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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Palmetto Daily Business: Chamber of Commerce congratulates Haley on U.N. nomination

<http://palmettobusinessdaily.com/stories/511049071-chamber-of-commerce-congratulates-haley-on-u-n-nomination>

The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce has issued a statement declaring its excitement over the recent nomination of Gov. Nikki Haley as the Ambassador to the United Nations by President-elect Donald Trump. The chamber says she will be able to serve our country well due to her leadership and ability to solve problems. “The State Chamber of Commerce thanks the governor for the past six years which have been the best years of job and business growth the Palmetto State has ever experienced,” its website reads. “Gov. Haley has truly been the ‘Jobs Governor’ and has made the Palmetto State one of the best places to do business in the world. Her leadership will be missed.”

The State: Godspeed Gov. Haley; welcome Gov. McMaster

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scoppe/article116971678.html>

Cindi Ross Scoppe

GOV. NIKKI Haley, it turned out, has a real gift for knowing what to say and do and how to say and do it during times of crisis — the floods of 2015, Hurricane Matthew, the tragedy at Emanuel A.M.E. Church. She has nudged our state toward providing a decent education for all children, though we still have far to go. And she has made some very good appointments — most notably but not exclusively Bobby Hitt as the Commerce secretary who worked with her on impressive job recruitment. But for all the good she has done, she has been unwilling or unable to overcome two overarching flaws...

Times and Democrat: Haley is good choice to seek world harmony

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/haley-is-good-choice-to-seek-world-harmony/article_da31cfa8-4d0a-52be-ab2d-fc12dc1fc7f2.html

Opinion

Gov. Nikki Haley became a statewide figure in 2010 as a tea party favorite who dispatched establishment candidates to become governor. As an American of Indian descent and the state’s first female governor, she simultaneously became a player nationally for a Republican Party looking for more women and minorities in leadership roles. She has been on the national stage ever since as a governor presiding over a period of economic growth in South Carolina, fostered in no small part by the state becoming a high-profile hub of automotive and aerospace manufacturing. She easily won re-election in 2014 and the Haley legend continued to grow. Then came 2015 and the shooting deaths of nine people at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston. Her national profile went off the charts. She was considered a strong choice for vice president when the GOP field numbered in the double digits in early 2016. But the rise of Donald Trump dimmed prospects of Haley on the national level. She openly opposed Trump in the South Carolina Republican Primary and right up to the November election, though she said days before the vote that she would be casting her ballot for the Republican nominee.

India West: Nikki Haley's Appointment Sign of Indian Americans' Political Emergence

http://www.indiawest.com/blogs/nikki-haley-s-appointment-sign-of-indian-americans-political-emergence/article_84db9780-b35a-11e6-8f7c-4f8086c074de.html

Arul Louis

Nikki Haley's historic appointment to a cabinet-rank post by Republican President-elect Donald Trump that caps the election of five Indian Americans to Congress this year has been welcomed by the community as a sign of its political emergence. Shalabh Kumar, the founder of the Republican Hindu Coalition, described the South Carolina governor's appointment as United Nations ambassador as the "Third Diwali" after the festival itself and Trump's election. Echoing a broad sentiment among community leaders IANS spoke to, he said it was a "proud moment for Indian Americans." Shekhar Narasimhan, a Democratic Party activist and fundraiser, said her appointment "shows that we have made it" as a community. "We don't have to agree on everything, on policy, but we can celebrate the fact that we now have a place at the most important table in Washington, the cabinet," he said. The job of U.S. Permanent Representative, or ambassador, to the UN is a cabinet-level position, unlike in most countries, and goes to political appointees because of its high visibility in the global arena.

