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Subject: Clips – Sunday, November 20, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Catherine Templeton running for governor

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/catherine-templeton-readies-bid-for-governor/article_39ee19d2-ae0a-11e6-b8d9-af47fe535dbb.html

Emma Dumain and Schuyler Kropf

Catherine Templeton, who led the state health department under Gov. Nikki Haley and cut her teeth as an anti-union lawyer, is jumping into the 2018 race for governor. The Mount Pleasant Republican plans to announce her candidacy formally in early January. In a phone call with The Post and Courier on Saturday, she confirmed her intentions. "I haven't filed" official paperwork, she said, "but yes. Templeton stressed there are many pieces still moving in the early campaign season but said she was ready to return to Columbia to fix what she saw as lingering problems in the state. "Everything South Carolina needs is within our grasp if government would simply operate properly and mostly just get out of our way," she said. She does already have a prominent and deep-pocketed champion. A letter previewing her announcement obtained by the newspaper and written by Charleston real estate investor John Rivers, Jr., asks for donors to commit to attending a fundraiser for Templeton on Jan. 11, 2017.

Times and Democrat: S.C. Chamber: Johnson Business Leader of Year

http://thetandd.com/news/local/s-c-chamber-johnson-business-leader-of-year/article_29c6576c-3b32-5c88-8be5-46ffa4697f33.html

Cox Industries CEO Mikee Johnson has been named the 2016 Business Leader of the Year by the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce. The announcement was made at the 37th annual South Carolina Chamber of Commerce Summit at the Wild Dunes Resort on Nov. 16-17. "I have been blessed to have played a role in making South Carolina a better place both right here in the Orangeburg community and when I have had the opportunity to help in other places around the state," Johnson said upon receiving the award. As the third generation of his family to lead the company, Johnson oversees 16 plants and 500 employees. In a year when severe weather challenged South Carolina's economy, Johnson enacted a 24/7 policy during natural disasters. Cox Industries is ready to produce and ship its poles and lumber 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Johnson has served on several boards, including the Treated Wood Council and the American Wood Protection Association. "Mikee Johnson's impact on South Carolina can't be overstated," S.C. Chamber CEO Ted Pitts said. "Without a lot of headlines, Johnson's work, selfless actions and generosity have had a huge impact on so many fronts and in so many communities all across South Carolina.

NOTE: Johnson is chairman of the South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance and the chair-elect of the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce. He also serves as chair of the State Workforce Investment Board at the request of Governor Nikki Haley. Johnson is also the vice chair of Haley's Original Six Foundation.

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

The State: SC's Nikki Haley could be DC-bound regardless of foreign policy inexperience

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/election/article115758533.html>

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, who is being considered for secretary of state in a Trump

administration, has an unusual background for the job: No foreign policy experience. But Capitol Hill lawmakers and South Carolinians said she'd be a strong addition to the team because of her stature in the Republican party and her background as one of the few minorities and women being considered. Haley, who ran as a jobs governor in 2010 and is in her second and final term, could be considered for other administration jobs, including secretary of commerce or an ambassadorship. "She's done a good job as governor of South Carolina," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C. "She's talented, capable and would do a good job in any assignment given to her." "I think she's a competent person. She is competent and worthy of being considered," said Richard Riley, former South Carolina governor who worked in President Bill Clinton's administration. "It's a big job, not only putting together a Cabinet but then you have 4,000 sub-cabinets that make the government run. I hope he'll pick good people." Even some seasoned foreign policy experts say they don't think Haley's lack of foreign policy experience should stop her from serving as the nation's top diplomat.

Washington Post: Trump mulls a secretary of state: Clone, crusader, statesman or clean slate?

https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-mulls-a-secretary-of-state-clone-crusader-statesman-or-clean-slate/2016/11/18/59669270-acee-11e6-977a-1030f822fc35_story.html

Philip Rucker

The secretary of state is the star of most every Cabinet, and when President-elect Donald Trump makes his selection he will signal the kind of posture he intends to present to the world. Does he want the nation's top diplomat to be a Trumpian clone? That would be Rudolph W. Giuliani, the garrulous former New York mayor who sprays rhetorical fire at Islamic terrorists but whose business background is rife with potential conflicts of interest. Or an ideological crusader? A leading candidate is John Bolton, an architect and enabler of the Iraq War that Trump has so often condemned, whose hawkishness and combative nature made him a controversial U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. What about a clean slate, someone who would see the world with fresh eyes and promote Trump's vision? That's where Nikki Haley figures in, the governor of South Carolina who lacks traditional foreign policy chops but is regarded as a quick study.

NOTE: One of the more intriguing prospects is Haley, 44, a Republican star who has left little mark in the foreign-affairs community. Asked to describe her qualifications and worldview, some experts were at a loss for words. Robert Zoellick, a former World Bank president who had been in line to serve as Romney's secretary of state, joked in an email: "Am in the Canadian arctic viewing polar bears with my wife! Connectivity weak."

NOTE: Trump allies argued that what Haley lacks in traditional experience she makes up for in other attributes. For one, Trump considers the well-prepared elites who have run the nation's foreign affairs responsible for what he sees as decades of failure.

NOTE: "There is a great value in fresh eyes," said South Carolina Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, who chaired Trump's primary campaign in the state and would ascend to the governorship should Haley join the Cabinet. "She's a very quick study, and I think she has a good grip on the points and understands well Mr. Trump's vision and his goals."

NOTE: Haley would bring diversity to Trump's Cabinet. She would make history as the first Indian American secretary of state — and it is not lost on Trump that his candidacy garnered a passionate following among some Indian Americans as well as in India.

NOTE: Haley led a 10-day state economic development trip to India in 2014, and the governor has taken similar trips to England, France, Germany and Japan.

Newsweek: Elizabeth Warren To Mitt Romney: Bring 'Your Binders Full Of Women' To Trump Meeting

<http://www.newsweek.com/warren-romney-bring-binders-full-women-trump-522713>

Michele Gorman

Democratic Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts continued with her attacks against the transition to the Donald Trump White House on Friday by advising Mitt Romney to bring his "binders full of women" to his weekend meeting with the president-elect. Her tweet refers to a comment Romney made during the 2012 election season, when he was the GOP presidential nominee. During

a debate, Romney described how he had requested “binders full of women” as governor of Massachusetts because he wanted to avoid having his Cabinet composed entirely of men. The phrase went viral, and critics said it showed how out-of-touch the candidate seemed about women and their rights. Now, as Trump works to fill his administration in the days following his stunning election victory last week, some are criticizing him for a lack of diversity—both gender and racial—in his choices. His handful of picks so far have all been men. Warren’s tweet shows a composite image of the current Cabinet shortlist, and it includes only five women—South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley, former Arizona Governor Jan Brewer, former GOP vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin, Equal Employment Opportunity Commissioner Victoria Lipnic and departing New Hampshire Senator Kelly Ayotte.

Politico: White men dominate Trump’s early staff selections

<http://www.politico.com/story/2016/11/donald-trump-appointments-white-men-231629>

Andrew Restuccia

Of President-elect Donald Trump's first appointments — his chief of staff, chief strategist, attorney general, CIA director and White House national security adviser — all five are white men. So is Vice President-elect Mike Pence, and so are many of Trump's key advisers, including son-in-law Jared Kushner, who is eyeing a job in the White House. The all-white, all-male lineup comes amid a major initial test of Trump’s pledge to be a president for “all Americans”: winning over the majority of women — and even larger majority of minorities — whom he failed to convince during a divisive campaign in which he faced accusations of racism and misogyny. Trump aides insist that they are casting a wide net as they vet potential Cabinet nominees.

NOTE: While aides privately worried the comments could drive away experienced female potential appointees, high-profile public figures like South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, a one-time Trump critic, have begun to come around.

NOTE: A handful of women have met with the president-elect at Trump Tower in recent days, including Haley, a potential secretary of state nominee, Oracle Corp. co-CEO Safra Catz and Success Academy charter school CEO Eva Moskowitz, who has since said she's not interested in joining the administration. And Trump is slated to meet on Saturday with two women seen as possible contenders for Education secretary: education activist Betsy DeVos and Michelle Rhee, the former chancellor of Washington, D.C.’s public schools.

Washington Post: Trump chooses Sen. Jeff Sessions for attorney general, Rep. Mike Pompeo for CIA director

https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-chooses-sen-jeff-sessions-for-attorney-general-rep-mike-pompeo-for-cia-director-transition-sources-say/2016/11/18/a0c170ae-ad8e-11e6-a31b-4b6397e625d0_story.html

David Nakamura and Elise Viebeck

President-elect Donald Trump announced Friday that he plans to nominate Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) as attorney general and Rep. Mike Pompeo (R-Kan.) as CIA director, a pair of hard-line conservatives who offer early signs of the shape of Trump’s Cabinet. Trump also confirmed the news reported a day earlier that he has selected retired Lt. Gen. Michael T. Flynn as his national security adviser, a position that, unlike the other two, does not need to be confirmed by the Senate. “The president-elect is a man of action, and we’ve got a great number of men and women with great qualifications who look forward to serving in this administration,” Vice President-elect Mike Pence told reporters in New York. “Our agency teams arrived in Washington D.C. this morning, and I am very confident it will be a smooth transition that will serve to lead this country forward.”

