

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
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Subject: Morning Clips – Tuesday, December 6, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: The Latest: Gov. Haley urges understanding after mistrial
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=4O6z1YHP
SC State Wire

Gov. Nikki Haley says she's urging South Carolinians to walk the path they have walked the past two years - one of faith, love and understanding - in the wake of the mistrial in the Michael Slager case. Slager is the white former police officer charged with murder in the shooting death of Walter Scott, an unarmed black motorist. A mistrial was declared in the case Monday when the jury couldn't reach a unanimous verdict after a five-week trial. Haley says she hopes a new trial will bring a verdict that will mean closure for the Scott family and for the state of South Carolina.

Wall Street Journal: Judge Declares Mistrial in Walter Scott Case

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/judge-declares-mistrial-in-walter-scott-case-1480971287>

Valerie Bäuerlein

The judge in the murder trial of former North Charleston, S.C., police Officer Michael Slager declared a mistrial Monday, after the jury said its members were hopelessly deadlocked. The judge said he had no choice because the jury said it would never reach a consensus. Mr. Slager was charged in the fatal shooting of unarmed black motorist Walter Scott after an April 2015 traffic stop. The shooting was captured on cellphone video, which showed Mr. Slager, who is white, shooting Mr. Scott repeatedly in the back as he ran away. Mr. Slager pleaded not guilty, saying the shooting was in self-defense, as he feared for his life after fighting Mr. Scott for control of his police Taser.

NOTE: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said, "It is my understanding that there will be, as quickly as possible, a new trial where the Scott family and all of South Carolina will hopefully receive the closure that a verdict brings."

New York Times: Mistrial for South Carolina Officer Who Shot Walter Scott

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/05/us/walter-scott-michael-slager-north-charleston.html?_r=0

Alan Blinder

The trial of Michael T. Slager, the police officer whose videotaped killing of an unarmed black man staggered a nation already embroiled in a debate about police misconduct and racial bias in law enforcement, ended in a mistrial on Monday. Judge Clifton B. Newman's decision to halt the proceedings came three days after jurors signaled that they were within one vote of returning a guilty verdict against Mr. Slager, who could have been convicted of murder or voluntary manslaughter in the fatal shooting of Walter L. Scott. But on Monday, in a final note to Judge Newman, jurors said that "despite the best efforts of all members, we are unable to come to a unanimous decision."

NOTE: In a statement, Gov. Nikki R. Haley said: "Justice is not always immediate, but we must all have faith that it will be served — I certainly do."

New York Daily News: South Carolina judge declares mistrial in murder case against white cop Michael Slager who fatally shot Walter Scott

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/judge-declares-mistrial-case-ex-cop-killed-walter-scott-article-1.2899461>

Leonard Greene

A South Carolina judge declared a mistrial Monday after a jury deadlocked in the murder trial of a white cop charged in the shooting death of an unarmed black motorist. The panel of just one black and 11 white jurors — with one holdout — said they were unable to reach a unanimous verdict after deliberating more than 22 hours over a span of four days. In a statement read by Circuit Judge Clifton Newman, the jury said, "We as the jury regret to inform the court" that they were unable to come "to a unanimous decision in the case of the state versus Michael Slager."

NOTE: Gov. Nikki Haley said there will be "a new trial where the Scott family and all of South Carolina will hopefully receive the closure that a verdict brings." "Justice is not always immediate, but we must all have faith that it will be served I certainly do," she added.

Post and Courier: The public reacts to mistrial in Michael Slager case

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/the-public-reacts-to-mistrial-in-michael-slager-case/article_9d0be222-bb36-11e6-8a1f-43212b25e404.html

"Justice is not always immediate, but we must all have faith that it will be served – I certainly do. I urge South Carolinians – in Charleston and across our state – to continue along the path we have walked these last two years: a path of grace, faith, love and understanding." – Gov. Nikki Haley

NBC News: Walter Scott Shooting: Judge Declares Mistrial in Murder Trial of Former Cop Michael Slager

<http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/walter-scott-shooting/judge-declares-mistrial-walter-scott-shooting-n692211>

Daniella Silva

PlayJudge Declares Mistrial Over Police Shooting Death of Walter Scott Facebook Twitter Google Plus EmbedA judge declared a mistrial Monday afternoon in the fatal shooting of an unarmed black man at the hands of a South Carolina former patrolman, after the jury said they could not come to a unanimous verdict. In a statement read by Circuit Judge Clifton Newman, the jury said "We as the jury regret to inform the court" that they were unable to come "to a unanimous decision in the case of the state versus Michael Slager" after a day of questions and deliberation. "The court therefore must declare a mistrial in this case and I so declare that this case is mistried," he said after the jury returned to the room and confirmed their decision.

NOTE: South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley said in a statement Monday evening that "It is my understanding that there will be, as quickly as possible, a new trial where the Scott family and all of South Carolina will hopefully receive the closure that a verdict brings."

