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## Clips – Saturday, November 26, 2016

### Governor Nikki Haley News:

**The State:** Haley to receive award for 'connecting South Carolina with the world'

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article117066933.html>

Cynthia Roldan

Before Gov. Nikki Haley undergoes a U.S. Senate vetting process to become the nation's next U.N. Ambassador, she will be honored on Wednesday for "connecting South Carolina with the world." Haley will receive the 2016 Global Vision Award by the Columbia World Affairs Council during a black-tie gala. The 23-year-old organization aims to raise awareness of international activities in the Midlands. Former Columbia mayor Bob Coble, chair of the council, said Haley has done a good job promoting South Carolina's products abroad, in addition to her efforts in the state's economic development. "Governor Haley has had an outstanding record in bringing foreign investment to South Carolina, whether it's Volvo or Mercedes," Coble said. Announcing that Haley was this year's recipient of the award predates her nomination as U.N. Ambassador. Haley was the first woman and the first minority to be chosen to serve in president-elect Donald Trump's administration. Trump said Haley was a "proven deal maker" and will make a "great leader representing us on the world stage." Coble said the organization was proud of her appointment.

**Post and Courier:** The Haley Effect: How governor's new U.N. job shakes up S.C. politics

[http://www.postandcourier.com/news/the-haley-effect-how-governor-s-new-u-n-job/article\\_8d1430e8-b2be-11e6-842b-a7a3cc823759.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/news/the-haley-effect-how-governor-s-new-u-n-job/article_8d1430e8-b2be-11e6-842b-a7a3cc823759.html)

Andy Shain

Gov. Nikki Haley was supposed to leave the Statehouse when her second and final term in office ended in January 2019. Now it looks like the Lexington Republican will be departing two years early. Haley's confirmation as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations could come soon after President-elect Donald Trump's Jan. 20 inauguration — setting off an early seismic shift in the Palmetto State from the next legislative session to the 2018 governor's race to the upcoming presidential elections. And it could leave a top state job vacant for two years. Here's how Haley's new job in New York shakes up South Carolina's political scene...

**Orlando Sentinel:** In spite of Clinton loss, women rise in politics

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/opinion/os-ed-women-winners-guest-editorial-20161126-story.html>

Here are a few names to remember: Peggy Whitson. Catherine Cortez Masto. Lauren Book. Those are just three people on a very impressive list of women who are going to be heroes, role models and extraordinarily influential in the coming days, months and years.... It's true Hillary Clinton, the first woman nominated for president by a major party, lost to Donald Trump after a campaign that was, at times, shameful. But for those who yearn to see more women in leadership, there are plentiful reasons to remain hopeful. At 56, Peggy Whitson has just become the oldest woman ever to orbit Earth. Whitson, who has a doctorate in biochemistry, was the first female commander of the International Space Station. By the time she finishes her current mission on the ISS, she will have spent more time in space than any other American man or woman. Talk about working far above any glass ceiling. Catherine Cortez Masto, from Nevada, has just become the first Latina elected to the U.S. Senate, where she will be joined in January by Kamala Harris of California, who is the first biracial female senator, and Tammy Duckworth of Illinois, a combat-wounded veteran who was born in

Thailand.

**NOTE:** South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, who clashed with Trump earlier this year, will be United Nations ambassador. And the president-elect has nominated Betsy DeVos, daughter-in-law of Orlando Magic owner Rich DeVos, to be his education secretary.

**New York Times:** Carving Trump with an olive branch

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/24/opinion/carving-donald-trump.html>

Opinion: Gail Collins

On Thanksgiving, Americans sat down to dinner, looked at the big turkey and thought about Donald Trump. OK, that was totally the wrong attitude. We're supposed to be having a reset. The president-elect has been going out of his way to build bridges. He came to The Times this week for a long conversation, during which he was extremely amiable. He blasted the alt-right twits who celebrated his victory with Nazi salutes. ("Of course I condemn. I disavow and condemn.") He had nothing but praise for Barack Obama ("I really liked him a lot.") He has no desire to see Hillary Clinton prosecuted. ("She went through a lot. And suffered greatly in many different ways.") Policywise, he was still the guy who's not all that into position papers. In discussing climate change alone, Trump used the phrase "open mind" seven times. This is one thing you can count on. We haven't had a mind so open in the White House since Warren Harding. Trump certainly hasn't been giving many hints about what he's actually going to do. But the real, and very important, message from his outreach was to remind the nation that he's not crazy.

**NOTE:** Look at his appointments. In another year, people might question whether Gov. Nikki Haley of South Carolina would be the right choice for United Nations ambassador, since she has virtually no experience whatsoever in foreign affairs. However, given the fact that last week Haley appeared to be a finalist for secretary of state, the U.N. seems like an eminently sensible assignment. Plus, once again we are relieved it's not Rudy Giuliani.