NOTE: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley (R), appearing at a Federalist Society convention in Washington, did not mention Trump’s nominees in her remarks. But Haley, whose parents immigrated from India, urged the Republican Party to remind the public that it is the party who will offer opportunities “to all citizens, regardless of their race, gender or where they are born and raised.”

Politico: What Trump's early picks say about his administration

<http://www.politico.com/story/2016/11/trump-cabinet-selections-231617>

Eli Stokols

The Donald J. Trump administration is looking a whole lot like the coalition who brought him the White House win. On Friday, Trump rolled out three more picks for the most powerful jobs in Washington, and they offered up a little something for everyone. Establishment Republicans, many of whom are ambivalent about joining the Trump administration, were pleasantly surprised by the selection of Mike Pompeo, a Kansas congressman and West Point graduate, to lead the CIA. Trump's fervent supporters got two high-profile selections who helped guide the tone and direction of Trump's scorched-earth campaign: former Gen. Mike Flynn, named as Trump's national security adviser, and Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions, appointed to serve as attorney general.

NOTE: The selection of Romney or even South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, who met with Trump earlier this week, "would go a long way as a green light for a lot of the party's best and brightest who are still sitting on the sidelines," according to a prominent GOP source on Capitol Hill. But with Trump, the improbable is always possible — and so are head fakes.

Time Magazine: What Donald Trump's Picks Mean So Far

<http://time.com/4576373/what-donald-trumps-picks-mean-so-far/>

Zeke J. Miller

The announcements by Trump are hardly surprising—all three had been rumored to be high on short-lists in recent days. But they offer a glimpse into Trump's thinking as he rewards key loyalists with influential positions. But what may be more revealing are Trump's planned meetings with critics. Yesterday, he sat down with South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, and tomorrow he is set to meet with former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney. The rumor-mill is churning about jobs for both of them, but the meetings are likely more symbolic in nature. Romney, who never endorsed Trump and hinted he wouldn't be voting for him, is set to "share his ideas, his thoughts," on a Trump Administration per a Trump aide. Trump will be taking meetings all weekend at his golf course in New Jersey as he prepares to roll out more appointments. Meanwhile, the first boots from the Trump Transition's landing teams are hitting the ground in national security agencies to meet with their Obama Administration counterparts.

Bloomberg: Trump Says His Potential Hires Are 'Really Talented People'

<http://www.bloomberg.com/politics/articles/2016-11-19/romney-leads-parade-of-hopefuls-advisers-dropping-in-on-trump>

Arit John

President-elect Donald Trump emerged from hours of meetings at his New Jersey golf resort, declaring that the day's talks were "really good" and that his candidates are "really talented people" who would make good on his campaign pledge to make America great again. Responding to a CNN report that retired Marine General James Mattis is now the front-runner to become defense secretary, Trump said merely, "Well, we think he's a great guy. He is some great man." Mattis was at the resort for more than an hour on Saturday. Trump was having dinner with Patrick Soon-Shiong, an aide said. Soon-Shiong became a billionaire selling two drug companies and owns a stake in the Los Angeles Lakers NBA basketball team. Mitt Romney and Steve Mnuchin earlier led a parade of visitors to the clubhouse in Bedminster as the president-elect continues to assemble his administration. Romney, the 2012 Republican presidential nominee and a fierce critic of Trump for most of the 2016 election season, is now said to be on the short list to become secretary of state. Mnuchin, a close ally who was the finance chairman of Trump's campaign, may be under consideration for Treasury secretary.

NOTE: Besides Romney, Trump's short list to become the nation's top diplomat is said to include former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, Senator Bob Corker from Tennessee, John Bolton, a former U.S. ambassador to the UN, and Nikki Haley, the governor of South Carolina.

Fox News: Where does Trump want to spend his political capital?

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2016/11/18/where-does-trump-want-to-spend-his-political-capital.html>

Chris Stirewalt

Donald Trump's transition team checked off a few major boxes on their to-do list today. Retired Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn has accepted the post of White House national security adviser while Kansas Rep. Mike Pompeo is set to serve as CIA director. But perhaps the most eye-catching post is that of loyal Trump supporter, Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions to attorney general, a position once thought to be a shoo-in for New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie. Amid scandal and possible legal issues, Christie was swapped out as head of the transition team last week for vice president-elect Mike Pence. Christie said Thursday that he doesn't believe he'll have a post in the Trump cabinet. And with the news that 2012 presidential nominee Mitt Romney has plans to meet with Trump this weekend over a possible secretary of state spot, it begs the question, what about Rudy Giuliani?

NOTE: Now, with Romney sitting down with the president-elect, and names like South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley being floated and former UN Ambassador John Bolton already in the mix, it could well mean that Giuliani might be passed over for a top spot. This comes as reports began surfacing about ties between Giuliani's consulting firm and foreign interests, putting Trump's "drain the swamp" mantra in possible jeopardy.

New York Times: Will Women Still Want to Run?

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/18/opinion/will-women-still-want-to-run.html?_r=0

Susan Chira

After the ugliest campaign in recent memory, would any woman in her right mind want to run for president again? Short answer: Yes. Long answer: Some will be discouraged. Those who run will do so with the full knowledge that we do not live in a post-gender world, any more than we do in a post-racial one. People will long debate how much being a woman factored into Hillary Clinton's narrow loss. But to those who study gender and politics, certain issues were clear, and they will frame the campaigns of women who may run in the future. It has been a political science truism that female candidates cannot win unless voters see them as qualified for office; men have more leeway. "Donald Trump never held elective office," said Debbie Walsh, the director of the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University. "I don't think there's a woman who could get away with that."

NOTE: On the Republican side, potential candidates include Gov. Nikki Haley of South Carolina; Gov. Susana Martinez of New Mexico; Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers of Washington and Senator Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire.

Las Vegas Sun: Trump's national security choices reinforce his unapologetic views on terrorism

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2016/nov/19/trumps-national-security-choices-reinforce-his-una/>

Matt Apuzzo and Mark Landler

President-elect Donald Trump's trio of hard-line selections Friday served notice that he intends not only to reverse eight years of liberal domestic policies but also to overturn decades of bipartisan consensus on the United States' proper role in world affairs. Trump is moving quickly to realize his campaign's promise of a nation that relentlessly enforces immigration and drug laws; views Muslims with deep suspicion; second-guesses post-World War II alliances; and sends suspected terrorists to Guantánamo Bay or CIA secret prisons to be interrogated with methods that have been banned as torture. At a time when U.S. cities have been inflamed by racial tensions, police shootings and fears over homegrown terrorism, Trump made no conciliatory gestures toward Muslims, Mexicans or residents of African-American neighborhoods, all of whom he disparaged during his campaign.

NOTE: On Saturday, Trump will meet with Mitt Romney in Bedminster, New Jersey, to discuss, among other things, the top post at the State Department, according to people close to the transition. Last week, he held similar discussions with Gov. Nikki R. Haley of South Carolina.

Today: Is Mitt Romney qualified to be Donald Trump's secretary of state?

<http://www.today.com/video/is-mitt-romney-qualified-to-be-donald-trump-s-secretary-of-state-813077059724>

VIDEO: Washington Post political correspondent Philip Rucker tells TODAY that he believes Gov. Mitt Romney is qualified to be secretary of state if he were to be selected by President-elect Donald

Trump. Rucker calls Gov. Nikki Haley, another person said to be on the list, a “blank slate” who could travel the world promoting Trump’s vision because “she doesn’t have her own hardened world view the way John Bolton does.”

McClatchy DC: What will a Trump presidency mean for Florida’s environment?

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/national/article115731498.html>

Jenny Staletovich

At a rally in Collier County at the end of October, a day after he unveiled his “contract” with America, then-candidate Donald Trump rallied his supporters with talk of “crooked Hillary,” a rigged election system and the “real group of losers” running the country. Then, in the middle of 47-minute speech, he turned to a teleprompter and devoted just over a minute to Florida’s longest-running and most frustrating environmental conflict: Everglades restoration. “A Trump administration will also work alongside you to restore and protect the beautiful Everglades, which I just flew over. I just flew over and let me tell you when you fly over the Everglades and you look at those gators and you look at those water moccasins, you say I better have a good helicopter.” The soon-to-be 45th president of the United States went on to assure the crowd that dwindling water supplies in Florida, where he owns three golf courses, would be protected.

NOTE: He’s not alone in thinking it’s a hoax. Florida Gov. Rick Scott, who said last week he talks to Trump often — and could play a role in appointments — has danced around climate change. South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, another state with a vulnerable coastline, is looking forward to “regulations we can roll back, whether it’s EPA-related, the overtime rules, Obamacare.”

Megan Kelly Files: Nikki Haley: Trump won despite GOP and the party needs to learn its lesson

<http://megynkelly.org/203327/nikki-haley-trump-won-despite-gop-and-the-party-needs-to-learn-its-lesson/>

South Carolina Republican Gov. Nikki Haley said Friday that Donald Trump won last week because he ran against both political parties and called on the Republican Party to learn from the outcome. Speaking at the Federalist Society’s National Lawyers Convention in Washington, Haley also said the GOP must be a party for “all citizens, regardless of their race, gender or where they are born and raised.” Among those reportedly being considered for secretary of state, Haley did not shy away from criticizing her party. “If we as Republicans are going to lead effectively and have staying power as the governing party, we must accept that Donald Trump’s election was not an affirmation of the way Republicans have conducted themselves,” she said.

