

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
To:
Date: 10/28/2016 7:59:05 AM
Subject: Morning Clips – Friday, October 28, 2016

Morning Clips – Friday, October 28, 2016

Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: Haley in Marion for event to help Hurricane Matthew victims
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=GYiBz793

SC State Wire

Gov. Nikki Haley is scheduled to host a special event to help Pee Dee residents affected by flooding and other destruction caused by Hurricane Matthew. Haley is slated to be in Marion on Friday for Team South Carolina Pee Dee Day. Her office says the event serves as a one-stop where people can find out about resources available to families and businesses to aid recovery. Representatives will be on-hand to help people register for financial assistance from FEMA, apply for disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration and learn about repairing their homes. The event runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Marion County Administrative Building. There will also be information about applying for unemployment benefits as well as help from the Department of Social Services.

Jasper Sun Times: Ridgeland, Gov. Haley, to host Hurricane Matthew relief event

<http://www.jaspersuntimes.com/news/2016-10-27/ridgeland-host-hurricane-matthew-relief-event>

Gov. Nikki Haley will visit Ridgeland on Wednesday, Nov. 2 for a Team South Carolina Hurricane Matthew relief event, according to a news release. Team South Carolina Lowcountry Day will be 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Jasper County's Farmers Market at 9935 South Jacob Smart Blvd. It will serve residents impacted by the storm from Jasper, Beaufort, Colleton and Hampton counties. The Team South Carolina event will serve as a one-stop where residents can find out about resources available to families and businesses to aid recovery. The event will bring together representatives from state and federal agencies and non-profit organizations to assist those in need in the wake of destruction caused by Hurricane Matthew.

Island Packet: Nikki Haley heading to Ridgeland to answer our Hurricane Matthew questions

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article110856467.html>

Stephen Fastenau

Get your post-Hurricane Matthew questions ready. South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley plans to visit Ridgeland on Wednesday for a Hurricane Matthew relief event, a news release from her office said Thursday. The Team South Carolina Lowcountry Day will be held from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Jasper County Farmers Market. Federal, state and nonprofit organization officials will be available to answer questions from residents of Beaufort, Jasper, Colleton and Hampton counties about assistance for families and businesses after the storm. At the event, residents will have the opportunity to...

The State: Recreation board refuses Haley's request for sexual harassment report

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article110964787.html>

John Monk

A document that could provide crucial evidence on whether board members governing the Richland County Recreation Commission have grossly mismanaged commission affairs and personnel is being withheld from Gov. Nikki Haley. Board members made the decision to keep the document secret from the governor in a three-minute special public meeting Thursday evening at the commission's Adult Activity Center on Parklane Road. But first, they met out of public view in a small conference room

near the larger room. However, the commission did vote to turn over some 500 pages of documents the governor requested in an Oct. 19 letter to commissioners. The documents will be delivered to Haley's State House office Friday morning. Haley is trying to decide whether to fire five of the seven board members, including board chair J. Marie Green. Haley requested the report allegedly detailing the results of an internal sexual harassment investigation – as well as other information – to help her decide what to do.

WIS: Rec Commission documents to be hand-delivered to Governor Haley

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33502978/rec-commission-documents-to-be-hand-delivered-to-governor-haley>

Jack Kuenzie

The Richland County Recreation Commission will be handing over requested documents to the Governor's office, however, they are refusing to hand over a key report. Thursday night's special meeting with the board followed a request from Governor Nikki Haley. The request was for a variety of documents from the Commission, including the results of an internal sexual harassment investigation, that could help the governor's office respond to demands from most members of the county's legislative delegation who want Haley to remove five Commission board members. Thursday night, the board decided it will hand over documents, however, the sexual harassment investigation results will not be included. Senator Joel Lourie issued a statement, saying, "The actions tonight are again a blatant example of why this board needs to be removed. They are holding back information and covering for themselves and their former director. The people of Richland County deserve full transparency and accountability and with this board, they have neither. I hope the Governor will respond appropriately and put an end to this craziness."

WACH: Rec Commission board to give Haley most of requested documents

<http://wach.com/news/local/rec-commission-board-to-give-haley-most-of-requested-documents>

Matthew Stevens

The Richland County Recreation Board will be handing over documents requested by Gov. Nikki Haley, minus one key document. The board decided to give the governor all documents she requested, except the internal investigation report on sexual harassment claims against former executive director James Brown III. Board members said they are withholding that information due to pending litigation. That document was the first piece of evidence Haley asked for in her request she sent to the board October 19. "The actions are tonight again a blatant example of why this board needs to be removed. They are holding back information and covering themselves and their former director. The people of Richland County deserve full transparency and accountability and with this board, they have neither. I hope the governor will respond appropriately and put an end to this craziness," said Richland County Senator Joel Lourie in a statement.

WLTX: Recreation Commission Denies Governor's Full Request

<http://www.wltx.com/news/local/recreation-commission-denies-governors-full-request/343365568>

Chuck Ringwalt

The Richland County Recreation Commission will not share the internal investigative report into the commission and its former executive director with Governor Nikki Haley. On Thursday the board of commissioners who oversee the commission met for a special called meeting. Within five minutes the group adjourned. In that time they voted to approve the information compiled by the commission's staff and to give that information to Governor Haley on October 28. On October 19 the Governor wrote to the commission and asked for more information as she considers a request by legislators to remove several of the board members from their positions. She specifically asked for additional documentation about how they handled harassment claims, potential nepotism, allegations of intimidation and the Executive Director James Brown III's salary.

Lancaster News: Gov. Haley, GOP through back Fail

http://m.thelancasternews.com/lancasternews/db_322927/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Qk0quydv

Greg Summers

Gov. Nikki Haley came to Lancaster County on Tuesday night to stump for Sheriff Barry Faile at a rally in Buford community. The governor received a warm welcome from about 650 GOP partisans at Hal and Tami Crenshaw's home on Tabernacle Road. Under Faile, she said, the county's crime rate has dropped, response times have improved, and gangs and drugs have been targeted. "The reason why I'm really here is he doesn't call himself a public servant, he acts like a public servant," Haley said. Faile, running for his third term but his first time as a Republican, is in a testy battle with Democratic challenger William McCoy. They traded personal barbs at political forums in Indian Land on Oct. 20 and Monday night at the University of South Carolina Lancaster. Haley said the best way to thank Faile and his staff is to show up on Election Day. "I know he's a public servant and is going to continue to do great things for you and the state of South Carolina," she said.

The Hill: SC Gov. Nikki Haley says she'll vote for Trump

<http://64.147.104.30/blogs/ballot-box/presidential-races/303210-nikki-haley-says-shell-vote-for-trump>

Nikita Vladimirov

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley (R) on Thursday said that she will be voting for the Republican nominee Donald Trump despite being unhappy with both presidential candidates. "Having said that, I will tell you, this is no longer a choice for me on personalities because I'm not a fan of either one. What it is about is policy," Haley said, as reported by the Washington Examiner. The governor then added that Trump would be a preferable candidate when it comes to dealing with healthcare, national security and Supreme Court appointments. "When I look at all of those [issues], I come back to say that the best person based on the policies and dealing with things like Obamacare, still is Donald Trump," she said. Haley has been critical of the Republican nominee in the past, and has blasted Trump's rhetoric that she labeled as dangerous.

