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**Subject:** Afternoon Clips – Monday, November 7, 2016

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## Afternoon Clips – Monday, November 7, 2016

### Governor Nikki Haley News:

**Post and Courier:** USC's \$50 million football operations building receives final OK

[http://www.postandcourier.com/sports/usc-s-million-football-operations-building-receives-final-ok/article\\_d6797f54-a517-11e6-9c08-fbb3e9af2beb.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/sports/usc-s-million-football-operations-building-receives-final-ok/article_d6797f54-a517-11e6-9c08-fbb3e9af2beb.html)

David Caraviello

South Carolina's planned \$50 million football operations building overcame its final remaining hurdle Monday, when the State Fiscal Accountability Authority gave its approval to the project. USC expects to begin construction on the facility around the first of the year, with completion slated for August of 2018. The 105,000-square foot building would be sited at USC's practice complex, and house locker, meeting, training, and weight rooms, coaches' offices, and a players' lounge, all now located across Bluff Road on either end of Williams-Brice Stadium. USC officials confirmed that the State Fiscal Accountability Authority OK was the final approval needed for the project.

**NOTE:** The authority approved USC's request for the issuance and sale of bonds not exceeding \$46 million for the project. The OK came only after Gov. Nikki Haley questioned why USC had so relatively little cash on hand despite reported revenues from SEC distribution and an extended agreement with apparel provider Under Armour. "You're bringing in all this revenue ... yet when it comes to a deal like this, you have only \$6 million to give," Haley asked. "I'm just wondering, where is that money going?"

**NOTE:** Haley was among those who approved the measure, which passed unanimously. The project had received earlier approval from the USC Board of Trustees, as well as the Joint Bond Review Committee and Committee on Higher Education, although that latter body agreed only after USC promised to cut athletic fees for in-state students by \$1 million.

### Kala Brown Kidnapping:

**Associated Press:** Investigators expand search for remains following confession

<http://bigstory.ap.org/6dbdfcb850e64b5e98e527b80e4775f9>

Law enforcement investigators have expanded their search for human remains beyond the South Carolina property where they discovered a woman chained inside a storage container after the landowner confessed to a 13-year-old quadruple slaying and led them to graves where he says two bodies are buried. Todd Kohlhepp, 45, became a suspect in at least seven deaths in the days after a woman was found Thursday chained by her neck and ankle in a metal storage container on his 95-acre property near rural Woodruff. The body of her boyfriend was found a day later. Following his arrest, Kohlhepp confessed to a 2003 quadruple slaying at a motorcycle shop in the small town of Chesnee, said Spartanburg County Sheriff Chuck Wright. He was denied bond Sunday on four murder charges for gunning down the motorcycle shop's owner, service manager, mechanic and bookkeeper. Wright has said Kohlhepp gave details only the killer would know. His confession came a day before the 13th anniversary of the crime, which many feared would never be solved.

**Associated Press:** The Latest: Sheriff: Suspect in 7 deaths not hiring attorney

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

SC State Wire

The South Carolina man who confessed to a quadruple murder in 2003 after authorities found a

woman chained on his property will represent himself in court. Sheriff Chuck Wright told the Spartanburg Herald-Journal (<http://bit.ly/2fyeVOe> ) that Todd Kohlhepp is choosing not to hire an attorney. Kohlhepp became a suspect in at least seven deaths after a woman was found Thursday chained by her neck and ankle in a metal storage container on his 95-acre property near rural Woodruff. WSPA-TV reports (<http://bit.ly/2fwxkwb> ) that authorities granted three requests before Kohlhepp confessed to the 13-year-old slayings at a Chesnee motorcycle shop. Wright says he let Kohlhepp talk to his mother. Wright delivered a photo to Kohlhepp's mom. And he transferred money to a girl Kohlhepp says he's helping raise, to help pay for college. Kohlhepp is also charged with kidnapping. More charges are expected. A body found Friday on the property has been identified as the boyfriend of the woman found a day earlier. Kohlhepp has shown officers where he says two more people are buried. Human remains were found in one gravesite Sunday.

**Greenville News:** Body board taken to Kohlhepp property

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2016/11/07/investigators-look-third-body-kohlhepp-property/93415002/>

A day after investigators unearthed a second body from a wooded section of Todd Kohlhepp's property near Woodruff, an excavator could be seen digging at a site separate from Friday's and Sunday's discovery of bodies as the painstaking search for more remains entered its fifth day Monday. A green body board was taken onto the property on Monday afternoon. About an hour earlier, Spartanburg County Sheriff Chuck Wright gathered inside the fenced area with a group of people from Duncan First Baptist Church for prayer. On Saturday, Kohlhepp pointed investigators to the location of the second body and another after he was allowed to see his mother, according to CBS. The body found Sunday has not been identified. Investigators have been searching the expansive property owned by the 45-year-old real estate broker and convicted sex offender following his arrest Thursday. He was charged last week with kidnapping 30-year-old Kala Brown, who was found alive, chained by the neck and ankles, inside a metal storage container on his land.

**Independent Mail:** Beverly Guy's husband offers forgiveness

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/2016/11/07/beverly-guys-husband-offers-forgiveness/93401068/>

Abe Hardesty

A day after he learned the name of the man charged in the 2003 killing of his wife, Terry Guy told Spartanburg County Sheriff Chuck Wright that he'd like to visit with the man. "I'd like to tell him I forgive him," Guy said Sunday of Todd Christopher Kohlhepp, "and that God can forgive him." "It's going to be a long process, and he'll have to pay for what he's done here on Earth, but this person still doesn't have to go to hell." Guy, who visits Miracle Hill Rescue Mission in Spartanburg about four times a year to share the Gospel there, said his attitude is the one his late wife, Beverly, would have shared. The couple had been married 25 years when Beverly Guy was killed on Nov. 6, 2003, at a Suzuki motorcycle dealership near Chesnee. Dealership owner Scott Ponder, Beverly Guy's 30-year-old son, was also among the four killed that day. Beverly Guy, 52 at the time of her death, was among the most forgiving people Terry Guy ever knew.

**Independent Mail:** Ponder died with a child on the way

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/2016/11/06/ponder-died-child-way/93406628/>

Abe Hardesty

In September of 2003, just nine months after he acquired a Suzuki motorcycle dealership, Scott Ponder and wife Melissa learned they had a child on the way. "He was so elated," stepfather Terry Guy said Sunday, as he remembered the news of the couple's first child. Melissa Ponder was seven weeks pregnant when the family was dealt the devastating news that Scott Ponder had been killed at his dealership in Chesnee. "It was a godsend that she was able to carry the baby, considering all that. One of my biggest regrets is that the child will never know his father or grandmother," he said, referring also to Beverly Guy, who was killed the same day in the shooting at the dealership. Guy was the only father Scott Ponder knew — he married Beverly Ponder when Scott was only 3 years old —

and was among Scott Ponder's biggest fans."He knew how to do anything mechanical on a motorcycle, and he knew how to run a business. He was a hard worker who learned quickly, and he was ambitious," Guy said.