Megan Kelly Files: Gov. Nikki Haley criticizes GOP, says Trump’s election was ‘not an affirmation’ of Republicans

<https://megynkelly.org/202792/gov-nikki-haley-criticizes-gop-says-trumps-election-was-not-an-affirmation-of-republicans/>

South Carolina Republican Gov. Nikki Haley, whose name has been floated for secretary of state in coming administration of President-elect Donald Trump, tried to distance the GOP from the Manhattan billionaire’s campaign Friday. “If we as Republicans are going to lead effectively and have staying power as a governing party, we must accept that Donald Trump’s election was not an affirmation of the way Republicans have conducted themselves,” Haley told those gathered at a Federalist Society convention. “The president-elect deserves tremendous credit for the way he was able to connect with the electorate,” she continued. “But he did not do it by celebrating the Republican Party, and the American people did not vote for him because he had an ‘R’ next to his name.” While Haley admitted that she hadn’t been a supporter of Trump at the beginning, she also had criticism for the Republican Party.

Post and Courier: Go big or go home? Gov. Haley could wind up with new job

http://www.postandcourier.com/columnists/go-big-or-go-home-gov-haley-could-wind-up/article_1b2afad2-acdf-11e6-ba59-d740edd19821.html

Brian Hicks

So are we about to lose our governor to Washington or has she been cast in a twisted new season of "The Apprentice"? Cabinet edition. Late Wednesday, word got out that Gov. Nikki Haley was on President-elect Trump's list of interviews for Secretary of State, or something. She reportedly met with him Thursday. As the incoming prez says, this could be yuge. The question here is whether Trump is really doing conciliatory outreach to political opponents – or just toying with them for the satisfaction of saying, in front of a national audience, "You're fired. Go back to the suite." Or the Statehouse, as the case may be. That's what Haley must determine as she listens to what is undoubtedly an attractive sales pitch, a ticket to the national (even international) stage. Folks say Trump holds grudges, and the governor was one of the few people who actually stood up to him during the campaign. You may recall back in the spring Trump sent a nasty Tweet about how the people of South Carolina were embarrassed by their governor. Haley responded with the ultra-classy "Bless your heart." Which really means, well, you know.

WIS: Gov. Haley's hometown reacts to possibility of her becoming Secretary of State

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33749188/gov-haleys-hometown-reacts-to-possibility-of-her-becoming-secretary-of-state>

Ashleigh Holland

A familiar South Carolina name could still be in the running for Secretary of State, as President-elect Donald Trump narrows his list of candidates. Emotions have been running high in South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley's hometown of Bamberg since she was announced to be in the running for Secretary of State and sat down to meet with the president-elect. The governor's face greets all who enter Bamberg town limits. Nikki Haley hails from the town a little more than 60 miles from the Capital. Those who grew up with her, like Bamberg County Councilman Trent Kinard, are proud of that. "I think overall, we've been proud. We, as with anything, we'd wished we could have gotten some more, you know, with her being from Bamberg. Some more industry and things of that nature, but I think overall she's done a good job trying to help us out," Kinard said. There have been some mixed feelings towards the news that she could become Secretary of State under President-elect Donald Trump.

WCIV: Expert: Haley in Trump cabinet could help 'build a bridge'

<http://abcnews4.com/news/lowcountry-and-state-politics/gov-haley-encouraged-by-coming-trump-administration>

Bill Burr

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley backed Florida Senator Marco Rubio during the GOP primaries. She wasn't a fan of Donald Trump, but she voted for him last week. Thursday, she had what was possibly an interview for a major role in his cabinet that would put her on the world stage. Television cameras kept a watchful eye on Gov. Haley's whereabouts at Trump Tower in New York City. Back home in South Carolina, political observers ponder the possibility of Governor Haley leaving her post. "I'm sure she will give it very serious consideration if it were to be offered," said Dr. Scott Buchanan of the political science department at The Citadel. Buchanan said he understands why the nation's next president is interviewing a popular 2-term governor from South Carolina for a cabinet position. "Getting a conservative Republican into the administration helps build a bridge to some in the Republican party who still are not entirely sure about President-elect Trump," he said.

Red State: Ann Coulter Can't Stop Herself... Nastily Insults Nikki Haley

<http://www.redstate.com/mickeywhite2/2016/11/17/ann-coulter-cant-stop/>

Mickey White

Ann Coulter who has been relatively quiet on social media broke her silence in a big way this afternoon. After the rumors were floated that Nikki Haley was among those being considered for Cabinet positions, possibly even Secretary of State, Coulter tweeted this out to her over 1 million followers: She was apparently watching MSNBC at the time. Nikki Haley isn't even that kind of "Indian". She says she's being funny with this lean into the white nationalist stuff, but I fail to see the humor. Coulter appears to have spent the rest of the day tweeting links to InfoWars. As I've said

previously Ann Coulter is one of the most disappointing figures of 2016. There was a time when many looked to her columns and books for smart analysis. Those days are no longer. Instead of piercing through the nonsense, to deliver the truth to her devoted fans, Coulter has become the noise. Rubbing elbows with the "alt-right", She's the reason people think Republicans are Racist. Did I mention she has over a Million followers on Twitter alone?

WIS: Ann Coulter suggests 'Tonto' for Secretary of State over Gov. Nikki Haley

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33746052/ann-coulter-suggests-tonto-for-secretary-of-state-over-gov-nikki-haley>

Jeremy Turnage

Conservative commentator and author Ann Coulter appears to not be a fan of President-elect Donald Trump potentially tapping Gov. Nikki Haley for a cabinet-level position in his administration. In a tweet posted just after Haley met with Trump and the transition team on Thursday, Coulter offered another suggestion for Secretary of State. Haley's name has been floated as a potential Secretary of State candidate as Trump looks to fill out roles in his cabinet ahead of the Jan. 20, 2017 inauguration. Coulter has blasted Haley in the past for several items. In Jan. 2016 following Haley's response to the State of the Union where the governor urged GOP voters to not listen to the angriest voices in the party, Coulter suggested Haley should be deported when Trump became president. Haley is an American citizen. Coulter also called Haley a "bimbo."

WYFF4: Ann Coulter slams PEOTUS Trump's consideration of Gov. Nikki Haley for cabinet

<http://www.wyff4.com/article/ann-coulter-slams-peotus-trumps-consideration-of-gov-nikki-haley-for-cabinet/8302893>

Carla Field

On the day South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley met with President-elect Donald Trump and his transition team about a potential cabinet position, political commentator Ann Coulter made what appeared to be an obvious jab at the governor's heritage. Ann Hart Coulter tweeted Thursday afternoon: "If Trump wants an Indian Sec of State, how about Tonto?" Coulter describes herself as the author of 11 New York Times bestsellers, a legal correspondent for Human Events and writes a syndicated columnist for Universal Press Syndicate. She is known for incendiary remarks, particularly on social media. Haley was born in Bamberg, South Carolina, in 1972. Her birth name is Nimrata Nikki Randhawa. Her parents are Sikh immigrants from Punjab, India. CNN reported Wednesday that Haley has been tapped as a nominee for Secretary of State, alongside top Trump adviser and former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani. After the meeting Thursday with Trump, Haley's office released a statement saying: "Governor Haley was pleased to meet with President-elect Trump. They had a good discussion, and she is very encouraged about the coming administration and the new direction it will bring to Washington."

President-elect Trump News:

Associated Press: The Latest: Pence says he's not offended by 'Hamilton' cast

<http://bigstory.ap.org/8e3868d9f4214a49be794ac85cbc690b>

Vice President-elect Mike Pence says he wasn't offended when he was challenged by the cast of the Broadway hit "Hamilton" and encourages everyone to try to see the sold-out show. Pence had attended the show Friday night with his daughter, and said he heard some people in the audience cheer and others "boo" at his presence. Pence tells "Fox News Sunday" that he told his daughter, "That's what freedom sounds like." At the end of the show, actor Brandon Victor Dixon challenged Pence from the stage, saying the cast was concerned about the Trump administration. President-elect Donald Trump on Twitter demanded that the cast apologize and suggested the show was overrated. In his interview Sunday, Pence said Hamilton was an "incredible production" involving a very talented cast. On whether he thinks an apology was necessary: "I'll leave it to others whether that was the appropriate venue to say it."

Associated Press: Trump again slams 'Hamilton'; Pence says he wasn't offended

<http://bigstory.ap.org/6c7a28e9c8b847659d710c355e751922>

President-elect Donald Trump, in the midst of choosing his Cabinet, took time out Sunday for a second day to criticize the cast of the Broadway musical "Hamilton" and demand an apology for a message an actor delivered from stage to Trump's running mate about the need for diversity in America. But Vice President-elect Mike Pence said he wasn't offended by the message. Pence said on "Fox News Sunday" that he heard the boos and cheers when he walked into the Richard Rodgers Theatre with his nephew and daughter on Friday night to see the show. He said he told his daughter: "That's what freedom sounds like." Trump had a different take on the message from cast member Brandon Victor Dixon, who had expressed his concerns in a prepared speech after the curtain call about the incoming Republican administration.