The New Yorker: The Real Concerns Of The Trump Transition

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2016/12/05/the-real-concerns-of-the-trump-transition>

Amy Davidson

A presidential transition can be a disconcerting stretch of time, even in quieter days than these. The transition to the Presidency of Donald J. Trump has at its center a man who has never served in public office, has spoken disdainfully of constitutional norms, and was either too faithful a reader of the polls or too superstitious to do much about getting ready to govern. His first decisive move was to discard Governor Chris Christie, of New Jersey, who had been assigned to direct his transition. Even to speak of the transition in the singular is, in a way, misleading, given that there are many changes occurring at once: the handover of institutions from one set of hands to another; a businessman becoming President; an electorate witnessing a season of bitter campaigning give way to a period of governance. The main concern at this point is not that the government will plunge into chaos the day after Trump takes the oath of office but how Trump and his team will use the institutions they inherit. His early nominations, such as that of Senator Jeff Sessions, of Alabama, for Attorney General, did nothing to allay that fear. Putting Sessions in the Department of Justice would give the job of protecting voting rights to a man who has, throughout his career, been more inclined to undermine them.

NOTE: Other nominations, like that of Governor Nikki Haley, of South Carolina, to be the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, might signal a transition to a Presidency that includes more traditional Republican aspects—or not. The Senate Democrats have to quickly recover from the shock of the election and move on to taking an active role in the confirmation process. (Trump will also be the first President in recent memory to be choosing a Supreme Court Justice at the same time that he names his cabinet.) The goal should not be blind obstructionism of the kind that would push away a nominee like Haley; rather, it should be to communicate, if only for the record, that lines must be drawn, and that Sessions, who was unconfirmable as a federal judge in 1986, crosses them. That message can be conveyed even by a minority; and the Democrats are, after all, a party that is said to be trying to find its voice.

Post and Courier: Unique Gamecocks women's basketball fan base 'a beautiful view'

http://www.postandcourier.com/sports/unique-gamecocks-women-s-basketball-fan-base-a-beautiful-view/article_96417042-ab5a-11e6-a2b6-7bba8157c9d7.html

Gene Sapakoff

Dawn Staley grabbed a Colonial Life Arena microphone almost as soon as her South Carolina basketball team completed a 73-47 drubbing of Kansas State last March in a second-round NCAA Tournament game. "I want to thank you on behalf of our seniors for giving them an experience like no other," the Gamecocks head coach said to 10,048 people, almost all of them on their feet. "Like no other in the country." It wasn't even close. The legacy of any successful sports run is arranged around championships, and Staley's program has already banked three Southeastern Conference titles and a 2014 trip to the Final Four. Just as impressively, South Carolina led the nation in women's basketball attendance for the 2015-2016 basketball season and the Gamecocks' home average of

14,364 was almost 4,000 more than runner-up Tennessee. More big numbers are expected this year as South Carolina is ranked No. 3.

NOTE: “She’s definitely a South Carolina women’s basketball fan,” Sessions said of the Clemson graduate, “but she’s a Tiger in everything else.” That person is S.C. Governor Nikki Haley, a frequent visitor to Colonial Life Arena. She watched the NCAA Tournament game against Kansas State while wearing a garnet jacket, family in tow. “To see something like that just goes to show what Coach Staley has done to this program and to this state,” Sessions said. “She is changing everybody into a South Carolina women’s basketball fan. That’s something she’s wanted to do for this state and she’s done it.” The most eclectic fan base in the state agrees, loud and clear.

General Assembly News:

The State: The Top 5 issues Henry McMaster would face as SC governor

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article117275988.html>

Cassie Cope

Moving into the South Carolina governor’s mansion means Henry McMaster would inherit the Palmetto State’s most pressing issues, among them responding to a school equity lawsuit and repairing the state’s crumbling roads and bridges. The lieutenant governor is expected to replace Gov. Nikki Haley if she is confirmed by the U.S. Senate to be President-elect Donald Trump’s ambassador to the United Nations. McMaster’s stances on the top issues are not as well known as Haley’s. And for now, he’s not taking questions, staying quiet since Haley’s nomination was announced on Wednesday. Still, it’s certain he’ll face the usual decisions of what takes priority as he works with the General Assembly on how to spend money. And the demands on the state’s pocketbook seem to be particularly acute right now. Here are, arguably, the top five most pressing things South Carolina’s next governor faces.