**Newsmax:** Schumer Urges Nikki Haley to Support 'Loyal and Strategic' Israel

<http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/schumer-haley-israel/2016/11/25/id/760638/>

New York Democrat Sen. Chuck Schumer called on Nikki Haley to support "loyal and strategic" U.S. ally Israel if she gains confirmation to be the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, according to the Washington Examiner. Schumer, who will be the Senate minority leader, issued a statement urging Haley, the Republican governor of South Carolina, to be sure to keep support for Israel as a top priority. "Aside from representing the United States and pursuing our strategic goals at the United Nations, one of the most important jobs the U.N. ambassador has is to stick up for one of America's most trusted and loyal and strategic allies—Israel... I hope that Governor Haley shares that view, and look forward to hearing from her on this issue, and many others, as she seeks confirmation by the Senate," Schumer said in his statement, according to The Examiner. President-elect Donald Trump announced Haley as his pick for the post on Wednesday. She still must be confirmed by the U.S. Senate, which has a Republican majority, the Examiner reported.

**PBS News Hour:** Shields and Brooks on cabinet picks and conflicts of interest

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/shields-brooks-cabinet-picks-conflicts-interest/>

**NOTE:** And then we see the little bit larger Donald in hiring Nikki Haley, who had, in fact, backed both Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz and in the national address, in response — the official Republican response to the president's State of the Union, had warned the party against following the siren call of those — it was a direct allusion to Donald Trump at the time.

**NOTE:** Sometimes, the campaign seemed to be, as Mark said, vindictive, but sort of a depraved three-ring circus. The transition period has not been that. He's nominated people like DeVos or Haley who are competent people, who are more or less professional, experienced people.

**General Assembly News:**

**Post and Courier:** Lawmaker: Campaign finance, election laws need update before 2018 governor's

race

[http://www.postandcourier.com/news/lawmaker-campaign-finance-election-laws-need-update-before-governor-s/article\\_f46a9598-ab66-11e6-a6c5-b39f18e25cb9.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/news/lawmaker-campaign-finance-election-laws-need-update-before-governor-s/article_f46a9598-ab66-11e6-a6c5-b39f18e25cb9.html)

Gavin Jackson

In 2018, South Carolinians will be able to vote for governor and lieutenant governor on the same ticket — for the first time — but one state lawmaker says the law needs to be amended soon or problems could arise. House Speaker Pro Tem and gubernatorial candidate Tommy Pope, R-York, will pre-file a bill next month clarifying when a lieutenant governor running mate can be selected, the seat's fundraising limits and the responsibilities of the office. "Because of my interest I got to researching what are the mechanics of governor and lieutenant governor running together," Pope said. "What I recognized was we passed the law from a constitutional standpoint by referendum in 2012, but we never did the implementing language." The bill, similar to what he tried to pass earlier, would let gubernatorial candidates choose their running mate after the primaries, which would allow runner-ups to be named a lieutenant governor candidate.

**Post and Courier:** Government employees scammed state out of \$1.1 million last fiscal year

[http://www.postandcourier.com/news/government-employees-scammed-state-out-of-million-last-fiscal-year/article\\_1b30820a-ab3f-11e6-b896-03d49f228bfd.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/news/government-employees-scammed-state-out-of-million-last-fiscal-year/article_1b30820a-ab3f-11e6-b896-03d49f228bfd.html)

Gavin Jackson

South Carolina's inspector general found government workers allegedly bilked the state out of more than \$1.1 million during the past fiscal year, eclipsing the combined total of the previous two years. Inspector General Patrick Maley's office found the larger losses stemmed from more employees in higher positions. Of the 18 employees accused of defrauding the state last year, eight were executive or supervisory level employees. With rank came opportunity, the report found. "As a fraudster rises in management, it provides greater opportunity to override internal controls, access to larger funds/assets, and increases the ability to conceal by extending the length of the fraud," the report found. Three former South Carolina Department of Transportation employees were indicted in July for a six-year-long contract fraud and kickback scheme totaling more than \$400,000.

**SC Agency News:**

**WLTX:** VIDEO: Prison Program Helps Moms Connect with Kids

<http://www.wltx.com/news/local/prison-program-helps-moms-connect-with-kids/355994371>

**SC Political News:**

**The State:** He helped Mark Sanford win 2 SC races. Now he's Trump's spokesman

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article117118463.html>

Bristow Marchant

Donald Trump has not held a press conference since winning the Nov. 8 election, so much of the public comments from the president-elect's transition team has come from a spokesman who might be familiar to a lot of South Carolinians. Former Gov. Mark Sanford's campaign manager Jason Miller is Trump's transition communications director and main conduit to the outside world, holding regular briefings for the press. Miller's position working with the incoming president is no surprise to his old boss Sanford, after he managed the former governor's 2006 re-election campaign and the 2013 special election that returned Sanford to the U.S. House from South Carolina's 1st District. "It's a real complement to Jason and his professionalism, expertise and skill set," Sanford said. "What you want for any of your teammates is to see his talents used, and he has been put in the middle of the political solar system."