Associated Press: Trump hosts potential cabinet contenders at NJ golf club

<http://bigstory.ap.org/3909ba5b00ff4106865d98f9ed992065>

President-elect Donald Trump is welcoming a parade of officials at the white-pillared clubhouse of his New Jersey golf club this weekend as he weighs who will be in line for roles in the new administration. Trump's Sunday schedule in Bedminster includes New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani and Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach. Setting a rancorous year aside, the pugnacious billionaire put on a smiling show of goodwill Saturday with former rival Mitt Romney. But Trump did not reveal or indicate whether the 2012 Republican nominee could be in line for a cabinet post. He also met with education activists Michelle Rhee and Betsy DeVos, as well as retired Marine Gen. James Mattis, considered a contender to lead the Pentagon. Trump said he may announce some of his picks on Sunday. "We're seeing tremendous talent," Trump said Saturday. "People that, like I say, we will 'Make America Great Again.'"

Associated Press: Trump children's roles blur line between transition, company

<http://bigstory.ap.org/a017d856736b46398a24b55f3d00b1e7>

Nearly every morning since their father's stunning victory on Election Day, three of Donald Trump's grown children walk through the Trump Tower lobby and board an elevator. But are Don Jr., Ivanka and Eric going to the campaign office on the 5th floor? Their business offices on the 25th floor? The president-elect's penthouse on the 56th floor? That uncertainty highlights the multiple roles the children play for their father. For the past year, the lines were constantly blurred between political campaign and business empire, raising questions about a possible conflict of interest between Trump's White House and his sprawling business interests. The children are poised to wield incredible influence over their father, even if they don't follow him to Washington. Trump said consistently during the campaign that if he won, those children would stay in New York and run his business. But the three — plus Ivanka's husband, Jared Kushner — were all named to the transition team's executive committee.

SC Political News:

The State: SC pollsters react to Election Day miss

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article115995153.html>

Bristow Marchant

Polling is an inexact science, as this year's election results can attest. After multiple polls gave Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton a wide lead over the GOP's Donald Trump for much of the presidential race, her numbers shockingly collapsed on Election Day to produce an unexpected Trump victory. But pollsters in South Carolina say the problem is less in the polls themselves than the media spin that surrounded them. "The polls showing Clinton ahead nationally were correct. She's going to end up with close to a million more votes," said Scott Huffmon, director of the Winthrop University poll. "The error was that the media was ready to interpret that as what the the Electoral College was going to do, because it's hard to get as excited about 50 different state polls."

Post and Courier: Palmetto Politics: C of C student gets ticketed for illegal Trump protest

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/palmetto-politics-c-of-c-student-gets-ticketed-for-illegal/article_82f5f200-acd7-11e6-881e-7b8fb7e7e9c7.html

Schuyler Kropf

College of Charleston freshman Noah Jones was moved enough by the outcome of the presidential race that he organized an anti-Donald Trump rally last weekend at Marion Square. The problem? Jones did not get a permit. But he did get a potentially pricey ticket. It wasn't hard for police to find the protest: The 1 p.m. event was promoted on social media and in emails to local news outlets. A Charleston police incident report estimates 30 to 40 protesters showed up initially. After Jones led the group on three marches around the blocks just north and west of the square, the officers estimated as many as 125 people had joined in. The protesters dispersed around 4 p.m., the report said. About seven city police officers monitored the event. Jones' Facebook page includes several photos of the protesters, but the Facebook page of the South Carolina Secessionist Party took credit for pressuring police to charge Jones.

The State: SC Hispanics hope President Trump is different from candidate Trump

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article115979058.html>

Avery G. Wilks

The black bins outside the Supermercado El Mariachi grocery on Decker Boulevard's "international corridor" hold free copies of the Spanish-language Viva Newspaper with a smiling President-elect Donald Trump on the cover. The headline, in red and white bold letters, reads: "Ganó Trump – ¿Y Ahora?" "Trump Wins – Now What?" It's a question many Columbia-area Hispanics have struggled to answer since the New York Republican's surprise election on Nov. 8. Since then, the celebrity real estate mogul has retreated from his more aggressive immigration proposals, promising, for instance, to deport only undocumented immigrants with criminal records immediately. That stance has some support within Columbia's Hispanic community. But two months before his inauguration, questions about Hispanic-American life under Trump abound.

The State: McMaster praises Trump's AG choice, Clyburn critical

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article115663548.html>

Bristow Marchant and Cassie Cope

S.C. Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster praised President-elect Donald Trump's nomination Friday of U.S. Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., as U.S. attorney general. Earlier this week, McMaster said he was under consideration for attorney general in Trump's incoming administration. However, that job went to Sessions, R-Ala., who like McMaster was an early ally of Trump's in the presidential campaign. The lieutenant governor called Sessions, who was a U.S. attorney at the same time as McMaster in the 1980s, "a great choice." While Trump's transition team approached McMaster about the attorney general's post, the lieutenant governor has said he would prefer to stay in South Carolina, where he plans to run for governor in 2018. The lone Democrat in the state's congressional delegation, however, was much more critical, citing Sessions's "appalling" civil rights record that once prevented Sessions from earning a federal judgeship, and compared him to Trump's controversial advisor Steve Bannon, who has been tied to white nationalists.

The State: Health experts: Enroll in Obamacare despite campaign rhetoric

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article115648408.html>

Bristow Marchant

In less than three weeks, Sharita Moultrie has helped dozens of people sign up for health care using a program the incoming Trump Administration vows to repeal. Since Nov. 1, the community health specialist has been signing people up at the Richland Library for health coverage under the federal Affordable Care Act – also known as "Obamacare." However, Republican Donald Trump campaigned on a promise to "repeal and replace" that law and, with an incoming Republican Congress, the president-elect would seem to be in a position to do it. But Moultrie is telling those she helps not to be too concerned about it. "What I tell them is: 'Nothing's changed,'" she said. "The ACA is the law, and

that's not going to change tomorrow or next month."Whatever happens with the law after Trump becomes president in January, customers are signing a contract with an insurance company that guarantees them health coverage throughout 2017, explains Moultrie, who works for the library.

Herald-Journal: SC Realtors hope Trump will be good for housing

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161118/sc-realtors-hope-trump-will-be-good-for-housing?rssfeed=true>

Bob Montgomery

Realtors say they're optimistic about what the incoming Trump administration may mean for the housing market. If President-elect Donald Trump follows through on his campaign promises to cut taxes, reduce regulations and create jobs, it should be easier to buy and sell a home, said Nick Kremydas, CEO and president of South Carolina Realtors. "It's difficult to comment ... because we haven't seen actual proposals," Kremydas said. "As a real estate developer, President-elect Trump should understand the importance of home ownership and investing in property. We hope he takes the right steps to protect these ideals." Locally, a strong and diversified economy means the Upstate will continue to hold its own regardless of which Trump policies succeed, according to Patty Wilds, an agent with Century 21 Upstate. Wilds said the Greenville-Spartanburg real estate market continues to flourish as a result of new and expanding businesses.

McClatchy DC: The 2020 presidential campaign is about to kick off. Is SC Sen. Tim Scott in the mix?

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/election/article115619858.html>

Matthew Schofield

There are cloak-room style whispers in Washington these days that South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott is being thought of as a Republican Plan B in case the yet to be formed Trump administration doesn't find its footing. Scott's office dismisses the talk as idle chit-chat, though admits they've been hearing such questions. But it's now been a full week since the last presidential election ended. Washington being Washington, it's time to get the rumors going for the 2020 election. There are experts and insiders who think this one makes a bit of sense. "This was an, um, unusual election," said Julian Zelizer, an author and public affairs expert who's a professor at Princeton University. "It makes sense that there would be a Plan B, and one that would be antithetical to Plan A. "It's important to remember, though, that Plan B is always predicated on things that haven't happened, while Plan A is still in effect. Right now for Republicans, the reality is that it's Plan Trump."

Post and Courier: Will Tim Scott really run for governor — and should he?

http://www.postandcourier.com/columnists/will-tim-scott-really-run-for-governor-and-should-he/article_4ff23976-adbe-11e6-a928-6be6068c25a2.html

Brian Hicks

A guy at the Seabrook Exchange Club last week asked the very question that has a lot of South Carolina folks scratching their heads: "What is Tim Scott thinking?" The Post and Courier's Emma Dumain and Schuyler Kropf recently reported that our junior U.S. senator is considering a 2018 run for governor. And even more intriguing, it would likely be a joint-ticket run for governor-lieutenant governor with his friend, Congressman Trey Gowdy. Of course, the state Republican Party hailed this as a dream ticket. Scott is one of the state's most popular politicians, and Gowdy isn't far behind. Conventional wisdom is that they would be practically unstoppable. But people who follow politics professionally find the prospect dubious. South Carolina has a fairly weak governor and the job is limited to two four-year terms. Senators have the potential to be far more influential on a national stage and can hold their jobs for decades. See: Thurmond, Strom and Hollings, Fritz.