CNN: Nikki Haley 'not a fan' of Trump -- but still going to vote for him

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/10/27/politics/nikki-haley-donald-trump/>

Tom Kludt

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is reaffirming her support for Donald Trump, vowing to vote for the GOP nominee despite his attacks on her earlier this year. "That doesn't mean it's an easy vote," Haley, a Republican, said at a news conference on Wednesday. "But it does mean that I'm watching out for the people of South Carolina and I'm watching out for the people of this country, and that's who I will be voting for on November 8." Haley drew the ire of Trump earlier this year after she endorsed Sen. Marco Rubio in the GOP nominating contest. "The people of South Carolina are embarrassed by Nikki Haley!" Trump tweeted at the time. (Haley's response over Twitter: "Bless your heart.") Trump easily won the state's primary in February. After Rubio dropped out, Haley said her "hope and prayer" was that Texas Sen. Ted Cruz would become the next president. Since then, Haley has said that she intends to vote for Trump, but her support has been tepid. On Wednesday, Haley said the 2016 campaign has left her disgusted. "I think I've been really clear. This election has turned my stomach upside down," she said. "It has been embarrassing for both parties. It's not something that the country deserves, but it's what we've got."

Newsmax: SC Gov. Nikki Haley Voting for Trump on Policy, Not Personality

<http://www.newsmax.com/Politics/South-Carolina-vote-presidential-race/2016/10/27/id/755695/>

Jason Devaney

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said Thursday she is "not a fan" of either Donald Trump or his opponent Hillary Clinton but will vote Trump for president. Haley, a Republican, was asked if she still supports Trump during a press conference pertaining to her flood and Hurricane Matthew relief fund. "I think I've been really clear," Haley said. "This election has really turned my stomach upside down. It has been embarrassing for both parties. It's not something the country deserves, but it's what we've got." Having said that, I will tell you, this is no longer a choice for me on personalities because I'm not a fan of either one. What it is about is policy. "WIS-TV posted video of Haley's remarks. Haley then touched on several policy issues, including national security, Obamacare, and the appointment of

Supreme Court justices.

BuzzFeed News: Nikki Haley: Election “Turned My Stomach Upside Down,” Voting For Trump
https://www.buzzfeed.com/nathanielmeyersohn/nikki-haley-election-turned-my-stomach-upside-down-voting-fo?utm_term=.wqMkrE9IZ#.reBW1Engm

Nathaniel Meyersohn

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said Wednesday that she still planned to vote for Donald Trump despite what she called an “embarrassing” election that “has really turned my stomach upside down.” Speaking at a news conference about her efforts to help aid South Carolina in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, Haley resigned herself to a choice between two candidates whom she found personally distasteful. “This is no longer a choice for me on personalities because I’m not a fan of either one. What it is about is policy,” said Haley, who gave a ringing endorsement of Marco Rubio during the Republican primary. “I think I’ve been really clear. This election has really turned my stomach upside down. It has been embarrassing for both parties. It’s not something the country deserves, but it’s what we’ve got.” Haley, who said in May, “I have great respect for the will of the people, and as I have always said, I will support the Republican nominee for president” and appeared at the Republican National Convention in July, added that she based her vote on policy decisions.

Red State: Nikki Haley: This Election Turns My Stomach But I’m Voting For Trump

<http://www.redstate.com/streiff/2016/10/27/nikki-haley-election-turns-stomach-im-voting-trump/>

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley has announced that she is voting for Donald Trump in what might be the most backhanded semi-endorsement ever.

I think these are false hopes but we are in an election where all you can do is either vote your hopes or fears. I can’t blame her for trusting to hope. Haley, if you recall, was an early endorser of Senator Marco Rubio and when he flamed out she endorsed Senator Ted Cruz. Her reasons are based in hope: “As a governor of this state, knowing what our state’s needs are and knowing the processes that are going to take place, there’s a few things that worry me,” Haley said. “One of the things will be who will be put into place at those agencies because we’ve had to deal with the EPA, whether it’s been the National Labor Relations Board, whether it’s been any of the mandates passed down from Health and Human Services, education — all of those issues came into play in South Carolina, and they caused us a lot of heartache.” I think these are false hopes but we are in an election where all you can do is either vote your hopes or fears. I can’t blame her for trusting to hope.

India West: Gov. Nikki Haley to Vote for Donald Trump; Says Presidential Election Has ‘Turned My Stomach Upside Down’

http://www.indiawest.com/news/global_indian/gov-nikki-haley-to-vote-for-donald-trump-says-presidential/article_0df1e87e-9ca1-11e6-8e8c-974efb8e0a96.html

South Carolina's Indian American Governor Nikki Haley has said this year's U.S. presidential election has turned her stomach upside down as she is not happy with either of the choices for the president, but she still plans to vote for Republican nominee Donald Trump. "This election has turned my stomach upside down. It has been embarrassing for both parties. It's not something that the country deserves, but it's what we've got," a disappointed Haley said. "This is no longer a choice for me on personalities, because I'm not a fan of either one. What it is about is policy," the 44-year-old said. Haley said she would vote for Trump even though she disagrees with him on many issues and finds his remarks on rigging of elections "irresponsible." "The best person based on the policies and dealing with things like Obamacare still is Donald Trump. That doesn't mean it's an easy vote, but it does mean I'm watching out for the people of South Carolina and that's who I will be voting for on November 8," Haley told reporters at a news conference in Columbia, South Carolina.

Hurricane Matthew:

Associated Press: Storm scammers claim to be FEMA, target North Myrtle Beach

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=BR2KZOpm

SC State Wire

Authorities are urging residents in North Myrtle Beach to be wary of scammers who claim to be part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and offer to help remove debris in the wake of Hurricane Matthew. The North Myrtle Beach Department of Public Safety wrote on its official Facebook page Wednesday that a black pickup truck bearing a sign that read "FEMA" was seen traveling through neighborhoods in the north end of the city. Officials say the truck's occupants were telling residents they would remove hurricane debris for \$1,500. Officials say FEMA personnel do not operate in this manner. Anyone who sees the truck is asked to record its license plate number and call police at 843-280-5511.

Post and Courier: Storm recovery a haul for thousands

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/storm-recovery-a-haul-for-thousands/article_2168bdf2-9b97-11e6-b8f9-6fe2847d5b70.html

Bo Petersen

She walks stiffly from the debris pile to the electric line connection torn from the wall, rubbing her hands fretfully as she talks. "They came by my house today to pick up leaves, took a look and said, 'We'll be back tomorrow,' " Ann Lowther said, trying to grin about it. When a tree fell on her house during Hurricane Matthew three weeks ago, it poked holes through the roof and collapsed the siding like a ladder, compounding the mess. Lowther is 70 years old and arthritic. Her husband died two years ago. Her insurance has too high a deductible to meet and she just can't do everything anymore, she said. The Hanahan resident is one of more than 900 Berkeley County residents who registered for Federal Emergency Management Agency assistance by Wednesday, the day after the county was made eligible. By Thursday, more than 3,850 people were registered across Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties. In eligible coastal counties across the state, the number was 29,359.

Sun News: Disaster Recovery Center To Open In Horry County

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article110786002.html>

A disaster recovery center will open Friday in Myrtle Beach to help residents with damages and losses from Hurricane Matthew. The Horry County center will be open Monday through Saturday until further notice. Representatives from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Small Business Administration and other public and private agencies are at the center to explain disaster assistance programs and help survivors with applications for aid. The disaster recovery center is located at the Horry County South Strand Recreation Center, 9650 Scipio Lane, Myrtle Beach. Hours will be from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Friday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday. It will be closed on Sunday.

Sun News: Storm scammers target North Myrtle Beach

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article110754297.html>

Elizabeth Townsend

Scammers were reportedly trying to con residents out of money in the North Myrtle Beach area, according to a warning post on the North Myrtle Beach Department of Public Safety page. A black pick-up truck bearing a sign that read "FEMA" was seen traveling through neighborhoods in the north end of the city, and the truck's occupants were allegedly telling residents they would remove hurricane debris for \$1,500, officials said. FEMA personnel don't operate this way, and anyone who sees the truck is urged to provide its license plate information to North Myrtle Beach police by calling 843-280-5511. State and federal officials have warned that Hurricane Matthew has created fertile ground for scammers and con artists who may attempt to take advantage of vulnerable storm survivors. Residents are encouraged to be on guard and always check identification of anyone offering aid.