**Herald-Journal:** Superbike widow: Reward money should go to Kala Brown

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161107/superbike-widow-reward-money-should-go-to-kala-brown?rssfeed=true>

Alyssa Mulligar

Melissa Ponder — the widow of Scott Ponder, one of the Superbike Motorsports victims killed at the Chesnee-area store 13 years ago — said she is pushing to give the \$25,000 reward offered for the quadruple homicide to Kala Brown. Brown, 30, was found alive and chained in a storage container Thursday on accused killer Todd Kohlhepp's Woodruff property after she and her boyfriend were reported missing out of Anderson on Aug. 31. "Kala is the real hero here," Melissa Ponder said during a phone interview Monday. "She's the one that endured the two months of hell and stayed vigilant and alive, and it's because of that we even get to talk about any of this." Kohlhepp, 45, was arrested by Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office deputies on Thursday. On Saturday, they say he admitted that he shot four people to death at Superbike Motorsports on Nov. 6, 2003. Scott Ponder, 30, his 52-year-old mother and part-time employee Beverly Guy, and employees Brian Lucas, 29, and Chris Sherbert, 26, were killed at the store.

**Herald-Journal:** Sheriff: Kohlhepp met with mother before Superbike confession

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161107/sheriff-kohlhepp-met-with-mother-before-superbike-confession?rssfeed=true>

Daniel J. Gross

Accused Superbike Motorsports killer Todd Kohlhepp was allowed a meeting with his mother and granted two other requests before confessing to Spartanburg County's 13-year-old quadruple homicide, Sheriff Chuck Wright told the Herald-Journal on Monday. Kohlhepp, 45, was taken into custody Thursday on a kidnapping charge, but Wright said he later confessed to killing four people at Superbike Motorsports in November 2003.

Wright told the Herald-Journal on Monday that Kohlhepp has been "respectful to me." "He was remorseful," Wright said. Law enforcement arrested Kohlhepp, of Moore, after they found 30-year-old Kala Brown alive and chained in a storage container on a 96-acre wooded property near Woodruff owned by Kohlhepp. Since then, authorities say they've found the body of Brown's boyfriend, Charles Carver, and one other set of human remains that so far have not been identified. A second possible gravesite is being investigated. Wright said after Kohlhepp was taken into custody, he asked him if he could grant him a few requests: to give his mother a picture of himself; to transfer money to a girl he is helping raise, to pay for her college education; and to allow him to speak with his mother.

**Herald-Journal:** Sheriff: Todd Kohlhepp will represent himself in court

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161107/sheriff-todd-kohlhepp-will-represent-himself-in-court?rssfeed=true>

Daniel J. Gross

Spartanburg County Sheriff Chuck Wright said Todd Kohlhepp, the real estate agent from Moore charged in the 2003 Superbike Motorsports quadruple homicide, will represent himself in court without an attorney. Wright said Kohlhepp, 45, is talking to investigators, and they are looking into other criminal cases. "He is talking to us. We know some stuff," Wright said. He declined to elaborate. Authorities took Kohlhepp to his 96-acre property off Wofford Road near Woodruff over the weekend, where he showed them two grave sites. Human remains have been found in one, and excavation work is ongoing today on the other. It's the fifth day of the search. In addition to the four murder charges in the Superbike case, Kohlhepp is also facing a kidnapping charge after a missing Anderson County woman was found in a large storage container on his property. Kala Brown, 30, was alive but had been held chained by the neck. She and her boyfriend, Charles Carver, had been missing since the end of August. Carver's body was found on Kohlhepp's property Friday, though Kohlhepp has not

been charged in that death at this time.

### **Michael Slager Case:**

**Associated Press:** Officers say Slager's shooting story contradicted by video  
[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=hF62O1HB](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=hF62O1HB)

Bruce Smith

Two police officers testified Monday that the account Michael Slager gave them about shooting Walter Scott in the minutes after the slaying contradicted a dramatic cellphone video of the unarmed black motorist's death. The trial of Slager, the white former North Charleston police officer who is charged with murder in the 50-year-old man's death, entered its second week as the prosecution continued calling witnesses before a jury of 11 whites and one black. North Charleston police Sgt. James Gann and Lt. Daniel Bowman both raced to the scene in their cruisers after Slager radioed he was pursuing Scott on foot following an April 4, 2015, traffic stop. The pursuit began when Scott ran after being pulled over for a broken taillight. Gann testified that when he arrived, Scott had bullet wounds and was face down on the ground. He said he performed CPR on Scott until emergency medical personnel arrived. He said Scott was unresponsive throughout.

**Associated Press:** The Latest: Trial in motorist shooting focuses on scene  
[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=cxDW4FDp](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=cxDW4FDp)

SC State Wire

The scene minutes after the fatal shooting of a black motorist has become the focus of testimony in the trial of a white former South Carolina police officer charged in the death. North Charleston police Lt. Daniel Bowman is on the stand in murder trial of Michael Slager, who shot and killed Walter Scott as he ran from a traffic stop in April 2015. Bowman testified that after he responded to the scene, Slager told him the shooting occurred as Scott held the officer's Taser and pointed it at Slager. That is contradicted by dramatic cellphone video of Slager shooting Scott in the back from yards away as Scott fled the officer. The trial entered its second week Monday. Slager could be sentenced to 30 years to life if convicted.

### **Dylann Roof Case:**

**Associated Press:** The Latest: Jury selection still halted in church case  
[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=M6bRHCHY](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=M6bRHCHY)

SC State Wire

A judge is still mulling when jury selection for the federal death-penalty trial of a white man accused of fatally shooting nine black church members will reconvene. A spokesman for U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel said the judge wouldn't say Monday if jury selection would resume Wednesday as planned. More updates on scheduling were expected Tuesday, when there is no court because of Election Day. Attorneys for Dylann Roof left the courtroom after the roughly 90-minute hearing Monday without speaking to reporters outside. Jury selection had been expected to resume Monday in Roof's case, but defense attorneys requested a hearing. Gergel closed it, saying issues of attorney-client privilege were at stake. News media outlets argued it was in the public's interest to keep the 11 a.m. hearing open. Gergel said he may release a redacted transcript in the future. Roof was present during the brief courtroom activities Monday, clad in a striped jumpsuit and without handcuffs.

