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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Wednesday, October 26, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Hurricane recovery continues, One SC Fund gets boost

http://www.postandcourier.com/politics/nucor-contribution-pushes-one-sc-fund-to-in-donations/article_2ce837f4-9b90-11e6-9217-0b9e18912b65.html

Gavin Jackson

Gov. Nikki Haley said work continues even as no power outages remain in South Carolina, debris is cleared and life is back to normal, for some, less than three weeks after Hurricane Matthew. "South Carolina is getting back to work, back into an economy that is going to move again," Haley said Wednesday while touting a \$100,000 donation to her One SC Fund to help Hurricane Matthew victims. The financial contribution goes directly to relief organizations helping the neediest victims of the destructive storm that hit the state on Oct. 8. It is part of Haley's grassroots vision for disaster assistance first pioneered last year. The scope of the damage continues to be revealed with Federal Emergency Management Agency already approving \$11 million for 3,268 applicants since offering individual assistance to affected counties. Residents in 24 counties, including those in the tri-county area, are eligible to apply for grants and loans to cover storm damage or offset temporary housing costs.

NOTE: Those who have returned home have faced tough conditions while 93 residents in hard-hit Marion and Horry counties still remain in shelters. The latest numbers from Haley show 174 homes were completely destroyed by the Category 1 storm and around 2,000 sustained minor to major damage.

NOTE: "A lot of people were affected, Nichols just happened to be a sweet town that was really hit hard," Haley said. "But they'll come back, our goal is to make sure they come back."

NOTE: Looking back at the height of storm preparations Haley said Charleston County officials overestimated the number of people who would need transportation assistance evacuating ahead of Matthew's approach.

NOTE: "That was a disappointment that we took buses from the Upstate to go to the Lowcountry and had very few used," Haley said. "As soon as we saw we were not having the activity we started releasing those buses right back." However, Haley said that cost is expected to be reimbursed with federal disaster dollars.

NOTE: The fund was originally founded last year to help after the devastating October flood. The charity raised \$2 million for that disaster and helped put 1,500 families back into their homes, Haley said.

WIS: One SC Fund receives \$100,000 donation

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33485784/watch-live-gov-haley-update-on-one-sc-fund>

The One South Carolina Relief Fund has grown by \$100,000 thanks to a donation Wednesday from South Carolina company Nucor. "It just goes back to the heart of South Carolina," Haley said. "It's who we are at our core. It's neighbors helping neighbors." "We're 2,000 people strong," said a Nucor executive at the check presentation. "Our company was born and raised in SC." After the flood of 2015, Nucor employees united to help one another and the communities they serve. "What happened next was awesome, the Nucor family pulled together," he said. "It was inspiring, it was a wonderful thing to see." The One SC Relief Fund was founded after the 2015 flood to gather donations to help

residents recover where federal funding and other donations fall short. The state's critical victims include the elderly, disabled and poor, who can barely afford recovery efforts on their own.

WACH: One SC Fund has garnered more than \$800k for Matthew victims

<http://wach.com/news/local/one-sc-fund-has-garnered-more-than-800k-for-matthew-victims>

Matthew Stevens

Governor Nikki Haley was joined by representatives from Nucor Steel and the Central Carolina Community Foundation to announce a large donation to the One SC Fund in the wake of Hurricane Matthew. Nucor Steel presented the governor a \$100,000 check to the One SC Fund. Since the devastation of Matthew, the One SC Fund has raised more than \$800,000 to go towards storm recovery efforts. "We have incredible corporate partners, and \$100,000 is an amazing contribution to a fund that is going to help so many people. To have over \$800,000 come in from individuals all across our state and from great companies like Nucor Steel goes back to the heart of South Carolina," said Haley. The governor noted that Matthew completely destroyed 174 homes across the state and caused major damage to 664 others and minor damage to 1,255

The One SC Fund was established following last year's thousand year flood. To date, donations to the fund have helped roughly 1,500 families return home.

Post and Courier: Gov. Haley helping governors, not in-state candidates, in final days

http://www.postandcourier.com/politics/gov-haley-ready-for-dismal-campaign-year-to-end/article_129f362a-9b97-11e6-8ee1-c7228ad20f2d.html

Gavin Jackson

Gov. Nikki Haley couldn't be happier there's less than two weeks until election season 2016 ends. But she still plans to hit the campaign trail in the remaining days—just not for any statewide candidates. Haley's focus remains on promoting GOP gubernatorial candidates elsewhere after some of the national and statewide candidates she backed, fizzled this year. She speaks with North Carolina Republican Gov. Pat McCrory several times a week as his race tightens and he also juggles the fallout of Hurricane Matthew. She's fund-raised and campaigned for him over the past year. Going forward, she "remains on standby for whatever he needs," Haley said. "We're going to do everything we can to get him reelected." She is also expected on the gubernatorial trail in Indiana next week. "Right now I'm always trying to help my fellow governors wherever I can," Haley said Wednesday about the next few days. "[Pat's] doing extremely well. He pushed through the flood just like we did, which is tough when you're managing an election and managing a flood."

WIS: Gov. Nikki Haley voting for Donald Trump only for policy reasons

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33486802/gov-nikki-haley-voting-for-donald-trump-only-for-policy-reasons>

Jeremy Turnage

Gov. Nikki Haley says she's not really happy with either of her choices for president this year, but she still plans to vote for businessman Donald Trump on Nov. 8. Speaking at a news conference for her flood and Hurricane Matthew relief fund, Haley was asked once about voting for Trump. "I think I've been really clear," Haley said. "This election has really turned my stomach upside down. It has been embarrassing for both parties. It's not something the country deserves, but it's what we've got. "Haley's support for Trump has been tenuous considering she once supported Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz after Rubio dropped out of the race. Even as other mainstream Republicans have dropped support of Trump in the last few weeks of this election cycle after video of the businessman's lewd remarks against women were released, Haley said she has decided to stick with him because of specific policy issues he espouses.

WACH: Haley: The best person based on policies still is Donald Trump

<http://wach.com/news/local/haley-the-best-person-based-on-policies-is-still-donald-trump>

Matthew Stevens

During a news conference Wednesday Governor Nikki Haley said that she will be voting for Republican nominee Donald Trump. "The best person based on the policies and dealing with things

like Obamacare still is Donald Trump. That's who I will be voting for November 8," announced Haley. The governor said that this election has "turned her stomach upside down" and that she is not a fan of either candidate. "It has been embarrassing for both parties," said Haley on the events leading up to the election. Haley's decision to vote for Trump comes a couple weeks after SC Democrats called for all Republicans to pull their support for Trump after a tape was leaked of the billionaire making inappropriate comments about women. Haley and Trump have not always seen eye-to-eye with both taking jabs at each other over the year, which included a back and forth on Twitter.

WLTX: Gov. Haley: 'This Election Has Turned My Stomach Upside Down'

<http://www.wltx.com/news/politics/gov-haley-this-election-has-turned-my-stomach-upside-down/342260461>

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley says the current election has been an embarrassment for both parties, but while she says it's not an easy vote, she reaffirmed her support for Donald Trump Wednesday. Haley was speaking to reporters about the state's disaster recovery efforts when she was asked about the current election cycle. "This election has turned my stomach upside down," she said. "It has been embarrassing for both parties. It's not something that the country deserves, but it's what we've got." Back in February, Haley supported Marco Rubio's candidacy for the Republican nomination, but he had to drop out just weeks later. She'd also made comments that seem to criticize some of Trump's most controversial statements. But since he won the nomination, she's been asked numerous times about his candidacy, and has said before that she would vote for him, while at the same time not offering a full endorsement. But in these latest remarks, she laid out the case for casting her vote for her party's nominee.

WYFF4: Gov. Nikki Haley will still vote for Trump in 'embarrassing' election

<http://www.wyff4.com/article/gov-nikki-haley-will-still-vote-for-trump-in-embarrassing-election/7506409>

Carla Field

Gov. Nikki Haley says she's not really happy with either of the choices for president this year, but she still plans to vote for Donald Trump on Nov. 8. Speaking at a news conference for her flood and Hurricane Matthew relief fund, Haley was asked about voting for Trump. "I think I've been really clear," Haley said. "This election has really turned my stomach upside down. It has been embarrassing for both parties. It's not something the country deserves, but it's what we've got." Haley once supported Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, and then Texas Sen. Ted Cruz after Rubio dropped out of the race. "As a governor of this state, knowing what our state's needs are and knowing the processes that are going to take place, there's a few things that worry me," Haley said. "One of the things will be who will be put into place at those agencies because we've had to deal with the EPA, whether it's been the National Labor Relations Board, whether it's been any of the mandates passed down from Health and Human Services, education -- all of those issues came into play in South Carolina, and they caused us a lot of heartache."