SC Delegation News:

The State: Clyburn declares for potentially contentious Dem leadership vote

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article115995313.html>

Bristow Marchant

Jim Clyburn sent a letter to his U.S. House colleagues this week announcing his bid for another term as the assistant Democratic leader. But while House Republicans and both parties in the Senate quickly selected their leadership teams in the aftermath of the Nov. 8 vote, House Democrats postponed their leadership election until Nov. 30. The delay is considered a sign of displeasure with the Democrats' leadership after the party was denied a House majority for the fourth straight election. Minority leader Nancy Pelosi, after more than a decade at the head of the House caucus, has already drawn at least one challenger in the secret-ballot vote.

Post and Courier: Earmarks remain slippery slope for South Carolina lawmakers

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/earmarks-remain-slippery-slope-for-south-carolina-lawmakers/article_70ff5c7e-ad47-11e6-965d-bf7fb26903ff.html

Emma Dumain

Within a week, America voted for Donald Trump for president — and U.S. House Republicans almost voted to restore “earmarks.” On Capitol Hill, the latter seemed almost more unbelievable than the former. While conservatives could digest the idea of an unpredictable political outsider ascending to the highest office in the land, not as many could fathom the notion of bringing back a practice that has become a dirty word. It's become a case study for why critics want to “drain the swamp” in Washington, D.C., and backed a candidate like Trump in the first place. An earmark refers to the federal dollars a member of Congress designates for a specific initiative in his or her district or state. In South Carolina, earmarks were used to pay for major infrastructure projects, like repairing the state's troubled roads or deepening the Charleston Harbor. But many members abused the privilege. Earmarks were being tagged for open-to-debate frivolities rather than critical needs. Lawmakers were accepting bribes from lobbyists and special interests in exchange for funding specific projects. And no public record existed to keep track of who was asking for how much money, and for what purpose.

General Assembly News:

WACH: Lawmaker calls on rec commissioners to step down after documents released

<http://wach.com/news/local/lawmaker-calls-on-richland-county-rec-commissioners-to-step-down>

Tara Petitt

Richland County Representative Beth Bernstein is calling on the six remaining Board Members at the Richland County Recreation Commission to resign. Governor Nikki Haley has already issued an Executive Order to have the Commissioners removed following a state-mandated hearing November 30th, but Bernstein says they need to step down immediately on their own so that the Commission can restore public trust. One Board Member resigned earlier this week, and the Richland County lawmaker is now calling on the rest of them to do the same. “I hope the Commissioners will see this as the bigger picture and go ahead and resign, and we can start with a fresh slate,” said Bernstein. “We need to start vetting our Commissioners and making sure our Commissioners that we're appointing are qualified to serve in those positions.” Documents obtained exclusively by WACH FOX News reveal gruesome written complaints, letters, and lawsuits that have been hidden to the public. They contain details about a hostile environment at the agency over the last couple of years. Complaints describe bribery and sexual advances that were made by the former Executive Director James Brown.

Wildfires Across Southeast:

Associated Press: Amid wildfires, North Carolina getaway turns to ghost town

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=w444A6Ee

SC State Wire

Don Cason had his 125-year-old inn in the western North Carolina mountains booked solid for Veterans Day weekend, rooms full and restaurant reservations lined up. Guests came to the Esmeralda Inn & Restaurant in Chimney Rock to see late fall colors in the crisp mountain air. They ended up evacuating in a smoky haze. That Friday, Cason looked back as he drove away. Flames

and plumes of smoke dwarfed the inn from the mountainside behind."I was looking at my inn, not knowing if I was telling it goodbye or we'd be back," said Cason, who owns the inn with his wife, Kim. "You've put blood, sweat and tears in for years, and to look back and go, 'Lord, I don't know if you've got me coming back or not' - that's not a good feeling."

Greenville News: Crews burn 1,300 acres to tame Pinnacle Mountain fire

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/11/17/families-evacuate-near-table-rock/94012830/>

Michael Burns and Anna Lee

Smoke cloaked Table Rock State Park all day Thursday as firefighters burned nearly 1,300 acres along the slopes of TableeRock in an effort to contain a wildfire of historic proportions. At 4 p.m., the Pinnacle Mountain fire had burned approximately 4,000 acres, though most of the growth came from the burnout operation to keep the fire from crossing Saluda Road, an official with the state Forestry Commission said. About 400 acres remain in the burnout area, said Forestry Commission spokesman Russell Hubright, and plans are to finish burning by mid-day Friday. Meanwhile, Pickens County Schools announced a two-hour delay Friday due to dangerous air quality conditions. Heavy smoke from the burnout operation was expected to combine with existing air pollutants to "create dangerous air quality conditions in parts of the county, especially in the morning," said school district spokesman John Eby.

Independent Mail: High winds complicate Pickens County fire efforts

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/>

Mike Eads

High winds Saturday blew away the smoky haze over northern Pickens County while also threatening the fire containment efforts around Table Rock and Pinnacle mountains and other spots. Chinook helicopters from the South Carolina National Guard kept flying water into the 5,100-acre fire Saturday, despite 15-25 mph winds and gusts topping 40 mph by lunchtime. Meanwhile, firefighters checked on fire breaks, including the 1,300 acres of terrain burned out Friday north and east of Pinnacle Mountain. There was a setback late in the afternoon. The fire jumped the South Saluda River above the Greenville watershed lake late in the day, but it was under control before dark thanks to quick work in the air and on the ground. Holly Welch, public information officer for the South Carolina Forestry Commission, said the cold temperatures overnight Saturday would help check the new hot spot until crews could respond at daybreak Sunday.

Independent Mail: Pinnacle fire grows, but burnout appears successful

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/2016/11/18/pinnacle-fire-grows-but-burnout-appears-successful/94069052/>

The Pinnacle Mountain fire expanded significantly overnight, to 5,095 acres, because of controlled burns that have helped set up a fire line before it can reach homes just east of the friend borders. The fire line is holding and firefighters are working today using chainsaws and fire rakes to cut down flammable material to strengthen the fire lines, said Holly Welch, a public information officer with the South Carolina Forestry Commission. Firefighters call it mop-up and it is grueling work, requiring them to hike into areas carrying their gear. The biggest danger will be winds this weekend, which will require the fire line to hold or else the fire would reach homes in the area, which it has not done so far, Welch said. That's why firefighters are working in areas that were intentionally burned Thursday to deprive the fire of fuel, work requires lots of people, she said.

Herald-Journal: Massive burnout at Pinnacle fire termed a success

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161118/massive-burnout-at-pinnacle-fire-termed-success?rssfeed=true>

Thursday's large-scale burnout of 1,400 acres of forest at Table Rock was a success, according to fire managers at the Pinnacle Mountain fire in northern Pickens County. The wildfire, believed to be the largest mountain fire in South Carolina's history, grew to 5,095 acres as it entered its ninth day today. It is 35 percent contained. Embers from a campfire started the fire, which began on Nov. 9.

"Yesterday went great!" incident commander Mike Bozzo, Incident Commander stated in a Facebook post this morning. "There is still a lot of work to do today, but I slept a lot better last night."Originally, firefighters estimated 2,000 acres would be burned out to create a firewall. But that was reduced to 1,400 acres on Thursday, according to S.C. Forestry Commission spokesman Russell Hubright. Hubright said Thursday the firebreaks combined with areas that already burned have now encircled the fire, which should prevent it from spreading further.

Herald-Journal: Firefighters make progress in Carolina fires

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161118/firefighters-make-progress-in-carolina-fires?rssfeed=true>

Thursday's large-scale burnout of 1,400 acres of forest at Table Rock has been deemed a success, according to fire officials in northern Pickens County. The Pinnacle Mountain wildfire, believed to be the largest mountain fire in South Carolina's history, grew to 5,100 acres as it entered its ninth day Friday. It is 35 percent contained, according to Pickens County Emergency Management. "Yesterday went great!" incident commander Mike Bozzo stated in a Facebook post Friday morning. "There is still a lot of work to do today, but I slept a lot better last night."Originally, firefighters estimated 2,000 acres would need to be burned out to create a firewall. But that was reduced to 1,400 acres on Thursday, according to S.C. Forestry Commission spokesman Russell Hubright. Hubright said Thursday the firebreaks combined with areas that have already burned have now encircled the fire, which should prevent it from spreading further.

The State: Most outdoor burning prohibited throughout SC starting Saturday

<http://www.thestate.com/news/state/south-carolina/article115815598.html>

Rachael Myers Lowe

As of 6 a.m. Saturday, November 19, 2016, any outdoor burning of yard debris or to clear farm land or forest areas is prohibited in South Carolina, the state Forestry Commission announced on Friday. The ban extends to the whole state a ban that has been in effect in the Upstate since November 9th. Although cooler windier conditions improved air quality for the Midlands on Friday, the forecast has increased the risk of wildfires, officials said in a news release. The increased risk coupled with the deployment of so many of the state's firefighting resources to the Pinnacle Mountain fire prompted the ban's expansion statewide. The Pinnacle Mountain fire was sparked by a campfire on November 9, the news release stated. While the outdoor burn ban does not cover outdoor fires used to cook food, to keep warm, or for ceremonial purposes, people are encouraged to "refrain from any unnecessary burning."