**Wildfires Across Southeast:**

**Independent Mail:** Rain could help Pinnacle fire fight

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/2016/11/25/rain-could-help-pinnacle-fire-fight/94435638/>

Anna Lee and Mike Eads

The Pinnacle Mountain fire has burned nearly 9,000 acres and was 40 percent contained Friday morning, according to the South Carolina Forestry Commission. But there is a ray of hope in the weather forecast. Northern Pickens County could get soaked with up to 3 inches of rain starting Monday night, according to the National Weather Service. The forecast calls for the rain to last through Wednesday, with 2 inches or so for lower lying areas in Pickens and Greenville counties. "That rain would be a Godsend," said Naturalist Dennis Chastain, who lives on Pinnacle Mountain and has consulted with local and state firefighters as the blaze has spread to much of the rest of Table Rock State Park. "Just seeing where they're at now with containment, history would suggest that amount of rain would be the final nail in the fire's coffin."

**Greenville News:** Pinnacle Mountain fire has burned nearly 9,000 acres

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/11/23/pinnacle-mountain-fire-moves-toward-nc-state-line/94363908/>

Anna Lee

David Hardy is a long way from home. The S.C. Forestry Commission firefighter from Adams Run — a little town about 20 miles south of Charleston — arrived in Pickens County Saturday as one of the 240 crew members who are fighting to contain the two-week-old wildfire on Pinnacle Mountain. The fire has burned nearly 9,000 acres and was 40 percent contained Friday morning, the Forestry Commission said. Although firefighters made progress on the fire Thursday, they will continue with a burnout operation of about 500 acres in an effort to slow the fire down. Firefighters have built a bulldozer line from the North Carolina-South Carolina state line to within about 100 yards of the Saluda River to keep the fire from spreading west. The fire is nearing containment south of the Saluda River, officials said in an update Friday morning. The fire costs are estimated to be \$2.6 million so far.

### **Hurricane Matthew Recovery:**

**Island Packet:** Residents across Beaufort County use debris to bring hope, help after Matthew

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article116986583.html>

Teresa Moss

Harbor Island is unlikely to see any accumulation of the white stuff this year to make a snowman, but it has an unplanned substitution — courtesy of Hurricane Matthew. "When life hands you a hurricane that tears down your trees — you make snowmen," said Mia Moran-Cooper, a part-time island resident. Moran-Cooper is one of 18 Harbor Island residents who had a snowman, crafted from Hurricane Matthew debris, appear in their yard in the middle of the night. The snowmen are being created by Doug Fender, a retired FBI bomb technician and special agent. "It is just for fun," Fender said. "There is no money involved. It is to bring good will and a smile to faces." Fender is one of many people across Beaufort County finding creative ways of using hurricane debris to bring the community together.

### **Dylann Roof Case:**

**Associated Press:** Judge: Roof competent to stand trial in church shooting

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Ai8SFmdl](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Ai8SFmdl)

Jeffrey Collins

The white man charged in the shooting deaths of nine black parishioners at a South Carolina church last year is competent to stand trial, a federal judge ruled Friday. U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel's decision clears the way for jury selection to restart Monday in the hate-crimes trial of 22-year-old Dylann Roof. The judge had delayed the process of narrowing the final jury pool on Nov. 7 when Roof's lawyers suggested their client either didn't understand the charges against him or couldn't properly help them with his defense. The lawyers did not say what led them to question Roof's fitness for trial. Roof is charged in federal court with hate crimes, obstruction of religion and other counts in



connection with the June 17, 2015 attack at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston. He could face the death penalty if convicted. The decision came after Gergel wrapped up a hastily called two-day hearing to determine if Roof is mentally fit to stand trial.

**Associated Press:** The Latest: Judge keeps Dylann Roof transcript secret

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=T1XeKhc4](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=T1XeKhc4)

SC State Wire

A judge has decided against releasing the transcript of a competency hearing for a white man charged with killing nine African-American parishioners at a church in South Carolina. U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel on Friday issued an order saying that 22-year-old Dylann Roof is fit to stand trial in the deaths at a church in Charleston in June 2015. The judge also issued a ruling that says the release of the transcript of the two-day competency hearing would jeopardize Roof's chances of a fair trial. That decision is a reversal from an earlier statement Gergel made last week pledging to release a transcript with parts redacted that might be inadmissible at trial.

**The State:** Judge won't release hearing transcripts, after ruling Roof is mentally fit to stand trial

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article116963593.html>

Cynthia Roldan

A federal judge ruled Friday that alleged Charleston church shooter Dylann Roof is mentally competent to stand trial. Jury selection is expected to head into the questioning phase in federal court in Charleston on Monday, according to U.S. Judge Richard Gergel's order. The decision comes after two days of closed-door competency hearings, during which Gergel received "testimony and voluminous documents." Testimony came from court-appointed examiner James Ballenger – who assessed Roof's competency – four witnesses and the sworn statements of three others. To be found competent, Roof needed the "capacity to understand the nature and object of the proceedings against him, to consult with counsel, and to assist in preparing his defense," the order said. Roof, 22, a self-described white supremacist from the Columbia area, is accused of driving to Charleston to kill African-Americans to "incite racial tensions across the nation." Roof is charged with killing nine people, including church pastor state Sen. Clementa Pinckney.