Post and Courier: Hicks column: Palace intrigue may consume Statehouse

http://www.postandcourier.com/columnists/hicks-column-palace-intrigue-may-consume-statehouse/article_75ff4738-b329-11e6-90ec-539d4e6dfd66.html

Brian Hicks

Let’s get this out of the way right up front: Hugh Leatherman will not be South Carolina’s next lieutenant governor. Not for a minute. The only question here is how, exactly, he will avoid it. And what, if anything, it will cost him. Since the announcement last week that Gov. Nikki Haley is leaving to become ambassador to the United Nations, the Statehouse has been awash in line-of-succession parlor games. Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster will become governor sometime early next year, but the question is who takes his job? Right now that would be Leatherman, who is the Senate president pro tem. The problem is that, in South Carolina, Senate president pro tem is one of the most powerful positions in government; lieutenant governor is, well, not. To put it in context, there are probably folks on the Statehouse custodial staff with more power than the lieutenant governor. This is a clear glitch in the state constitution’s line of succession. Leatherman is the alpha dog in state politics right now. His power is almost limitless. Anyone who has spent any time at the Statehouse knows he won’t give up the pro tem job or the Senate Finance Committee chairmanship – the keys to that power – to play second fiddle to McMaster. But avoiding it is going to take some constitutional acrobatics.

SC Agency News:

The State: SC agencies say budget cuts would eliminate hundreds of state jobs

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article117302148.html>

Cassie Cope

It’s unlikely to happen, but if there is a shortfall in revenues, S.C. agencies propose roughly \$200 million in budget cuts that would eliminate hundreds of state workers’ jobs. In August, Gov. Nikki Haley directed state agencies paid for through the general fund budget – largely tax dollars that come from sales taxes and business and personal income taxes – to include a plan for 3 percent cuts in

their spending requests for next year. View the database of SC state employee salaries. Haley ordered the plans for cuts in case of an economic downturn. The likelihood of a recession is low, economists say, particularly since the Nov. 8 election of Republican President-elect Donald Trump, who is promising an economic stimulus package including tax cuts and spending on infrastructure. But that wasn't known when Haley requested state agencies to prepare for a possible recession.

Greenville News: DDSN chairman expresses frustration with Senate, news coverage

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/11/26/ddsn-chairman-expresses-frustration-with-senate-news-coverage/94267664/>

Tim Smith

The chairman of the state's disabilities agency says the agency is being forced to be "punitive" to providers, in an approach that will only cause providers to become less interested in taking in those with intellectual disabilities. Bill Danielson, chairman of the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs Commission, expressed his frustration during last week's board meeting and confirmed his remarks later with The Greenville News. Danielson's chief concern was the questioning of DDSN Executive Director Beverly Buscemi last month by a Senate budget panel chaired by Sen. Thomas Alexander, a Walhalla Republican. He said the agency was in effect "slapped" at the meeting, which he attended. DDSN cares for thousands of people with intellectual disabilities, autism, brain or spinal cord injuries through a network of state facilities, county providers and private providers offering multiple programs ranging from day services to group homes.

Associated Press: Research: Feral hogs do significant damage in South Carolina

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

SC State Wire

Research shows that feral hogs are doing millions of dollars in damage in South Carolina. The Post and Courier in Charleston (<http://bit.ly/2fCAyzT>) reports that a Clemson University report has found that the hogs do about \$115 million in damage each year. The report says the animals root up lawns and other plantings and drive off game while creating problems for the agriculture, livestock and timber industries. Report author and Clemson professor Shari Rodriguez says the hogs eat just about anything. "They are ecological zombies. They eat everything. They eat deer fawn. They uproot endangered salamanders. They eat ground-nesting birds and their eggs," said Rodriguez, who studies environmental conservation. There have been wild hogs since colonial times in South Carolina. But the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources says their population appears to have been boosted by people who illegally moved hogs around for hunting purposes.

SC Delegation News:

Post and Courier: Some S.C. members of Congress more social on social media than others

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/some-s-c-members-of-congress-more-social-on-social/article_6d6ac662-aa8a-11e6-ad35-53d0c7f87a9e.html

Emma Dumain

U.S. Sen. Tim Scott observes "National Selfie Day" and "National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day" with appropriate photos on Instagram. U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney recounts on Facebook the highs and lows of his pursuits as an amateur gardener, from watermelon harvests to beekeeping. U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford takes to Facebook for long, winding explanations of the votes he takes on Capitol Hill each week, usually waiting until the final paragraph to reveal his ultimate position. U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan directly engages with his followers on Twitter, occasionally finding himself in increasingly tense exchanges. These are some of the more creative ways the members of the S.C. congressional delegation use social media to connect with constituents. Before the e-world exploded, a lawmaker's official website used to be the main - and at one point the only - online clearinghouse for information, serving as the platform where they shared press releases, news clips, contact information and schedule updates. Those .gov websites still exist.