**Associated Press:** Jury selection halted in Charleston church shooting  
[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=zRbuUuuV](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=zRbuUuuV)

Meg Kinnard

Jury selection was halted before it began Monday in the federal case of a white man accused of fatally shooting nine black parishioners, with the judge holding a hearing closed to everyone but the defendant and his own lawyers. U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel opened the scheduled jury

selection phase by saying he had received a request from the lawyers for Dylann Roof, 22, that required the judge's immediate attention. Gergel did not say specifically what the attorneys wanted to discuss, saying only the request had to do with Roof's right to a fair and impartial jury and trial. Monday was to be the first day in what could be a multi-week process of whittling down a jury pool for Roof, who faces 33 federal charges including hate crimes and obstruction of religion, for the June 2015 shooting deaths at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston. The courthouse was teeming with news media, members of the public, and dozens of relatives of the shooting victims.

**The State:** Citing urgent matter, judge in Dylann Roof death penalty trial delays jury selection

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article113024588.html>

John Monk

In an unexpected event, U.S. Judge Richard Gergel delayed the planned first day of the jury selection in the Dylann Roof federal death penalty trial. Gergel told a packed courtroom of media, public and relatives of the nine people Roof is accused of killing that an emergency concerning Roof had come up. Gergel said he will hold a hearing on this matter, which he did not disclose, at 11 a.m. Monday morning. The hearing will be open only to Roof and his defense attorneys, Gergel said. Gergel said anyone who wishes to object to the closing of this hearing could appear before him at 10 a.m. Gergel said the closing of the 11 a.m. hearing is necessary to protect Roof's right to a fair trial. "The closing of the hearing is necessary to protect the attorney client privilege and the defendant's right to a fair and impartial jury and a fair trial," Gergel said. "I fully recognize that this notice provided is short, but under the circumstances it is necessary for the court to proceed with the hearing immediately."

**Post and Courier:** Jury selection postponed after closed hearing in Dylann Roof death penalty case

[http://www.postandcourier.com/church\\_shooting/jury-selection-delayed-indefinitely-in-dylann-roof-death-penalty-case/article\\_c40c7800-a4f2-11e6-89e9-f3869162cee6.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/church_shooting/jury-selection-delayed-indefinitely-in-dylann-roof-death-penalty-case/article_c40c7800-a4f2-11e6-89e9-f3869162cee6.html)

Jennifer Berry Hawes and Glenn Smith

A secretive motion upended plans to begin jury selection Monday in the death penalty case against Dylann Roof, delaying the federal trial schedule as a judge huddled behind closed doors with the self-avowed white supremacist and his legal team. U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel met for about an hour and 40 minutes with Emanuel AME Church shooter and his attorneys. Roof's lead lawyer, David Bruck, declined comment when he departed at the conclusion of the hearing. Jury selection will resume at 9 a.m. Wednesday. Gergel barred federal prosecutors from the proceeding along with the public. He did not give any details about the sealed motion, but said he opted to close a hearing on the matter to protect attorney-client privilege and ensure Roof's right to a fair trial. Through a spokesman, Gergel declined to say more after the hearing, and he indicated a transcript of the proceeding would not be released Monday.

**Post and Courier:** Police and FBI investigating anonymous letters that threaten violence, mention Dylann Roof

[http://www.postandcourier.com/news/police-and-fbi-investigating-anonymous-letters-that-threaten-violence-mention/article\\_875e1832-a501-11e6-ac50-5b842024e7b2.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/news/police-and-fbi-investigating-anonymous-letters-that-threaten-violence-mention/article_875e1832-a501-11e6-ac50-5b842024e7b2.html)

Angie Jackson

Charleston police have received nine reports of anonymous letters in recent weeks that contain general threats of racially and religiously motivated violence, with one note mentioning Dylann Roof by name. The police department and the FBI have opened a joint investigation. "We take all incidents of this type seriously and investigate them thoroughly," Charles Francis, spokesman for the Charleston Police Department, said in an email. Several managers at hotels that received the letters told police the notes appeared to have been sent from out of the country. Some envelopes were postmarked in England, and a few had Canadian stamps. They did not include return addresses. The majority of the letters were addressed to hotels in downtown Charleston, and one was sent to James Island County Park. Staff at Emanuel AME Church, where Roof, a self-avowed white supremacist, is accused of gunning down nine black parishioners in June 2015, also reported receiving two harassing letters in October.

## **Hurricane Matthew:**

**Island Packet:** Burton Wells hurricane disaster recovery center closed for Election Day

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article113018473.html>

The Federal Emergency Management Agency will temporarily close the disaster recovery center at Burton Wells on Tuesday for Election Day. The center — located at the Burton Wells Recreation Center, 1 Middleton Recreation Dr., Beaufort — and will reopen Wednesday at 9 a.m., according to a Beaufort County news release.

**WBTW:** Nichols church hopes to restore 129-year-old church after Hurricane Matthew

<http://wbtw.com/2016/11/06/nichols-baptist-church-hopes-to-restore-129-year-old-church-after-hurricane-matthew/>

Nichols was one of the hardest hit areas in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew. News13 visited one of the oldest churches in the town Sunday as they work to restore it. Nichols Baptist Church is 129 years old. It has experienced many Hurricanes but the flooding from Hurricane Matthew has left the congregation looking for donations or volunteers to help clean up. Hurricane Matthew left Nichols Baptist Church with more than four feet of water. Deacon Kevin Elliott explained three generations of his family grew up in this church. He hopes to restore his church home for another three generations. Elliott said, "I grew up here. My kids grew up here. It's kind of heartbreaking but we haven't missed a Sunday service since we were allowed back into town two weeks after the storm." The congregation holds Sunday service on the front lawn or upstairs in the fellowship hall. The mess Hurricane Matthew left behind has pulled the community together and strengthened their faith in God.

**WBTW:** Florence Civic Center cancels I Love the 90's concert, cites Hurricane Matthew

<http://wbtw.com/2016/11/07/florence-civic-center-cancels-i-love-the-90s-concert-cites-hurricane-matthew/>

According to the Florence Civic Center, the I Love the 90's concert scheduled for Nov. 11 has been canceled. A statement on the civic center Facebook page says with the community and region still struggling to recover from Hurricane Mathew, the concert promoter has seen lower than expected ticket sales and opted to cancel the event. Hurricane Matthew not only triggered power outages, flooding, home and road damages, but also caused many unexpected expenses. "We've been at a standstill since the hurricane. Understandably it's a slow recovery process and the economy is very slowly getting back to normal," said Kaylen Snapp, Marketing Coordinator. Ticket refunds will be available at the original point of purchase. Automatic refunds will be issued to all customers that purchased via phone or internet from Ticketmaster.