**Greenville News:** Judge rules Dylann Roof competent to stand trial

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/11/25/judge-rules-roof-competent-stand-trial/94415132/>

Tim Smith

Dylann Roof is competent to stand trial in the murders of nine worshipers at a Charleston church last summer, U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel ruled Friday. The ruling came after two days of closed-door hearings this week at which Roof was present. Gergel issued his three-page order but sealed his finding of facts and conclusions of law because he believes "the public disclosure of that document at this time would prejudice defendant's rights under the Fifth and Sixth Amendment of the United States Constitution and place in jeopardy the Defendant's right to select a fair and impartial jury and to a fair trial." He said jury selection in the case would resume Monday. Gergel ordered the competency hearing closed last week after concluding that holding it in open court could threaten Roof's right to a fair trial.

## Opinion/Editorial:

**Morning News:** EDITORIAL: It's win-win for Haley, McMaster

[http://www.scnw.com/opinion/editorials/article\\_e4d88fb2-b37d-11e6-bb61-bf47c294bbd6.html](http://www.scnw.com/opinion/editorials/article_e4d88fb2-b37d-11e6-bb61-bf47c294bbd6.html)

Thumbs up to S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley and S.C. Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster. Haley has been appointed by President-elect Donald Trump as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. McMaster will ascend to governor, the job he has always wanted. It's a win-win proposition, pending approval by the U.S. Senate. Haley has aspired to a national role and is getting it in a cabinet-level position. No telling what kind of springboard this could be for her future in Washington. The move is surprising, given her

strong opposition to Trump before the South Carolina primary and Republican National Convention. She has been an exceptional economic ambassador for South Carolina, but the daughter of Indian immigrants lacks experience in foreign policy and diplomacy. She led the state well after a Charleston church massacre, the so-called Thousand-Year Flood and Hurricane Matthew. She also clashed with the General Assembly in general and S.C. Sen. Hugh K. Leatherman of Florence in particular. We still haven't forgiven her for calling him out while speaking at a Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce luncheon. She endorsed one of his opponents in a bitter primary race. We believe the easygoing McMaster will work well with our legislators. Now maybe a much-needed gas-tax increase without strings attached will stand a chance so South Carolina can fix its crumbling roads.

## **South Carolina News:**

**Associated Press:** Marine captain to receive bravery medal during football game

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=n9zQ1Axl](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=n9zQ1Axl)

SC State Wire

A Marine captain will receive a Medal for Heroism during the South Carolina-Clemson football game for rescuing people from a NATO helicopter crash in Afghanistan last year. The Greenville News reports (<http://grnol.co/2fNhkEY>) that Capt. Trey Kennedy will be honored with the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for Heroism during Saturday's game at his alma mater. It awards bravery performed outside of combat. The citation describes how Kennedy removed people from the wreckage on Oct. 11, 2015, while standing in several inches of jet fuel, despite imminent risk of fire or explosion. The crash killed five of the helicopter's nine passengers. Kennedy downplays his bravery, telling the newspaper, "That's what Marines do. No biggie." Kennedy is a Wren High School graduate and 2008 Clemson graduate.

**The State:** Federal directive opens door to personal weapons on Fort Bragg, other military property

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/military/article117151093.html>

Military personnel on Fort Bragg may soon be able to carry personal weapons for protection, under a new Department of Defense directive approved this month. The document, titled "Arming and the Use of Force," details the new firearms policy. Fort Bragg officials are awaiting guidance on how to implement the policy on post. Previously, service members have been barred from carrying weapons unrelated to their official duties. That policy had come under criticism in recent years, after high-profile shootings on military installations. At the same time, some leaders have been critical of a push to allow all troops to be armed. The directive appears to be a compromise of sorts. The new policy would permit commanders to approve the carrying of weapons, both government-issued and personally owned, based on a number of factors.

**Post and Courier:** Gone to the hogs, invasive pigs cost state millions

[http://www.postandcourier.com/news/gone-to-the-hogs-invasive-pigs-cost-state-millions/article\\_ccc6911c-b32d-11e6-b251-7f4ed3efd406.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/news/gone-to-the-hogs-invasive-pigs-cost-state-millions/article_ccc6911c-b32d-11e6-b251-7f4ed3efd406.html)

Bo Petersen

Nearly \$25 for every woman, man and child in South Carolina - that's how much damage feral hogs do each year, a Clemson University report has found. The critters that root up native forest vegetation and plantings, till through suburban lawns and drive off other game create \$115 million worth of problems for the state's agriculture, livestock and timber industries, according to the study. The damage is comparable to the destruction in state forests from Hurricane Matthew. It's the first time a dollar figure has been calculated for the hogs. "They are ecological zombies. They eat everything. They eat deer fawn. They uproot endangered salamanders. They eat ground-nesting birds and their eggs," said Shari Rodriguez, Clemson environmental conservation professor, who wrote the report. "They really eat anything."