Aiken Standard: Brush fires cause road closures, evacuations in Aiken County

http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/brush-fires-cause-road-closures-evacuations-in-aiken-county/article_838c847c-ae8a-11e6-83ef-435984331ee0.html

Dry conditions and blustery winds drove brush fires toward several Aiken County homes Saturday, forcing several evacuations, though by the afternoon the blazes appeared to be brought under control. On Saturday, fire crews from Aiken County, Belvedere and Midland Valley responded to several brush fires around Aiken County. South Carolina Highway Patrol also shut down a portion of I-520 after a fire broke out near exit 22 eastbound of North Augusta and Edgefield on I-520. Crews reopened that section of interstate a little after 4 p.m. A second fire forced evacuations from homes along Blanchard Road between Ascauga Lake Road and Old Sudlow Lake Road. According to Aiken Fire Department radio communications, the fire had been contained and crews left the scene around 4:10 p.m. Residents were then able to return to their homes.

Hurricane Matthew Recovery:

Associated Press: Disasters for county farmers create uncertain future

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=k1XNOTIW

Audrey Hudson

The Double R Farm has produced abundant crops for four generations of Rabon family farmers here,

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

Island Packet: Hurricane Matthew evacuation gets high marks, thanks to lessons from the past

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article115727728.html>

Erin Heffernan

Hurricane evacuations in Beaufort County's past brought traffic nightmares. Drivers took more than four hours to travel the 35 miles from Hilton Head Island to Hardeeville during Hurricane Hugo in 1989, The Island Packet reported. In Hurricane Floyd in 1999, some evacuees were stuck more than nine hours getting from Beaufort County to Columbia. But the evacuation for Hurricane Matthew was different. Local traffic was so light by the mandatory evacuation that lane reversals planned to fix those backups were quickly removed. Roads were already clear. The operation received praise from experts who say state and local leaders improved on past problems clearing the coast. One of those experts is Susan Cutter, director of the Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute at the University of South Carolina. Cutter worked on a study of failures during the state's Hurricane Floyd evacuation and is conducting a survey on evacuation behavior during Matthew. "Without a doubt this was handled much better," Cutter said.

NOTE: Better weather-forecasting technology and more effective planning contributed to Haley's ability to call the evacuation much earlier, Cutter said. Haley also took advantage of a new evacuation zone system that distinguishes higher-risk areas so the entire coast doesn't evacuate at once.

NOTE: The governor's process was staggered, allowing heavily populated areas in the southern part of the state, such as Charleston and Beaufort counties, to evacuate before more inland and northern areas. Haley has also been praised for her communication during the evacuation. On most days, she held two news conferences, flanked by experts from essential departments.

NOTE: "Gov. Haley did a good job of calibrating the situation and providing clear and honest information," said state Sen. Tom Davis, R-Beaufort, who served as a chief of staff to former Republican Gov. Mark Sanford. "I think it lent her credibility. She established a connection between her and the people."

NOTE: Other apps and websites also helped in the evacuation. For example, Haley recommended websites such as Expedia and Airbnb to help evacuees find hotel rooms before they left home, eliminating another layer of stress for them.

Island Packet: Hurricane Matthew cleanup costs could lead to a county property tax increase

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article115650248.html>

Lucas High

Hurricane Matthew cleanup costs are expected to take a big bite out of Beaufort County's cash reserves and could ultimately lead to a property tax increase. Preliminary figures estimate the recovery effort will cost the county roughly \$17.5 million. But that number is "very, very estimated" and expected to grow significantly, county chief financial officer Alicia Holland said earlier this week. Debris removal makes up the majority of the cleanup costs at \$10 million. However, that figure includes only public roads. Once the cost of cleaning up roadways in private and gated communities — which the county has pledged to assist in — is tabulated, that \$10 million estimate is likely to double, deputy county administrator Josh Gruber said.

NOTE: County administrator Gary Kubic has suggested that the County Council make a formal request to Gov. Nikki Haley "that the (county's) local match be supplemented" with state funds. But even in the the best-case scenario, local leaders expect the county to be left with a sizable tab.

Island Packet: Faced with massive re-entry after Hurricane Matthew, Beaufort County lacked a workable plan

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article115729013.html>

Erin Heffernan

Hours after Hurricane Matthew hit Beaufort County, local emergency management officials were faced with a massive undertaking and no detailed plan for how to cope with it. The day after the storm, Sunday, Oct. 9, brought the first controlled re-entry into the county after a natural disaster since 1959. Law enforcement believed many areas still weren't safe, yet miles of cars piled up at the county line with residents desperate to get home, running low on gas, food and — most of all — patience. Now, more than a month after Matthew, county leaders acknowledge re-entry created problems they hadn't anticipated. Chief among them were the backups at the barricades at the county line. "We got almost post-storm riots at these roadblocks," Beaufort County Sheriff P.J. Tanner told The Island Packet and The Beaufort Gazette in a recent interview. "It was getting that bad."

Island Packet: Communication breakdowns as common as fallen trees during Matthew

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article115753133.html>

Beaufort County residents looking for clear information in the days after Hurricane Matthew often found themselves at a dead end of unverified rumors or contradicting statements from local leaders. There were failures to deliver some crucial information to the public in the immediate aftermath of the storm. Layers of government directly contradicted each other. Rumors misled to evacuees on conditions waiting at home. And social media, never before a factor in a natural disaster in the county, ushered in the instantaneous spread of information at a rate that blindsided some local officials. Local leaders say in the future, they can better coordinate messages and account for the way social media has changed communication.

Island Packet: Hilton Head's 'tiny' plans for some of Matthew's fallen trees

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article115773883.html>

Teresa Moss

Debris from Hurricane Matthew could help resolve low-income housing shortages on Hilton Head Island, an island businessman claims. Tiny homes — generally defined as a house 400 square feet or less, either on wheels or a foundation — built from reclaimed wood is the solution, says James McGrath. "One log from Hurricane Matthew is enough to do an entire living room of a tiny home," McGrath said in an interview Friday with The Island Packet and The Beaufort Gazette. Plans to build a tiny-home community on Hilton Head Island are already in the works, said McGrath, owner of McGrath Custom Hardwoods. The homes could total in size from 196 to 312 square feet and cost \$30,000 to \$70,000, he said. Chefs, musicians and other key workers in the island's tourism industry could rent the homes for a low cost or rent them to own, McGrath said.

Island Packet: The light of Matthew: How the hurricane brought us together to help others

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article115736488.html>

Mandy Matney and Maddison Hogan

A natural disaster can crush the spirit of many folks, besides causing physical destruction. For others, the crisis galvanizes them to reach out to their neighbors, colleagues and strangers. When Hurricane Matthew hit last month, the Lowcountry's collective compassion quickly emerged as countless individuals, as well as churches, community organizations and businesses, came together to help those in need. The Island Packet and The Beaufort Gazette over the past month has shared many of those stories. And while we can't capture all of them, we offer the following examples as additional insight into what happened before, during and after the storm.

Neighbors helping neighbors When Gov. Nikki Haley ordered residents along the South Carolina coast to evacuate before the Category 2 hurricane roared through Beaufort County in the early morning hours of Oct. 8, she called on citizens to help one another. "We need neighbors to take care of neighbors," she said. Residents here answered her call soon after the sun came up on Oct. 8, in big and small ways.

Bluffton Today: Giving thanks — and help — in a difficult time

<http://www.blufftontoday.com/opinion/2016-11-20/giving-thanks-and-help-difficult-time>

Like many Americans, most of us who live in the Lowcountry have plenty to be thankful for this holiday week. A fall season that has often been tumultuous actually managed to highlight many of those blessings. Though Beaufort County experienced a rare hurricane strike last month, the impact could have been much worse. Hurricane Matthew did its damage, but its Category 2 strength upon arrival was a level or two lower than many of us feared during the evacuation. No deaths were reported here and the area was largely spared the type of flooding that accompanies the monster storm surge of a major hurricane. Local first responders stuck around and were on the streets the morning after the storm to begin clearing road and assisting residents who did not evacuate. Highways were reopened a few days later and the number of people who jumped in to help was truly countless.

NOTE: Outside groups like Samaritan's Purse were integral to the cleanup and federal officials responded quickly to help assess the damage and allow locals to apply for disaster assistance. Gov. Nikki Haley visited Ridgeland for an event that offered information on recovery resources.

Morning News: FEMA gives \$3 million in aid in Florence County, more coming

http://www.scnow.com/news/hurricane_matthew/article_5221c33a-aea7-11e6-b16e-83d75a154204.html

Joshua Lloyd

More than a month after Hurricane Matthew wreaked havoc across the Pee Dee, the Federal Emergency Management Agency remains in the area, assisting victims with financial aid. Nearly 5,000 households in Florence County have registered for aid in the past month, with approximately \$3 million given in aid so far, according to FEMA spokesman David Mace. That number is likely to increase as more hurricane victims register and become eligible for assistance. "We're in the homestretch," Mace said. "Obviously our focus right now is getting people who haven't registered to come in and register. We're shifting resources around. Some of our recovery centers will be closing. We're using mobile recovery centers to reach some of the more rural areas, and now we're in the final push to get more people registered before the deadline." Last year, FEMA representatives handled thousands of flood claims brought on by the "1,000-year flood." This year flooding was a problem again, but wind damage was added to the mix as well.

