in the Western Hemisphere that have so far prevented significant spread of the disease blamed for birth defects in thousands of children. Only three people have caught Zika in Cuba. Thirty have been diagnosed with cases of the virus they got outside the island, according to Cuban officials. Many are now watching to see whether Cuba is able to maintain control of Zika or will drop its guard and see widening infection like so many of its neighbors. The battle against Zika is testing what Cuba calls a signal accomplishment of its single-party socialist revolution — a free health-care system that assigns a family doctor to every neighborhood, with a focus on preventive care and maternal and pediatric health. That system has come under strain in recent years as thousands of specialists emigrate to the U.S., Europe and South America for higher pay and the allied government of Venezuela reduces the flow of subsidized oil that has been keeping Cuba solvent.

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