WCIV: Gov. Nikki Haley issues statement on Slager mistrial

<http://abcnews4.com/news/local/gov-nikki-haley-issues-statement-on-slager-mistrial>

Governor Nikki Haley issued the following statement Monday after a mistrial was declared in the murder trial of former North Charleston police officer Michael Slager: "It is my understanding that there will be, as quickly as possible, a new trial where the Scott family and all of South Carolina will hopefully receive the closure that a verdict brings. Justice is not always immediate, but we must all have faith that it will be served - I certainly do. I urge South Carolinians - in Charleston and across our state - to continue along the path we have walked these last two years: a path of grace, faith, love and understanding. That is who we are, and who I know we will continue to be."

WCSC: State, community leaders react to Michael Slager mistrial

http://m.live5news.com/live5news/db_332336/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=dV343SAz

Patrick Phillips

Elected leaders and community organizers have been reacting the news of a mistrial in the case of the former North Charleston police officer charged in the shooting death of a motorist. Michael Slager faced a charge of murder or an alternate charge of voluntary manslaughter in the April 4, 2015, shooting death of Walter Scott. Judge Clifton Newman declared a mistrial when a jury told him Monday afternoon they could not come to an agreement on a verdict. Gov. Nikki Haley said a new trial will be held as quickly as possible and she hopes Scott's family and all of South Carolina "will

hopefully receive the closure that a verdict brings."Haley said justice is not always immediate but urged everyone to have faith that justice will be served. "I urge South Carolinians - in Charleston and across our state - to continue along the path we have walked these last two years: a path of grace, faith, love and understanding," Haley said in a statement.

WLTX: Haley on Slager Trial: 'Justice is Not Always Immediate'

<http://www.wltx.com/news/local/haley-on-slager-trial-justice-is-not-always-immediate/363476186>

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley issued a statement after a jury in Charleston was unable to render a verdict in the case of Michael Slager, the former police officer charged with killing Walter Scott last year. The jury told the judge Monday afternoon they were deadlocked, and there was no possibility of reaching a unanimous verdict. Related Coverage: Jury Can't Reach Verdict in Slager Trial "It is my understanding that there will be, as quickly as possible, a new trial where the Scott family and all of South Carolina will hopefully receive the closure that a verdict brings," Haley wrote. "Justice is not always immediate, but we must all have faith that it will be served - I certainly do. I urge South Carolinians - in Charleston and across our state - to continue along the path we have walked these last two years: a path of grace, faith, love and understanding. That is who we are, and who I know we will continue to be."

WYFF4: Jury in the Michael Slager trial deadlocked; mistrial declared

<http://www.wyff4.com/article/several-jurors-undecided-in-michael-slager-trial-judge-says/8465454>

Carla Field

Jurors in the trial of former South Carolina patrolman Michael Slager informed the judge just after 3:30 p.m. Monday that they were deadlocked and the judge declared a mistrial. Slager is charged in the shooting death of 50-year-old Walter Scott, who was shot five times in the back last year while running from Slager during a traffic stop in North Charleston. Gov. Nikki Haley released a statement late Monday afternoon saying: "It is my understanding that there will be, as quickly as possible, a new trial where the Scott family and all of South Carolina will hopefully receive the closure that a verdict brings. Justice is not always immediate, but we must all have faith that it will be served - I certainly do.

Aiken Standard: Blast of winter weather headed toward Aiken

http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/blast-of-winter-weather-headed-toward-aiken/article_7d2cdbbc-bb1f-11e6-8349-ab7f558d8421.html

Dede Biles

Winter weather is on its way to Aiken County. The first arctic blast of the season is scheduled to arrive later this week. Alaska and northwestern Canada are the sources of the large mass of frigid air that will be causing thermometers to plunge throughout much of the Lower 48. "The temperatures will be the coldest of the season so far," said Jeff Linton, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Columbia. Residents will start experiencing the chilly conditions on Thursday night, when the low will be near 30 degrees. The highs Friday and Saturday will be only in the mid-40s. On Friday evening, the low will be close to 22, and on Saturday night, it will be around 29.

NOTE: The South Carolina Emergency Management Division, South Carolina's National Weather Service offices and the State Emergency Response Team issued a press release Monday stating that Gov. Nikki Haley had proclaimed Dec. 4-10 as South Carolina Winter Weather Preparedness Week.

WLTX: Three Tips To Stay Safe While Staying Warm

<http://www.wltx.com/mb/weather/three-tips-to-stay-safe-while-staying-warm/363616922>

Sonia Gutierrez

Governor Nikki Haley Declared this Winter Weather Preparedness Week and with the cold days coming up, we decided to look for three things people need to know to stay safe while staying warm. We spoke to Columbia Fire Department Chief Aubrey Jenkins for the recommendations. First tip, some people use candles as additional source of heat and light when the power is out. He says to

make sure it's in a container and it's not a candle stick because those can knock over and catch something on fire. Second tip, if you're going to use a space heater do not leave it on throughout the night and avoid plugging it into extension cords. Those tend to get really hot, it's best to plug them in directly in the outlets. Third tip, keep any additional heater 3 feet away from anything that can burn.