## **Savannah River Site/MOX News:**

**Aiken Standard:** DOE seeks ruling on liquid nuclear material shipments

[http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/doe-seeks-ruling-on-liquid-nuclear-material-shipments/article\\_6440eed6-a517-11e6-90c1-87aa3a596a5f.html](http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/doe-seeks-ruling-on-liquid-nuclear-material-shipments/article_6440eed6-a517-11e6-90c1-87aa3a596a5f.html)

Thomas Gardiner

In the legal battle over cross-border liquid nuclear material shipments between Canada and South Carolina's Savannah River Site, the U.S. Department of Energy asked the court Friday for a decision in its favor before the case ever makes it to trial. The Energy Department filed a motion with the U.S. District Court in Columbia, calling the arguments in the suit "meritless." The lawsuit was filed by a coalition of nuclear watchdog and environmentalist organizations in August, led by Beyond Nuclear. The coalition alleges that planned shipments of liquid highly enriched uranium were not properly assessed by DOE. In legal documents and on coalition member websites, the group says transporting the material from Canada, called target residue material, or TRM, is much more dangerous in liquid form than in the solid form. The Energy Department disagrees with those claims.

## General Assembly News:

**Post and Courier:** Having four women serve in state Senate could lead to a 'kinder, gentler' body  
[http://www.postandcourier.com/news/having-four-women-serve-in-state-senate-could-lead-to/article\\_fb4f4816-a203-11e6-a722-5f5d2f191317.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/news/having-four-women-serve-in-state-senate-could-lead-to/article_fb4f4816-a203-11e6-a722-5f5d2f191317.html)

Maya T. Prabhu

The South Carolina Senate is poised to have four women serving in the body. And that could be the biggest group ever. It also could trigger a movement in favor of women's issues, ranging from health care and finances to greater political power in a state that ranks near the bottom of Statehouse equality. Incumbent Sens. Katrina Shealy, R-Lexington, and Margie Bright Matthews, D-Walterboro, are running unopposed, meaning they have a clean path to return in January. West Ashley Republican lawyer and newcomer Sandy Senn also is running unopposed to fill the seat left vacant by retiring Sen. Paul Thurmond, R-Charleston. And regardless of the outcome of what appears to be a close race to fill the seat of retiring Columbia Democrat Sen. Joel Lourie, either current Rep. Mia McLeod, D-Columbia, or Republican Richland County school board member Susan Brill will be the fourth woman sent to the Senate. The Senate clerk's office was unable to immediately confirm if four women serving in body would be the most in the state's history, but Shealy said if it wasn't a first, it's the first time in memory.

## SC Election News:

**WIS:** Attorney challenging incumbent for House District 75

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33646216/attorney-challenging-incumbent-for-house-district-75>

Caroline Patrickis

Republican Kirkman Finlay faces a challenge from a Democratic newcomer for his House District 75 seat. "Well I mean this is where I grew up," Finlay said. "I have lived here for 46 years other than being off at school. It's my home." "I hope that if elected people will call me whether they are big issues or small issues," said Democrat Tyler Gregg. "I hope to help them not just with legislators, not just the State House, but in everyday common issues." Gregg is a Midlands attorney. "I feel like having the State House be more of a revolving door to get a competition of ideas, diversity of ideas, diversity of people would be a positive thing," he said. Term limits for lawmakers is just one of the things he is hoping to work on if elected. "The number one thing that I am running on is fixing our roads," he said. "I think that you have to do that through a gas tax. Second big issue for me is investing in our public schools. The third big issue for me is governmental reform, so ethics reform. "Finlay has served two terms and wants stay involved in work he's already started.

## SC Agency News:

**Post and Courier:** S.C. cuts unemployment insurance tax in 2017, citing improving labor market  
[http://www.postandcourier.com/business/s-c-cuts-unemployment-insurance-tax-in-citing-improving-labor/article\\_4a44707e-a50e-11e6-9c90-bff5d9bf1740.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/business/s-c-cuts-unemployment-insurance-tax-in-citing-improving-labor/article_4a44707e-a50e-11e6-9c90-bff5d9bf1740.html)

Thad Moore

South Carolina businesses will pay lower unemployment taxes next year, even as the state looks to rebuild its trust fund for out-of-work residents. Employers will pay, on average, about one-tenth less into the program that distributes unemployment benefits to South Carolinians who lose their jobs, the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce says. The agency has now cut unemployment tax rates three years in a row. The decision is partly a reflection of the improving labor picture in the state. Fewer people are taking jobless benefits, giving the fund a chance to rebound after it plunged into the red during the Great Recession. And since more people are working, more employers are making contributions. The agency earlier this year forecast a surplus of about \$120 million next year, adding to the \$461.6 million pool it had gathered by the end of June. But that's still far below the levels the fund is expected to need to make it through another downturn.

**NOTE:** State officials including Gov. Nikki Haley applauded the tax cut as a boost to South Carolina's

business community. "Cutting the unemployment insurance tax rate for a third straight year reduces the cost of doing business in South Carolina," Haley said in a statement. "When costs are down, businesses can grow - that means more jobs for our citizens and continued progress for our entire state."

**Sun News:** Female inmate at J. Reuben Long Detention Center found unresponsive in cell, dies  
<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article113043413.html>

An inmate death at J. Reuben Long Detention Center has prompted an investigation by the Horry County Sheriff's Department and SLED. Amanda Peluso, 32, of the Stratford, Conn., area, was transported to the Conway Medical Center Emergency Room on Sunday. She died about 3:24 p.m. Peluso was found unresponsive in her cell about 2:30 p.m. CPR was initiated and EMS were called. An autopsy Monday morning showed that Peluso died of natural causes. Peluso had been booked into the jail about 2:30 a.m. Sunday on charges of shoplifting and disorderly conduct/public intoxication. A preliminary internal investigation found that no foul play has been detected, but SLED is also conducting an inquiry, which is protocol in inmate deaths. "As of now it's not a homicide or a suicide," said Horry County Deputy Coroner Darris G. Fowler. Fowler also said that until toxicology reports come back in 90 to 120 days, there is little else that can be told.

### **SC Delegation News:**

**NY Daily News:** Donald Trump Election Day loss expected to trigger fighting within Republican Party  
<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/donald-trump-loss-expected-trigger-gop-party-civil-war-article-1.2861214>

The civil war for the soul of the Republican Party is only going to grow more bitter if Donald Trump loses to Hillary Clinton. The Tea Party-establishment battle has wreaked havoc on the party for a half-decade. And the explosion of Trumpism — nationalist, populist, at times racist — further scatters any chances of party unification following the most toxic presidential campaign in modern history.

**NOTE:** "It's not going away, it's going to have major implications, and it is a giant cry in the dark," said Rep. Mark Sanford (R-S.C.), a hardline conservative who doesn't like Trump but has promised to back the nominee. "I don't think [voters] are far from the pitchforks level of frustration. ... What exists in the political marketplace these days is dynamite, nitroglycerine, it's extremely explosive and can go many different ways," he said.