Associated Press: Company expanding to South Carolina bringing 80 jobs

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=KzB5wEQf

SC State Wire

A company that makes adaptors for the air conditioning industry is expanding to South Carolina, creating more than 80 jobs in York County. Crystal Distribution announced Wednesday that it's investing almost \$5 million to build a new building in Rock Hill. Some of the jobs will be transferred from the company's operations in Charlotte, North Carolina. The company makes what are known as curb adaptors which allow new air conditioning units to be attached to vents in existing structures. Hiring for the new positions is expected to begin in the second quarter of 2017.

The Herald: Manufacturer to create 83 jobs at 50,000 square-foot Rock Hill center

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/business/article110538462.html>

David Thackham

One of the nation's largest manufacturers of curb adapters is slated to bring \$4.8 million in investment and create up to 83 new jobs by building a 50,000-square-foot distribution center in Rock Hill. Crystal Distribution, Inc. will be relocating its existing positions from its operations in Charlotte. The new center will be built in Rock Hill's SouthCross Corporate Center. Construction is expected to be finished in early 2017; hiring is expected to begin later next year. CDI's center will be a build-to-suit light manufacturing and distribution facility. CDI Chief Financial Officer John Gerold said in a statement that the new facility will increase the company's manufacturing space by 40 percent. "From the start, South Carolina, York County and the City of Rock Hill all welcomed us and worked hard to make this project a reality," said CDI Chief Financial Officer John Gerold in a statement. "Beacon Partners and their contractors have been fantastic on facility planning, design and project management. Our employees are counting down the days until they move into the new facility ... (It will) allow us to better serve our customers in the eastern U.S. and Canada."

NOTE: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley and Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt both said in a statement that they were looking forward to seeing the company grow in York County. CDI also has locations in Dallas, Minneapolis and Seattle.

Aiken Standard: New commissioners appointed to Aiken Technical College governing board
http://www.aikenstandard.com/lifestyle/new-commissioners-appointed-to-aiken-technical-college-governing-board/article_f80d6456-e838-5078-b866-3a93e7568614.html

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley has appointed two new Commissioners to the Aiken County Commission for Technical and Comprehensive Education, the governing board for Aiken Technical College. The newest commissioners, Virginia (Ginger) Hawkins and Keyatta Priester, were formally introduced Monday during the Commission's regular meeting. Hawkins is the chief nurse officer at Aiken Regional Medical Centers, where she has helped influence the strategic direction and aligns nursing goals to improve quality, patient safety and transform culture. Priester is the community development manager for Aiken Electric Cooperative Inc., where she has worked to cultivate and develop lasting relationships in the community. In addition to the Commission, Hawkins also serves on the Community Medical Clinic of Aiken County board, American Red Cross-Aiken Area board, and the CSRA Nursing Workforce Coalition. Hawkins is a member of the American Nurses Association, South Carolina Nurses Association, American Organization of Nurse Executives, American Association of Critical-Care Nurses, Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society, and is a 2015 graduate of Leadership Aiken County.

Hurricane Matthew:

Associated Press: Beaufort advertises to lure back tourists after Matthew
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=4clCEFWq
SC State Wire

The Beaufort area is advertising to lure tourists back after Hurricane Matthew passed through earlier this month. Local media outlets report that the Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce spent about \$15,000 immediately after the storm to let visitors know the area is open for business. And on Tuesday the chamber received an additional \$10,000 in accommodations tax money for more post-storm advertising. The chamber has been using social media, digital, print and radio advertising to reach audiences in Columbia and Greenville as well as in Atlanta and Charlotte. Chamber tourism director Bob Wells says the area took a hit with constant coverage of the storm from the Beaufort area.

Associated Press: From bridges to dunes, Horry County tallies Matthew damage
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=INozwtaq
SC State Wire

Officials in Horry County are assessing the damage caused by Hurricane Matthew from damaged roads and bridges to battered seaside sand dunes. The Sun News of Myrtle Beach reports (<http://bit>.

ly/2dJBvIv) that there has not yet been a definitive cost estimate. But county Public Works Director David Gilreath says almost 1,000 county roads were damaged. Among them are 200 roads that had to be closed during the storm. Dozens of county bridges were also damaged. Officials say as many as 700 homes were damaged and dunes along county beaches were washed away. In Garden City about three feet of sand was washed onto waterfront roadways and will have to be plowed back to the beaches. Officials estimate as much as 150,000 cubic yards of debris will have to be removed countywide.

Associated Press: Mostly empty school buses cost South Carolina \$1M in Matthew

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=R1LxKVOI

SC State Wire

South Carolina spent nearly \$1 million sending 300 school buses to Charleston County on the coast during Hurricane Matthew to evacuate residents, but only 24 of the buses were used, state education records show. And the only people who rode the buses to inland shelters were residents of a nursing home, according to information from the state Education Department obtained by The Greenville News (<http://grnol.co/2dLmWOL>). Fuel for the buses, meals and hotels for the drivers and bus aides, the cost of a team from the state Forestry Commission and other expenses totaled \$954,779. State officials said they think federal disaster money should repay much of that cost. Some residents did go to North Charleston to get on the buses, but were directed to local shelters instead because of a rule that stated the buses couldn't be used until nearby shelters were at least half full.

Greenville News: Officials: Cost of sending school buses for hurricane evacuation \$1M

<http://grnol.co/2fdCAHI>

Tim Smith

The operation that sent hundreds of Greenville County school buses to the North Charleston Coliseum to evacuate people from Hurricane Matthew but wound up only taking residents from a nursing home cost the state almost \$1 million, according to estimates provided to The Greenville News by the state Department of Education. The total includes the cost of drivers and bus aides, fuel, meals and hotels for personnel from Greenville, Lexington and Richland school districts, as well as the cost of an incident management team from the state Forestry Commission. The plan had been to send hundreds of buses to North Charleston for a one-day operation to cart as many as 7,500 of those who wanted to evacuate to Upstate shelters on the Wednesday before the hurricane's arrival that Saturday. But because of a number of factors, including a desire by many Charleston-area residents not to leave and a rule that local shelters had to be at least half full before evacuees could be bussed to Greenville, no individual evacuees ever boarded the buses, which sat idle for nearly two days.

NOTE: "When local requests for assistance come in, as the state prepares for a storm, we listen to the needs of local officials," said Chaney Adams, press secretary for Gov. Nikki Haley. "In the aftermath of a storm, state officials always consider what worked and what didn't, and that informs what can be handled better during the next state of emergency."

Post and Courier: Charleston, Berkeley residents approved for FEMA assistance following Hurricane Matthew

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/charleston-berkeley-residents-approved-for-fema-assistance-following-hurricane-matthew/article_fed8abc0-9af7-11e6-9a08-c7439bac5c4f.html

Derek Asberry

Residents in Charleston and Berkeley counties who suffered significant damages to their property during Hurricane Matthew can apply for individual assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Gov. Nikki Haley's office reported Tuesday that the two counties join 22 others that have been approved. Dorchester County was approved last week. The federal program will

provide money for temporary rental assistance, home repairs, low-cost loans and other needs.

Post and Courier: Hurricane Matthew disaster recovery centers open in Dorchester and Williamsburg counties

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/hurricane-matthew-disaster-recovery-centers-open-in-dorchester-and-williamsburg/article_28a58552-9ae1-11e6-8db4-aff9afcdb4bc.html

Gregory Yee

State and federal officials have set up disaster recovery centers in Dorchester and Williamsburg counties for residents impacted by Hurricane Matthew. The S.C. Emergency Management Division, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Small Business Administration and other agencies will be at the centers to help residents with aid applications. The Dorchester County center is located at Miles Road Baptist Church, 819 Miles Road in Summerville. It is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday. The Williamsburg County center is located at the Williamsburg Recreation Center, 2084 Thurgood Marshall Highway in Kingstree. The center will be open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday. If possible, register with FEMA before visiting a recovery center by visiting DisasterAssistance.gov or calling the FEMA helpline [800-621-3362](tel:800-621-3362). Phone lines are open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week until further notice.

Post and Courier: Summerville center opens for storm help

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/summerville-center-opens-for-storm-help/article_2309f040-9bba-11e6-baf0-977070bf06bc.html

Bo Petersen

A new FEMA center has opened in Summerville to help people who need assistance recovering from Hurricane Matthew. The center is located at Miles Road Baptist Church, 819 Miles Road. Its hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday. It will be closed Sunday. Assistance for eligible survivors can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, and for other serious disaster-related needs, such as medical and dental expenses or funeral and burial costs. Also, low-interest disaster loans from the SBA are available for businesses of all sizes (including landlords), private nonprofits, homeowners and renters.