Michael Slagger Case:

Associated Press: After mistrial, slain SC motorist's family still confident

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Typ6Z2Ge

Bruce Smith and Seanna Adcox

Relatives of Walter Scott, the black motorist fatally shot while fleeing a traffic stop, say they are confident justice will prevail even though a South Carolina jury could not reach a verdict in the murder trial of a white former police officer charged in his death. Circuit Judge Clifton Newman on Monday declared a mistrial in the case of Michael Slager after the jury of 11 whites and one black deadlocked. The panel, considering verdicts of murder or voluntary manslaughter, deliberated more than 22 hours over four days and heard testimony from 55 witnesses during the five-week trial. "God is my strength, and I know without doubt he is a just God and injustice will not prevail," Scott's mother, Judy, told reporters later. "We have a federal trial and another trial to go. I'm going to rest in the Lord."

Associated Press: Mistrial declared in black motorist's shooting by officer

<http://bigstory.ap.org/f9e0b441dd274b849e8eee838d5e2ca8>

Bruce Smith and Seanna Adcox

A South Carolina judge declared a mistrial Monday after a jury deadlocked in the murder trial of a white former police officer charged in the shooting death of an unarmed black motorist. A panel of one black and 11 white jurors — who had seemed close to a verdict to convict Friday, with apparently only one holdout — said Monday they were unable to reach a unanimous decision after deliberating more than 22 hours over four days. "We as a jury regret to inform the court that despite the best efforts of all parties we are unable to come to a unanimous decision," said Circuit Judge Clifton Newman, reading a note from the jury before declaring a mistrial. Former patrolman Michael Slager was charged with murder in the April 4, 2015, shooting death of 50-year-old Walter Scott. The judge had said the jury could also consider a lesser charge of voluntary manslaughter. Outside the courtroom, Scott's mother and brother said justice will eventually prevail.

Associated Press: Police encounters resulting in black deaths span US

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=eWMILpK9

SC State Wire

A South Carolina judge declared a mistrial after a jury deadlocked in the murder trial of a white ex-police officer in the shooting death of Walter Scott, an unarmed 50-year-old black motorist. Prosecutors promised to retry 35-year-old Michael Slager in the April 4, 2015, shooting death. The judge had said the jury could also consider a lesser charge of voluntary manslaughter. The shooting was captured on cellphone video by a passer-by. Slager, who was fired by the North Charleston Police Department, told investigators Scott had grabbed his Taser and pointed the stun gun at him as they fought on the ground. There has been a \$6.5 million settlement between North Charleston and the Scott family. Slager also faces federal charges including for allegedly violating Scott's civil rights. A summary of other deaths of black people after police encounters...

Post and Courier: 'I know justice will prevail': Scott family calls for peace as police prepare for city's reaction

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/i-know-justice-will-prevail-scott-family-calls-for-peace/article_019413c8-bb36-11e6-a9c7-3feb4b09bf23.html

Brenda Rindge

Judy Scott stood in front of a bank of microphones and summoned up her strongest voice. "I would like to say that, to all of you, today, I'm not sad," she declared defiantly, moments after a hung jury

was declared in the trial of her middle son's killer. "I know justice will prevail."After listening to nearly five weeks of testimony and 22 hours of deliberating, the seven-man, five-woman jury on Monday told Judge Clifton Newman that it could not come to a consensus in the trial of former North Charleston patrolman Michael Slager, who shot 50-year-old Walter Scott on April 4, 2015, as the motorist tried to flee a traffic stop.At 3:45 p.m., Newman declared a hung jury.In other cities across the United States, residents have reacted with violent protests, setting fires and looting stores, in the wake of police killings of black men, but on Monday, Judy Scott's oldest son, Anthony, called for peace in the wake of the deadlocked jury.

Post and Courier: After hung jury is declared in Michael Slager trial, prosecutor vows: 'There will be another day'

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/after-hung-jury-is-declared-in-michael-slager-trial-prosecutor/article_b43c72ec-baad-11e6-a6eb-8714ab6ea5f8.html

Andrew Knapp

For a dozen times over the past month, jurors watched a video of a North Charleston police officer fatally shooting Walter Scott as the black man ran away, but they could not agree Monday whether the lawman had committed a crime.Declaring a hung jury, a judge ordered a mistrial for Michael Slager, the patrolman who fired eight gunshots in 2.7 seconds of video footage that became a lasting image amid a national inspection of police uses of force. It brought to a close a month-long murder trial that laid bare alleged shortcomings in the training of law enforcement officers and in the way police-involved deaths are investigated in South Carolina.The 12 jurors encountered another impasse on the fourth day of deliberations, a divide much deeper than a series of notes and letters indicated earlier in their talks.