### **SC Political News:**

**Associated Press:** Absentee voting in South Carolina hits record  
[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=cxpl9MPH](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=cxpl9MPH)  
Seanna Adcox

While the presidential contest between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump tops South Carolina's ballot, voters will also choose whether U.S. Sen. Tim Scott and seven U.S. House incumbents return to Washington. Absentee voting has already broken the record previously set in 2012, when nearly 395,000 people voted absentee either in person or by mail. Nearly 463,000 South Carolinians had cast ballots by mid-day Monday. That's a 29 percent increase from mid-day before Election Day four years ago, said state Election Commission spokesman Chris Whitmire. With several hours of in-person voting remaining, plus mailed ballots accepted through Tuesday, "we'll probably have somewhere around half a million absentee ballots cast," he said. But it's impossible to know who the numbers favor because voters do not register by party in South Carolina.

**The State:** SC elections officials expect high voter turnout  
<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article113035753.html>  
Bristow Marchant

It's almost over. After more than a year of seemingly nonstop campaigning, the 2016 election will come to an end Tuesday. What can voters expect to see when they head to their polling place? High

turnout, S.C. election officials say. During election years when the president is on the ballot, turnout always is the highest. And, based on a record number of early S.C. absentee voters this year, officials are expecting interest to be very high in Tuesday's contest. "Absentees are 25 percent up on 2012," said Chris Whitmire, spokesman for the S.C. Election Commission. "We know it's on the rise, and that shows voters are already engaged in the election." The last four presidential elections in South Carolina have seen voter turnout range from a high of 76 percent in 2008 to a low of 63 percent in 2000. Election officials expect turnout this year to be on the higher end of that range. However, that doesn't necessarily mean there will be long lines at precincts Tuesday. More than a fifth of all votes could be cast by Election Day, absentee vote-counters project.

**Post and Courier:** Iconic S.C. 'I Voted' stickers a gimmick with a cause

[http://www.postandcourier.com/news/iconic-s-c-i-voted-stickers-a-gimmick-with-a/article\\_d215864a-a069-11e6-8943-4b23b9d4983d.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/news/iconic-s-c-i-voted-stickers-a-gimmick-with-a/article_d215864a-a069-11e6-8943-4b23b9d4983d.html)

Robert Behre

When South Carolina voters leave their polling places Tuesday, nearly all will emerge with more than just a feeling they did their part for democracy. They'll also emerge with a golf ball-size "I Voted" sticker that will announce to everyone they encounter they did their part. And they can thank Steve Skardon, who, as a new director of the nonprofit Palmetto Project, came up with the sticker idea more than two decades ago as a way to encourage straggling voters to get to the polls on Election Day. Since their debut in the early 1990s, more than 21 million of these stickers have been distributed in all 46 counties. The nonprofit has provided 3.5 million this year alone, and the State Election Commission bought about 600,000 more to ensure it had enough on hand.

**The State:** Psst, you really don't have to have an ID to vote in SC

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article112940538.html>

Bristow Marchant

How strong is South Carolina's voter ID law? Not very. On Tuesday, voters will be asked to present a government-issued photo ID when they go to vote. But a voter who doesn't have one still can cast a ballot, thanks to a federal court order. In 2011, South Carolina's GOP-controlled Legislature passed a law requiring voters to show a photo ID before casting a ballot. But after a legal challenge, a federal court opened a loophole in the law, saying voters without ID can vote, as long as they can cite an impediment that stopped them from getting one. As a result, voters without an ID will be able to cast a provisional ballot Tuesday that will be counted when the final vote total is certified. "It counts as long as the voter is who they say they are, and the reason given can't be proven false," said Chris Whitmire of the S.C. Election Commission.

**Independent Mail:** How strong is South Carolina's voter ID law? Not very

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/politics/elections/2016/11/07/how-strong-south-carolinas-voter-id-law-not-very/93430444/>

On Tuesday, voters will be asked to present a government-issued photo ID when they go to vote. But a voter who doesn't have one still can cast a ballot, thanks to a federal court order. In 2011, South Carolina's GOP-controlled Legislature passed a law requiring voters to show a photo ID before casting a ballot. But after a legal challenge, a federal court opened a loophole in the law, saying voters without ID can vote, as long as they can cite an impediment that stopped them from getting one. As a result, voters without an ID will be able to cast a provisional ballot Tuesday that will be counted when the final vote total is certified. "It counts as long as the voter is who they say they are, and the reason given can't be proven false," said Chris Whitmire of the S.C. Election Commission. This will be the first presidential election with the S.C. voter ID requirement in place. A pre-election challenge to the law in 2012 pushed back its implementation.

**The State:** Which big promises does the next president fail to deliver?

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article113013638.html>

Cassie Cope

By late Tuesday, we will know who is going to be the next president of the United States – barring another 2000 recount fiasco. While we do not know what the next four years will hold, we do know Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton and Republican nominee Donald Trump have over-promised. As a result, they're sure to under-deliver. In addition to failing to keep all their promises to voters, either candidate is likely to face an impeachment threat.

**The Herald:** Trump or Clinton? York County sees record absentee ballots as voters get their say  
<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/andrew-dys/article113081823.html>  
Andrew Dys

After seemingly years of campaigning, finally, election day is here. Absentee ballot voters continued to line up in record numbers Monday at sites in York and Rock Hill. More than 24,000 absentee ballots had been cast by Monday, a new record, with tens of thousands of votes to be cast Tuesday on election day. Across South Carolina, more than half a million absentee ballots had been cast through Monday, officials said. "The number of absentee ballots, over 24,000, is higher than ever before," said Alan Helms, deputy director of the York County Voter Registration and Elections Office. Helms said voters should be prepared Tuesday at polling precincts by bringing proper photo identification. Precincts are prepared to handle questions, and the county voter office in York can handle problems and assist people through the day Tuesday, but prepared voters will make the lines move faster, Helms said. Poll workers were busy Monday picking up the voting machines and signs, and all the other materials each precinct will need for Tuesday's 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. vote.

**The State:** Want to know who will be elected president Tuesday? Watch Florida  
<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article112988338.html>

For weeks, Donald Trump has been emailing potential donors saying he has a path to victory Tuesday. The email includes a map, highlighting states the Republican presidential candidate must win. It starts with Florida. While many voters will cast ballots Tuesday, U.S. presidents are not elected by popular vote. Instead, they are elected by winning 270 electoral votes, awarded to states based on the combined number of U.S. senators and representatives those states have. Some states really are not in doubt. South Carolina, for instance, has not voted for a Democrat for president since 1976, and polls suggest the state is "likely" to go Republican again Tuesday, giving Trump its nine electoral votes. Other states – California, for instance – predictably are Democratic, and polls suggest will give their electoral votes to Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton. In Clinton's case, California — where the Democrat leads by 22 points, according to Real Clear Politics' average of polls — will give her 55 electoral votes.