Opinion/Editorial:

The State: Now that Haley has broken the taboo, what's next?

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scope/article115699818.html>

Cindi Ross Scope

IF EVER THERE was a case where a governor needed to break the taboo against meddling in local legislators' prerogatives, the Richland County Recreation Commission was it. Unlike the Richland County Election Commission four years earlier, this wasn't incompetence, and it apparently wasn't going to be resolved by local legislators, a large minority of whom did not believe there was a problem to be resolved. This was a case of a commission that looked the other way — and even applauded — while its director possibly violated state law and certainly terrorized employees. What little has become public shows that James Brown III browbeat, intimidated and threatened employees wholesale. And those who have seen it say an investigation that the commission authorized and then squelched documented some of the grossest sexual harassment you could imagine. So it's certainly good for everyone in Richland County — and especially for the current and former employees who were not close friends and relatives of Mr. Brown — that Gov. Nikki Haley notified the commissioners that she will remove them if they do not show up for a public hearing Nov. 30 and convince her they should stay.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: AAA Carolinas: More people will travel this Thanksgiving
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=M7F8tZHC

SC State Wire

The AAA Carolinas travel group projects that 2 million people in North Carolina and South Carolina will journey at least 50 miles from home this Thanksgiving. That's an increase of almost 2 percent over last year. The group projects 1.4 million people in North Carolina and 670,000 people in South Carolina will hit the road during the Thanksgiving travel period, which extends from Wednesday through Sunday. AAA Carolinas attributes its projected increase to higher wages, increased consumer spending and overall strength in consumer confidence. The average price of gas in North Carolina is \$2.13 a gallon. In South Carolina, it's \$1.99. That's higher than last year, when the averages were \$2.10 and \$1.91, respectively.

Aiken Standard: Thanksgiving travel expected to increase in the Carolinas
http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/thanksgiving-travel-expected-to-increase-in-the-carolinas/article_71d15944-ad0c-11e6-b4dd-ff57a206c513.html

Tripp Girardeau

As millions across the state and nation prepare to hit the roads for the Thanksgiving holiday, the South Carolina Highway Patrol is urging motorists to take the necessary precautions and preparations for a safe trip. AAA Carolinas projects 2 million Carolinians will travel 50 miles or more from home this Thanksgiving, with just under 1.4 million North Carolinians and 670,000 South Carolinians traveling. This represents a 1.9 percent increase over 2015. This year's increase in Thanksgiving travel is spurred by improvements in the economy during the second half of the year, including rising wages, increased consumer spending and overall strength in consumer confidence, Tiffany Wright, spokeswoman with AAA Carolinas, said in a news release. Fuel prices are down slightly in North Carolina, but up in South Carolina, from this point last year.

Post and Courier: Charleston airport expects record number of travelers over Thanksgiving
http://www.postandcourier.com/business/charleston-airport-expects-record-number-of-travelers-over-thanksgiving/article_cfa3cbe2-adc5-11e6-a7e6-e35bd4686541.html

Warren L. Wise

About 3 percent of Charleston International Airport's annual travelers will trek through the terminal over the long Thanksgiving holiday weekend. Last year, 3.4 million ticket holders flew in and out of the state's busiest airport, with close to 100,000 navigating the temporary corridors and work zones during the terminal overhaul over the holiday weekend. This year, that number is expected to climb at the refurbished terminal, recently christened after a \$200 million face-lift that added five new gates and a slew of other bells and whistles. For those planning to fly this year, Charleston County Aviation Authority, the agency that oversees the airport, suggests arriving early to find a parking space and to maneuver through crowded security lines. Parking in recent years over the holidays has become a bigger problem as larger jets and more airlines ferry more passengers to more destinations from the Lowcountry.

Associated Press: Endangered woodpeckers return to Hitchcock Woods
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=I7Db2Krb

Dede Biles

As the sun rose above Hitchcock Woods early Thursday morning, Anne Kiser tugged on a cord, pulling a wire mesh screen off a hole about 20 feet above the ground in the trunk of a longleaf pine. Nothing happened at first, but then a female red-cockaded woodpecker suddenly appeared, and she immediately flew away. "Yes!" shouted Kiser as she watched the bird soaring into the clear blue sky. Nearby on Warbler Ridge, under another pine, Randy Wolcott yanked on his cord to release a male woodpecker, which took even longer than the female to emerge. The two birds, however, quickly found each other, and they stayed close together as they explored the area. "They seem to be bonding a little bit," Wolcott said. "Hopefully, they will become a breeding pair. That's our goal."

Local News:

Associated Press: Woman fatally struck on I-26 after walking away from crash

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=DOKRIK8L

SC State Wire

Authorities say a 26-year-old woman was fatally struck by two vehicles after walking away from a crash on the other side of Interstate 26. Lexington County Coroner Margaret Fisher says Lauren Lew of Irmo died about 9:30 p.m. Friday of multiple body traumas. Highway Patrol troopers say Lew was walking along I-26 near Chapin after being involved in a separate collision. Authorities are searching for the driver of the first vehicle that hit her, who did not stop. The second driver was in a sport utility vehicle.

Associated Press: Man working on roof dies after falling through skylight

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Yg3QnNd3

SC State Wire

Greenville County authorities say a 57-year-old roof worker died after falling through a skylight. Coroner Parks Evans says Stephen Coggins of Greenville died about 10:30 a.m. Friday. Evans says Coggins was working on the roof at Ferguson HVAC when he backed up, stepped through a skylight and fell to the concrete floor below. Coggins was pronounced dead at the scene. His death has been ruled an accident.

Associated Press: Armed teens steal gaming console in fatal home invasion

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

SC State Wire

Authorities say a 15-year-old Aiken County boy was fatally shot during an early morning home invasion. Coroner Tim Carlton says Jordan Shores of North Augusta was pronounced dead at 9:15 a.m. Saturday at a hospital in Augusta, Georgia. According to a police report, three masked gunmen barged into a Clearwater home about 1:30 a.m. through an unlocked front door while Shores and a 16-year-old were playing video games. One suspect fired at Shores while another pistol-whipped the other teen. The report says the suspects fled with a PlayStation 4 while firing into the home. On Friday, the Aiken County Sheriff's Office charged two 17-year-old males from Beech Island with attempted murder, armed robbery and first-degree burglary. Those charges will likely be upgraded. Investigators were looking for the third suspect.

Associated Press: Man fatally shot after testifying in federal drug case

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

SC State Wire

An Anderson man was fatally shot after his testimony helped convicted two people in a federal drug trial. Anderson County Deputy Coroner Don McCown says Walter Lee was shot multiple times about 1:30 p.m. Friday at his auto-detailing business. He was pronounced dead at an Anderson hospital. The Anderson Independent Mail reports (<http://bit.ly/2g5ntfx>) Lee's testimony helped convict Eric Scott and Antonio Crawley earlier this month. Both face mandatory life sentences for conspiring to distribute cocaine. Lee's attorney Frank Eppes says Lee was "trying to live a good life now." Lee was among 21 people indicted in March 2015. A five-year investigation resulted in the seizure of more than \$1.5 million and 220 pounds of cocaine. Lee pleaded guilty in January to conspiracy and agreed to cooperate with federal authorities.

Associated Press: Ankle monitor helps deputies find, arrest man for murder

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=aqM8dU9Y

SC State Wire

A 53-year-old Anderson man tracked by his ankle monitor is accused of stabbing a man to death in his home. The Anderson County Sheriff's Office said in a release that deputies arrested Virgil Owens

of Anderson about 10:30 p.m. Friday and charged him with murder. Owens wears an ankle monitor because he's on probation. Twenty-eight-year-old Heather Alewine and 27-year-old Eric Simpson are charged with accessory after the fact. They're accused of harboring Owens and helping him hide evidence. Deputies responding to Owens' home about 8 p.m. Friday found two men with stab wounds and a woman with a head injury. Michael Yon died at an Anderson hospital. The other victims have not been identified. Witnesses told investigators an argument escalated to violence. It was unclear if the three had attorneys.

The Herald: 'Closed the door on my life': Freed Chester man seeks justice in his 1977 conviction

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/andrew-dys/article115921808.html>

Andrew Dys

James Robert McClurkin went for a walk Saturday morning at dawn. For the first time in 43 years, he was not in prison. He had been released Thursday, and Friday met in Columbia with a parole officer. Over the weekend he walked in a world free to use Facebook, computers, cellphones, and witness the near-end term of America's first black president. McClurkin said things were totally different when he went to prison in the 1970s. And even though he's free, McClurkin still stands convicted of the 1973 killing of Chester car wash clerk Claude Killian. McClurkin says he didn't commit the crime. And now, the police, his family and lawyer all agree. Being free is "wonderful," McClurkin said, but he wants exoneration. He's awaiting another day in court. Until then he has to survive. He has to find a job. He learned welding and electrical skills in prison. He left prison with no outside clothes, no money, but he had pride, his courage and his hope. "I want to be exonerated," McClurkin said. "Because I did not do it."