Sun News: The long, muddy road to recovery begins

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article110966897.html>

Emily Weaver

"I'm salvaging what I can, but I'm at the point right now where it hurts. It hurts real bad and, you know, we have to start over again. It's hard," said Linda June Cancer. Tears welled up in her eyes as she looked at some of the furniture she had just made her last payment on now heaped in a pile of soggy debris outside her home on Rosewood Drive. Dozens of residents in Rosewood Estates were tossing out furniture, tearing up floors and ripping out walls in homes that were inundated with flood waters for days after Hurricane Matthew struck. Cancer had lived in the home for two years. The historic floods of October 2015 pushed water to her house, but the flood water didn't come inside. "It came in this time," she said. "You can't imagine and I'm just a renter. Half of these people out here, they have to live with this. I don't. ... I can move." That's what she planned to do as she and others cleaned out the house that had once been home.

Morning News: Florence officials say debris cleanup could last into 2017

http://www.scnw.com/news/hurricane_matthew/article_89d1669e-9ca7-11e6-944f-2b7c5700431c.html

Joshua Lloyd

Hurricane Matthew downed thousands of trees in the city of Florence, many of which remain piled in yards, along roadways and sidewalks, and residents are wondering how long it will take to clean up. On Thursday, city officials announced their plan to tackle the more than 150,000 cubic yards of debris in the city, with a goal of returning to a normal schedule by the start of 2017. They have divided the city into six sections, four of which will be handled by contracted debris cleanup crews. Officials say cleanup should be in full swing by mid-November. "In the areas that have the largest amount of debris, we're going to use contract work for those areas," said City Manager Drew Griffin. "We're trying to get bid proposals out by [Friday] or Monday, and give contractors about two weeks to submit a bid, then we will choose a contractor or multiple contractors." Griffin said city debris crews have been running routes but the sheer volume of debris—about four years' worth of normal waste—is too much to handle.

Morning News: Marion County disaster recovery efforts coming from various levels

http://www.scnw.com/news/local/article_e043d790-9c85-11e6-a9ea-8382f0ea8ccf.html

Naeem McFadden

Marion County residents affected by Hurricane Matthew have a few places to visit to seek assistance. Two disaster recovery centers opened in the county this week. Mullins City Hall on Front Street and the Safford Building along SC 908 are the locations to help residents with damages and losses. FEMA media relations specialist Renee Bafalis said the centers include representatives from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Small Business Administration and other public and private agencies to explain disaster assistance programs and help survivors with applications for aid. "We're kind of a one-stop shop for people that are registered with us and we encourage people to do that before they come in," she said. "It expedites the process and they come in with questions about the status of their claim and help with individual assistance and mitigation."

South Strand News: Plans call for state park to reopen Oct. 28

http://www.southstrandnews.com/community/plans-call-for-state-park-to-reopen-oct/article_3735fb4e-9611-11e6-b57f-df40ed97cddd.html

Eileen Keithly

Following Hurricane Matthew, Huntington Beach State Park personnel have been removing debris and repairing minor damage throughout the park in anticipation of the park's reopening Oct. 28. State Park officials said HBSP was closed when Gov. Nikki Haley issued a Zone A evacuation Oct. 6, and the park has remained closed for damage assessment and repairs. "Everyone was safely removed from the park after the governor issued her evacuation order," South Carolina State Park Director of Corporate Communications Dawn Dawson-House said. "There was some beach erosion along the jetties, and we are having to shore up the causeway because it was impassable. We had quite a bit

of debris along the beach, as well as throughout the park, and we also had to make a few minor repairs." HBSP Manager Brenda Magers said the majority of the damage within in the park occurred when the salt marsh overflowed at the causeway, causing erosion under the road and on the causeway sidewalks.

South Strand News: Pawleys Island totaling beach restoration costs

http://www.southstrandnews.com/news/pawleys-island-totaling-beach-restoration-costs/article_bf89931a-9cd9-11e6-a2a2-c36e307d7cc2.html

Chris Sokoloski

In the three weeks since Hurricane Matthew ravaged Pawleys Island, the town has spent more than \$230,000 on cleanup and beach restoration. Town Council approved paying R.E. Goodson Construction \$230,170 for its work so far at an emergency council meeting on Thursday evening. R.E. Goodson, which scraped the town's beach to restore the dunes after Hurricane Joaquin in October of 2015, began cleanup work even before the island was reopened to property owners. The company was brought in to help the National Guard clear Springs Avenue, which was covered with several feet of sand and left impassable after the storm. The National Guard did not have equipment large enough for the work, but R.E. Goodson did. "They really expedited getting folks back into their homes," Mayor Bill Otis Jr. said. R.E. Goodson billed the town \$46,500 for the Spring Street work.

Lancaster News: Duke Energy donates \$100,000 to hurricane-relief efforts in S.C.

http://m.thelancasternews.com/lancasternews/db_322927/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=VEmMYGuw

Duke Energy has donated \$100,000 to help charities providing S.C. disaster relief in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew. It gave \$225,000 more in North Carolina and Florida. "While the men and women of Duke Energy have worked nonstop to restore power to customers in Florida and the Carolinas, we know our communities need more," said Lynn Good, Duke Energy's president and CEO. "Disaster-relief agencies are on the front lines helping families and communities recover and rebuild. We are glad to make this contribution to help support that good work." Three organizations in South Carolina will receive donations totaling \$100,000.

NOTE: Duke is donating \$50,000 to the One SC Fund, which was established by Gov. Nikki Haley in November 2015 after flooding affected residents across the state. The fund is supporting nonprofit organizations providing relief and recovery assistance to those affected by Hurricane Matthew.

WMBF: City officials discuss #NextPhaseFlorence after Matthew

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33501883/city-officials-discuss-nextphaseflorence-after-matthew>

Audrey Biesk

The city of Florence still has a lot of work to do to clean up all of the downed trees and debris left on the streets following Hurricane Matthew. That's why their initiative #NextPhaseFlorence has begun and city officials want homeowners to know there is a plan to get the debris cleaned up. Florence City Manager Drew Griffin said city crews will begin cleaning Zone 1 and Zone 6 on the North Evans Street side all the way to the outlining city property on Monday, Oct. 31. The rest of the schedule over the next eight weeks is for all other homeowners in central Florence. Griffin stressed that city crews are not equipped and will be contracting with a company for cleanup efforts of vegetative debris. "We are not commercial debris collectors. We are residential debris collectors and our equipment is designed for residential debris collection," said Griffin.

WMBF: Code enforcement trucks assessing storm damage

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33501729/code-enforcement-trucks-assessing-storm-damage>

Lisa Gresci

Piles of construction and home debris line Grand Strand streets as people continue to clean up after Hurricane Matthew. While boats are still on some people's front lawns, so are parts of their living rooms, bedrooms and kitchens. "Typical sight is everything on the side of the road," said Heather Bumgarner, a resident of the Rosewood community. As the piles grow higher and higher, Lisa

Bourcier, Horry County spokesperson, wants residents to know the county is taking notice. "These communities, again, have been so impacted, that they have a lot of construction, demolition debris (and) household items that need to be removed," Bourcier said. Bumgarner is helping work a donations tent in Rosewood and sees this coming down to much more than cleaning up the streets. "We've had a few people come through here today who have stomach viruses and had to be relocated away from here and can't even start cleaning up yet because they are sick," she said.