Serial Killer Todd Kohlhepp:

Associated Press: South Carolina cold case killings suspect facing 2 new suits

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=KeR02zMH
SC State Wire

A South Carolina man charged with killing a total of seven people is facing two new lawsuits.Local news outlets report Charlie Carver's estate filed a wrongful death lawsuit Monday against Todd Kohlhepp and his mother. The estate of Johnny Coxie is also suing Kohlhepp.Last week, the woman police say was locked in a storage container for two months by Kohlhepp sued him for intentional infliction of emotional distress, false imprisonment, assault and battery. Authorities say Kohlhepp kidnapped the woman Aug. 31 after talking to Carver and her about hiring them to clean up his property, killed Carver, then locked the woman in the container.Kohlhepp led investigators to the graves of Johnny Coxie and his wife Meagan. The coroner says they had been buried nearly a year.

General Assembly News:

The State: SC senators poised to change bill-killing rules

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article119108383.html>

Cassie Cope

The S.C. Senate is set to change some of its rules Tuesday in an effort to make it more difficult for a single senator to block legislation.The move is important because the Senate's rules have been used to stall passage of important proposals in recent years — delaying ethics reform for years and, more recently, blocking passage of a gas-tax hike to pay to repair the state's crumbling roads and bridges. The Senate's GOP majority is likely to...

Berkeley Independent: Local legislators weigh in on upcoming session

http://www.berkeleyind.com/news/local-legislators-weigh-in-on-upcoming-session/article_fbc16284-bb0d-11e6-ad7d-23c7486a02bd.html

Jenna-Ley Harrison

Roads and how to fund them dominated the discussion at this year's annual legislative luncheon in Summerville. Four of the area's state legislators were on hand to give a crowd of local government and business leaders a rundown of the issues they believe the state is facing. Legislators who attended the event, sponsored by the Greater Summerville/Dorchester County Chamber of Commerce, included Rep. Chris Murphy, R-Dorchester, Rep.-elect Katie Arrington, R-Summerville, and Sens. Paul Campbell, R-Berkeley, and Sean Bennett, R-Dorchester.

"We are killing about 1,000 people a year," Campbell said of South Carolina roads. Campbell also said the state's poor road conditions are tearing up cars and forcing local ones to burn twice as much fuel because of the long commute for residents traveling between Summerville and Charleston.

NOTE: Murphy said he's ready for the state's change in leadership, as Gov. Nikki Haley transitions to the role of U.N. Ambassador. President-elect Donald Trump offered her the new title, and she accepted. If confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster is expected to take Haley's place early next year. Murphy criticized Haley for how "she burned a lot of bridges in the General Assembly" and continuously changing her support of a gas tax.

WSAV: Fire officials push for fire prevention legislation

<http://wsav.com/2016/12/05/fire-officials-push-for-fire-prevention-legislation/>

Devi Negrete

"Unfortunately it's not new news to us and not very shocking," Daniel Bryne, the Burton Fire Department PIO, said. "We've been dealing with this pretty much the entire history of the fire service here in the United States going back to a theater fire in New York City." Fire officials say too many lives were lost in the tragic Oakland fire all because there were no sprinkler systems in the building and lack of the correct codes for the building. "The places of assembly where large people are at inside the buildings who were not following the fire code, did not have the proper sprinkler system in, weren't being inspected and eventually had a fire and there was a large tragedy," Bryne said. They want to prevent that from happening locally, but they've ran into a road block with state representatives. "Certain jurisdictions and states are opting to not adopt the provision for sprinkler systems and South Carolina is one of them," Bryne said.

NOTE: A spokeswoman for Governor Nikki Haley said "South Carolina families should decide what works best in their homes" in an article earlier in 2016. Adding the public is qualified enough to make that executive decision.

SC Supreme Court News:

The State: Commission dumps SC Supreme Court nominee, picks another

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article119029593.html>

Bristow Marchant

The commission that nominates judges Monday rescinded one of its nominees to succeed Costa Pleicones on the S.C. Supreme Court. The Judicial Merit Selection Commission rescinded its nomination of Ralph King "Tripp" Anderson III of Florence, chief judge of the S.C. Administrative Law Court, and approved Circuit Court Judge R. Keith Kelly for the open seat. The commission — made up of six legislators, plus four other appointees — previously had passed over Kelly. However, it voted Nov. 29 to reconsider Anderson's nomination after learning he had attended a political fundraiser, a violation of the state's code of conduct for judges and judicial candidates. "We became aware of that after the nomination," said state Sen. Chip Campsen, R-Charleston, who chairs the commission. Anderson testified again before the commission before it voted to reconsider.

SC Delegation News:

Politico: Tim Scott leaning against gubernatorial bid

<http://www.politico.com/story/2016/12/tim-scott-gubernatorial-bid-232226>

Seung Min Kim

Sen. Tim Scott (R-S.C.) hasn't yet slammed the door shut on running for governor back home in South Carolina, but he seems to be getting there. Scott, who has served in the Senate since 2013, has recently mulled a run for governor, perhaps alongside his close friend, Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) as a lieutenant governor candidate. On Monday evening, he said he doesn't "have the fire to move forward yet" with a gubernatorial bid in South Carolina and signaled that a final decision could come soon. "I have not ruled it out," Scott told reporters on Monday. But "today, I believe I can do more good in the Senate than I think I can as governor, and I'm going to pray about it for another couple of days and just be as frank as I'm being right now."