Island Packet: Got debris? County will cover private road cleanup if feds won't

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article110627962.html>

Kelly Meyerhofer

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has backed Beaufort County into a corner. To bolster the county's case for federal reimbursement of cleanup on private roads, county council voted to declare a state of health emergency Monday night. The mountains of debris make it "almost impossible to see when making turns in the street," Hilton Head Plantation resident Kathy Smith said. The mountains of debris make it "almost impossible to see when making turns in the street," Hilton Head Plantation resident Kathy Smith said. Courtesy Kathy Smith By issuing the proclamation, the county has legal authority to clear debris from private roads and rights-of-way, deputy county administrator Josh Gruber said. The work would include gated communities on Hilton Head Island. It also helps their case for federal reimbursement, he said. But the action also means Beaufort County assumes responsibility for the cost of clearing private roads and rights-of-way if FEMA denies the county's reimbursement request. "We're really sort of playing chicken with FEMA thinking we're going to force their hand on this, but if they don't, there's a severe penalty to us," council vice chair Jerry Stewart said.

Island Packet: Nearly \$50K in household items stolen from Beaufort home

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article110620217.html>

Joan McDonough

A Fuller Street resident returned home after Hurricane Matthew to find nearly \$50,000 worth of household items missing, according to a Beaufort Police Department report. The burglary occurred sometime between Oct. 8 and Oct. 12 when the resident was out of town but was not reported until Tuesday, according to the report and department spokeswoman Sgt. Hope Able. The victim waited to file a report in order to have a complete list of items stolen, Able said. The victim also believed the burglar gained access to the house through a window, Able said. There were no signs of forced entry into the home, she said. The total value of the stolen items was \$49,519, according to the report. Able said the items were "personal items to the household" but would not elaborate on the types of items taken, citing an active investigation. There are no suspects at this time, according to the report.

Morning News: Nichols woman relies on faith to weather the flood recovery

http://www.scnow.com/news/hurricane_matthew/article_ac040b74-9b0b-11e6-ba25-e794ba1dc625.html

Joshua Lloyd

"Most people lost a house. I lost a home; the place where I raised my kids and built my life. Now it's gone and I'm too old to start over." Patricia Coleman has lived in the Nichols community of Marion County for over 40 years, but floodwaters have led her and her husband to seek refuge in their local church fellowship hall for the past two weeks. Floodwaters brought on by Hurricane Matthew destroyed their home. "God was good to us and allowed us to get out when we did," she said. "The flood could have happened in the middle of the night and we would have never made it out." Coleman said rain had been falling for hours as Hurricane Matthew rolled through the Pee Dee, and the lake about a quarter mile behind her house had risen some but nothing out of the ordinary. "I looked out the back window and I could see some water but it wasn't unusual," she said. "About 30 minutes later I looked again and it had risen up to the back porch. That's about five feet high. It was knee high in the front yard before we could ever make it to the car." Coleman, an elderly woman who walks with a cane, said Nichols is in the worst condition she's ever seen.

Moultrie News: SCE&G completes restoration efforts after Hurricane Matthew

http://www.moultrienews.com/news/business/sce-g-completes-restoration-efforts-after-hurricane-matthew/article_b11d262a-9635-11e6-8b99-bfc34dff3352.html

South Carolina Electric & Gas has completed restoration to customers impacted by Hurricane Matthew. On Saturday, Oct. 8, Matthew made landfall southeast of McClellanville as a Category 1 hurricane with 75 mile per hour winds and heavy rain. More than 290,000 outages were reported at the peak of the storm, which occurred at 2 p.m. Oct. 8. Hardest hit by the high winds were SCE&G customers in the coastal counties of Charleston, Beaufort, Dorchester and Colleton as well as Richland County in the Midlands. SCE&G crews worked day and night until service was restored to all customers who lost power during the storm. More than 2,000 employees and 1,000 off-system crew members, some from as far away as Ohio, Oklahoma, Mississippi and Kentucky, helped with storm restoration efforts, including many investor-owned utilities and off-system and on-system contract crews.

NOTE: As part of its commitment to serving the people of South Carolina, SCE&G is also helping its neighbors through charitable donations. Last week, SCE&G announced a \$200,000 donation to Gov. Nikki Haley's One SC Fund to provide relief to South Carolinians affected by last year's flood and by Hurricane Matthew.

NOTE: "When you look at the donations of a company like SCE&G that's thinking past just getting the power back on, but actually thinking about getting people back into safe homes, and when you look at what neighbors are doing to help each other, whether they know each other or not, this is one South Carolina," Haley said during the Oct. 17 press conference.

WMBF: Conway-area businesses cleaning up the mess left by flooding

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33480628/conway-area-businesses-cleaning-up-the-mess-left-by-flooding>

Amy Lipman

Rivertown Fitness on Main Street is cleaning up after flood damage, working to reopen to gym members. "We got hit by the flood last year when we moved in," said Jonathon Sharpe, who owns RPT Sports, an athletic training business within Rivertown Fitness. "It wasn't as bad as this year, but then a year later here it comes again and this one was pretty bad." The gym took on 16 inches of water during Hurricane Matthew, then another eight inches several days later from Crab Tree Swamp, which stuck around for a week and a half. "A week and a half of just the water sitting in here is kind of what caused the problem and why it's taking so long to dry everything out," Sharpe said of the indoor turf, which he worked to dry out with fans Tuesday. Sharpe once played in the NFL, but he said cleanup since the flood has been tough work. He's had to move heavy gym equipment across the building to clean it, rip out walls and scrub floors.

WMBF: Over 1 million pounds of storm debris collected in Hartsville

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33479788/over-1-million-pounds-of-storm-debris-collected-in-hartsville>

Brad Dickerson

Crews with the city of Hartsville have collected over 1.1 million pounds of debris from storm-related issues in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew. According to a press release from the city of Hartsville, approximately 1,107,140 pounds of debris had been picked up as of Friday, Oct. 21. "At this time, yard debris removal is the focus of the city's efforts," the release stated. "Other items such as furniture will be picked up at a later time." City officials added that representatives with the Federal Emergency Management Agency have been in the area for damage assessments and collecting information related to damages. However, residents and business owners are urged to be careful who they give important personal information to. FEMA representatives have badges and are easily identifiable, the release stated. Anyone claiming to assist FEMA or be with the agency should be reported to the proper authorities.

WMBF: Disaster recovery center opens in Florence County

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33464229/disaster-recovery-center-opens-in-florence-county>

Brad Dickerson

The Florence County Disaster Recovery Center opened its' doors Tuesday afternoon to help those residents still recovering from Hurricane Matthew. It is located at the R.O.B. community building and will remain open until the need is no longer there. There are Federal Emergency Management Agency representatives on standby ready and willing to answer any questions people may have. FEMA manager Joann Cook recommends people register before coming to the center in order to expedite the process. Individuals can check the status of their application, schedule an inspector to come to their house and find out every detail about eligibility. Cook encourages all flood victims to apply with the Small Business Association for low interest loans on homes or businesses. An SBA employee said not to wait for an insurance settlement and just apply with FEMA first. If it turns out a loan is needed, then they will receive a referral.

WPDE: Food pantries, hurricane victims struggle to feed families after disaster

<http://wpde.com/news/local/food-pantries-hurricane-victims-struggle-to-feed-families-after-storm>

Liz Cooper

Many families impacted by the massive flooding during Hurricane Matthew aren't getting disaster food

assistance, D-SNAP, and some are left wondering how to stock their pantries. Currently, officials say additional food assistance will only be for those who were already registered for food stamps or SNAP. That's left many wondering why more people aren't eligible for temporary assistance. According to the USDA, the problem is with the state of South Carolina. A spokesperson with USDA said in a statement Tuesday afternoon, "FNS (Food and Nutrition Services) has not received a D-SNAP request from the state of South Carolina for any of the counties with declarations of individual assistance which is a prerequisite for a D-SNAP. It is the State's decision whether or not to request a D-SNAP in the wake of disaster."

Michael Slager Case:

Post and Courier: Judge vacates decision to seal filings in Michael Slager case, will take up other concerns

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/judge-vacates-decision-to-seal-filings-in-michael-slager-case/article_cdb11f58-9af9-11e6-a277-6f3612410807.html

Andrew Knapp

A judge on Tuesday vacated his order to seal future filings in Michael Slager's murder case after The Post and Courier raised concerns about the move. Circuit Judge Clifton Newman made the demand of attorneys last week, when he also ejected most members of the public from a portion of a hearing when prosecutors were slated to testify. Citing constitutional provisions for open court proceedings and records, an attorney for the newspaper on Monday proposed to Newman that he vacate the order to seal the documents and his decision to close the proceeding. The judge on Tuesday said he decided to vacate the records sealing "upon consideration of the applicable First Amendment and related rights and giving fair consideration to the constitutional rights of the parties." He also set a hearing for noon Friday to address other concerns about openness of the proceedings.