## **Local News:**

**Post and Courier:** Charleston County inmate part of international sex predator ring, investigators say  
[http://www.postandcourier.com/news/charleston-county-inmate-part-of-international-sex-predator-ring-investigators/article\\_40a79b6e-a607-11e6-8125-97f98e0db900.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/news/charleston-county-inmate-part-of-international-sex-predator-ring-investigators/article_40a79b6e-a607-11e6-8125-97f98e0db900.html)

Dave Munday

A Summerville man who was arrested last year on unspecified charges of sexually exploiting children was part of an international ring of predators who targeted young girls through social media, according to federal investigators. Brandon Gressette, 32, has been in the Charleston County jail since he was arrested Oct. 22, 2015. Court documents filed since then say he posed as a young girl to get other children to perform sex acts in front of a webcam to satisfy the prurient interests of members of a pedophile website. A new indictment was filed last month. The indictment lists seven co-conspirators. Arrest warrants identify them as from Salt Lake City; Grand Rapids, Mich.; Fort Collins, Colo.; Richmond, Va.; Baltimore; and St. Louis. One co-conspirator's identity was redacted and the arrest warrant was not released.

**Herald-Journal:** Polk County to begin building new jail

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161125/polk-county-to-begin-building-new-jail?rssfeed=true>

Chris Lavender

Polk County will break ground next month on a new law enforcement center that's scheduled to be completed by December 2017. The Polk County Board of Commissioners this week gave final approval to the project, and scheduled a groundbreaking ceremony for 11:30 a.m. Dec. 3 at 222 Park St., Columbus. Polk County Manager Marche Pittman said the project's total cost including land acquisition is \$13.5 million. The jail currently has 25 beds, with an average daily inmate population of 31, according to Pittman. A feasibility study conducted by the county showed the jail's average daily inmate population would reach 60 by 2040. The new jail will include 60 beds with the capacity to hold 100 beds. About 30 employees from the Sheriff's Office will work at the center. The Polk County Sheriff's Department will also be located in the new facility.

**The State:** New Columbia bus shelters, bus stops getting off to slow start

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article117061583.html>

Cliff Leblanc

Riders of the Columbia-area bus service are slated to get 10 new, covered bus stops and 15 new benches in the next 18 months, but finding sites has proven to be slow going, the bus system director said. "We're just starting our shelter and bench program," director of The COMET, Bob Schneider, said. "We are 20 years behind where we should be. That's not uncommon in a system like ours that has had limited resources." Now that buses have stable income because of Richland County's transportation penny sale tax, transit planners are upgrading buses, routes and bus stops. The covered stops, called shelters, and benches are to be built in increments of \$200,000, with federal money providing the bulk of each allotment, Schneider said. COMET planners have chosen 45 sites for the first round of construction. The most heavily used bus stops are to get new facilities first, and if one site proves difficult, transit officials will move to the next in line, he said.

**Herald-Journal:** More dining, valet parking options coming to GSP

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161125/more-dining-valet-parking-options-coming-to-gsp?rssfeed=true>

Bob Montgomery

Keeping travelers comfortable and happy is a top priority of the \$125 million Wingspan terminal improvement project that is nearing completion at Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport. Some new features already are in place. By early 2017, there will be more dining options, a new valet parking service and a completely remodeled airside garden with new landscaping and hardscaping. Airport staff on Monday gave GSP Airport Commission members an update on the four-year project. The 54-year-old terminal's Grand Hall will feature a Chick-fil-A, DC3 Dawgs and Palmetto Distillery — an Anderson-based moonshine distillery — and The Kitchen by Wolfgang Puck restaurant. Scott Carr, vice president of commercial business and properties at GSP, said Dunkin Donuts, Baskin Robbins,

Hudson and Tech-On-The-Go and Upstate Marketplace retail stores opened in the Grand Hall on Oct. 30. Construction of new satellite seating areas at both concourses A and B is 90 percent complete and should be finished by Dec. 31, Carr said.

**The State:** Well-known Columbia humanitarian Judy Davis dies

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article117123563.html>

Sarah Ellis

Well-known Midlands community activist and corporate executive Judy Davis was a mentor to many and encouraged others to chase their ambitions and make the community better. She died Thursday after an illness. "She felt that it was her responsibility to give back and help lift up others, both personally and professionally," said JoAnn Turnquist, president and CEO of the Central Carolina Community Foundation and Davis' friend of about eight years. "She believed strongly in the tenet of doing the right thing and that even though she might only be one person, that she could make a difference." Davis served as executive vice president and chief legal officer for BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina, where she worked for more than 20 years. She also served on the boards of numerous community organizations, including the S.C. Governors School of Science and Mathematics Foundation, EngenuitySC, SC Launch, United Way of the Midlands, Columbia College, Palmetto Conservation Foundation and the Central Carolina Community Foundation.