Post and Courier: Sen. Tim Scott leaning toward not running for South Carolina governor

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/sen-tim-scott-leaning-toward-not-running-for-south-carolina/article_1179df18-bb39-11e6-8b55-fff081100ff5.html

Schuyler Kropf

U.S. Sen. Tim Scott is more likely to stay in the Senate than run for governor in 2018, he said Monday, chilling what many saw as a dream ticket for the Governor's Mansion. "I have not ruled it out," Scott said. "But I have said without any question that, today, I believe I can do more good in the Senate than I think I can as governor. And I'm going to pray about it for another couple of days and be as frank with you as I'm being right now." Scott's comments to The Post and Courier and other reporters late Monday in Washington were a step back from a report earlier in the day by GoUpstate.com, the website of the Spartanburg Herald, that said Scott had decisively ruled out a bid. "The more I pray, the more I am comfortable that where I am is where I want to be right now," Scott said during a visit to Gaffney, according to the site. "You've got to have fire to run (for governor). We are finding fire and that is staying (in the Senate)." Scott, R-S.C., spoke to constituents in the Upstate earlier in the day before returning to Capitol Hill.

Herald-Journal: Scott tours bGen in Gaffney, Dollar General plant in Jonesville

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161205/scott-tours-bgen-in-gaffney-dollar-general-plant-in-jonesville?rssfeed=true>

Republican U.S. Sen. Tim Scott visited two Upstate businesses Monday as part of his 46-county tour of South Carolina to meet people and hear their concerns. "A political rock star," is how Brian Ziegelhefer described this state's junior senator during his visit to the bGEN business startup venture in Gaffney. Ziegelhefer and Roger Ferrell operate the 2,500-square-foot office on Limestone Street that offers entrepreneurs space and services at a reduced price to help them get their business off the ground. "Zig," as he is known, gave Scott a tour of the bGEN offices, which opened in June. The first tenant was Zak's Barkery, which sells organic dog treats online. Ziegelhefer said the entrepreneur is looking to soon open a coffee shop in Gaffney. Scott said he and President-elect Donald Trump favor cutting regulations that get in the way of small business.

SC Political News:

Associated Press: Former SC labor chief meets with Trump in New York

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

Meg Kinnard

South Carolina's former labor chief met with Donald Trump in New York on Monday as the president-elect works to fill scores of governmental appointments. Catherine Templeton confirmed the meeting to The Associated Press, saying it was "productive" and that she will "help our new president in any way I can." "Mr. Trump wanted to hear from a business person who's been on the inside and achieved government reforms at the local level - where it is felt most," she told AP. Templeton, a labor lawyer who specialized in fighting unions, ran South Carolina's Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation at the request of Gov. Nikki Haley for just over a year. She was one of the governor's first Cabinet appointees, the Republican playing up Templeton's union-fighting background and ability to keep unions out of the new Boeing Inc. assembly plant in North Charleston.

McClatchy DC: Why was Trump talking with SC's Mick Mulvaney?

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/national/article118999203.html>

Matthew Schofield

U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney of South Carolina had no comment about his New York meeting Monday with President-elect Donald Trump. The Trump transition team only would say that the two men had, indeed, met. Trump spokesman Jason Miller added Mulvaney “has a very proven track record as a fiscal conservative and a government reformer.” As for why they’re meeting, that’s a secret. The only hint lay in a two-month-old response to a comment on Mulvaney’s Facebook page. Mulvaney on Oct. 19 was asked by a reader which office in a Trump administration he would like: “I would love to be the Director of OMB (The Office of Management and Budget). That is where I think REAL improvements could be made in how the government is run,” he wrote, back then.

Charlotte Observer: Could a spot in the Trump administration be next for Pat McCrory?

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/politics-government/article119003423.html>

Rick Rothacker

Now that he’s conceded the gubernatorial race to Democrat Roy Cooper, what’s the next career stop for Gov. Pat McCrory? Before his election in 2012, McCrory was best-known for his long tenure as Charlotte mayor, but the Republican has also worked in the private sector at Duke Energy, the Moore & Van Allen law firm and his brother’s consulting firm. John Lassiter, a longtime McCrory associate, said Monday that the governor has considered a few possibilities, but in recent weeks has been focused on whether there was a path to winning a close election with Cooper. “He’s a young man,” Lassiter said. “He just turned 60. I don’t think he’s ready to retire and watch sunsets.” Lassiter said McCrory could pursue public or private sector positions, saying he has “a lot to offer in a variety of areas.” He wouldn’t comment on specific options McCrory may be considering.