General Assembly News:

The State: Final gun issues hearing to be held in smaller room than earlier ones

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article110651042.html>

Cynthia Roldan

A legislative panel that has been exploring if changes should be made to South Carolina's gun laws will have its final meeting on Thursday in Columbia. The Senate's Gun Issues Special Committee will hold a 6 to 8 p.m. public hearing in room 105 of the Gressette Building at the State House complex. The committee has held three other hearings throughout the state since September. The room for Thursday's hearing has a capacity of 140, so seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Staffers are working on an overflow room, but are stressing to those who do not plan to speak that they can watch the meeting as it is streamed online. Previous meetings have been held in significantly larger rooms with a capacity that exceeded 300. The hearings were scheduled in response to several state senators' push to close the so-called "Charleston Loophole," by extending the background check waiting period needed to buy a gun beyond the current three days.

The State: SC House panel suggests strengthening dam safety law

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article110608052.html>

Avery G. Wilks

Nearly three weeks after Hurricane Matthew broke 25 more South Carolina dams, an S.C. House panel agreed Wednesday on legislation that would tighten the state's dam safety law. The panel will suggest S.C. House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Darlington, file a bill in December to give state regulators oversight over more dams and require dam owners to register with the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. But lawmakers rejected DHEC's request that the Legislature require

owners of high- or significant-hazard dams to hire professional engineers to inspect them every five to 10 years. And they set aside for now a proposal to leverage fees against the state's dam owners that would help pay for DHEC's dam safety program, saying they needed more information about how that program would work. Lucas, who formed the committee, can consider its suggestions before prefiling a dam safety bill ahead of the upcoming legislative session, which starts in January.

The State: Lawmakers aim for proposal to fix ailing pension system by January

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article110561867.html>

Cassie Cope

A proposal to fix the state's ailing pension system is expected in January, a co-chairman of a legislative panel said Wednesday. "We need to offer a solution that fixes the problem," said state Sen. Kevin Bryant, R-Anderson, a co-chairman of the committee. Bryant said he hopes a panel of House and Senate members will have a solution to offer by the end of the first week of the legislative session. Lawmakers were told Tuesday the state's unfunded pension debt could be nearly \$40 billion, twice previous estimates. That debt is the difference between the amount the pension fund has on hand to pay for the retirement benefits of state and local government workers, including teachers, and the amount it has promised to pay current employees and retirees. In an effort to close that gap, lawmakers are looking at whether to put more taxpayer money into the pension system or take more money out of the paychecks of government workers. The state's pension system serves more than 180,000 state and local government employees, including teachers. Another 134,634 retirees also are part of the system.

The State: SC's pension debt is \$40 billion, lawmakers told

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article110351687.html>

Cassie Cope

South Carolina's unfunded pension debt could be nearly twice as large as estimated — \$40 billion. View the database of state employee salaries That debt has been estimated at \$20 billion. But that assumed a 7.5 percent return on the pension fund's investments. If the state were to apply a more realistic market value rate of return — 4 percent — to those investments, the retirement system's unfunded liabilities would grow to almost \$40 billion, said Anthony Randazzo, managing director of the libertarian Reason Foundation's Pension Integrity Project. Randazzo told S.C. lawmakers Tuesday the pension fund has been "grossly underfunded" for years and will need to be shored up with more money. Where that money will come from — state workers or taxpayers — has yet to be decided.

Post and Courier: 401k-type plan a possible pension alternative for state employees

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/k-type-plan-a-possible-pension-alternative-for-state-employees/article_8baa1ada-9ab1-11e6-8081-33200409cc1b.html

Gavin Jackson

Experts told lawmakers Tuesday that South Carolina is well-positioned to transition away from its troubled pension plan to a 401k-type retirement plan, despite failed attempts in other states and worries from state employee advocates. Rep. Bill Herbkersman, R-Bluffton, co-chair of the Joint Committee on Pension Systems Review, said closing the current pension plan to new employees and offering an alternative could be one way to combat the growing \$20 billion pension shortfall. "It will be a starting point and is something we're considering right now," Herbkersman said. The state currently offers a defined contribution plan, with cost-sharing, as an option to the pension plan. The plan requires employees to exert more responsibility over their investments and contributions but are free from rate increases that have jumped to 8.66 percent. Greg Mennis, director of the Public Sector Retirement Systems Project with the Pew Charitable Trusts, called the state's defined contribution plan "robust" with around 14 percent of new employees selecting the plan.

Post and Courier: State Senate to organize members in December

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/state-senate-to-organize-members-in-december/article_a6572854-9b9d-11e6-b1ac-472470767905.html

Schuyler Kropf

State Sen. President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman is calling for a Senate organizational session at noon Dec. 6. The Senate will elect its officers, adopt rules and select their committees and seats in the Chamber. The early move comes as lawmakers last year voted to shorten the session by one month, ending in May 2017 as opposed to June. The Legislature convenes again in full session in January.

SC Elections:

The State: Q&A with SC Senate District 26 candidate Nikki Setzler

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/election-endorsements/article110536807.html>

The State: Q&A with SC Senate District 26 candidate Brad Lindsey

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/election-endorsements/article110536742.html>

The State: Q&A with SC Senate District 22 candidate Susan Brill <http://www.thestate.com/opinion/election-endorsements/article110536682.html>

The State: Q&A with SC Senate District 22 candidate Mia McLeod

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/election-endorsements/article110536622.html>

The State: Q&A with Richland County Council District 8 candidate Jim Manning

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/election-endorsements/article110536232.html>

The State: Q&A with Richland County Council District 8 candidate Todd Phillips

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/election-endorsements/article110536302.html>

The State: Q&A with Richland County Council District 7 candidate Gwen Kennedy

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/election-endorsements/article110536077.html>

The State: Q&A with Richland County Council District 7 candidate Michael Greene

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/election-endorsements/article110536032.html>

The State: Q&A with SC House District 89 candidate Micah Caskey

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/election-endorsements/article110535792.html>

The State: Q&A with SC House District 89 candidate Rosemounda Peggy Butler

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/election-endorsements/article110534867.html>

The State: Q&A with SC House District 79 candidate Ivory Thigpen

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/election-endorsements/article110535442.html>

The State: Q&A with SC House District 79 candidate Donald Miles

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/election-endorsements/article110535377.html>

The State: Q&A with SC House District 75 candidate Tyler Gregg

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/election-endorsements/article110535267.html>

The State: Q&A with SC House District 75 candidate Kirkman Finlay

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/election-endorsements/article110534847.html>

SC Agency News:

Berkeley Independent: At-risk children pick veggies for families in Berkeley County

http://www.berkeleyind.com/news/at-risk-children-pick-veggies-for-families-in-berkeley-county/article_ba296ac6-97a7-11e6-81dd-ebd330b1e764.html

Lindsay Street

An after-school program for at-risk children in Berkeley County harvested vegetables for families in need following Hurricane Matthew, according to the S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice. Berkeley DJJ's after-school program began volunteer work with Fields to Families in March. The children built vegetable and flower boxes, and planted a variety of vegetables that benefit Berkeley County residents. On Oct. 15, the Berkeley team participated in Restoring Carolina and salvaged crops and plants that was not badly bruised by the hurricane. Youth picked banana peppers, green peppers, egg plants, basil and more. After the pickings, turnips and yellow onions were planted. The mission of Fields to Families is to help increase nutrition and ease hunger by coordinating the distribution of fresh produce obtained from local gardens and farms.

Post and Courier : Interstate 526 is at a standstill, kind of like the rest of the Lowcountry

http://www.postandcourier.com/columnists/interstate-is-at-a-standstill-kind-of-like-the-rest/article_95029468-99f8-11e6-b7c5-c79d6cf2a22f.html

Brian Hicks

It's time to face facts: The state isn't willingly going to finish the Interstate 526 loop. Not for several years, and perhaps not in this generation. Why? Charleston County Councilman Herb Sass sums it up eloquently. He told reporter Diane Knich, "I feel like the goal line keeps being moved." He's absolutely right. A lot of powerful people – many of them usually enemies – are all working to stop 526. And they are not only moving the goal line; they're changing the rules of the game. Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman says he's not on board with the latest 526 plan. Charleston officials thought he was. Did they misunderstand, or did Leatherman change his mind? Some say the senator got mad after he heard those Nix 526 tapes of Charleston County Chairman Elliott Summey calling him a "tyrant." As if Summey hasn't said worse things in open meetings. For weeks Summey and Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg were convinced they had majority support on the State Infrastructure Bank board for 526. But Chairman Vince Graham, who opposes the road, kept putting off the meeting. Hmm. It's hard to win when the other side controls the game board.

