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To:
Date: 10/13/2016 8:55:58 AM
Subject: Morning Clips – Thursday, October 13, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Gov. Nikki Haley gains praise for management of Hurricane Matthew

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161012/161019816/gov-nikki-haley-gains-praise-for-management-of-hurricane-matthew>

Gov. Nikki Haley's steadfast warnings as Hurricane Matthew barreled down on South Carolina earned praise from political experts, though the concern over flooding remains her current test. Observers have hailed Haley's early decision to evacuate residents along the South Carolina coast and for repeatedly keeping the public updated as the situation developed, usually twice a day. The high marks come at a time when some Republicans are questioning their choice in businessman Donald Trump as the party's presidential nominee after a video surfaced last week showing him making vulgar and sexually charged comments about women. "I think with the current controversy that the Republican Party finds itself in, any display of strong leadership by a Republican woman who is an elected official is only going to highlight what the Republican Party could have had — and what they do have — in a presidential candidate," Catawba College political scientist Michael Bitzer told The Post and Courier. The storm is the third time in as many years that Haley has made decisions from the state's command center in West Columbia during a crisis. She was credited for deftly overseeing ice storms in 2014 and record flooding last year.

WIS: My Take: Gov Nikki Haley saved lives

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33373444/my-take-gov-nikki-haley-saved-lives>

Last week, as Hurricane Matthew was still in the Caribbean, South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley was faced with some very difficult decisions. As the forecast began to show a distinct path straight to South Carolina, a calm Governor Haley announced she had declared a state of emergency and called for the evacuation of hundreds of thousands of coastal residents. She also closed schools and government offices in dozens of counties and announced lane reversals on Interstate 26 from Charleston to Columbia. That all happened five days before the storm hit. "The goal is to take as many cars off the roads as we can and to be as safe as we possibly can," Haley said. "We want to be safe, but we also want to make sure that it's not a frustrating situation for people." The timing of the extraordinary measures taken by the governor did not sit well with some in areas of the state away from the coast. Thousands were immediately faced with finding appropriate childcare or taking work off and an influx of traffic from the coast. Governor Haley and the rest of the state's leaders did not waiver. "South Carolina is strong," she said. "I am very proud of Team South Carolina. They are ready."

Post and Courier: MUSC group anticipates changing board spending policy pending outside audit

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161012/161019810/musc-group-anticipates-changing-board-spending-policy-pending-outside-audit>

A group of school and community leaders decided to wait for recommendations from the state's inspector general before officially changing the spending policy of the Medical University of South

Carolina Board of Trustees. The Post and Courier reported in August that the MUSC Board of Trustees spent more than \$500,000 since 2011. They usually dine at Charleston's top restaurants when they meet in town for board meetings and stay in luxury hotel rooms. The newspaper's investigation prompted the Commission on Higher Education to call for an independent audit of the board's expenses. South Carolina Inspector General Patrick Maley told The Post and Courier in September he would launch a preliminary review of the matter but didn't know how long that would take. Meanwhile, Gov. Nikki Haley asked board members to repay their portion of the expenses. At least one of them agreed. On Wednesday, a group of school and community leaders met at MUSC for about an hour, largely in an executive session, to discuss potential changes to the spending policy. MUSC leaders previously argued expensive dinners and luxury hotel rooms don't violate state spending policies because they are paid for by MUSC's independent doctors' group.

Hurricane Matthew:

Associated Press: 'I cry and pray': Keeping vigil amid North Carolina floods

<http://bigstory.ap.org/e66efd1356c14e67907721dec8c9eed9>

'I cry and pray': Keeping vigil amid North Carolina floods

bigstory.ap.org

GREENVILLE, N.C. (AP) — Anita Van Beveren has been returning day after day to watch the brown floodwater creep toward the rental home she shares with her two teenage children. While she got many belongings out, they couldn't...

Anita Van Beveren has been returning day after day to watch the brown floodwater creep toward the rental home she shares with her two teenage children. While she got many belongings out, they couldn't move everything — a bicycle is chained to a back deck surrounded by water. "I cry and pray. There's nothing else to do," said Van Beveren, who is staying with friends. "We keep coming up here every hour. And every hour it's worse." Many neighbors are keeping similar vigils on Van Beveren's side of Willow Street, which runs parallel to the Tar River and has largely served as a boundary between those who evacuated and those who stayed. The leafy neighborhood — one of many around North Carolina to suffer flooding after Hurricane Matthew — includes one-story homes and small apartment buildings that house a mix of families and students from nearby East Carolina University. North of Willow, houses and apartments were filling up with water even before the river was expected to crest Thursday. The flooding triggered by heavy rain from Matthew — which killed more than 500 people in Haiti — has left at least 35 dead in the U.S.

Associated Press: The Latest: Section of road to Outer Banks reopening

<http://bigstory.ap.org/ec3314845d6f4e55a37e5f5e2951bede>

The Latest: Section of road to Outer Banks reopening

bigstory.ap.org

GREENVILLE, N.C. (AP) — The Latest on Hurricane Matthew (all times local): 7 a.m. North Carolina officials are

reopening a long section of the main road on the Outer Banks after damage from Hurricane Matthew. Transportation...