The State: Irmo’s Donna Rice Hughes interview with Barbara Walters to air Tuesday

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article119084738.html>

Noah Feit

Donna Rice Hughes, who burst on the national scene as Donna Rice in 1987, will revisit her relationship with then Senator Gary Hart and the scandal that ended his presidential campaign with Barbara Walters. The Irmo High and University of South Carolina grad was interviewed for “Barbara Walters Presents,” which will be broadcast from 8-9 p.m. on Tuesday on Investigation Discovery (Time Warner Cable channel 138). “I sat down with Barbara in June for a couple of hours to tape the interview,” Hughes said. “The one-hour show covers my journey over the past several decades.” In 1987, Hart, the Democratic presidential front-runner, faced damaging allegations of a relationship with a woman other than his wife – Hughes. The Miami Herald reported that Hughes spent the night at Hart’s townhouse in Washington, D.C. while his wife was away. Rice was a model-actress living in Miami at the time. The former Colorado senator and Rice denied any impropriety, but Hart ended his presidential run a few days later, following a media firestorm.

Wildfires Across Southeast:

Herald-Journal: Pinnacle wildfire now 100 percent contained

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161205/pinnacle-wildfire-now-100-percent-contained?rssfeed=true>

Chris Lavender

Air quality conditions have improved in Spartanburg County as firefighters continue to monitor the Pinnacle Mountain fire. The S.C. Forestry Commission reported on Monday the fire is 100 percent contained. Justin Holt, a Forestry Commission spokesman, said the fire has burned 10,623 acres and cost \$4.8 million to fight. On Monday, he said some areas in the fire zone were still smoldering. Overnight rain Saturday into Sunday helped improve conditions. With more rain in the forecast for Tuesday, Holt said firefighters will begin addressing erosion control issues in some areas. This will include cleaning out stream crossings to restore the natural flow of water, planting grass seed,

installing ditches in the ground and installing water bars to direct rainwater. S.C. Department of Natural Resources, Greenville Watershed and Table Rock State Park employees will assist the state Forestry Commission in identifying areas more susceptible to erosion. Holt said wet weather conditions prevented crews from visiting the site on Sunday but operations would resume when possible.

Hurricane Matthew Recovery:

Island Packet: Have hurricane damage? Haven't registered with FEMA? You're running out of time
<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article119106603.html>

Local residents and business owners who have costs related to Hurricane Matthew damage have less than two weeks to register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and submit disaster loan applications to the U.S. Small Business Administration. The last day to register for federal disaster assistance and small business disaster loans is Dec. 13, according to a Beaufort County news release. You can find more information and register online at www.disasterassistance.gov or by phone at 800-621-3362. The toll-free lines are open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week until further notice, the release said.

Opinion/Editorial:

The State: Should you have to pay if police destroy your home to protect others?

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scoppe/article118949893.html>

Cindi Ross Scoppe

IMAGINE SOMEONE breaks into your house and takes your babysitter hostage. The police try to talk him into letting her go, but he won't budge. After 12 hours of fruitless efforts, they drive a bulldozer through your front door in order to free her and capture her captor. Of course you're relieved she got out of that situation alive, but your home is damaged so badly that the city condemns it, so you have lost your most valuable possession. Through no fault of your own. And no one is reimbursing you: Not your insurance company. Not the police or the city. No one. This is not another one of my crazy analogies, dreamed up in an attempt to make complex public policy questions more understandable. This is very nearly what actually happened in Spartanburg in 2004. The only difference is that the hostage incident took place in a convenience store.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: S.C. students could get a math boost from Algebra Nation online program

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/s-c-students-could-get-a-math-boost-from-algebra/article_97a9dd1a-bb14-11e6-a707-0ba49a2fa9b4.html

Paul Bowers

South Carolina students looking for help on their algebra homework might one day turn to a dedicated online community with video tutorials, peer advice forums and live help from adult experts. State and local education officials have been in talks to bring a website and smartphone app called Algebra Nation to public school students. A product of the University of Florida's Lastinger Center for Learning, the program has shown promising results after being rolled out to every school district in Florida. According to data provided by Lastinger Center officials to a Charleston County School Board committee meeting Monday night, Florida schools that participated in Algebra Nation had an 83-percent pass rate on the state's algebra end-of-course exam, compared to 63 percent at schools that did not use the program. Students who participate can ask for help from each other on a Facebook-style "wall," earn "Karma Points" toward iPad giveaways by helping each other out and — perhaps most importantly — get online support after school hours from a team of seven study experts.

Local News:

The State: Columbia program would return feral cats to their turf, hopefully control population

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article119019308.html>

Cliff Leblanc

Columbia is ready to encourage people who like feral cats to get them spayed or neutered and returned to their favorite grounds as a better way of controlling the stray population. The idea is to reduce the number of feral cats that are euthanized and allow them to naturally police their home turf and live out their lives in those locations, said Marli Drum, the city's director of animal services. By returning cats to their turf, the animal shelter hopes to reduce how many felines are euthanized and control their population because the animals go back unable to reproduce, she said. "It's a better way ... over time," Drum said Monday in advance of a final City Council vote Tuesday on the program, along with other changes in animal laws. "Only 2 percent of cats that come to our shelter are actually reclaimed by their owners."