The State: Inmate killed at McCormick state prison

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article115968903.html>

Cynthia Roldan

A state prisoner was killed by another inmate Friday night at one of the state's high security prisons. Reico Lamont Welch, 40, was serving time at McCormick Correctional Institution for burglary, grand larceny and criminal conspiracy, said Ashleigh Messervy, spokeswoman for the S.C. Department of Corrections. The name of the inmate who is suspected of killing Welch has not been released by the agency. His killing is still under investigation.

Post and Courier: Inmate killed at McCormick Correctional Institution, officials investigating

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/inmate-killed-at-mccormick-correctional-institution-officials-investigating/article_f4d60d0c-aeb6-11e6-b79a-eb816e0385f6.html

Gregory Yee

Police are investigating an inmate homicide at McCormick Correctional Institution. S.C. Department of Corrections Police Services is investigating the death of Reico Lamont Welch, said Ashleigh Messervy, a prison spokeswoman. The facility was placed on lockdown Saturday, Masservy said. Welch was serving a 20-year sentence for first-degree burglary as well as 5-year sentences for grand larceny and criminal conspiracy, according to prison records. He began his prison term on March 13, 2008. In 2011, Welch appealed his sentence, arguing that the circuit court used a prior conviction — three, prior out-of-state breaking and entering offenses that were consolidated into a single count against him — improperly. "Welch claims the circuit court impermissibly considered this single judgment as three convictions, which resulted in an improperly enhanced charge of first-degree burglary," according to a document from the S.C. Court of Appeals.

The State: Misbehavior, leadership issues cloud Columbia Fire Department

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article115993923.html>

Cliff Leblanc

Firefighters in a firetruck pick up a drunken, off-duty fellow fireman who was walking from Columbia's St. Pat's Festival. They ferry him to a nearby fire station that has a frat house reputation, where he causes trouble. A fire captain gooses a young firefighter and dismisses it as typical horseplay. But the

firefighter's complaint costs the city nearly \$50,000 to settle. Firemen fire off threatening and unprofessional remarks on Facebook about Black Lives Matter protesters. Three, including a captain, are fired. Those incidents and others troubled Columbia city manager Teresa Wilson. Wilson hired consultants to do a deep dive into what was going on in the Columbia Fire Department. The result was an explosive survey of firefighters, obtained by The State newspaper through the state's open-records law. The survey surfaced complaints about the lack of professionalism, concerns over poor pay, a widespread distrust of leaders and a host of other issues.

Sun News: Grand Strand sees increase this year in officer-involved shootings, suicide by cop

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article115753973.html>

Jason M. Rodriguez

Earlier this month, a 35-year-old man was wielding a butcher knife at 1700 North Kings Highway in Myrtle Beach with the hopes that police would shoot him, according to a Myrtle Beach police report. When Myrtle Beach police officers arrived to the call of "suspicious circumstances" just after 2 p.m. on Nov. 3, the man led police back and forth across the busy highway. After the man came back toward police, an officer asked, "Why do you want to do this?" the man said, "I told you to shoot me. ... You're going to f*cking shoot me." The man was shot with a Taser and eventually apprehended. In 2015, police departments along the Grand Strand had no officer-involved shootings. In 2016, there have been four — two of them involved suicidal subjects, according to police reports that identified the men as suicidal, and one of those resulted in death. The fourth was a North Myrtle Beach officer who was shot in the foot, but has recovered.

Associated Press: Funeral for 72 unclaimed people organized by Girl Scout

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

SC State Wire

The Horry County Coroner's Office is hosting a funeral to bury the cremated remains of 72 people unclaimed by their families. The funeral at noon Saturday was organized by 15-year-old Ingram Cox for a Girl Scout project she calls "Potter's Field." The public service will be at the Rose Hill Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Conway. The Sun News of Myrtle Beach reports (<http://bit.ly/2fP7tiH>) the unclaimed people include 60 men, 11 women and one unidentified person - some unclaimed for decades. Coroner Robert Edge says their ashes have been stored in a closet. He says many of the people were homeless, and most died of natural causes. Their ashes will be buried in a shared casket. Cox says it's important because "they don't have anyone else to take care of them."

Associated Press: Trustees approve bronze Cocky for park bench on campus

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=7wNXO3rf

SC State Wire

A bronze, life-sized statue of the University of South Carolina's beloved mascot Cocky could be sitting on a park bench on campus by next fall. The State newspaper of Columbia reports (<http://bit.ly/2g6u90K>) that trustees on the board's buildings and ground committee unanimously approved the \$85,000 project Friday. The full board is expected to give final approval. Plans call for the bronze Cocky to be sitting on a bench near the Melton Observatory. Vice president of student affairs Dennis Pruitt says he expects the bench to become an iconic spot where prospective students will flock to get their photos taken. Pruitt says the university has raised about \$25,000 for the project so far by selling smaller versions of the statue, and donations will cover the balance.

The State: Six wins for USC: Bowl game and a Darius Rucker concert

<http://www.thestate.com/sports/college/university-of-south-carolina/usc-football/article115967123.html>

South Carolina's win Saturday over Western Carolina gives the Gamecocks their sixth win and bowl eligibility. But there's a bonus: A concert from music superstar and USC alum Darius Rucker. "Darius Rucker is going to have a concert on campus," coach Will Muschamp said after the win. "We're excited about that." The idea of having Rucker play on USC's Horeshoe began from some back-on-forth on Twitter in August between the musician and school president Harris Pastides. The details are

still to be determined, but it will be free and happen sometime in the spring, Rucker tweeted. Muschamp has already deemed Pastides the emcee of the event.

Greenville News: Clemson claims spot in ACC Championship

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/sports/college/clemson/2016/11/19/clemson-claims-spot-acc-championship/94061464/>

It was a bumpy ride, but Clemson wound up where it was supposed to Saturday night. On a chilly, windswept night that made passing and punting an adventure, quarterback Deshaun Watson and running back Wayne Gallman each ran for a pair of touchdowns in a 35-13 victory against Wake Forest that wrapped up a berth in the Atlantic Coast Conference Championship Game on Dec. 3. Clemson, the ACC preseason favorite, wrapped up the Atlantic Division title – its fifth – and will make its fourth ACC title game appearance under coach Dabo Swinney. The Tigers won the division outright in 2009, 2011 and 2015 and tied Florida State with a 7-1 record in 2012, but the Seminoles went to the ACC Championship Game by virtue of its head-to-head win against Clemson that season.

National News:

Associated Press: Obama to meet Australia, Canada leaders before return to US

<http://bigstory.ap.org/f4451dcc1202426689f32b14bac5b382>

President Barack Obama planned separate talks with the leaders of Australia and Canada before wrapping up the final foreign trip of his presidency. Both countries helped negotiate a multinational trade agreement with the U.S. and nine other Pacific Rim countries. But Congress is unlikely to ratify the deal, dealing a blow to Obama's once high hopes of having the agreement become part of his presidential legacy. President-elect Donald Trump says trade deals can hurt U.S. workers, and he opposes the sweeping Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement. Besides participating in meetings Sunday with other world leaders attending the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Forum taking place in Peru's capital, Obama was sitting down first with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull of Australia, a U.S. ally and partner in the trans-Pacific trade deal. The president also planned to speak with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, whose nation is another TPP partner.

World News:

Associated Press: 115 dead as train derails in north India; some still trapped

<http://bigstory.ap.org/30ef8e56c1634aadbbf23f67d5e20040>

At least 115 people were killed when an overnight passenger train rolled off the track in northern India early Sunday, with rescuers working into the night to pull people out of the mangled coaches, police said. The death toll was expected to rise further because rescue workers had yet to gain access to one of the worst-damaged of the 14 coaches that derailed, said Daljeet Chaudhary, a director general of police. About 150 people were injured, he said. The train derailed at around 3:10 a.m., jolting awake passengers who had settled in for the long trip. Survivors and bodies were retrieved from mangled coaches that had fallen on their side. Ramchandra Tewari, a passenger who suffered a head injury, said he was asleep when he was suddenly flung to the floor of his coach. "There was a loud sound like an earthquake. I fell from my berth and a lot of luggage fell over me," Tewari told reporters from his hospital bed in the city of Kanpur. "I thought I was dead, and then I passed out."

Associated Press: South Korea prosecutors: President conspired with her friend

<http://bigstory.ap.org/55f42fd8578e401194e3cc3b7e084131>

South Korean prosecutors said Sunday that they believe President Park Geun-hye conspired in criminal activities of a confidante who allegedly exploited her presidential ties to amass an illicit fortune — a damning revelation that may convince opposition parties to push for Park's impeachment. Prosecutors want to interrogate Park in person, but presidential spokesman Jung Youn-kuk, who said the investigation resembled a "character assassination" on Park, strongly hinted that the president would continue to refuse their questioning. Prosecutors on Sunday formally charged

the confidante, Park's longtime friend Choi Soon-sil, on suspicion of interfering with state affairs and bullying companies into giving tens of millions of dollars to foundations and businesses she controlled.

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