WMBF: Mobile disaster recovery center opens in Myrtle Beach area

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33478803/mobile-disaster-recovery-center-opens-in-myrtle-beach-area>

Brad Dickerson

In the wake of Hurricane Matthew and the subsequent flooding, a mobile disaster recovery center has opened in the Myrtle Beach area. According to a post on the Horry County Emergency Management's Facebook page, the DRC opened at the South Strand Recreation Center at 9650 Scipio Lane in Myrtle Beach. HCEMD spokesperson Brooke Holden said the DRC opened its doors Tuesday and will likely close around 5 p.m. Representatives from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Small Business Administration and other public and private agencies will be on hand to explain disaster assistance programs and help survivors with applications for aid.

WPDE: Debris clean-up underway in Florence

<http://wpde.com/news/local/debris-clean-up-is-underway-in-florence>

Rosalia Fodera

Piles of debris still line the streets of Florence, but the city is taking steps to clean them up. "We want to ensure we protect the interest of the citizens by doing this correctly as efficiently as we can," City Manager Drew Griffin said. Officials said the total cost for picking up and getting rid of the debris will be around \$2 million. They say it will take crews some time to get it all because they have to strictly follow FEMA guidelines. "We want to make sure that we get full reimbursement for FEMA, because our match is 25 percent of that amount, and that means that's half a million dollars," Griffin said. For the clean-up, the city has been divided into six zones. Starting Monday, crews will begin cleaning Zones 1 and 6. They will start working on Zones 2 through 5 after a contractor bid is accepted. Officials said they're expecting that bid to go out by Monday at the latest.

Townville Shooting:

Independent Mail: Townville Elementary starts healing process month after shooting

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/10/27/townville-elementary-starts-healing-process-month-after-shooting/92785388/>

Frances Parrish

In a classroom at Townville Elementary School, Jacob Hall's desk remains empty. It's a reminder of the tragedy a month ago, when Hall, another student and a teacher were shot at the school. Hall, 6, died three days later. Other reminders of that day, Sept. 28, adorn the school. Posters line the halls, students carry stuffed animals and the phrase "Townville Strong" is everywhere. But the kids are back on the playground and laughter is heard in the hallways. It is all part of the healing. "I feel like it's a process," said Denise Fredericks, Townville Elementary's principal. "And we're not healed. We're just in the beginning stages of that and we've had so much support to help us with that."

Independent Mail: 13-year-old boy fights for his life after a series of shootings

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/crime/2016/10/27/anderson-police-disclose-identities-people-hurt-shootings/92825446/>

Nikie Mayo

As a 13-year-old boy fought for his life Thursday, new information emerged about a series of shootings that has gripped Anderson. One line from a police officer's report begins to detail the horror

at a home on Montague Street: "Upon arrival, I entered the house and observed a lot of blood," officer Kristin Brady wrote. That shooting would be the first of several, all of which occurred during a little more than a three-hour period between late Tuesday and early Wednesday. Police have named no suspects and have made no arrests. Police made public Thursday the identities of several adults who were wounded in the shootings. Court records show that two of the men who were shot have charges of attempted murder pending against them in separate cases.

Michael Slager Case:

Post and Courier: Judge may take up concern over court openness, motion for dismissal in Michael Slager case

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/judge-may-take-up-concern-over-court-openness-motion-for/article_60d319f6-9bb5-11e6-a754-bf084b1b1878.html

Andrew Knapp

A judge on Friday might take up a First Amendment lawyer's request to reveal details of closed-door testimony last week in the Michael Slager case, along with a defense motion to have the former officer's charge dismissed altogether. The hearing, scheduled for 10 a.m., is the last chance for attorneys in the case to bring up legal issues before the trial starts Monday with jury selection. The presiding judge, Clifton Newman, also will listen to arguments from an attorney for The Post and Courier, whose objection to his closure of prosecutors' testimony last week had gone unheard. Slager, 34, a former North Charleston patrolman, is charged with a state murder count in 50-year-old Walter Scott's shooting death, which was filmed by a witness. He also faces three charges, including a civil rights violation, in federal court. Slager has insisted that he got into a fight with Scott after the April 2015 traffic stop and that the motorist snatched his Taser and turned it against him. He fired in self-defense, he said, as Scott turned away. The bystander's video showed Scott running when Slager fired eight shots, hitting him five times from behind.

General Assembly News:

Associated Press: Ethics Commission reprimands state treasurer for 2011 hire

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

Seanna Adcox

The State Ethics Commission says state Treasurer Curtis Loftis violated ethics law when he helped in hiring a long-time friend to represent his office in a lawsuit against the Bank of New York. In an order released Thursday, commissioners publicly reprimanded Loftis and told him to pay \$500. Loftis says he will appeal the decision. His critics have long questioned a 2013 settlement of \$9 million to the state's two contracted attorneys. Of that, \$2 million went to Michael Montgomery, who Loftis helped bring aboard soon after taking office in 2011. Beyond being a long-time friend, Montgomery was a board member of a charity Loftis founded. The commission found that violated state law barring public officials from using their position to economically benefit an associate, even if it was unintentional.

Post and Courier: Ethics Commission finds Treasurer Loftis violated law

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/ethics-commission-finds-treasurer-loftis-violated-law/article_8e7aac8e-9c7d-11e6-90b8-cfb3a97a7fd1.html

Gavin Jackson

State Treasurer Curtis Loftis was fined and reprimanded by the state Ethics Commission on Thursday for helping hire a friend to represent his office in a lawsuit. Weeks after a seven-hour State Ethics Commission hearing, the panel found Loftis violated ethics law by hiring lawyer Michael Montgomery to assist in a suit against Bank of New York Mellon. Montgomery received \$2 million in legal fees for his work on the case. Loftis and Montgomery served on the Board of Trustees of the Saluda Charitable Foundation together, a connection the ethics panel said created the conflict. "It is undisputed that the decision to hire Montgomery was a governmental decision and Montgomery had an economic interest in his retention as special counsel for the state treasurer," Regina Hollins Lewis,

chair of the ethics hearing panel, wrote.

The State: Ethics officials reprimand Loftis for role in hiring of friend

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article110858902.html>

Tim Flach

State ethics officials reprimanded State Treasurer Curtis Loftis but didn't fine him for helping steer \$2 million in legal work to a longtime friend. The decision made public Thursday concluded Loftis failed to tell other officials of his association with the lawyer chosen. Public officials "should err on the side of disclosure" when their actions made raise questions about "the appearance of impropriety," the decision by the State Ethics Commission said. Loftis contended that his failure to do that was inadvertent instead of intentional, according to the decision. The decision followed a private review by the panel after Loftis, who campaigned on opening more of state government to scrutiny, did not ask that it be conducted publicly. Leaders of a state retiree group questioned a hiring that they said cost their members \$2 million in legal fees paid as part of a settlement of a dispute with a bank.

The State: Senator vows to introduce gun-reform legislation during final legislative hearing

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article110980927.html>

Cynthia Roldan

Gun-rights and gun-reform advocates expressed their frustrations during the final of four meetings of the Senate's Gun Issues Special Committee, which has traveled the state taking testimony from citizens to determine if the state's gun laws should be reformed. The final meeting was held Thursday at the State House's Gressette Building, in a room with a capacity of 140 people; the largest available, but far smaller than during previous meetings held in larger halls. The lack of space forced many speakers to arrive early and tension from ardent supporters on both sides was visible in the faces of attendees. Some debated the merits of making changes to state law even before the meeting started. About 40 attendees were sent to an overflow room set up on a separate floor, where the meeting was streamed. The meeting lasted until almost 9 p.m., with senators making closing remarks.