NOTE: But Leatherman, the league and Graham are on the same side here, as is Gov. Nikki Haley – who appointed Graham (a Conservation League alumnus). Haley doesn't like 526, or Leatherman. Together, and with a little help from jealous Upstate politicians, they've got much more juice than folks down here.

Post and Courier : I-526 funding feud persists as discussion of Charleston rail project devolves into personal affronts

http://www.postandcourier.com/business/i--funding-feud-persists-as-discussion-of-charleston-rail/article_d932f4fe-9acd-11e6-877d-2312bcf00ff5.html

David Wren

The normally staid discussion of property acquisitions for a rail yard at the former Navy base in North Charleston took a combative turn Tuesday as state lawmakers used the opportunity to take potshots at area officials over an unrelated project — the completion of Interstate 526. Saying he's afraid Charleston area politicians will use funding for I-526 as a way to hold up the rail project, state Sen.

Hugh Leatherman — chairman of the Legislature's Joint Bond Review Committee — pushed a plan that would let Palmetto Railways proceed with the property acquisitions it needs without a normally required letter of approval from Charleston County. The committee ultimately approved the land acquisitions and the waiver during an exchange in which unnamed Charleston area leaders were described as "characters" who are loud and litigious and whose ideas are "garbage." County Council Chairman Elliott Summey said the need for such a waiver is surprising because no one has asked the county for its support.

SC Delegation News:

The Herald: Winthrop Republicans will host high-ranking Republicans in election rally

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article110531082.html>

David Thackham

Billed as the biggest event in the group's history on campus, the Winthrop College Republicans will host a number of high-ranking South Carolina politicians in an election rally Wednesday evening at Winthrop University. The college group will host several politicians, including U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney, a Republican from Indian Land, who represents South Carolina's 5th Congressional District, at 6:45 p.m. Wednesday in McBryde Hall. Mulvaney will be joined by several other Republicans, including S.C. Rep. Tommy Pope, the S.C. House speaker pro tempore, and state Senate candidates Wes Climer and Mark Palmer, both of Rock Hill. Republican state Reps. Raye Felder of Fort Mill, Ralph Norman of Rock Hill and Gary Simrill of Rock Hill are also expected to attend.

SC Political News:

Independent Mail: Anderson County has shortage of poll workers

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/10/25/anderson-county-has-shortage-poll-workers/92738902/>

Nikie Mayo

With the November general election less than two weeks away, Anderson County once again is facing a serious shortage of poll workers. Katy Smith, the county's elections director, announced the shortage late Tuesday afternoon in a news release. Smith said there is a particular shortage of poll workers in Piedmont, Williamston, Powdersville and Easley. The precincts affected include Brushy Creek, Williamston Mill, Pelzer, West Pelzer, Powdersville, Hunt Meadows, Mount Airy and others, Smith said. This is not the first time Anderson County has had a shortage of poll workers. In the South Carolina Republican primary in February, a shortage of poll workers and some problems with equipment caused long lines at Anderson County's busiest precincts.

Herald-Journal: County growth swells voter rolls at precincts

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161025/county-growth-swells-voter-rolls-at-precincts?rssfeed=true>

Chris Lavender

More than half of the precincts in Spartanburg County have more registered voters per precinct than the state recommends. State Elections Commission spokesman Chris Whitmire said state law suggests 1,500 registered voters per precinct. More than 45 precincts in Spartanburg County exceed that guideline. "Our county is not unique in this respect," said Henry Laye, Spartanburg County Elections and Voter Registration director. "Our board discussed this ... issue at our October board meeting and have identified several of our larger precincts for potential splitting next year." Among the precincts that exceed the recommended limit are West View Elementary School precinct, with 4,196 registered voters; Anderson Mill Elementary School precinct, with 4,104; Lake Bowen Baptist

precinct, with 3,817; Friendship Baptist Church, with 3,688; and Boiling Springs 9th, with 3,681. Some efforts have been made to reduce the number of registered voters in some precincts. "We created a new precinct this year, River Ridge Elementary, by moving voters out of Reidville Fire Station Precinct, as that had become too crowded," Laye said. "It takes General Assembly approval to create new precincts."

Aiken Standard: Absentee voting up statewide; S.C. officials monitoring security

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20161025/161029748/absentee-voting-up-statewide-sc-officials-monitoring-security->

Maayan Schechter

Though the number of absentee ballots cast so far in Aiken County is slightly less than usual, the director of the Aiken County's Registration and Elections Office anticipates the county will have more than 15,000 residents vote absentee, higher than in 2012. So far, 4,600 people have voted absentee in-person, with 3,298 voting absentee by mail, fax or email, according to Executive Director Cynthia Holland. Holland added 9,426 people have requested absentee applications, though many have not yet sent them in. "It's slightly less (than it was years ago), but we still have two weeks to go; a lot of voters wait until the last minute," Holland said. "In 2012, there were 15,000 absentee ballots. I think we will meet that or get a little higher." Absentee voting at the Aiken County Registration and Elections Office in the Aiken County Government Center will take place through Nov. 7, a day before the general election.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Drought group discusses western Carolinas as floods subside

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=RLmN9tBO

Jeffrey Collins

As the last river finally falls below major flood stage near the coast, a rapidly worsening drought is killing crops and causing hard-to-fight wildfires in rugged terrain in western North Carolina and South Carolina. The dry side of the unusual split was the focus of a South Carolina Drought Response Committee meeting Wednesday, where drought-level declarations were made that could eventually enable mandatory water restrictions if necessary. "In Spartanburg County, all of the reservoirs are dropping daily. Are we at a critical stage? No," said drought committee member Brad Powers. "But if it continues as it is, it is going to get bad in a hurry. Not just for us, but for everyone." A few minutes later, Ed Saxton of the Beaufort-Jasper Water and Sewer Authority spoke up. His area about 200 miles south of Spartanburg saw 15 inches of rain from Matthew in early October.

Associated Press: The Latest: Wildfire danger in Carolinas at 10-year high

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

SC State Wire

The growing drought in western North Carolina and South Carolina also means a growing threat of wildfires in the rugged mountains. The U.S. Forest Service says about 70 firefighters are near Sylva, North Carolina, making sure a 375 acre fire doesn't spread to homes along Dicks Creek. Another fire is burning in the Linville Gorge. Forest Service spokesman Steve Little says usually in the fall small debris, like fallen leaves and twigs, burn and are easier to contain. But he says a dry summer has left larger branches and dead trees drier than they have been in a decade or more. Little says without a heavy rain, the fire danger will remain high at least through November.

Associated Press : First elk sighting in South Carolina since 1700s

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=pd5VDe8T

SC State Wire

A wild elk has been spotted roaming the woodlands of South Carolina for the first time in more than 200 years. News outlets report that wildlife biologists are warning Upstate residents and tourists to stay away from a young bull elk that was seen in several places in Pickens County over the weekend. In response to social media posts showing people feeding the animal, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission biologist Justin McVey warned the public that the animal can cause serious injuries. The animals once were native to the Lowcountry but were wiped out in the Carolinas in the 1700s. The species was reintroduced to North Carolina in 2001 and officials say it's likely the young male was pushed out of mountain territory across the state border by older males.

Greenville News: In Pickens County, first elk sighting in state for centuries

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/pickens-county/2016/10/25/pickens-county-first-elk-sighting-state-centuries/92718798/>

Ron Barnett

For the first time since the Upstate was Cherokee territory, a wild elk has been seen roaming the woodlands of South Carolina. Northern Pickens County is abuzz with sightings of the bull elk, whose wanderings are being traced on social media. It's not the species that once inhabited this area but more likely one that found himself ousted by the dominant males of a herd of Rocky Mountain elk that have been re-established in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, said noted outdoorsman and Pickens County resident Dennis Chastain. "This is a historic moment that some of us knew would eventually come," Chastain said. "This is the first wild elk to roam the woods and wild places in South Carolina since they disappeared in the early 1700's."