### **South Carolina News:**

**Associated Press:** Marine recruit at Parris Island dies, was found unconscious  
[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=dQaeqhCA](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=dQaeqhCA)  
SC State Wire

Officials say a Marine recruit at Parris Island has died just a week after another recruit was injured there. It's also the second fatality of a recruit at Parris Island this year. The Island Packet of Hilton Head reports (<http://bit.ly/2fIN8iW>) that Capt. Greg Carroll says a recruit died Friday night at Beaufort Memorial Hospital. He said he would release the victim's name 24 hours after the family was notified. The statement says the recruit was found unconscious in his bed. Carroll says a recruit who fell two stories inside a building on Oct. 28 remains in critical condition. Recruit Raheel Siddiqui died March 18 after being injured in a fall.

**Island Packet:** Marine recruit who died Friday on Parris Island identified  
<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/bg-military/article113093538.html>  
Stephen Fastenau

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island has identified a recruit who died after being found unresponsive Friday night. Zachary R. Boland, 18, of Madison, Ala., was found unconscious in his bed

after 8 p.m., spokesman Capt. Gregory Carroll said Monday afternoon. He arrived on Parris Island on Sept. 19. Emergency medical professionals responded and took Boland to Beaufort Memorial Hospital, where he was pronounced dead at 9:32 p.m. Friday. The cause of death is still being determined, Deputy Coroner David Ott said Monday. Boland was assigned to the 2nd Recruit Training Battalion. Parris Island command initiated an investigation as part of standard procedure, Carroll said. Naval Criminal Investigative Service is investigating the death. There are no signs of foul play, agency spokesman Ed Buice reiterated Monday. Buice otherwise declined comment.

**Post and Courier:** S.C. gas prices tick up after pipeline explosion

[http://www.postandcourier.com/business/s-c-gas-prices-tick-up-after-pipeline-explosion/article\\_aa5f7094-a4fa-11e6-8edf-bbb27aedf5be.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/business/s-c-gas-prices-tick-up-after-pipeline-explosion/article_aa5f7094-a4fa-11e6-8edf-bbb27aedf5be.html)

Warren L. Wise

Gas prices across South Carolina ticked up nearly 4 cents a gallon last week in the aftermath of a gas pipeline explosion in Alabama on Oct. 31. The average price per gallon rose 3.7 cents last week to \$2.03 in the Palmetto State, according to gas price service GasBuddy. Motor club AAA puts the price about a penny higher. That's about 9 cents higher than this time one year ago. Nationally, the price jumped 0.5 cents during the past week to an average of \$2.21 a gallon, according to both gas price services. That's about 1.1 cents less than this time last year. A GasBuddy analyst said gas prices in November could tick down, but everyone is awaiting a decision by the Organization of Oil Exporting Countries later this month on whether to cut output.

**Local News:**

**The State:** Father charged after 2 daughters shot, one fatally, while he unloaded his gun

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article113054873.html>

Jane Moon Dial

More than two months after two young children were shot, one of whom died, their father was charged and arrested in the shootings. Deputies arrested Dominique Miller, 30, at his Percival Road Home Friday and charged him with involuntary manslaughter and abuse, according to a news release from the Richland County Sheriff's Department. The charges stem from a Sept. 1 incident where a 2-year-old girl and a 4-year-old girl were shot in the upper body on the porch of their apartment on the 200 block of Meredith Square while their father was reportedly attempting to unload his handgun, the release stated. The 2-year-old, Heaven Miller, died from complications from the gunshot wound after she was transported to Palmetto Health Richland hospital later that day. The 4-year-old required surgery but did not have life-threatening injuries, deputies stated. Miller suffered minor injuries after the bullet grazed his hand, deputies previously reported.

**Sun News:** Myrtle Beach police identify suspect in Saturday shooting at Pure Ultra Club

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article113081918.html>

Myrtle Beach Police have identified a suspect in a weekend shooting at Pure Ultra Club on Main Street in Myrtle Beach. Cleavon Oneal Dantzler, 33, is wanted on five counts of attempted murder for the incident, which happened late Saturday night. Dantzler is a black male, 5-foot-10, 178 pounds with black hair and brown eyes. He is to be considered armed and dangerous.

**Sun News:** Myrtle Beach to consider bar closing times after Pure Ultra shooting

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article113059898.html>

Chloe Johnson

Myrtle Beach City Council will consider an emergency ordinance Tuesday that could require some bars and similar establishments to close at 2 a.m. City Spokesman Mark Kruea said the ordinance applies to businesses on the Superblock, which includes Nance Plaza and is bounded by 9th Avenue North, Broadway Street, U.S. 501 and Main Street. "Those businesses within the designated district identified herein that allow for the on-site consumption of beer, ale, porter and wine and that host promoters at any time shall be prohibited from operating between the hours 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.

on Mondays through Saturdays. The regulated business must be closed by 2:00 a.m. and cease all commercial activity. No patrons shall be on the premises by 2:00 a.m.," the text of the measure reads.

**Sun News:** Police arrest 32 people in sting that produces more than \$33k worth of heroin, cocaine, more

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article113070503.html>

Emily Weaver

A four-month-long operation centered around Bellamy Drive netted the seizure of more than \$33,000 worth of illicit drugs and firearms and led to 32 arrests all aimed at halting a drug trade that police say has stolen lives and ruined others. "If you're committing a crime in Horry County, we're coming after you," said Chief Joe Hill of the Horry County Police Department after a news conference announcing the drug bust. The department seized approximately 1,214 dosage units of heroin valued at \$24,000 on the street, 79.2 grams of cocaine worth an estimated \$5,100, about 19.4 grams of crack cocaine worth an estimated \$1,600 and approximately 1.5 pounds of marijuana valued at \$3,000, in the operation.

**Associated Press:** South Carolina sheriff's deputy shoots, kills armed suspect

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=lpB7rYff](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=lpB7rYff)

SC State Wire

A South Carolina sheriff's office says a deputy shot and killed a suspect with a gun who had threatened to kill someone. Deputies were called shortly before 8 p.m. Sunday to a gas station in Beech Island about a man with a gun who was threatening to shoot someone, Aiken County Sheriff's Capt. Eric Abdullah said in a news release. By the time deputies arrived, the suspect had left in a recreational vehicle, Abdullah said. A short time later, a homeowner in Beech Island called about a man in an RV with a handgun who threatened to shoot him. Deputies arrived and found "the suspect in the driveway brandishing weapons," Abdullah said. A deputy then shot and killed the suspect. Coroner Tim Carlton said in a statement Monday morning that the suspect was Joel B. Keenan, 43 of New Ellenton. An autopsy was planned Monday morning in Newberry, the coroner said.

**Associated Press:** The Latest: South Carolina deputy who shot man identified

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=1skpAual](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=1skpAual)

SC State Wire

A South Carolina sheriff's office has released the name of the deputy who shot and killed an armed suspect. Aiken County Capt. Eric Abdullah says in a statement that Deputy Sylvester Young fired the shot that killed 43-year-old Joel B. Keenan of New Ellenton on Sunday night. Abdullah says Young has been with the sheriff's office since December 2014 and is on administrative leave while the shooting is investigated. Officers were called to a report of a man with a gun who had threatened to kill a Beech Island homeowner. The incident report says Young ordered the suspect to drop his two guns and fired when the man raised them. The State Law Enforcement Division is investigating the shooting. SLED spokesman Thom Berry says Keenan was white and Young is black.