Wildfires Across Southeast:

Associated Press: Firefighters make progress on North Carolina wildfires

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

SC State Wire

Authorities say 2,500 firefighters and other personnel are making progress on containing some of the biggest wildfires in western North Carolina, and rain could help in the coming days. As of Saturday morning, five of 11 wildfires listed in the Joint Information Center's update were more than 50 percent contained. Two of the fires also were affecting parts of South Carolina and Georgia. The National Weather Service said that it was expecting rain in the next week in drought-stricken areas from Alabama and north Georgia through South Carolina's Upstate, western North Carolina and Tennessee. Some areas could get several inches of rain by next Saturday, according to a weather service forecast map. The Party Rock fire near Lake Lure was 80 percent contained as nearly 300 firefighters and other workers continued to fight it. That's down from a peak of about 900 personnel. The Maple Springs fire in Graham County, the Chestnut Knob Fire in Burke County and the Boteler Fire in Clay County were also all above 70 percent containment.

Greenville News: Pinnacle Mountain fire could be fully contained by Dec. 7

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2016/11/26/pinnacle-mountain-fire-could-fully-contained-dec-7/94479610/>

Anna Lee

If containment lines hold, the Pinnacle Mountain fire could be fully contained by Dec. 7, according to the latest outlook from the S.C. Forestry Commission. The wildfire, which originated Nov. 9 inside Table Rock State Park, had grown to 9,147 acres and was 47 percent contained as of 5 p.m. Saturday. The news comes after firefighters were able to complete a small scale burnout from the White Oak Mountain area down to the Saluda River on the west side of the fire Friday while also holding lines along Slickum Falls Road to the east, according to the Forestry Commission. In a second operation Saturday, crews in the northeastern perimeter were able to burn back to previously cut lines in Greenville County, away from the North Carolina state line, a news release said. "Today's burnout operation has been deemed a success," the release said. The Forestry Commission said fire managers will provide an update on the Pinnacle Mountain fire during a public meeting 4 p.m. Sunday at Palmetto Cove RV Park, 521 Table Rock Road, in Cleveland.

Hurricane Matthew Recovery:

Morning News: Meetings scheduled in Nichols for victims of flooding

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_7cd3bc60-b41e-11e6-b082-3b3ce2723470.html

Teams from two federal agencies will hold meetings in Nichols on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday to talk with people about recovering from the flooding caused by Hurricane Matthew. The flooding forced the residents to leave their homes, and many of their houses and businesses were damaged or destroyed. Specialists from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Small Business Administration will give tips and advice on a variety of topics. The meetings will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day at Nichols Town Hall at 514 W. Mullins St. (U.S. 76). FEMA specialists in hazard mitigation will be available all three days to provide tips and advice on such topics as rebuilding techniques, how to replace damaged drywall and caulk windows, and the benefits of hurricane straps. The experts will answer questions about making homes stronger and safer, and how to protect houses from future disaster damage. Most of the information will be geared to do-it-yourselfers and general contractors.

Michael Slagger Case:

Post and Courier: Palmetto Politics: Lawyer representing families of those killed by police opens own firm

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/palmetto-politics-lawyer-representing-families-of-those-killed-by-police/article_20eb50ca-ffa-11e6-bfd9-f7c6ba8cbecc.html

Emma Dumain, Maya T. Prabhu, and Gavin Jackson

Just short of five years as a practicing attorney, lawyer Justin Bamberg is taking his experiences representing families of those who have been killed by police and starting his own law firm. The Bamberg Democrat, who also serves in the S.C. House of Representatives, has spent the past year-and-a-half making a name for himself on the national stage. The 29-year-old is part of the teams representing the families of those killed in high-profile police shootings, including Walter Scott in North Charleston, Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge and, most recently, Keith Lamont Scott in Charlotte. "I have been truly blessed to have been gifted a certain talent and passion for helping others and advocating for them when they are seemingly at their lowest point in life or have had their life turned upside down due to the actions of another person, company, or entity," Bamberg said in a statement announcing the opening of his firm, Bamberg Legal.