Post and Courier: Lawmakers hoping to tighten gun laws have a fight ahead of them

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/lawmakers-hoping-to-tighten-gun-laws-have-a-fight-ahead/article_d5ee7bac-9c5c-11e6-928c-0be7d68bd8d9.html

Maya T. Prabhu

After four hearings across South Carolina drew emotional testimony from hundreds of witnesses about the state's gun laws, the chairman of the Statehouse gun committee said it's time for a "full and frank" discussion on the issue. But gun rights advocates say the hearings were a waste of time and taxpayer dollars, insisting there will be no changes made to restrict the state's gun status quo. "All this is, is a feel good law," Gerald Stoudemire, president of Gun Owners of South Carolina, told The Post and Courier about the effort. "What they're trying to introduce will do nothing to prevent crime," he added. "It will do nothing to deter the mass murders we had in Charleston and other areas." Many reform advocates have focused on the errant background check process that allowed accused Emanuel AME Church shooter Dylann Roof to buy a pistol two months before nine worshipers inside the church were gunned down during Bible study last year in Charleston.

Associated Press: Legislators nix request to fast-track repairs to 2 parks

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=voRBdk66

Seanna Adcox

South Carolina legislators have put the brakes on requests to "fast-track" repairs to two beach-front parks ravaged by Hurricane Matthew, saying the state's tourism agency needs a plan addressing all its parks. A legislative panel this week approved the engineering phase of rebuilding Edisto Beach and Hunting Island parks, located in Colleton and Beaufort counties, respectively. The Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism wanted permission for the entire construction process, estimated to cost \$3.5 million combined, with federal emergency aid covering 75 percent. But lawmakers want to

make sure parks in their districts get attention, too. Rep. Murrell Smith, R-Sumter, noted Poinsett State Park near Wedgefield was also damaged. "While we do have to prioritize parks that attract the most people," he said, Poinsett brings tourists to Sumter County, and the agency should take advantage of the 75 percent federal match to fix whatever parks are eligible.

The State: SC pet-care panel considers changes to animal-welfare laws

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article110823222.html>

Avery G. Wilks

David Miller was looking in a rural Warrenton trailer park for a murder-trial witness when he saw something sickening. A dog was chained to a thick tree. The chain allowed the animal to move just a few feet in every direction. Left on its own — for who knows how long — the dog had taken to running in circles. As the dog ran around the tree, the chain had cut several inches into its wood on all sides. "There's absolutely nothing illegal about that in South Carolina," Miller, a deputy solicitor in the 2nd Judicial Circuit, told a panel of S.C. officials on Thursday. "My investigator said we ought to call animal control about that. They can't do anything about it." Miller's suggested Thursday that lawmakers should create a state tethering law, adding to a growing list of ideas pitched to the panel, tasked with studying how to improve pet care in the Palmetto State. State Rep. Steve Moss, R-Cherokee, who sits on the committee, said the need for solutions has been highlighted by the state's unflattering position in recent rankings. In 2015, South Carolina ranked 44th in the country in the Humane Society of the United States' annual survey of animal-welfare policies.

Herald-Journal: Candidates discuss refugees, state pension

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161027/candidates-discuss-refugees-state-pension>

Allison M. Roberts

Candidates for state House District 37, Senate District 11 and Spartanburg County sheriff fielded questions from potential voters Thursday night during a forum in Boiling Springs. The forum, sponsored by the Boiling Springs Business Association, gave Democratic state Sen. Glenn Reese of Spartanburg and his Republican challenger, Inman Mayor Cornelius Huff, to answer questions about how they would address certain state issues if elected. Attendees also had the opportunity to ask political newcomers Republican Steven Long and Democrat Michael Pratt, both vying for the House District 37 seat, what they would accomplish that seasoned politicians haven't. Russell Lynch, who is challenging Spartanburg County Sheriff Chuck Wright for his position, fielded questions about active shooter situations, cold cases and low pay for deputies. Wright was unable to attend the forum due to a previously scheduled event.

NOTE: Huff told the audience that he would support Gov. Nikki Haley's position opposing Syrian refugee resettlement in the state.

SC Agency News:

WFXG: Need for foster homes growing in S.C.

<http://www.wfxg.com/story/33503257/need-for-foster-homes-growing-in-sc>

Diana Watson

Cathy Farr has been a foster mom for 17 years. Some children have stayed with her for a few days. Others have lived with her for years. In her Piedmont home, she says the secret to being a good foster parent is love. She said, "Every time I take in a child, it's like, that's one more child that's not going to get hurt. I can guarantee him as long as he's in my house and I have control over it, he won't be hurt and I can take care of him as good as I can, as best as I can and I know they're safe." Cathy is an example of how successful fostering can be, but the need for more parents is great. South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley and DSS Director Susan Alford kicked off a state-wide effort to recruit more foster parents earlier this year. They said too many children were having to go to other counties or group homes. Their hope is that more families would open their doors to foster children. They have even worked to make the application process a little easier and shorter.

Post and Courier: S.C. taxpayers in for bigger paychecks, smaller refunds starting next year
http://www.postandcourier.com/business/s-c-taxpayers-in-for-bigger-paychecks-smaller-refunds-starting/article_916bd1d4-9c6e-11e6-afd6-8b15b8a77eca.html

Thad Moore

South Carolinians will see a bump in their paychecks but smaller tax refunds under a policy change that kicks in next year. The S.C. Department of Revenue is revising the way it calculates how much employers should withhold for income taxes, an update that will wind up putting \$1 billion back into taxpayers' checks over the next decade. The goal is to reduce the amount of money the state returns in tax refunds each year by taking out less money in the first place. Agency director Rick Reames says the change is long-overdue. In essence, the state's tax withholding requirements didn't change year-to-year, so while South Carolinians' tax bills changed with inflation, the amount coming from their paychecks didn't. Over time, the two got out of sync, and the state started taking in more than it was owed - an amount that has grown larger each year. So for the first time in 25 years, the department is updating the tables that dictate how much employers need to withhold. They'll be phased in over the next 10 years, starting in January. The tables will be updated annually.

SC Political News:

Post and Courier: New poll shows Clinton and Trump in 'statistical tie' in S.C.

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/new-poll-shows-clinton-and-trump-in-statistical-tie-in/article_091db64e-9c41-11e6-97c7-f3156ea84808.html

Emma Dumain

Though most pollsters and veteran political observers are in agreement this is not the year South Carolina will go "blue," the state's Democratic stalwarts are holding out hope for an Election Day victory. SurveyMonkey, the online polling provider that's been tracking voter sentiments towards the presidential candidates on the state level, revealed on Wednesday that Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump are in a "statistical tie" in the Palmetto State. In South Carolina, SurveyMonkey shows voters favoring Trump over Clinton 45 percent to 43 percent. The poll's "state-level estimates are individually weighted and tabulated using state-level voter demographic parameters from the U.S. Census," according to the head of election polling, Mark Blumenthal, in a blog post on the website.

Greenville News: Voter intimidation concerns Greenville party officials

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/elections/2016/10/27/voter-intimidation-concerns-greenville-party-officials/92842454/>

Nathaniel Cary

Some voters in Greenville may have to "walk the gauntlet" past representatives of candidates who are allowed by state law to greet voters on their way into their polling place on Election Day. And in an election year where many expect to see attempts to intimidate or cajole voters on their way into the polls, local election officials have instructed poll workers to keep an eye out for those standing outside of precincts talking to voters who are waiting to cast their ballot to make sure they behave. Anyone can campaign on Election Day outside of 200 feet of a polling place. They can hold signs or hand out material. But representatives of candidates may also campaign within 200 feet though they can't wear anything related to a candidate or party and can't hand out materials, said Conway Belangia, director of Greenville County voter registration and elections.