**Morning News:** Florence police confirm active criminal investigation involving sheriff's deputy

[http://www.scnow.com/news/article\\_91a831f0-a511-11e6-bda1-f3c78e4f5991.html](http://www.scnow.com/news/article_91a831f0-a511-11e6-bda1-f3c78e4f5991.html)

The Florence Police Department is conducting an active criminal investigation against a Florence County Sheriff's deputy, Lt. Mike Brandt confirmed Monday afternoon. Maj. Mike Nunn of the Florence County Sheriff's Office said the deputy is on administrative leave without pay following an off-duty incident at the deputy's residence. Neither Nunn or Brandt released any further details about the incident. Stay with the Morning News and SCNow.com for more details about this incident as they are released.

**The State:** Lexington Co. councilman charged with damaging father-in-law's property day after wedding

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article113027398.html>

Jane Moon Dial

Deputies arrested a Lexington County councilman on charges of damaging a family member's vehicle following a dispute that first erupted Saturday, the couple's wedding day, according to deputies. Phillip Heyward "Phil" Yarborough Jr., 35, was arrested on a charge of malicious injury to personal property Sunday afternoon at his home on the 100 block of Palm Point Drive, according to a news release from the Lexington County Sheriff's Department. Yarborough's new wife, who is a 29-year-old dentist, called deputies to complain that her husband had thrown a rock at her father's car and bent the license plate. The couple had spent their wedding night apart, and she said Yarborough was trying to get into the house over her objections.

**Post and Courier:** Anonymous group seeks to influence West Ashley school board race

[http://www.postandcourier.com/news/anonymous-group-seeks-to-influence-west-ashley-school-board-race/article\\_3238c55c-a50e-11e6-86da-43e2162e6e9e.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/news/anonymous-group-seeks-to-influence-west-ashley-school-board-race/article_3238c55c-a50e-11e6-86da-43e2162e6e9e.html)

Paul Bowers and Deanna Pan

In an election twist the candidates say they never asked for, an anonymous group has been taking sides in the Charleston County School Board race. The group, Charleston Parents for Great Public Schools, has purchased advertisements on Facebook and in The Post and Courier, erected yard signs and mailed fliers to residents in the last week focusing on a pair of West Ashley seats up for grabs in the Tuesday election. The ads lavish vague praise on incumbent Michael Miller and newcomer Gary Leonard, while the flier paints candidate Priscilla Jeffery as "divisive," "left-wing" and an "extremist." Attack ads are rare in nonpartisan school board races. Miller and Leonard say they were disgusted by the tactics and have nothing to do with the group. "I really feel violated. I really do," Miller said.

**Post and Courier:** MUSC to be part of a \$157 million environmental health study

[http://www.postandcourier.com/features/musc-to-be-part-of-a-million-environmental-health-study/article\\_30d3295a-a112-11e6-bc69-2bcf36884165.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/features/musc-to-be-part-of-a-million-environmental-health-study/article_30d3295a-a112-11e6-bc69-2bcf36884165.html)

David Quick

In the last 30 years, the overall health of children in the United States has been a subject of concern and debate. Rates for obesity, autism, asthma, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and allergies have doubled or tripled. Lots of reasons, including radical changes in physical activities and diet, better detection and diagnosis, have been proffered as explanations for the causes, but one is often danced around and even dodged: environmental factors. It's not been lost on a couple of academicians at the Medical University of South Carolina: obstetrician and researcher Dr. Roger Newman and public health sciences co-founder Dr. John Vena. "There's an obesity epidemic, there's an epidemic of asthma, there's an epidemic of disorders like autism and attention deficit disorder," says Dr. Roger Newman, who works as a researcher and obstetrician at MUSC Health. "These aren't just inherited. Something's happening to our children in our environment."

**Presidential Election 2016:**

**Associated Press:** Elbowing each other all the way, Trump, Clinton near finish

<http://bigstory.ap.org/dbdcdcc34c8d41eaa9dafaecde97275>

Straining toward the finish line of the wildly unpredictable White House race, Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump blitzed through battleground states Monday in a final bid to energize supporters. Clinton urged voters to embrace a "hopeful, inclusive, bighearted America," while Trump called for support to "beat the corrupt system." The candidates planned to campaign late into the night, a frenzied end to a bitter election year that has laid bare the nation's deep economic and cultural divides. Clinton opened the day Monday buoyed by FBI Director James Comey's announcement Sunday that he would not recommend criminal charges against her following a new email review. The inquiry had sapped a surging Clinton momentum at a crucial moment in the race, though she still heads into Election Day with multiple paths to the 270 Electoral College votes needed to become the

nation's first female president. "I think I have some work to do to bring the country together," she acknowledged as she boarded her plane for her last battleground tour. "I really do want to be the president for everybody."

**Associated Press:** The Latest: Trump says vote for him, make dreams come true

<http://bigstory.ap.org/7ce2ad66658f4bb48cbf73357c85e0de>

Donald Trump is hop-scotching the country, delivering his closing argument to voters with just hours left before Election Day polls open. Trump made his second stop of the day in battleground North Carolina. He's painting a dismal picture of life in the country, describing an indebted, crime-ridden nation that only he can fix. Trump tells a Raleigh audience, "You've got a half a day to make every dream you've ever dreamed for your country and for your family to come true." Trump has been predicting victory, but says if he doesn't win, he'll consider it "the single greatest waste of time, energy and money."

**Associated Press:** FBI's big test: Clinton email probe raises political doubts

<http://bigstory.ap.org/c6487c1d4c7647dd9663b6f6f219e692>

The FBI's handling of its Hillary Clinton email probe has undercut the bureau's carefully crafted image as a respected law enforcement organization unquestionably outside the political fray. The yearlong investigation thrust the FBI into the thick of an already fractious presidential race, entangled in a way that strained its vaunted independence and cracked its prized reputation for silence about its work. Even after Tuesday's election, FBI Director James Comey is sure to face second-guessing over his public statements that opened the curtain on normally secret investigative details. "This has been a very difficult election process. Unfortunately, the FBI has been drawn into it," said Leo Taddeo, a retired FBI supervisor. Although Comey signaled a conclusion to the Clinton email matter with a letter to Congress on Sunday, the discussion continues. Lawmakers demand answers to questions left unresolved by two vague and ambiguous Comey letters. Clinton and her aides feel wronged by the disclosure of "new" emails less than two weeks before Election Day. And ex-prosecutors of both parties are concerned the bureau's actions strayed from its mandate to steer clear of politics.