U of SC vs. Clemson:

Associated Press: Watson throws 6 TD passes, leads No. 4 Clemson to 56-7 win

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=esE04BsS

SC State Wire

Clemson quarterback Deshaun Watson knew when the fourth-ranked Tigers' work was done against South Carolina - and shared that with the huge, appreciative crowd at Death Valley. Watson, playing his final home game, threw his third TD pass of the opening quarter for a 21-0 lead Saturday night, then placed his hands together and leaned his head against them as if to say, "Nighty night." The Gamecocks never woke up after that in Clemson's 56-7 domination, the team's largest margin of victory in the rivalry since a 51-0 win in 1900. Watson tied his career high with six touchdowns passes, three to Mike Williams in Clemson's latest step toward the College Football Playoff.

The State: Gamecocks buried by rival Clemson in Death Valley

<http://www.thestate.com/sports/college/university-of-south-carolina/usc-football/article117336063.html>

Josh Kendall

South Carolina is especially glad to be heading to a bowl game now. The Gamecocks certainly don't want what happened in Clemson on Saturday night to be their final taste of the 2016 season. The No. 4 Tigers demolished South Carolina 56-7 in front of 81,542 fans in Memorial Stadium, topping their rivals for the third straight time on their way to playing Virginia Tech in the ACC title game and then perhaps in the CFB Playoff. The Gamecocks (6-6) will now wait to learn their bowl destination, which will be determined by Dec. 4. South Carolina and Clemson players got into a brief confrontation 80 minutes before kickoff in one corner of the field, but that was as much fight as the Gamecocks could manage Saturday. They were outgained 380-52 in the first half and trailed 35-0 at halftime. By the end, the Tigers had their second-highest point total and second-largest margin of victory in series history. Clemson outgained South Carolina 622 yards to 218 yards. It was the worst output allowed this season by the Gamecocks defense and the second-worst production of the season for the Gamecocks offense. The Tigers yardage, and their 41 first downs, were series records.

The State: Gamecocks see Clemson's conduct in late going 'disrespectful'

<http://www.thestate.com/sports/college/university-of-south-carolina/usc-football/article117345888.html>

Ben Breiner

The 56-7 loss stung plenty for the South Carolina football team. The way Clemson acted in the final minutes, including late timeouts and showboating, was a step too far, USC players said. Multiple Gamecocks players directly expressed their displeasure at the way the Tigers finished out Saturday's Palmetto Bowl. The word "classless" was thrown around, as several South Carolina players said this one will stick in their craws for a while. "I feel like they kind of disrespected us at the end," safety D.J. Smith said. "Holding the ball and doing all that showboating. I feel like it wasn't really classy, but it is a rivalry game. It's going to stick with all of us and we're going to remember." Wide receiver Terry

Googer was visibly upset coming off the field, having to be directed to the locker room before coming out to sing the alma mater. "Classless is not a strong enough word to describe the actions!" Googer tweeted.

The State: USC players: 'So many racial slurs' from Clemson

<http://www.thestate.com/sports/college/university-of-south-carolina/usc-football/article117346198.html>

Josh Kendall

During South Carolina's 56-7 loss to Clemson on Saturday night, one of the Tigers' offensive linemen used a racial slur toward a Gamecocks defensive lineman, South Carolina linebacker Bryson Allen-Williams said after the game. "They used the n-word, one of their offensive linemen. I don't know which number," Allen-Williams said. "We are going to get our get-back. We definitely have this game circled next year." Clemson beat South Carolina 56-7 after some members of each team had a brief confrontation on the field 80 minutes before the game. "They disrespected us," Allen-Williams said. "We are waiting 365 days to get this team back. They did a lot of disrespectful things on the field. We are on a mission. We are definitely going to be ready." "I don't want to talk too much about it because it's irrelevant now. The score was what it was." South Carolina defensive lineman Dante Sawyer referenced a racial slur in a postgame tweet.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: S.C. tourism industry working to draw more black visitors

http://www.postandcourier.com/business/s-c-tourism-industry-working-to-draw-more-black-visitors/article_be56a2d6-956c-11e6-978d-6b4f9ae13e42.html