Associated Press: Some in Greenville worry about voter intimidation

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=gYYkKba7

SC State Wire

Some voters in Greenville County say they are worried about intimidation on Election day. The Greenville News reported (<http://grnol.co/2eLAK9U>) that election officials have instructed poll workers to make sure that those supporting candidates follow the state's rules. Anyone can campaign on Election Day more than 200 feet away from a polling place. They can hold signs and hand out

material. Greenville County election director Conway Belangia says people can also campaign within 200 feet of a polling location as long as they don't wear anything related to a candidate or party and do not hand out materials. Belangia says some people don't like being approached about their vote just before they go in to cast their ballots. He says there's a fine line between solicitation and intimidation.

WOLO: Selfies at Ballot Box Prohibited in South Carolina

<http://www.abccolumbia.com/2016/10/27/selfies-at-ballot-prohibited-in-south-carolina/>

Gabrielle Franklin

Some voters this year are attempting to share their experience on social media but if they want to post a voting picture in South Carolina, they may want to think before they post. The state of South Carolina bars voters from allowing their ballots to be seen. This means it is illegal to reproduce a ballot by cellphone, video camera or iPad. So if you are planning on snapping some pics at the polls, remember to only take pictures of yourself and not the ballot.

Post and Courier: President Obama commutes sentences of 98 felons, including 6 South Carolinians

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/president-obama-commutes-sentences-of-felons-including-south-carolinians/article_1ad9062e-9cad-11e6-bfb0-0bff117c730e.html

Gregory Yee

President Barack Obama commuted the prison sentences of 98 people Thursday, including six South Carolinians...

Savannah River Site/MOX News:

Aiken Standard: Stakeholders share input with DOE

http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/energy-department-takes-input-from-community-stakeholders/article_6c4b57ae-9c5e-11e6-9408-ebbe1b9657a5.html

Thomas Gardiner

With less than two years until the beginning of the next management and operations contract at Savannah River Site, the U.S. Department of Energy is taking a new approach to preparing for proposals. The DOE met with community stakeholders at Augusta's Double Tree Inn on Thursday to discuss the future management and operations contract at the Savannah River Site. The current contract is held by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions and ends July 31, 2018. During public presentations, the Energy Department's Jeffrey Allison said, "As we take input from the community, you might notice some changes as we move to the request for proposals (RFP) and acquisition phase." Allison and SRS Deputy Manager Terry Spears presented information about the current scope of work under the current contract and highlighted some of the recent progress.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Deep South drought kills crops, threatens herds, dries lakes

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=3RJLoHhu

SC State Wire

Six months into a deepening drought, the weather is killing crops, threatening cattle and sinking lakes to their lowest levels in years across much of the South. The very worst conditions - what forecasters call "exceptional drought" - are in the mountains of northeast Alabama and northwest Georgia, a region known for its thick green forests, waterfalls and red clay soil. "Here at my farm, April 15 was when the rain cut off," said David Bailey, who had to sell half his cattle, more than 100 animals, for lack of hay in Alabama's scorched northeast corner. "We've come through some dry years in the '80s, but I never seen it this dry, this long," Bailey added. "There's a bunch of people in a lot of bad shape here."

Greenville News: Drought conditions more severe as storms provide no relief

<https://www.google.com/url?hl=en&q=http://grnol.co/2ewRyXQ&source=gmail&ust=1477689113721000&usg=AFQjCNGSRj9VJ5RXIJECKRwa16qmCmpBbg>

The odd tale of two South Carolinas when it comes to rainfall was confirmed Wednesday as the state's group that assesses drought conditions upgraded the Upstate's dire condition just as the lower half of the state was lifted from drought status in the wake of Hurricane Matthew. The new drought map, voted on Wednesday by the state's drought response committee made up of multiple local and state agencies, shows a dividing line that virtually splits the state in two between the dry Upstate and the wet Midlands and Lowcountry. The Upstate's three westernmost counties — Anderson, Pickens and Oconee — were upgraded to severe drought status, a step below the highest designation of extreme drought. The rest of the Upstate was placed into moderate drought status.

Aiken Standard: S.C. rates low in energy efficiency

http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/s-c-rates-low-in-energy-efficiency/article_abf2553e-9c6c-11e6-aca7-2f9a1a3699bb.html

Thomas Gardiner

The personal finance website WalletHub.com announced last week the findings of a recent research project that found South Carolina resting near the bottom of the list. In the report, WalletHub said, "Energy is expensive. It's one of the biggest household expenses for American consumers, who, on average, spend nearly \$2,000 per year on energy bills. About half of that amount pays just for heating and cooling." The report looked at 48 states, citing a lack of data from Alaska and Hawaii. Of those, the Palmetto State finished 47, with Louisiana the only state rated worse in home energy efficiency. The report also considered car energy efficiency, which also scored South Carolina among the nation's worst. The poor performance in both categories left the state at the bottom of the list.

Post and Courier: Charleston makes list of most livable cities

http://www.postandcourier.com/business/charleston-makes-list-of-most-livable-cities/article_58be6762-9c54-11e6-b93e-e320f6c48dc8.html

Dave Munday

Charleston is one of "America's Best Cities To Live," based in part on its diverse economy and high population growth, according to a Northeastern financial news website. Charleston was No. 33 on the ranking released this week by 24/7 Wall St. It was the only South Carolina representative on the list. Last year, Mount Pleasant was the only Palmetto State city to make the cut. The website said it analyzed data for 550 U.S. cities with populations of 65,000 or more. The comparisons included crime rates, employment growth, access to restaurants and attractions, educational attainment and housing affordability. "Americans who prefer inexpensive housing and warm climates often relocate to the Southeast," the website said. "Charleston's population has increased by 13.1 percent over the past five years, more than three times the national five-year growth rate.

Associated Press: South Carolina 1 of 5 states with single insurer in exchange

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

Seanna Adcox

South Carolinians who buy their health insurance through the federal online marketplace have fewer choices than ever, with just one insurer remaining in the program raising premiums an average of 28 percent. BlueCross BlueShield is the only insurer offering 2017 policies in South Carolina through the exchange created by President Barack Obama's health law. Even its HMO subsidiary, BlueChoice, is no longer in the exchange. That means 114,000 people will have to change policies to stay insured, said state Department of Insurance Director Ray Farmer. As for the higher premiums, it's worth noting that 90 percent of the nearly 217,000 people covered by Healthcare.gov policies in South Carolina get federal subsidies that make premiums more affordable. That means that although BlueCross' plans are increasing between 14 percent and 31 percent, the rate hikes will be lower for people receiving subsidies. Meanwhile, BlueCross and other insurers are making similar premium increases

outside the marketplace, where customers don't get the federal subsidies.

Post and Courier: S.C. students outperform nation on science assessment

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/s-c-students-outperform-nation-on-science-assessment/article_bea0636a-9ba9-11e6-a7ec-83070d581353.html

Deanna Pan

South Carolina's fourth- and eighth-graders outperformed the national average on a federal science assessment administered last spring, according to their scores released Thursday. The National Assessment of Educational Progress, also known as the nation's report card, is the largest nationally representative assessment of student performance in core subjects. Among educators and policy-makers, the NAEP is widely considered the "gold standard" of standardized assessments. The test, administered every two years to a subset of fourth- and eighth-graders across the country, is one of the few that enables state-to-state comparisons for elementary and middle school students over time. Their scores are calculated on a 300-point scale. South Carolina was one of 14 states where scores in both grades rose. The state's 2016 results mirrored nationwide improvements among fourth- and eighth-grade students on the 2015 science assessment. About 4,600 fourth- and eighth-graders statewide took the assessment in the spring of 2015.

Local News:

Associated Press: Woman behind bars for child neglect charged in 2012 killings

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Bj0mwAqo

SC State Wire

Authorities say a 36-year-old woman already behind bars for child neglect has been charged with murder for killing two people near Spartanburg four years ago. Spartanburg County sheriff's deputies said in a news release that a tip given to investigators earlier this month led them to enough evidence to charge Crystal Johnson. They did not give any more information about the tip. Authorities say Johnson helped shoot 45-year-old Randy Cochran and 24-year-old Anna Huckeba. Their bodies were found dead in a car in June 2012. Sheriff Chuck Wright says investigators think Johnson had help in the killing. Johnson started a 10-year state prison sentence for child neglect in July 2015. It wasn't known if Johnson had a lawyer.