**Associated Press:** Supreme Court refuses to issue order on voter intimidation

<http://bigstory.ap.org/ae43ffc7834e47579f8f4bfdccce75c>

The U.S. Supreme Court turned down a request Monday from Ohio Democrats to issue an order aimed at preventing Donald Trump's supporters from harassing or intimidating voters on Election Day. The high court released a one-page denial, with Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg noting that Ohio law already forbids voter intimidation. The case was part of a flurry of courtroom efforts by the Democrats in crucial battlegrounds around the country to head off what they say is vigilantism by Trump's presidential campaign and his friend Roger Stone's political organization, Stop the Steal. Lower-level courts on Monday were weighing arguments in Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Nevada. The Republican nominee has called on his supporters to act as election observers in certain parts of the country to help prevent fraud. That has stirred fears of minority voters being confronted and challenged by self-appointed poll watchers. Last week, a federal judge in Cleveland issued a temporary restraining order warning that anyone, regardless of political affiliation, who engages in intimidation or harassment near or inside polling places will face contempt of court charges.

**Associated Press:** ABC rally makes evening news race competitive

<http://bigstory.ap.org/f81789d0e6db4271a1cb2bd1485ee9ff>

More than one competition has tightened with the approach of Election Day. Anchors David Muir and Lester Holt are in the midst of a spirited competition for first place in television's evening news ratings. After several years in second, ABC's "World News Tonight" with Muir has lately pulled even with NBC's "Nightly News" and some weeks a relative handful of viewers separate the shows. Morning may be where the money is for broadcast news divisions, but the evening newscasts have long been an important measure of strength. Even while some regard them as relics of a different media age, the ABC, NBC and CBS evening newscasts are durable institutions that collectively reach around 24

million viewers each weeknight. Since the season began in late September, the ABC telecast has averaged 8.25 million viewers a night to NBC's 8.12 million, the Nielsen company said. That essentially reverses the numbers from a year ago. NBC won during most weeks this calendar year until September, when the winds have favored Muir.

## National News:

**Associated Press:** Official: 40 to 50 buildings damaged in Oklahoma quake

<http://bigstory.ap.org/4b6d62b77e8e48f68e63521b73bada5b>

Dozens of buildings sustained "substantial damage" after a 5.0 magnitude earthquake struck an Oklahoma town that's home to one of the world's key oil hubs, but officials said Monday that no damage has been reported at the oil terminal. Cushing City Manager Steve Spears said 40 to 50 buildings were damaged in Sunday's earthquake, which was the third in Oklahoma this year with a magnitude of 5.0 or greater. No major injuries have been reported, and Spears said the damage included cracks to buildings and fallen bricks and facades. Oklahoma has had thousands of earthquakes in recent years, with nearly all traced to the underground injection of wastewater left over from oil and gas production. Sunday's quake was centered 1 mile west of Cushing and about 25 miles south of where a magnitude 4.3 quake forced a shutdown of several wells last week. Fearing aftershocks, police cordoned off older parts of the city about 50 miles northeast of Oklahoma City to keep gawkers away late Sunday, and geologists confirmed that several small quakes have rumbled the area. Spears said an assisted living community had been evacuated after damage was reported. The Cushing Public School District canceled Monday classes.

**Associated Press:** Lawyers make final case to jury in hot-car murder trial

<http://bigstory.ap.org/3b56861172ff44558b7c09801f163784>

Prosecutors and defense attorneys making final arguments to a Georgia jury Monday agreed on one thing: that when Justin Ross Harris arrived at work more than two years ago and locked his car, his toddler son was left behind in the back seat and suffered a slow and agonizing death. The question for the jury to decide is why that happened. In closing arguments Monday, Harris' defense attorney said his client was "clueless" and forgetful. But a prosecutor called Harris a murderer with a "malignant heart" who killed his child to escape his family commitments as he sank deeper into a double life of sexual flirting and affairs with women he met online. "It's not a case of an adult hating his child," prosecutor Chuck Boring told the jury. "It's just that he loved himself and his other obsessions more than that little boy." Harris left his 22-month-old son, Cooper, strapped into his car seat in the back of his SUV on June 18, 2014. The boy was dead when his father pulled him from the vehicle more than seven hours later. He told police he took his son to breakfast that morning and then drove straight to work, forgetting to take the child to day care.

**Associated Press:** Officer sues Black Lives Matter activist over protest injury

<http://bigstory.ap.org/81de68a298324e0ab4b087effee830d2>

A Baton Rouge police officer who claims he was injured during a protest after a deadly police shooting in July is suing prominent Black Lives Matter activist DeRay Mckesson, who was arrested during the protests. The unnamed officer's lawsuit says he was struck in the face by a rock or a piece of concrete thrown during a July 9 protest over the death of Alton Sterling, a black man shot and killed during a scuffle with two white officers. The suit filed Monday doesn't accuse Mckesson of throwing anything at officers but claims he "incited the violence." Black Lives Matter also is named as a defendant. Mckesson said he hasn't seen the suit and couldn't immediately comment. He and other protesters have sued the city of Baton Rouge over their arrests.

## World News:

**Associated Press:** The Latest: US upset over China's Hong Kong intervention

<http://bigstory.ap.org/5d1bfe67e8004358a4db9dff5d3c656>

The U.S. is expressing disappointment over China's intervention in a political dispute in the semiautonomous region of Hong Kong by barring two separatist lawmakers from office. State Department spokesman Mark Toner on Monday urged the Chinese and Hong Kong governments to refrain from actions that "undermine confidence" in the so-called one-country two-systems principle — under which Hong Kong retains a separate economic and political system from the communist-governed Chinese mainland until 2047. Toner said an open society with the highest possible degree of autonomy and government by rule of law "is essential for Hong Kong's continued stability and prosperity." The dispute centers on two newly elected pro-independence lawmakers who altered their oaths of office. China's top legislative panel ruled Monday that those who advocate Hong Kong independence are disqualified from becoming lawmakers.

**Associated Press:** Iraqi Kurdish forces advance as mass grave found near Mosul

<http://bigstory.ap.org/5c8207b995714e2daf5be49a6f930aac>

Iraqi Kurdish fighters exchanged heavy fire with militants on Monday as they entered a town held by the Islamic State group east of Mosul, while troops advancing south of the city discovered a mass grave containing some 100 decapitated bodies. The offensive to reclaim the town of Bashiqa is part of the broader push to drive IS out of Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, relieving those living under its occupation from the type of brutality, such as mass killings, that the group has committed. IS militants have carried out a series of massacres since seizing large swaths of southern and central Iraq in the summer of 2014, often documenting them with photos and videos circulated online. On Monday, Iraqi soldiers advancing into the town of Hamam al-Alil, south of Mosul, discovered a pit containing dozens of decapitated skeletal remains, the military's Joint Military Command said. The offensive to retake Bashiqa began at dawn with a Kurdish barrage of heavy artillery, Katyusha rockets and mortar rounds slamming into IS positions, providing cover for the advance of armored columns.

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