Associated Press: What the elk is that? Animal in SC for 1st time in centuries

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=pd5VDe8T

SC State Wire

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Associated Press: Only 1 provider in state to offer Affordable Care coverage

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=PFy3yaFf

SC State Wire

Only one insurance provider in South Carolina will be offering health insurance coverage under the federal Affordable Care Act when open enrollment begins next week. Media outlets report that only BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina will offer these plans on HealthCare.gov. United Healthcare, Aetna and BlueChoice, a subsidiary of BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina, are leaving the marketplace. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports those covered by Affordable Care Act policies nationwide will face about a 25 percent increase in their premiums next year. In South Carolina that figure is 29 percent. But federal officials say that when federal discounts are included, about 70 percent of those seeking coverage will be able to buy coverage for \$75 or less a month. Open enrollment begins Tuesday.

Post and Courier: Stakeholders react to spikes in Obamacare rates

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/stakeholders-react-to-spikes-in-obamacare-rates/article_08d54ff2-9abc-11e6-a347-a39416c0f5ce.html

Derrek Asberry

North Charleston resident David Montgomery said he's not too worried about the upcoming price increase on the health insurance plan he's purchasing through the Affordable Care Act. A report released Monday by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services shows that Obamacare customers across the country, on average, will face a 25 percent increase next year. Affordable Care Act premiums in South Carolina will increase even more – by 29 percent – while other states will fare much worse. Arizona customers, for example, will face an average 116 percent increase. Average rates in North Carolina will increase by 40 percent and in Tennessee, they will increase by an average 63 percent. But these spikes aren't what they appear to be, according to federal officials. Once federal discounts kick in, about 70 percent of shoppers will be able to purchase a plan for \$75 or less per month. "It's still a bargain," Montgomery said. "I agree with adjusting and working (the law) out until we get it right. But it's still a good program that addresses a problem that had never been addressed before."

Post and Courier: Dreamliner orders a confidence booster for Boeing

http://www.postandcourier.com/business/dreamliner-orders-a-confidence-booster-as-boeing-announces-earnings-jump/article_c8523e8a-9b84-11e6-ba5f-536bd6828057.html

David Wren

A pair of recent orders has Boeing Co. executives feeling more confident about the prospects of boosting production of the 787 Dreamliner by the end of this decade, but the aerospace giant still won't commit until after more customers come forward. "We're looking at that additional production step-up to 14 a month, and we'll be assessing that here over the next six months," Dennis Muilenburg, Boeing's chairman, president and CEO, said during the company's quarterly earnings call with analysts. Boeing currently builds 12 of the twin-aisle Dreamliners per month, split between manufacturing sites in North Charleston and Everett, Wash. Muilenburg said orders this month from Qatar Airways for 30 Dreamliners and China Southern Airlines for a dozen more "improves our position, but there's still more work to do."

Associated Press: Americans ate more seafood last year than they did in 2014

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=hsY1HxiE

SC State Wire

The average American ate nearly a pound more seafood in 2015 than he or she did the previous year, the federal government said on Wednesday. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration released the statistic along with its annual Fisheries of the United States report. It said per capita consumption of seafood grew from 14.6 pounds in 2014 to 15.5 pounds in 2015. The growth brought per capita consumption of seafood to its highest point since 2010, and it's also the biggest jump of its kind in at least 25 years. The jump corresponds with a rise in catch, NOAA said. Fishermen brought 9.7 billion pounds of fish and shellfish ashore in 2015, an increase of 2.4 percent from 2014. America's catch was valued at \$5.2 billion, which was a drop of 4.5 percent from the previous year. Despite the growth, Americans are still eating slightly less seafood than they were 10 years ago, when per capita consumption was over 16 pounds, said Alan Lowther, a statistician with NOAA.

The State: The kinds of crime you're likely to be a victim of in SC's 5 largest cities

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article110556717.html>

Cynthia Roldan

By now you've probably heard that South Carolina was slightly more violent in 2015 than the prior year, but what that means to you depends on what places you frequent and where you live. You're more likely to be the victim of a burglary or have your car stolen if you live or travel to Columbia, according to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports that the agency publishes yearly. But you're more likely to have your personal belongings stolen in North Charleston. Overall, there were minor increases to

property crime rates in four of the five largest cities of the state, bucking state and nationwide rates. South Carolina overall saw a drop of 4 percent in property crime, while national trends showed a 3 percent dip. Nationally, violent crime went up 4 percent, while the state rates increased 3 percent. Even so, violent crime is still 17 percent lower than it was 10 years ago in 2006. Many of the changes for the year can be are being treated by officials as a statistical blip. Officials warn crime rates fluctuate, having most recently gone up around 2011. Most have stressed that a growth in the state's population can be a contributing factor; 63,664 more people called the Palmetto State their home in 2015.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Advocates say public must assist in preventing domestic violence at MUSC Do No Harm rally

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/advocates-say-public-must-assist-in-preventing-domestic-violence/article_158db6c0-9abd-11e6-a453-db79d369fe12.html

Derrek Asberry

Standing in front of a purple gown that honored the unknown victims of domestic violence, Danielle Richardson spoke about the horrors of being locked in a room with her siblings while listening to her mom's boyfriend abuse her. It had happened frequently in her childhood, Richardson said Wednesday at the Medical University of South Carolina's "Do No Harm" rally. Eventually, her mother started defending herself. But on June 18, 1991, the man killed her mother by stabbing her 37 times. "We were able to break down our door because we knew it was the worst of the worse," said Richardson, the founder of Goodbye Abuse Inc. "As I cradled my mom in my arms ... as I tried to stop the blood flowing from her stab wounds, I say to her the very first Bible verse she ever taught me: 'The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.'" Behind the hushed crowd listening to Richardson at the MUSC Horseshoe, 47 dresses and shirts hung from trees. Each one honored a South Carolina domestic violence victim who died in 2015

Morning News: Domestic violence review teams look for ways tackle problems in Pee Dee

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_91eb5598-9b0c-11e6-bd35-67485147e507.html

Jessica Imbimbo

The first Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee Workshop was held on Oct. 17 and 18 to help county and state officials identify trends in domestic violence deaths and improve prevention and intervention methods. The third, fourth, and twelfth judicial court circuits' fatality review teams all attended the two-day workshop hosted by the South Carolina Commission on Prosecution Coordination. Each of South Carolina's 16 court circuits has established its own domestic violence fatality review committee consisting of law enforcement officials, prosecutors and victim advocates among others. The domestic violence fatality review teams were created as part of a law signed by Gov. Nikki Haley in March aimed at decreasing the number of people killed by domestic violence in the state. Prior to the passing of that legislation, South Carolina was one of just nine states that did not have domestic violence fatality review committee

Associated Press: Dead woman found in empty home that was high school hangout

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=X752UFXJ

SC State Wire

Investigators in Simpsonville are working around the clock to find who killed a 22-year-old woman found dead in an abandoned home that used to be a place for high school friends to hang out. Police said in a news release that friends looking for Catherine Boyter-Blauvelt found her body around 1 a. m. Wednesday, two days after she was last seen alive. The coroner's office called Boyter-Blauvelt's death a homicide, but did not release the cause of her death. Interim Simpsonville Police Chief Steve Moore says he has as many officers and investigators as he can working around the clock on the

case.

Associated Press: Coroner releases names of 2 Greenville County crash victims

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

SC State Wire

The Greenville County coroner has released the names of two people killed when they were thrown from their car after it hit a guardrail and overturned. Coroner Parks Evans tells local news outlets that the victims have been identified as the driver, 18-year-old Sydney Love Graham of Lyman, and 21-year-old Michael Andrew Dickson of Moore. The car ran off a road near Greer about 4:30 on Tuesday morning. The victims were not wearing seatbelts.

Post and Courier: Man gets 3-year prison term for shooting death of boy, 15, in North Charleston

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/man-gets--year-prison-term-for-shooting-death-of/article_e8eef104-9b9a-11e6-bc05-4fb29230f11c.html

Andrew Knapp

A Summerville man has been sentenced to three years behind bars for accidentally shooting a 15-year-old boy to death in North Charleston, according to a court filing obtained Wednesday. De'Andre Christopher Michael, now 21, of Sangaree Parkway, pleaded guilty Sept. 21 to involuntary manslaughter in the killing of teenager Hasnai Davis. Circuit Judge Thomas Hughston sentenced Michael to three years in prison and two years on probation after his release. He is scheduled to be freed from a state prison in June, but he will be eligible for parole Nov. 18. The charge, considered a nonviolent crime, carried no minimum sentence but up to five years behind bars. "There was no negotiation or recommendation as to the sentence," said Assistant Solicitor Burns Wetmore, who prosecuted the case. He declined comment on the term handed down. An attempt to reach Michael's attorney, Assistant Public Defender Christopher Geel, was not immediately successful.