Dave Munday

Charleston's African American history is advertised in at least three places in the downtown Visitors Center, yet none of the two dozen people milling about there on a recent afternoon was black. Outside in the bus shed, longtime tour guide Alphonso Brown, a former schoolteacher who is black, was loading up visitors for a morning tour of Catfish Row, Denmark Vesey's house and other notable black historical sites. All of his passengers were white. "Traveling and vacation has never been a part of black life," said Brown, who operates Gullah Tours. "When they do travel, they're visiting friends and family members. Most of the time when they do that, they don't take tours. That's been changing with efforts to draw more black visitors to South Carolina. How it's going to play out is not yet clear, but some are starting to eye a piece of the action. When the tourism industry started in the 1960s, it was aimed at white travelers, Brown said.

Local News:

The Herald: One is paroled for 1973 murder he, police say he did not commit. Will second man be freed?

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/andrew-dys/article117284303.html>

Andrew Dys

Almost 40 years after he was convicted for a murder he and now police say he did not commit, Ray Charles Degraffenreid will find out Tuesday if he will be paroled. Just like Robert James McClurkin was paroled last month, and freed from prison Nov. 17, for the killing of Claude Killian. Both men have since arrest in 1977 claimed they were wrongly arrested and convicted. Both Degraffenreid and McClurkin had alibis and witnesses that put them miles from the crime scene, police and their lawyers now say. More, police say a third man later confessed to the crime. Degraffenreid has been at a prison mental facility for months, and was both physically and mentally unable to appear Oct. 11 at his scheduled parole hearing. That same day, McClurkin was paroled and on Nov. 17 McClurkin was released from prison. In that Oct. 11 hearing Underwood and his detective told the parole board that police did not oppose parole because McClurkin was not involved in the crime. Police are expected to say the same thing Tuesday in front of the parole board on behalf of Degraffenreid.

Independent Mail: Women face equality struggles in Clemson engineering programs

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/2016/11/26/women-face-equality-struggles-clemson-engineering-programs/94088408/>

Mike Eads

Women who aspire to be engineers have to deal with a men's club in university classes, labs and workplaces. "During my three years at Clemson, I have had five women professors," said Crystal Pee, a junior from Myrtle Beach studying chemical engineering and business administration. "In my engineering classes, I have only had two women professors; therefore, 10 percent of my classes have had a woman professor." Women claimed just 26 percent of all engineering degrees awarded in 2013 and 30 percent of all STEM graduates in the United States, according to the advocacy group Women in Science and Engineering. They make up just 19 percent of Clemson's engineering faculty, and account for only 35 percent of all faculty throughout the university. The numbers aren't any better for Clemson students. Pee said her engineering classes are "approximately 70 percent men and 30 percent women."

Associated Press: Beaufort County reports more homeless public school students

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=6Y9eLBVM

SC State Wire

Beaufort County has reported an increase in homeless students in its public schools. The Island Packet reports (<http://bit.ly/2g46aip>) that the Beaufort County School District identified 275 for the 2015-2016 school year in a recent report. That's up from 98 during the 2011-2012 school year. School officials say two factors in the growing number are that they're doing a better job of screening students and their overall enrollment has gone up. Lakinsha Swinton, the district director of student services, said that she thinks the district under-identified homeless students in the past. The district is working to help. Students in need can get financial assistance and help with transportation, food and school supplies.

Post and Courier: Awendaw resident, town at odds over water system

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/awendaw-resident-town-at-odds-over-water-system/article_e465f4a8-b1a1-11e6-bf6d-272ebc78ec4f.html

Prentiss Findlay

Awendaw resident Mike Taylor has racked up more than \$1,000 in unpaid monthly water bills, even though he is not hooked into the town's water system. The town charges him \$26 monthly under its ordinance that requires homes within 300 feet of a public water line to connect to it. Taylor has refused to tap into the system for health reasons, and he and the town have been at odds over the situation for more than two years. Recently, the town offered to waive its \$950 tap-in fee, provide Taylor a grant to run a water line from the public system to his house and forgive the past due bills, said Bill Wallace, town administrator. "Mr. Taylor has had every opportunity to get hooked up to the water system and do it at no cost to him and have his debt forgiven," Wallace said. "We will proceed to try to collect that money in any way that's legal." That could include a lien on Taylor's property, he said. Taylor, who is a kidney transplant patient, said drinking treated well water from the town system could result in a deadly infection because of his medical condition. For that reason, he does not drink water from his own well either.