**Island Packet:** Homeless students nearly triple in Beaufort County schools — on paper, at least

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article116967983.html>

Rebecca Lurye

At a glance, it could seem there are more homeless children in Beaufort County than ever. In the past five years, the Beaufort County School District has seen a nearly three-fold increase in its number of homeless students, from 98 in 2011-2012 to 275 in 2015-2016, according to an annual Student Services Report released Nov. 18. And that number will almost certainly go up this school year given the destruction of Hurricane Matthew, which displaced many families temporarily and destroyed others' homes altogether. But the school district, which helps students under the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, says it has been responding to the problem. At least some of the increase is a result of better screening, Lakinsha Swinton, director of student services, said Tuesday during a Board of Education committee meeting.

**Post and Courier:** Committee studying top temperatures for carriage horses closing in on decision

[http://www.postandcourier.com/news/committee-studying-top-temperatures-for-carriage-horses-closing-in-on/article\\_58ec1648-ac72-11e6-8d9c-cfaac160e7cc.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/news/committee-studying-top-temperatures-for-carriage-horses-closing-in-on/article_58ec1648-ac72-11e6-8d9c-cfaac160e7cc.html)

Diane Knich

A new committee examining the rules for Charleston's carriage horses is getting closer to determining how hot is too hot for the animals to remain on the street. Dan Riccio, the city of Charleston's director of livability and tourism, said the committee, which was formed last summer, has met twice since then. It first will determine the temperature at which horses pulling the popular carriage rides should be pulled from the streets. It may also review the weight of loads the animals are allowed to pull. The group's next meeting will be in mid-December, he said. That meeting will include a presentation by veterinarians who serve on the committee. The city currently requires the five carriage companies that work downtown to halt tours when the temperature reaches 98 degrees, or when the heat index reaches 125 degrees.

**Post and Courier:** USC researcher wants humans to spread dengue vaccine to mosquitoes

[http://www.postandcourier.com/features/your\\_health/usc-researcher-wants-humans-to-spread-dengue-vaccine-to-mosquitoes/article\\_ea4a85ee-ab6d-11e6-bf97-3f135733cad2.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/features/your_health/usc-researcher-wants-humans-to-spread-dengue-vaccine-to-mosquitoes/article_ea4a85ee-ab6d-11e6-bf97-3f135733cad2.html)

Derek Asberry

In a unique twist, a researcher at the University of South Carolina thinks humans can stop the spread of a potentially-fatal disease if they take a vaccine and pass it on to mosquitoes through a bite. Dr. Tonya Colpitts is currently studying the dengue virus, a mosquito-borne illness that can cause extremely



high fever, bleeding, shock and death. As many as 100 million people contract dengue each year, and 22,000 of them die, said Colpitts, an assistant professor in the USC Department of Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology. She is using mice to test the effectiveness of the vaccine. Ultimately, the goal is for mosquitoes to become immune to dengue after they receive the vaccine from biting a human. "We figured that, rather than trying to treat people traditionally, why not block mosquitoes from getting it?" Colpitts said.

**Independent Mail:** Anderson's enhanced fire rating may yield insurance savings

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/11/25/andersons-enhanced-fire-rating-may-yield-insurance-savings/94353906/>

Kirk Brown

Anderson city officials are hoping that an improved fire rating will lead to insurance savings for businesses and homeowners. A national insurance advisory organization called ISO recently upgraded the city's fire-suppression rating from Class 2 to Class 1. "That's the best rating that a fire department can get," said Randy Bratcher, the city's interim fire chief. "We're all very excited about that," Bratcher announced the improved rating during a dedication ceremony for the city's new ladder truck earlier this month. The truck's 105-foot ladder will be capable of reaching the top of the city's tallest buildings.

**Herald-Journal:** Christmas trees in good shape despite drought

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161125/christmas-trees-in-good-shape-despite-drought?rssfeed=true>

Alyssa Mulliger

Christmas tree farms in Upstate South Carolina have managed to flourish this year, despite a dry spell that has gripped the area for several months. The latest U.S. Drought Monitor map shows three-quarters of South Carolina is unusually dry. Nearly a dozen South Carolina counties, including Spartanburg and Cherokee, are listed as areas of extreme drought. But John Wagner, owner of Christmas Hill Tree Farm in Chesnee, said the lack of rain hasn't hindered the variety of trees growing at his farm. The farm, located at 150 Riverside Drive, sells evergreens including Leyland cypress, Virginia pine, white pine, Carolina sapphire cypress and blue ice cypress. "It wasn't bad because we irrigate," said Wagner, who started his cut-your-own Christmas tree farm and nursery 30 years ago.