The Herald: SC court throws out York Co. burn barrel killer's attempt to back out of guilty plea

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/crime/article110850457.html>

Andrew Dys

The last-ditch attempt by an admitted York County killer, who beat his girlfriend to death, then burned her body in a barrel, who changed his mind about his guilty plea has been thrown out by the S.C. Court of Appeals. John Coddington, 23, who told police "a demon came out in me" and "the devil made me do it" after he beat Tiffany Williams to death in late 2015 at his Fort Mill condo, pleaded guilty to murder Aug. 31. He was sentenced to 45 years in prison in a negotiated deal that saved him a potential trip to the electric chair. Coddington carried Williams' body to Chester County where he burned her remains in a plot to try and cover up the crime. Coddington claimed that Williams, whom he met through a prostitution Web site, cuckolded him in his home, and then while drunk and on drugs, he beat and kicked her to death.

Associated Press: Court rejects man's attempt to back out of plea deal

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=GJn4qQjr

SC State Wire

The South Carolina Court of Appeals has rejected an attempt by a York County man to back out of a guilty plea he made earlier this year. The Herald of Rock Hill reported (<http://bit.ly/2eAOMkv>) the 23-year-old John Coddington of Fort Mill pleaded guilty to murder in the death of 32-year-old Tiffany Williams. Coddington pleaded guilty Aug. 31 to beating Williams to death at his condominium late last year. Police said he took her body to Chester County and burned it in a barrel in an attempt to hide

the crime. He was sentenced to 45 years in prison as part of a plea deal to avoid a possible death sentence. Coddington wanted to back out of the plea agreement but the Court of Appeals rejected that request.

Post and Courier: It's all fun and games until someone gets shot

http://www.postandcourier.com/columnists/it-s-all-fun-and-games-until-someone-gets-shot/article_3962cfc6-9bf4-11e6-bd2c-873b00e7903c.html

Brian Hicks

OK you clowns, cut it out. Someone is going to get hurt – and it's probably going to be you. On Tuesday night, a Charleston Southern University student was out walking her dog when she saw someone in a hoodie and an "evil clown" mask carrying a knife. She reacted as most people would, she took off running. That should be the end of the story, but it's not. The current national election notwithstanding, there is a strange fascination these days with clowns. It began in the South Carolina Upstate, which is typical since folks there often elect them. But we digress. Back in August, several kids (and some adults) in Greenville reported seeing a bunch of clowns lurking in the woods near the Fleetwood Manor apartment complex, flashing laser lights and cash. The witnesses claimed the clowns were trying to lure children into the forest. That is seriously creepy, the stuff of horror movies. So you know what happened next? Yep, a bunch of good ol' boys started shooting at everything that moved in the trees behind Fleetwood Manor.

Greenville News: SLED: Shooting involving Greenville deputy caught on dash cam

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2016/10/27/sled-deputys-shooting-caught-dash-cam/92841662/>

Anna Lee

State investigators said they have dash camera video of the confrontation that led to a man being shot by a Greenville sheriff's deputy earlier this week. The man was shot at least once after authorities said he pulled a knife during a pursuit that began Tuesday afternoon at The Turning Point of South Carolina, an addiction recovery center on Bruce Road in Greenville. The State Law Enforcement Division is investigating the shooting at the request of the Sheriff's Office, said SLED spokesman Thom Berry. Berry said it was the fifth officer-involved shooting this year involving a Greenville deputy. Based on SLED records, it's also the first shooting at the Greenville County Sheriff's Office this year in which video footage exists. The Greenville News has requested to see the dash cam footage under the state's Freedom of Information Act. There is no body camera video of the confrontation, Berry said.

Associated Press: Juvenile charged in shooting death in North Charleston

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=PtQe4hTP

SC State Wire

North Charleston police have charged a 15-year-old juvenile with murder in a shooting death in a neighborhood that has seen several violent incidents in recent weeks. Authorities tell local media outlets that 17-year-old Amarai Roper Smalls was pronounced dead at the scene Wednesday night. The shooting occurred in a neighborhood along Interstate 26. Last month a 23-year-old man was shot and killed on the same street. The following day a 22-year-old man was wounded in a drive-by shooting on a street nearby.

Associated Press: 7 Anderson County shootings leave 6 wounded, 1 critically

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=LE1GZJ7v

SC State Wire

Law officers in Anderson County are investigating a rash of shootings that have left six people wounded, one of them critically. Investigators tell local news outlets there were seven shooting incidents in the county between Tuesday night and Wednesday morning. In one incident more than 50 shots were fired at a home in the city. Three people inside were wounded, including a 13-year-old who is listed in critical condition at a hospital. In another shooting, again from outside a home, a

woman was shot in the foot but two small children inside were unharmed. Later two men were shot and wounded on a street in the city. There were no injuries in the other shootings. Authorities say no arrests have been made.

Post and Courier: Police find \$200,000 in drugs, cash, machine guns at Columbia storage facility near USC

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/police-find-in-drugs-cash-machine-guns-at-columbia-storage/article_5d0d6352-9c83-11e6-8e07-13cf28f65d5d.html

Andy Shain

Columbia police spent three months looking for the son of a bank president after discovering one of the largest caches of illegal pills in city history near the University of South Carolina campus. The seizure in May worked, police said. Incidents involving mood-alerting drugs like Xanax have dropped at USC since discovery of nearly 40,000 pills at a storage unit inside the Aspyre at Assembly Station apartments at Assembly and Whaley streets. And Matthew Ryan Garnett, 23, was arrested on drug possession charges after he was nabbed in a Five Points-area scuffle last week, Columbia Police Narcotics Investigator Anthony Branham told Free Times. The son of NBSC President Chuck Garnett was released on \$15,000 bail, Branham said. After receiving a tip in May, police found 29,139 alprazolam (commonly known as Xanax) pills, 10,421 marijuana pills and 100 grams of hashish at a storage unit. The pills and narcotics had an estimated street value of \$200,000, police said.

Herald-Journal: Sheriff candidates share concerns about drugs, retention

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161027/sheriff-candidates-share-concerns-about-drugs-retention?rssfeed=true>

Daniel J. Gross

Spartanburg County Sheriff Chuck Wright faces opposition in the upcoming election for the first time since he was elected sheriff. Wright, a Republican, will face challenger Russell Lynch, a retired Sheriff's Office sergeant who is running as an Independence Party candidate, in the Nov. 8 election. Wright has been sheriff since 2004 after defeating former Sheriff Bill Coffey in a runoff election. Both candidates agree that drug-related issues are among Spartanburg County's most critical public safety problems. They also acknowledge that deputy retention is a concern, but differ on the reasons for it and how to address it. They also both agree that body camera footage should be made public, but only under certain circumstances.

Morning News: Sheriff's office criminal enforcement unit earns national recognition

http://www.scnow.com/news/article_04866654-9c59-11e6-9732-e39887df582a.html

Three K-9 handlers assigned to the Florence County Sheriff's Office Criminal Enforcement Unit were acknowledged as some of the best in the nation at the American Police Canine Association (APCA) national conference last month. The team was awarded the United States Large Level Department Narcotics Interdiction Team of the Year for 2016 at the conference held Sept. 25 - 29 in Bloomington, Indiana. The award is given based on the agency's size, seizures of narcotics, illegal currency, apprehension and article finds such as weapons over the past year. The awards were presented to Corporal Shane Keith, Corporal Jamie Renfroe and Sergeant Austin T. Spell along with their respective canines Ruger, Roby and Una. From Sept. 2015 to Sept. 2016, the sheriff's office Criminal Enforcement Unit had combined seizures of 111 pounds of cocaine, 1655 grams of heroin, 109 grams of methamphetamine, 34 pounds of marijuana, and 319 doses of other controlled substances. The combined street value of the seizures totals upwards of \$5.8 million.