Herald-Journal: BMW sales down 18.2 percent in November

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161205/bmw-sales-down-182-percent-in-november?rssfeed=true>

Sales of BMW brand vehicles decreased 18.2 percent in November for a total of 26,189 compared to 32,003 vehicles sold in November 2015, the company announced. Year-to-date, the BMW brand is down 10 percent in the United States on sales of 280,339 vehicles, compared to 311,398 sold in the first 11 months of 2015. In November, sales of the BMW 7 Series increased 18 percent to 1,233 cars, of the BMW X1 increased 53.2 percent to 2,745 vehicles, and of the Spartanburg-produced BMW X5 increased 18.4 percent to 4,693 vehicles. "Only a month remains in this year, and we are beginning to bid farewell to the current generation 5 Series and getting ready to welcome the all-new BMW 5 Series, which will make its world debut at the Detroit Auto Show in January," Ludwig Willisch, president and CEO of BMW of North America, said in a statement. "The dynamic driving character of the new 5 Series will be a complement to our 7 Series and make for a stronger model lineup heading into 2017."

Nikki Haley: UN Ambassador News:

Politico: Trump kids' diplomatic forays rattle State Dept.

<http://www.politico.com/story/2016/12/trump-children-diplomacy-state-department-232191>

Nahal Toosi State Department officials are increasingly fearful that President-elect Donald Trump's adult children will assume the role of freelance ambassadors, further blurring the line between their business affairs and America's foreign affairs. The warning signs are already there, current and former diplomats say. Trump's daughter Ivanka sat in on his meeting with the Japanese prime minister. One of Trump's sons is reported to have discussed how to resolve the Syrian war with pro-Russia figures. And the incoming president even suggested that his son-in-law, Jared Kushner, could mediate between Israel and the Palestinians. **NOTE:** "Nobody knows what's going on. There's been very little contact with the Trump people," said Gerald Feierstein, a former top Middle East official who recently retired from State. "People at the department are being asked to prepare for Nikki Haley" — Trump's choice for United Nations ambassador — "but the potential secretary of state? Not so much."

New York Daily News: Make Haiti whole: The UN's responsibility to repair the damage it unleashed when it imported cholera to the impoverished country

<http://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/haiti-article-1.2899643>

Editorial The United Nations is finally coming to terms with its moral responsibility for suffering and death it imported to Haiti. Up next, and urgently: a practical reckoning to undo the damage done. Six years ago, as the impoverished nation struggled to rebuild from a devastating earthquake, UN peacekeepers from Nepal introduced cholera there, by dumping human waste into a waterway. A million sick and 10,000 dead later, the UN added insult to infection by refusing to admit its role in the face of overwhelming evidence. That finally changed last week when the UN apologized — with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon saying: "We simply did not do enough with regard to the cholera outbreak and its spread in Haiti. We are profoundly sorry for our role." **NOTE:** António Guterres, the Portuguese politician who takes over as secretary general on Jan. 1, has so far called balancing

diplomatic immunity and ensuring the UN meets its responsibility a “particularly complex question.” No it isn't. He must grow a backbone — working with presumed incoming U.S. ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley, as the money will ultimately have to come from member states. **NOTE:** The U.S. is the UN's largest donor and its loudest voice. With an aggrieved American neighbor in crying need, so it must remain.

President-elect Trump News:

Associated Press: Trump heads back out on road for 'thank you' tour

<http://bigstory.ap.org/95684ac1d4a84415ad8b0dd89d01587c>

President-elect Donald Trump is taking his show back on the road. Trump is slated to hold the second stop of this "thank you" tour Tuesday in North Carolina, less than a week after his bombastic return to rallies at an Ohio appearance that felt more like a raucous campaign stop than a traditional speech by a president-to-be. At that Cincinnati stop, Trump disparaged the media as "dishonest," inspired loud "Build the wall" chants, took swipes at fellow Republicans and stunned his own aides with his surprise announcement from the stage that he was appointing retired Gen. James Mattis as secretary of defense. The Tuesday appearance in Fayetteville will be followed by rallies in Iowa and Michigan later this week as Trump barnstorms the country to salute his supporters who delivered the victories in the battleground states he needed to capture the White House.

Associated Press: Spokesman offers few clues on Trump's pipeline stance

<http://bigstory.ap.org/8c9057b524d14d29ba2fd139aa57edac>

A spokesman for President-elect Donald Trump isn't offering many clues about how the incoming administration will act regarding the disputed Dakota Access oil pipeline. Spokesman Jason Miller told The Associated Press on Monday that Trump supports construction of the pipeline. But Miller wouldn't say whether Trump would reverse the Army's decision on Sunday to decline to issue a permit for the \$3.8 billion pipeline to cross under a Missouri River reservoir in southern North Dakota near the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. Miller said the Trump administration will review the situation "and make the appropriate determination." Protesters, who describe themselves as "water protectors," say they have no plans to leave despite the Army's decision and recent wintry storms. The pipeline is largely complete except for the section under Lake Oahe.