**President-elect Trump News:**

**Associated Press:** Green Party's Stein files recount request in Wisconsin

<http://bigstory.ap.org/3f49441ae45840f5adf3cdeb7c02ed081>

Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein on Friday formally requested a recount of election results in Wisconsin. President-elect Donald Trump narrowly won Wisconsin and Pennsylvania and has a small lead in Michigan. Stein has said she planned to request recounts in the three states — all reliably Democratic in recent presidential elections — to see whether hacking may have taken place, though there's no evidence voter results were hacked or electronic voting machines were compromised. Wisconsin Election Commission officials don't believe the state has ever conducted a presidential recount. They estimate the process could cost as much as \$1 million, which Stein's campaign will have to cover. Stein's campaign has been raising money through online appeals since Tuesday to cover the costs of recounts, with \$5.2 million raised as of Friday afternoon. Wisconsin's unofficial election results show Trump with 1,404,000 votes, Hillary Clinton with 1,381,823 votes and Stein with 31,000 votes. Wisconsin officials have already announced a limited audit of state voting machines, but the state is less vulnerable to cyberattacks because it uses electronic machines with voter-verifiable paper trails in most counties.

**Associated Press:** Ignoring recount questions, Trump team focuses on new hires

<http://bigstory.ap.org/58f99fe3efdc4017b17ac34e5b6e5c18>

President-elect Donald Trump's transition team is ignoring questions about efforts to recount votes in key battleground states, focusing instead on the latest additions to his administration. Trump chose Fox News analyst Kathleen Troia "KT" McFarland to serve as deputy national security adviser and campaign attorney Donald McGahn as White House counsel. In a statement Friday, Trump cited McFarland's "tremendous experience and innate talent" and said McGahn "has a brilliant legal mind, excellent character and a deep understanding of constitutional law." Having faced criticism about the inexperience of his initial picks, Trump found in McFarland someone who had worked under three presidents, although none since Ronald Reagan. McGahn, a veteran Republican election lawyer, served as Trump's attorney during the campaign. Neither requires Senate confirmation. Trump was spending the long Thanksgiving holiday weekend with family at his Palm Beach estate, Mar-a-Lago, and was expected to return to New York on Sunday. He was scheduled to meet Monday with eight prospective administration hires, including several business leaders, Pennsylvania Rep. Lou Barletta and Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, Sheriff David Clarke, an aggressive opponent of the Black Lives Matter movement who is himself African-American.

**Associated Press:** Trump still navigating white supremacists' support

<http://bigstory.ap.org/392da74a639f43628bce596503a720d5>

Donald Trump's disavowal this week of white supremacists who have cheered his election as president hasn't quieted concerns about the movement's impact on his White House or whether more acts of hate will be carried out in his name. Members of the self-declared "alt-right" have exulted over the Nov. 8 results with public cries of "Hail Trump!" and reprises of the Nazi salute. The Ku Klux Klan plans to mark Trump's victory with a parade next month in North Carolina. Civil rights advocates have recoiled, citing an uptick in harassment and incidents of hate crimes affecting African-Americans, Jewish-Americans, Muslims, Latinos, gays, lesbians and other minority groups since the vote. The president-elect has drawn repeated criticism for being slow to offer his condemnation of white supremacists. His strongest denunciation of the movement has not come voluntarily, only when asked, and he occasionally trafficked in retweets of racist social media posts during his campaign. Further, Trump has named Stephen Bannon, the conservative media provocateur who shaped the final months of Trump's campaign, as a White House chief strategist who will work steps from the Oval Office. Bannon's appointment has become as a flashpoint for both sides.

**Associated Press:** Trump's hands-on management style to be tested by presidency

<http://bigstory.ap.org/161c7484ae394001a4785d261909f506>

President-elect Donald Trump looked at hundreds of marble samples before selecting one for the lobby of Trump Tower. He can recall, in painstaking detail even decades later, how he stood in the cold and oversaw the ice-making process at Central Park's rink. And, during the campaign, he personally reviewed every single campaign ad, rejecting some over the smallest of perceived flaws. The hands-on, minutiae-obsessed management style that Trump has relied up for decades in the business world will now be tested by the presidency, an overwhelming job in which his predecessor says only the most challenging decisions even make it to the Oval Office. "Somebody noted to me that by the time something reaches my desk, that means it's really hard," President Barack Obama has said. "Because if it were easy, somebody else would have made the decision and somebody else would have solved it." The president-elect, at times, has been reluctant to delegate. But while his multinational business is indeed vast, the scope of the federal government exceeds any of his previous endeavors.