Associated Press: Cities see rail trails as paths to new business

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=SRMR2UBe

Chris Lavender

For Monty Mullen, walking the Mary Black Rail Trail is a wonderful way to enjoy the outdoors. Mullen has been using the 1.9-mile paved trail, located just south of downtown Spartanburg, since it opened in 2004. She began walking there on weekends with her sister, and continues to go out to get exercise and socialize with neighbors. "It's so interesting to see the diversity of people on the trail," Mullen said. "You can see anybody on it." The success of rail trails such as the ones in Spartanburg and Greenville has other cities in the Upstate looking at ways to create trails of their own. In addition

to being places that promote physical activity, the trails have helped spur economic development nearby, said Ned Barrett, trails coordinator for Partners for Active Living.

Post and Courier: Lowcountry Cuban Americans: Castro's death is the end of an era

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/lowcountry-cuban-americans-castro-s-death-is-the-end-of/article_239294c8-b40f-11e6-ab8d-7b3553caa495.html

Gregory Yee

For Charleston restaurateur Manuel Rodriguez, Fidel Castro's death marks the end of an era. Rodriguez was 2 years old when his family fled Cuba for Spain. They later immigrated to New Jersey before settling in Miami. In 2015, he came to Charleston and opened Cortaditos Cuban Cafe on Meeting Street. "It's great news," he said of Castro's death. "They finally got rid of a tyrant. People call him a dictator but he's more than that. He took away people's businesses ... He's done a lot of damage." Cuban-Americans, Rodriguez said, have been waiting for this day for a long time. Many of the adults who fled Cuba passed away before they could celebrate this day. Castro's death, however, doesn't necessarily mean significant change for the island nation, he said. Raúl Castro, Fidel's younger brother, remains in power.

President-elect Trump News:

Associated Press: Trump calls recount a 'scam' but effort moves forward

<http://bigstory.ap.org/03fcd572e84b42a1bfeb5b6f503d9149>

For months Donald Trump called the presidential election "rigged." The president-elect has a different word — "scam" — for the recount effort aimed at revisiting the vote in three pivotal battleground states. "The people have spoken and the election is over," Trump declared Saturday in his first comments about the growing effort to force recounts in Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania. He added, "We must accept this result and then look to the future." Green Party nominee Jill Stein's fight for a recount got a major boost Friday when Wisconsin officials announced they were moving forward with the first presidential recount in state history. The incoming president had been paying little if any attention to Stein's recount push, but Democratic rival Hillary Clinton forced his hand on Saturday by formally joining the effort. Stein, who drew 1 percent of the vote nationally, is raising millions of dollars to fund the recounts.

Associated Press: What Trump can learn from Obama's rough ride on health care

<http://bigstory.ap.org/fa07bf8524d14331ae70c87ce9ff196d>

President Barack Obama took on the problems of a lack of access to health care and high cost, but he and Democrats paid a political price. President-elect Donald Trump has promised to undo much of what Obama put in place, and pledged to make the system better. Although Trump is lacking in specifics, he seems to want to make costs his priority. States, insurers, businesses, and individuals would get more leeway to sort out access. Health care keenly reflects the country's deep political divide. A look at some lessons Trump might learn from Obama's rough ride:

Associated Press: Election throws US plans for Syrian refugees into question

<http://bigstory.ap.org/72d81e30c0fb486e9689e4ed385e16ec>

Arabic language classes are drawing 25 to 30 people a week in preparation for the new arrivals in town. High school students are helping collect furniture and housewares for them, and employers have inquired about giving them jobs. For the past several months, Rutland has been getting ready to receive 100 mostly Syrian refugees beginning early next year. But with Donald Trump taking office in late January, Rutland's plans and those of other U.S. cities that have agreed to take in people fleeing the civil war have been thrown into question, given the incoming president's hostility to Muslim immigrants. "I am not even going to hazard a guess" about the fate of the program, said Mayor Christopher Louras, who invited the newcomers in the hope they can help revitalize this shrinking, post-industrial, heroin-plagued city of 15,800. In the fiscal year that just ended, the Obama administration screened and admitted nearly 12,600 Syrian refugees, who were resettled in cities and

towns across the U.S. Thousands more are scheduled to arrive in the coming year.