Associated Press: Presidential recount in Michigan expands to Detroit area

<http://bigstory.ap.org/e449e88dd09c49b5a91413e1e9d012cc>

The presidential recount in Michigan expands Tuesday to its largest county, which includes Detroit, and five other counties, and the fate of a statewide recount push in Pennsylvania awaits action in federal court. President-elect Donald Trump narrowly defeated Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton in both states and Wisconsin, which started its recount last week. The recounts requested by Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein were not expected to change enough votes to overturn the result of the election. Stein, who received about 1 percent of the vote in all three states, says her intent is to verify the vote's accuracy. She has suggested, with no evidence, that votes cast were susceptible to computer hacking. A partial recount underway in Nevada was requested by independent presidential candidate Roque De La Fuente.

National News:

Associated Press: Stopgap spending bill to be unveiled as Congress finishes up

<http://bigstory.ap.org/bf608f3db7cb4b7d8f2b3ee1a64c00f2>

Congress is quickening its pace toward adjourning late this week, marching toward a final vote on legislation boosting medical research and speeding drug approvals and readying a separate stopgap spending bill to prevent the government from shutting down this weekend. The temporary budget bill, scheduled to be unveiled Tuesday, would keep federal agencies functioning into next spring, giving the new Congress and the incoming Trump administration time to approve more than \$1 trillion to

fund federal agencies through the Sept. 30 end of the current government budget year. Current spending expires at midnight on Friday. Since the measure is the only absolute must-do bill before Congress adjourns, it's likely to carry several add-ons, including flood relief, money for overseas military operations, and help for Flint, Mich., to fix its lead-tainted water system.

Associated Press: Recovery of fire victims winds down; investigation looms

<http://bigstory.ap.org/c5532d5b37f242889114c6fe56d6eed9>

Some people managed to text loved ones goodbye and "I love you" before they died in an Oakland warehouse fire that claimed three dozen lives, officials said, as heart-rending reports of victims' last moments emerged from the most lethal building fire in the U.S. in more than a decade. Also Monday, the painful and exhaustive search for those killed in the fire appeared to be coming to a close. Alameda County Sheriff Gregory Ahern told The Associated Press that he didn't believe there would be additional bodies found. But he cautioned that it was "impossible to be absolutely positive" about the number killed until the entire recovery effort is complete. Authorities had gone through about three-quarters of the building by Monday afternoon. Officials said they would turn next to investigating the fire, which erupted late Friday during a dance party. It's unclear how it started. The district attorney warned of possible murder charges as she determines whether there were any crimes linked to the blaze.

World News:

Associated Press: Ransomed: The freeing of 226 Christians from Islamic State

<http://bigstory.ap.org/44faaba91b3445e3be4d6f97f53bc74b>

The millions in ransom money came in dollar by dollar, euro by euro from around the world. The donations, raised from church offerings, a Christmas concert, and the diaspora of Assyrian Christians on Facebook, landed in a bank account in Iraq. Its ultimate destination: the Islamic State group. Deep inside Syria, a bishop worked around the blurred edges of international law to save the lives of more than 200 people — one of the largest groups of hostages yet documented in IS's war in Syria and Iraq. It took more than a year, and videotaped killings of three captives, before all the rest were freed. Paying ransoms is illegal in the United States and most of the West, and the idea of paying the militants is morally fraught, even for those who saw no alternative. "You look at it from the moral side and I get it. If we give them money we're just feeding into it, and they're going to kill using that money," said Aneki Nissan, who helped raise funds in Canada. But, he said, there were more than 200 lives at stake, "and to us, we're such a small minority that we have to help each other."

Associated Press: Syrian government, ally Russia warn rebels in city of Aleppo

<http://bigstory.ap.org/38865df9a66742b7988fb3b489eaa564>

The Syrian government and its ally Russia on Tuesday issued stark warnings to rebels in besieged eastern neighborhoods of Aleppo, with Moscow's top diplomat saying the rebels will be wiped out unless they stop fighting and leave the city. Damascus also said it rejects any cease-fire for Aleppo that does not include the departure of all rebels from the eastern part of the city and that it won't allow the rebels to use a truce as a chance to "regroup." The tough rhetoric comes a day after Russia and China blocked a draft resolution at the U.N. Security Council demanding a seven-day truce in Aleppo to evacuate the sick and wounded and to provide humanitarian aid workers time to get food and medicine into the city. Russia, a main backer of the Syrian government and supporting the government's offensive in the city, has repeatedly blocked action in the Security Council over Syria. "Those who refuse to leave nicely will be destroyed," Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told reporters in Moscow, speaking of the Syrian rebels. "There is no other way."

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Camlin Moore

Cell: 803-206-8236

Office: 803-734-8044