## **National News:**

**Associated Press:** Student before crash: 'Feels like the bus is going to flip'

<http://bigstory.ap.org/7b330725a1a94ed2b8de1b6d23955ab8>

Students and administrators raised concerns about a Tennessee school bus driver's behavior behind the wheel in the weeks before a crash that killed six children. Police have charged driver Johnthony Walker with vehicular homicide after the Chattanooga crash. Federal authorities said Walker was

driving off the designated bus route when he wrecked on a curvy road while carrying 37 children on their way home from Woodmore Elementary School. Records released by the school district Friday include two written statements by students complaining about Walker's driving. "The bus driver drives fast," one student wrote earlier this month. "It feels like the bus is going to flip over. ... When someone is in the aisle he stops the bus and he makes people hit their heads." Another student wrote: "The bus driver was doing sharp turns and he made me fly over to the next seat. We need seat belts."

## **World News:**

**Associated Press:** Fidel Castro, who defied US for 50 years, dies at 90 in Cuba

<http://bigstory.ap.org/5ef60f67cefb46869c5b6e5814588dec>

Fidel Castro, who led a rebel army to improbable victory, embraced Soviet-style communism and defied the power of 10 U.S. presidents during his half century rule of Cuba, has died at age 90. With a shaking voice, President Raul Castro said on state television that his older brother died at 10:29 p.m. Friday. He ended the announcement by shouting the revolutionary slogan: "Toward victory, always!" Castro's reign over the island-nation 90 miles (145 kilometers) from Florida was marked by the U.S.-backed Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961 and the Cuban Missile Crisis a year later that brought the world to the brink of nuclear war. The bearded revolutionary, who survived a crippling U.S. trade embargo as well as dozens, possibly hundreds, of assassination plots, died 10 years after ill health forced him to hand power over to Raul. Castro overcame imprisonment at the hands of dictator Fulgencio Batista, exile in Mexico and a disastrous start to his rebellion before triumphantly riding into Havana in January 1959 to become, at age 32, the youngest leader in Latin America. For decades, he served as an inspiration and source of support to revolutionaries from Latin America to Africa.

**Associated Press:** The Latest: Cuba announces 9 days of mourning for Castro

<http://bigstory.ap.org/20aaf6626ba54d2d89908be822d43490>

The Cuban government has declared nine days of national mourning for the death of Fidel Castro, ending when his remains are interred on Dec. 4. Public activities and events will be canceled, and the Cuban flag will fly at half-mast. The Council of State says state radio and television "will maintain informative, patriotic and historic programming."

**Associated Press:** Fidel Castro clung to socialism, mentored new leftists

<http://bigstory.ap.org/1dbdb4d7e1cd4160b5637057ba04491d>

Fidel Castro's revolution was slowly dying — or so it seemed. Communism had collapsed in Europe, and Cuba's Soviet lifeline was severed. Food was in short supply. Power outages silenced TV sets normally tuned to a nighttime soap opera. Factories rusted in the tropical heat. The title of an American book seemed just right: "Castro's Final Hour." That was in 1992. Castro's "final hour" became weeks, then months, then years. Even as China and Vietnam embraced free markets, Castro clung to his socialist beliefs and Communism's supposed dinosaur went on to rule for another decade and a half. Along the way he became godfather to a resurgent Latin American left, mentoring a new generation of leaders: Hugo Chavez of Venezuela, Evo Morales of Bolivia, Rafael Correa of Ecuador.

**Associated Press:** Castro clan torn by dysfunction and disagreements

<http://bigstory.ap.org/592fec98259f44c4b22687b9329f6782>

Fidel Castro's rule of nearly five decades split many a Cuban family between exile and solidarity with the communist revolution — including his own. While brother Raul was his closest confidant and successor as president, sister Juana, exiled in south Florida, called Fidel a "monster" to whom she hadn't spoken in more than four decades. Eldest son Fidelito, long Castro's only officially recognized child, was a nuclear scientist in Cuba. Eldest daughter Alina Fernandez, born from an affair with a married socialite who remained on the island decades later, blasted dad on exile radio from Miami. The sprawling Castro clan, made larger by Fidel's early extramarital affairs, also suffered from the same sorts of dysfunction and disagreements afflicting so many other families: siblings who don't

speaking, adults resentful over childhood slights and murky talk of babies born out of wedlock.

**Associated Press:** Cubans in Miami: Revelry and reflection after Castro's death

<http://bigstory.ap.org/c78dcea5f2e841bda47d734bab06aa6f>

Within half an hour of the Cuban government's official announcement that former President Fidel Castro had died, Miami's Little Havana teemed with life — and cheers. Thousands of people banged pots with spoons, waved Cuban flags in the air and whooped in jubilation on Calle Ocho — 8th Street, and the heart of the neighborhood — early Saturday. Honking and strains of salsa music from car stereos echoed against stucco buildings, and fireworks lit up the humid night sky. Police blocked off streets leading to Cafe Versailles, the quintessential Cuban American hotspot where strong cafecitos — sweetened espresso — were as common as a harsh word about Fidel Castro. "Cuba si! Castro no!" they chanted, while others screamed "Cuba libre!"

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