World News:

Associated Press: Miami's joyous Cubans hope for change with Castro's death

<http://bigstory.ap.org/715845f9470c46e5a1791ee984ed55bd>

Wearing his "Bay of Pigs Veteran" shirt, 80-year-old Rafael Torre stood amid hundreds of Cuban-Americans celebrating the death of Fidel Castro and marveled that he remained in power for so long. Cuban exiles such as Torre tried numerous ways to dislodge Castro after he took control in 1959, including the failed 1961 CIA-backed invasion memorialized on his shirt. Now, like many others, Torre is hopeful for Cuba's future with the bearded revolutionary leader finally gone. "We tried for more than 50 years but couldn't do it. Now he's dead, and maybe things can change," Torre said. "It might take three or four years. Maybe the revolution will be on the streets in three or four months." Thousands of people took to the streets of Miami and nearby cities Saturday shortly after the early morning announcement of Castro's death at age 90, and kept the party going all day. They banged pots with spoons, honked car horns, waved Cuban and U.S. flags in the air and whooped in jubilation on Calle Ocho — as Little Havana's 8th Street is universally known.

Associated Press: Imagining Cuba's human rights situation after Fidel Castro

<http://bigstory.ap.org/ba6bcd2906484e4e82de0463ba3f7098>

He overthrew a strongman, brought his country free health care and education, and enlisted Cubans in what he called fights for freedom from Central America to South Africa. Fidel Castro also maintained a steel grip at home, jailing dissidents and gays, controlling freedom of travel and expression and declaring virtually any activity outside his control to be illegitimate. In the wake of the revolutionary's death Friday night, human rights groups said they hoped that his brother and successor, Raul Castro, would move faster toward allowing Cubans more freedom of speech, assembly and other basic rights. "The question now is what human rights will look like in a future Cuba," Erika Guevara-Rosas, the Americas director for Amnesty International, said Saturday. "The lives of many depend on it."

Associated Press: Cubans look to future with hope, doubts after Fidel's death

<http://bigstory.ap.org/74b07870c0d54726953555938734a147>

His words and image had filled schoolbooks, airwaves and newspapers since before many of them were born. Now Cubans must face life without Fidel Castro, the leader who guided their island to both greater social equality and years of economic ruin. Across a hushed capital, people wept in the streets on Saturday as news of the 90-year-old revolutionary's death spread. While many mourned, others privately expressed hope that Castro's passing will allow Cuba to move faster toward a more open, prosperous future under his younger brother President Raul Castro. Both brothers led bands of bearded rebels out of the eastern Sierra Maestra mountains to create a communist government 90 miles from the United States. But since taking over from his ailing brother in 2006, the 85-year-old Raul Castro has allowed an explosion of private enterprise and, last year, restored diplomatic relations with Washington. "Raul wants to do business, that's it. Fidel was still holed up in the Sierra Maestra," said Belkis Bejarano, a 65-year-old homemaker in central Havana.

Associated Press: Analysis: Much uncertainty ahead in US-Cuba relationship

<http://bigstory.ap.org/32d08eb547f84e5093651631c464c004>

Fidel Castro's passing removes what was long the single greatest psychological barrier to a warmer U.S.-Cuba relationship. But it also adds to the uncertainty ahead with the transition from an Obama to a Trump administration. "A brutal dictator" of a "totalitarian island," declared President-elect Donald Trump, underscoring the historical trauma still separating the countries. A more restrained President Barack Obama, carefully promoting and working to preserve his own attempt to rebuild those ties, said history would assess Castro's impact and that the Cuban people could reflect "with powerful emotions" about how their longtime leader influenced their country. In death as in life, Castro has

divided opinion: a revolutionary who stood up to American aggression or a ruthless dictator whose movement trampled human rights and democratic aspirations.

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