Independent Mail: Update: At least two Anderson shootings likely related, police say

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/crime/2016/10/26/6-injured-3-shootings-anderson/92763604/>

Kirk Brown

Anderson police Lt. Mike Aikens said Wednesday afternoon that two of the shootings early this morning in Anderson were likely related, in terms of both assailants and victims. The first of the two related shootings happened around 1 a.m. at 114 Gamewell Court. The second happened about two hours later at 209 Hudgens St. At the Gamewell Court house, two women and two children, ages 5 and 11, were in the house. One of the women was wounded in the foot. At the Hudgens Street house, two men were wounded. Aikens said the investigation was continuing and no arrests have been made. Three other people were hurt in an earlier, apparently unrelated shooting, including a 13-year-old who is in critical condition. The Anderson County Sheriff's Office also reported an early morning shooting.

Associated Press: 57-year-old Greenwood man dies in shooting; no arrests made

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

SC State Wire

Authorities say a 57-year-old man has been shot to death inside a Greenwood home. Greenwood County Coroner Sonny Cox told media outlets that Barry Warren died at the scene of the shooting Tuesday afternoon. Greenwood police say they are investigating the shooting as a homicide, but released few other details. No arrests have been made. Greenwood County sheriff's deputies are investigating a separate shooting that happened four miles away within minutes of Warren's body being found. Investigators say the victim in the Greenwood County shooting is in the hospital and they haven't said if the two incidents are related.

Associated Press: South Carolina sheriff's deputy wounds armed suspect

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

SC State Wire

A South Carolina sheriff's deputy has shot and wounded a suspect who deputies say moved toward them with a knife. Greenville County sheriff's spokesman Ryan Flood said in a statement that deputies were called to the office of a nonprofit Tuesday to search for a person with outstanding warrants. Flood said deputies saw a black man running away and determined he was wanted in Jasper County. He wasn't the person deputies were seeking. Deputies chased him and say he pulled a knife. Flood says deputies told him to drop the knife but he raised it and moved toward them. Flood says one officer fired. The suspect was taken to a hospital. His name and condition haven't been released. State Law Enforcement Division spokesman Thom Berry says the officer is a white man.

Greenville News: Man with knife shot by Greenville County deputy, SLED investigates

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2016/10/25/ems-called-after-shots-fired-greenville-county-chase/92741494/>

Anna Lee

A man was shot by a sheriff's deputy Tuesday after authorities say he pulled a knife during a pursuit that began at an addiction recovery center in Greenville. Sheriff's Office spokesman Ryan Flood said deputies were called to The Turning Point of South Carolina, 24 Bruce Road, Tuesday afternoon in a search for a subject with active warrants. When deputies arrived at the facility, Flood said they noticed a black male "immediately flee from their presence." Flood said deputies ran the man's name through the National Crime Information Center and found that he was wanted out of Jasper County. He said the man wasn't the subject deputies were originally looking for. Deputies located the man a short time later, but he jumped a fence and took off running through the woods, according to Flood. A foot pursuit followed. As deputies closed in near the wood line next to Bruce Road, the man pulled out a knife "in a threatening manner and raised it up in an attack position," Flood said in a release Tuesday night.

The State: Greenville deputy wounds suspect in confrontation

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article110568462.html>

Tim Flach

A Greenville County deputy shot and wounded a suspect Tuesday who deputies say moved toward them with a knife. The confrontation happened after deputies were called to the office of an unidentified nonprofit agency to search for a person with outstanding warrants, sheriff's spokesman Ryan Flood said. Flood said deputies saw a man running away who wasn't the person originally sought, but it was determined he was wanted in Jasper County. The man pulled a knife after deputies chased him, Flood said. Deputies told him to drop the knife but he raised it and moved toward them, causing one officer to fire and wound the suspect in an unspecified way, Flood said. The suspect was taken to a hospital for medical care. State Law Enforcement Division agents are reviewing the shooting, spokesman Thom Berry said. Their findings will be forwarded to prosecutors in the 13th Circuit Solicitor's office. There is a video from the deputies' patrol vehicle, Berry said. It's the 35th officer-involved shooting in the state this year and the fifth involving a Greenville deputy, he said.

Herald-Journal: Spartanburg County suing former jail officer

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161026/spartanburg-county-suing-former-jail-officer?rssfeed=true>

Daniel J. Gross

The Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office is suing a former jail officer, claiming he violated an agreement by talking about a previous discrimination suit against the county. Brian Blalock was fired from the Spartanburg County jail in 2012 for an alleged excessive force incident. Blalock then sued the Sheriff's Office based on unfair treatment as a result of racial discrimination. He was awarded \$25,000 in December 2015, according to data previously obtained from the State Fiscal Accountability Authority through the Freedom of Information Act. Blalock was served with the new lawsuit last week, he said. The suit alleges that in the December 2015 settlement, Blalock agreed to

"not disseminate the matters contained in this Release and Settlement Agreement and agrees that this Agreement, any facts concerning its negotiation, execution, or implementation, and his claims are not to be posted or published in any manner or forum directly or indirectly, to anyone, including, but not limited to, news media, digital media, internet correspondence/website/blogs, organizations."

Associated Press: SLED: Lexington County court clerk stole \$36,000 in fees

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=m78LMeja

SC State Wire

State agents say a former Lexington County court clerk has been charged with embezzlement after they say she stole about \$36,000 in court filing fees. An arrest warrant from the State Law Enforcement Division says 40-year-old Ana Marin took the money to file the cases, but never deposited the cash. Authorities say they started investigating the theft when Marin had an extra \$25 in her till at the end of a day in May 2015. SLED says Marin was taking money for nearly three years. Agents say she also said she destroyed written receipt books that could have traced the missing money back to her. Marin faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted. Court records did not list an attorney.

The State: Former aide charged with embezzling Lexington court fees

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article110610567.html>

Tim Flach

A former staff member at the Lexington County clerk of court's office was charged Wednesday with embezzling more than \$10,000 in public money. Ana Marin, 40, was arrested by State Law Enforcement Division agents after an investigation into missing money that began in mid-2015. She is accused in a warrant of taking at least \$36,000 in court filing fees between January 2013 and May 2015. Clerk Beth Carrigg, who did not seek re-election this fall, requested the investigation after learning of a discrepancy put at \$75,000 by a subsequent audit. It's the third time since 2011 that county authorities have faced alleged theft by staff members. County Treasurer Jim Eckstrom made changes to prevent problems after a former assistant pleaded guilty in 2013 to taking more than \$8,100 in public money for personal use. SLED also looked into reports of missing money in magistrate court in 2013 after an audit found financial irregularities.

The State: Upstate lawyer sentenced to 6 months in jail for defrauding sorority

<http://www.thestate.com/news/state/south-carolina/article110638852.html>

Rachael Myers Lowe

An Anderson attorney was sentenced to 6 months in federal prison and a \$50,000 fine for defrauding the Gamma Phi Beta sorority at the University of Alabama of \$234,000. Jennifer Elizabeth Meehan, 40, was arrested in July, 2015, and charged with wire fraud, bank fraud and money laundering, according to the federal indictment that was unsealed at the time. A graduate of the University of Alabama, Meehan was a member of the Gamma Phi Beta sorority while at the university. She also served as president of the House Corporation Board of the Epsilon Lambda chapter of the sorority. Meehan volunteered to help furnish Gamma Phi Beta's new house from 2013 to 2015, a \$14 million project. She was responsible for coordinating and purchasing the furniture. Prosecutors said that Meehan submitted invoices for furniture and equipment that was not delivered. She set up fraudulent bank accounts that gave her personal access to the money meant to be spent on house furnishings.

Post and Courier: More than 100 Haitians held in Charleston County jail

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/more-than-haitians-held-in-charleston-county-jail/article_1b42162a-9b8e-11e6-8e3d-17306f2b8c03.html

Prentiss Findlay

About 125 Haitians awaiting deportation are being housed at the Cannon Detention Center in North Charleston, a Sheriff's Office spokesman said. That number is expected to double this week, said Maj. Eric Watson. "We don't have an estimate for how long they will be here," he said. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement will deport the Haitians when conditions improve in their country, he said. "The

reason they are being housed here is because right now Haiti is unable to receive them due to Hurricane Matthew. They have a lot of infrastructure issues going on there," he said. The county is being paid \$55 per day for each detainee, he said. A section of the jail is assigned to the Haitians, he said. "It won't have any impact on our normal, routine jail operations as far as booking in new inmates or prisoners, court processes, things like that," he said. The Haitians have been through a medical screening process, he said. Currently the jail is operating at below capacity with just over 1,000 inmates, he said.