The State: Feds permanently shut a Columbia-area Liberty Tax Service franchise

<http://www.thestate.com/news/business/article110871152.html>

Rode Burris

A Columbia area Liberty Tax Service franchise owner has been permanently barred from preparing federal tax returns for others, the U.S. Justice Department said Thursday. A federal court issued a civil injunction prohibiting Christopher Paul Haynes from acting as a federal tax return preparer and from

supervising, managing or employing federal tax return preparers following an eight-month investigation. Haynes, of Irmo, operated Liberty Tax Service offices located at 2700 Broad River Road, 4058 West Beltline Road and 599 St. Andrews Road. The order issued Thursday also requires Haynes to provide the U.S. government with a list of all customers for whom Haynes or his businesses prepared a tax return for any tax year from 2010 to the present. The Justice Department said Haynes agreed to the injunction. On Feb. 8, the government sued Haynes alleging that he and his employees prepared false federal income tax returns at his three Liberty Tax Service franchises in order to increase customers' refunds.

Post and Courier: Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg backs off latest I-526 plan but vows to keep trying

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/charleston-mayor-john-tecklenburg-backs-off-latest-i-526-plan/article_04ce1dde-9c57-11e6-bff7-6f34ca0c0676.html

Diane Knich

Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg has withdrawn a request to use \$150 million from the county's proposed half-cent sales tax referendum to pay for improvements near the new port terminal in North Charleston in exchange for moving forward with the extension of Interstate 526. But he has decided to support the \$2.1 billion spending plan for roads, public transit and green space anyway. In a Thursday letter to Vince Graham, chairman of the S.C. Transportation Infrastructure Bank board, Tecklenburg said he is rescinding the request that he and Charleston County Council Chairman Elliott Summey proposed in a Sept. 15 letter. That plan involved getting the \$150 million from a half-cent sales tax referendum that county voters will weigh in on Nov. 8. Tecklenburg said he is withdrawing the request because Graham indicated the Infrastructure Bank board won't meet before voters go to the polls.

The State: USC, neighbors strike deal to build south campus project

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article110942952.html>

Avery G. Wilks

Promising to curb traffic congestion, police students' off-campus behavior and to give neighbors more say in future developments, the University of South Carolina has won over neighborhood leaders for its plans for a massive student housing village on the south side of USC's downtown Columbia campus. USC made the promises during yearlong negotiations with seven neighborhood leaders. Those leaders said area neighborhoods were concerned about the possible consequences – namely in increased traffic and poor student behavior – of tripling the number of students living nearby. With the leaders' blessing, however, USC on Thursday unveiled its revised plan to transform 18 acres on the dilapidated south side of its campus into a 3,700-bed "Campus Village" bordered by Pickens, Heyward and Sumter streets.

Associated Press: Columbia VA Medical Center holds fall festival for services

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=WO8oSgng

SC State Wire

The Dorn VA Medical Center in Columbia is hosting a "Superheroes" fall festival to help military veterans have some fun and learn about available services. The event is scheduled for Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Building 106 at the medical center. It is open to all military veterans. Speakers are slated to cover topics like primary care services, women's health services and the center's diabetes assistance program. Games, snacks, and prizes are also being offered. The Dorn Medical Center and its seven community-based outpatient clinics offer care to more than 82,000 veterans throughout South Carolina every year.

Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press: Activists split as Clinton makes push for black millennials

<http://bigstory.ap.org/337e465bcb264f029e9cd31cdda512e9>

Six months into Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign, she met with a group of Black Lives Matter activists in Washington to make her case and seek their support. DeRay Mckesson left disappointed, feeling Clinton lacked a grasp of the issues he had spent the previous year protesting in cities like Ferguson, Missouri, and Baltimore, including police brutality and income inequality. He came out of the October 2015 meeting unwilling to support her publicly. On Wednesday, though, The Washington Post published an op-ed by Mckesson announcing his plans to vote for her after meeting again with her last week in Cleveland. He said he heard a candidate well-versed in the things that matter to him. "There was no platform the first time," the 31-year-old Mckesson said in a telephone interview. "There is a platform now. I reflected on the things I've heard her say, commit to and seen in writing, and that's how I came to my decision."

National News:

Associated Press: Police evict oil pipeline protesters from private land

<http://bigstory.ap.org/260cf7ab075144e08876beaf96c3022f>

A months-long protest over the Dakota Access oil pipeline reached its most chaotic pitch yet when hundreds of law enforcement officers moved in to force activists off private property. Thursday's nearly six-hour operation dramatically escalated the dispute over Native American rights and the project's environmental impact, with officers in riot gear firing bean bags and pepper spray. Donnell Hushka, a spokeswoman for the Morton County Sheriff's Department, said 141 people were arrested. No serious injuries were reported, though one man was hurt in the leg and received treatment from a medic. Among those arrested was a woman who pulled out a .38-caliber pistol and fired three times at officers, narrowly missing a sheriff's deputy, according to State Emergency Services spokeswoman Cecily Fong. Officers did not return fire, she said.

World News:

Associated Press: Syrian rebels launch Aleppo offensive to break siege

<http://bigstory.ap.org/ae9fb02af9324bc3bcc8f8ee98b7e64f>

Fierce fighting broke out around the northern Syrian city of Aleppo Friday as rebels announced a large-scale offensive to break the government's nearly two-month siege of opposition-held areas. A reporter inside the city on the Lebanon-based Al-Mayadeen TV channel reported attacks on "all sides" of the city, "from the furthest points north to furthest south." Sounds of heavy gunfire, mortar fire, and explosions were heard in the background of his broadcast. Dark smoke was seen rising above the city on the overcast morning. Presumed government or Russian jets were also heard flying overhead. Rebel factions in and around Aleppo have been preparing to launch a counteroffensive to try and break the government's suffocating siege off Aleppo's eastern-held neighborhoods for several weeks.

Associated Press: US says Iraqis have retaken 40 villages from IS near Mosul

<http://bigstory.ap.org/db0d666205e744e5ac4978785486a0b8>

The U.S. military says Iraqi forces have retaken 40 villages from the Islamic State group near Mosul since a massive operation to drive the militants from the city began last week. U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Matthew C. Isler said Friday that Iraqi troops are consolidating gains made east and south of the city earlier this week, but insisted "momentum" was still on their side. The fight to retake Mosul, which fell to IS in a matter of days in the summer of 2014, is the largest military operation undertaken in Iraq since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion. Isler says the U.S.-led coalition has stepped up airstrikes against the militants, and is carrying out three times as many as it did during previous campaigns to drive IS from other Iraqi cities.

Associated Press: Philippine leader Duterte says God told him to stop cursing

<http://bigstory.ap.org/65b920afca31463a93d4ed4f09de9a6c>

The foul-mouthed Philippine president, who once called the pope a "son of a bitch" and told Barack

Obama to "go to hell," says he has promised to God he won't spew expletives again. President Rodrigo Duterte's profanities have become his trademark, especially when threatening to kill drug dealers as part of his war on illegal drugs that has left thousands dead since he took office at the end of June. Duterte made the stunning pledge on arrival in his southern hometown of Davao city late Thursday from a trip to Japan. While flying home, he said he was looking at the sky while everyone was sound asleep, some snoring, and he heard a voice that said "if you don't stop epithets, I will bring this plane down now."

--

Camlin Moore

Cell: 803-206-8236

Office: 803-734-8044