Post and Courier: Person wearing clown mask, holding knife threatens Charleston Southern University student

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/person-wearing-clown-mask-holding-knife-threatens-charleston-southern-university/article_2f955bd0-9b27-11e6-9fe6-1baddc6fa2c5.html

Gregory Yee

Charleston Southern University issued a campus alert late Tuesday after a person wearing a clown mask reportedly threatened a student with a knife. The alert, known as a BUC Alert, was sent just after 10 p.m. When contacted, Campus Security Department personnel declined to comment. The person was spotted near the Atlantic Palms Apartments, which are located near the university, according to the alert. "Tonight, one of our students was walking her dog and a person wearing a dark hoodie and a clown mask, armed with a knife, came towards her in a threatening manner," the alert said. "She was able to run to an apartment to escape the person who chased after her."

Greenville News: Police investigate confrontation in Greenville involving parents, bus driver

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2016/10/25/police-investigate-confrontation-involving-parents-bus-driver/92734486/>

Anna Lee

The Greenville Police Department is investigating a confrontation between students, parents and a Greenville County school district bus driver. Officers were first called to Shemwood Lane on Oct. 11 in response to a school bus being blocked in by parents on its route through Shemwood Crossing Apartments, according to police reports. Police spokesman Gilberto Franco said three parents boarded the bus after several students and other parents complained about the driver "grabbing" their children and refusing to let them off the bus. He said one of the parents "verbally assaulted" the driver before taking a student off the bus. Officers interviewed the driver, who said he decided not to allow any children off the bus for their own safety. The driver told police he made the decision when one parent, described as a black male wearing a green shirt, pushed his way onto the bus and took one of the students without showing the pick up number corresponding to the child. Franco said the school district provided video of the incident as part of the investigation. Investigators who watched the video said "it did not appear at any point that the bus driver touched the student," a report said.

Independent Mail: Newtown supports Anderson dispatchers in school shooting grief

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/south-carolina/2016/10/26/newtown-supports-anderson-dispatchers-school-shooting-grief/92729988/>

Mike Ellis

Little plastic ducks with a green ribbon on their breast have helped to bring some comfort to the students from Sandy Hook Elementary School and now the ducks have come to support Anderson County 911 dispatchers. Two large boxes stuffed with the ducks, snacks and encouraging letters came in the mail last week, said Stephen Combs of the Anderson County Sheriff's Office emergency services division. The same kind of ducks were given to children at the Newtown, Connecticut, school after the shooting there in December 2012 that left 20 children and six adults dead. In a letter to the Anderson County dispatchers, Newtown Emergency Communications Center Director Maureen Will says the ducks were given to the children to show "they are loved (and) as safe as we can make

them."

Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press: Trump: I'll run America like my business; Clinton: Let's not

<http://bigstory.ap.org/bdb17c3257bb461f8d8a5c59a4087f96>

His presidential dreams increasingly in question, Donald Trump pushed his business empire to the center of his political campaign Wednesday. Taking a break from battleground states, he made the case at his newest hotel that all Americans should look to his corporate record for evidence of how well he'd run the country. Hillary Clinton agreed, but not the way he meant it. She used campaign events in Florida to attack the GOP nominee for having "stiffed American workers," saying he built his empire with Chinese-manufactured steel, overseas products and labor from immigrants in the country illegally. "Donald Trump is the poster boy for everything wrong with our economy," she told several thousand supporters in Tampa, Florida. "He refuses to pay workers and contractors." Trump's political aspirations have long been deeply intertwined with promoting his corporate goals. He announced his campaign in the gilded lobby of Trump Tower in Manhattan and has held dozens of campaign events at his own properties. His remarks at his new Washington hotel, which has struggled to fill rooms amid the controversy surrounding his presidential bid, followed a visit Tuesday to his Doral golf course outside Miami.

Associated Press: Trump praises Gingrich for criticism of Kelly

<http://bigstory.ap.org/00502cc9cf4a467aa3753ad82a0ab36a>

Donald Trump praised Newt Gingrich Wednesday for an "amazing interview" with Fox News Channel host Megyn Kelly, in which the former speaker told Kelly that she is "fascinated with sex." The heated exchange on Kelly's program Tuesday night ended with her suggesting Gingrich take some time for anger management. The riveting confrontation revived dormant ill will with the Trump campaign toward Kelly that dates to his anger at her asking him at a pre-Republican primary debate more than a year ago to account for statements about women. Trump boycotted a later GOP debate when Fox wouldn't remove Kelly as a moderator. Gingrich attended Trump's dedication of his new hotel in Washington on Wednesday, and the candidate recognized him in the audience.

Associated Press: Justin Timberlake's ballot selfie highlights mixed laws

<http://bigstory.ap.org/2723f9a1b1c04d8b9c0a4ac1ceb8bfc6>

Now even Justin Timberlake has been forced to deal with the question of whether a ballot selfie is legal. Timberlake flew from California to Tennessee to vote early this week, but his posting of an image of himself at the voting booth on Instagram on Monday drew questions about whether he was breaking the law. A Tennessee law that took effect earlier this year bars voters from taking photographs or video while they're inside a polling location. While secrecy in the voting booth has become a thing of the past for those ready to share their views and daily lives on social media, laws nationwide are mixed on whether voters are allowed to take pictures of themselves voting and their ballots. Federal courts have struck down bans in New Hampshire and Indiana, and on Monday, a judge in Michigan blocked enforcement of a ban on ballot selfies, saying it violates free speech.

National News:

Associated Press: The kids are all right: Children with 3-way DNA are healthy

<http://bigstory.ap.org/724296102c49429e96b360e84d03c6f6>

More than 15 years ago, 17 babies were born after an experimental infertility treatment that gave them DNA from three people: Mom, Dad and an egg donor. Now researchers have checked up on how the babies are doing as teenagers. The preliminary verdict: The kids are all right. With no sign of unusual health problems and excellent grades in school at ages 13 to 18, these children are "doing well," said embryologist Jacques Cohen of the Institute for Reproductive Medicine & Science at Saint Barnabas in Livingston, New Jersey, where the treatment was done. That includes Emma Foster, 17,

of Red Bank, New Jersey. "I turned out normal," Foster said in an interview Tuesday. A cheerleader since age 10, she is now looking at colleges and thinking of majoring in engineering.

Associated Press: Pentagon chief suspends National Guard bonus repayments

<http://bigstory.ap.org/f71f06f9d7c4475ca4516c18990d8091>

Facing a public outcry, Defense Secretary Ash Carter on Wednesday ordered the Pentagon to suspend its effort to seek repayments of enlistment bonuses given to thousands of California National Guard members who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Carter's decision comes in the wake of angry reaction from congressional Republicans and Democrats who demanded he relieve the burden on Guard members following news reports that soldiers were being asked to repay debts that in some cases totaled more than \$25,000. The announcement doesn't end the reimbursement process, but postpones collection efforts while the Pentagon and Congress look for a long-term solution. White House spokesman Josh Earnest said President Barack Obama was pleased with the decision, but said it was important for the Pentagon "to follow through" by finding a long-term solution. Obama had warned the Defense Department earlier this week not to "nickel and dime" service members who were victims of wrongdoing by overzealous recruiters.

World News:

Associated Press: IS driving hundreds into Mosul, using them as human shields

<http://bigstory.ap.org/cc38f5af7d724735b296f1477804e6b8>

Islamic State militants have been going door to door in villages south of Mosul, ordering people at gunpoint on a mileslong trek into the city and using them as human shields as the extremists prepare to defend it from Iraqi forces, according to residents swept up in the forced evacuations. Witnesses described scenes of chaos over the past week as hundreds of people were ordered out of their homes without having time to pack and driven north across the Ninevah plains toward the heavily-fortified city, where IS has been preparing for a climactic showdown. "IS took all of us from our homes at gunpoint and told us they were taking us with them to Mosul," Ahmed Bilal Harish told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "They said if you don't come with us you're an unbeliever." He said he and his family were only able to escape when a volley of airstrikes caused the fighters to scatter during the 25-mile (40-kilometer) forced march from their home in the town of Shura to Mosul.

Associated Press: Mass protest in Venezuela demanding end of 'dictatorship'

<http://bigstory.ap.org/e3449637cb4e4f189fd14ca33a535c63>

Masses of protesters jammed the streets of Venezuela's capital on Wednesday on the heels of a move by congress to open a political trial against President Nicolas Maduro, whose allies have blocked moves for a recall election. Some schools and shops were shut as demonstrators crowded key points around Caracas to demand Maduro's ouster. Electoral authorities blocked a recall campaign against the deeply unpopular president last week, and the faceoff escalated on Tuesday when the opposition-led legislature voted to put Maduro on trial, accusing him of effectively staging a coup. Artist Freddy Salazar was among the tens of thousands of protesters who filled major thoroughfares and plazas Wednesday, and shut down the city's main highway.

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