North Carolina officials are reopening a long section of the main road on the Outer Banks after damage from Hurricane Matthew. Transportation officials said in a statement that crews have cleared debris and the water has receded enough to reopen the section of N.C. 12 on Thursday that leads south toward Cape Hatteras. Dare County is still restricting access to Frisco and Hatteras. Matthew left much of the road under water because of tidal flooding and heavy rains. Transportation crews began clearing debris and sand Monday but the water had been slow to recede. Officials urge people to drive slowly and be careful where there is still water on the road. Engineers checked the bridge and found no evidence that sand had washed away from the bridge piers.

Associated Press: River that gave life to N. Carolina town now tears it apart

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=9LZ4HSRb

A day after fleeing from the swollen Lumber River, the residents of this down-but-not-quite-out former mill town waded into the swirling, tea-colored floodwaters Wednesday and filled jugs for something most of us take for granted: flushing their toilets. "We still don't have water or power in our house," Caroline Kahn said as she sloshed through someone's flooded front yard in a pair of flower-print boots. "So we need water for the necessities of life." The river gave this town its life. Now it has torn the community apart. About 1,200 residents had to be evacuated by boat and plucked from their roofs by helicopters as the river crested. Two of the state's 20 fatalities occurred in Robeson County, of which Lumberton is the seat. Of all the towns affected by Hurricane Matthew, this city of 22,000 was among the hardest hit and the least able to absorb the blow.

Associated Press: The Latest: Storm death toll in North Carolina rises to 20

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=SDyxbb3l

Gov. Pat McCrory said the death toll in North Carolina from Hurricane Matthew has risen to 20. McCrory told a briefing in Lumberton on Wednesday that the latest death was reported in Lenoir County. He provided no additional details. The death toll for the U.S. now stands at 36. The governor was visiting one of the areas hit hard by flooding, but he called the residents in Robeson County "the most resilient citizens I have ever met." McCrory said people hoping to travel through the area should avoid Interstate 95 because a portion of the road is flooded, and he suggested finding alternate routes.

Associated Press: The Latest: Matthew's flooding hitting South Carolina coast

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=cSln4u1m

Hurricane Matthew has brought record flooding to some areas of South Carolina. The National Weather Service reports the Little Pee Dee River near Galivants Ferry in Horry County has broken a flood record set almost 90 years ago. That area is largely rural but the rising waters were even affecting homes built above the ground on stilts. The river is expected to start receding Thursday. The Waccamaw River in Conway is not expected to reach its peak until early next week. The rising water

has flooded the Conway Marina and could wash over railroad trestles in town. Farther south, the Edisto River northwest of Charleston was expected to reach its peak Friday morning. Forecasters said major flooding would affect homes and cabins in the largely rural area and cut off some homes near the river.

Associated Press: Powering Up: Almost 90 percent who lost power back on line

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=THpMzEK0

Power has been restored to almost 90 percent of the South Carolina customers who were left in the dark when Hurricane Matthew hit the state last weekend. Utility outage maps show that about 93,000 customers across the state remained without power Thursday morning. That's down from about 850,000 customers who lost power at the height of the storm. Since Wednesday morning, crews have been able to hook up power to about 90,000 customers. Most of the remaining outages are in the Pee Dee where widespread flooding is hampering the efforts to get electricity flowing again.

The State: After Matthew: Heartbreak comes in little and large ways

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article107886427.html>

Normalcy began to ease into hard-hit parts of the state Wednesday, just as more flooding, the loss of entire households, even a teenager's ruined pageant gown became signposts of the fourth day after Hurricane Matthew's thrashing. Storm oddities began to surface in the form of a 6-foot gator displaced from fresh water onto the beach at Briarcliffe Acres in Horry County. Three caskets floated from the waterlogged Warsaw Cemetery in Beaufort County, the county coroner said. Thieves stole 225 firearms, including assault rifles and collector guns, from storm-damaged Five Star Gun in the Longs community north of Myrtle Beach. Meanwhile, state and all county offices are to be open by Thursday, power outages are plummeting and some bloated rivers began to recede after setting flood records. But the devastation isn't complete: Some rivers, including the Waccamaw in populous Horry County, have yet to crest.

The State: Thousands in Florence get used to life without power

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article107820617.html>

It was another candlelit dinner for Leigh Dimas and her family – her husband, daughter and granddaughters splitting up Domino's pizza slices as utility workers labored nearby to turn the lights back on in the Pee Dee's central city after Hurricane Matthew. A day of "that stuff you never do" – dusting, catching up on reading and knocking out crossword puzzles – ended with the family together in the den of Dimas' duplex near Florence's Cherokee Avenue. "You do spend more quality time together," said Dimas, a 58-year-old retired financial adviser who moved to Florence nearly eight years ago. "But these kids don't understand why they don't have their games and their TVs." Dimas and other Florence County residents are hunkering down amid what could be a long week without power. Hurricane Matthew dumped about 10 inches of rain on the area Saturday. Its winds — up to 67 mph — also ripped trees from their soggy foundations.

The State: Former Lexington County deputy in center of hurricane recovery

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article107845187.html>

Former Lexington County deputy George Brothers has more sand in his shoes these days than he ever imagined after Hurricane Matthew. Brothers is busy overseeing security for cleanup and recovery as police chief in this small coastal town that's a popular escape for many Midlands residents. "He's got his hands full," Lexington County Sheriff Jay Koon said. The storm left tons of sand on roads and in yards and damaged an undetermined number of the 2,500 homes in the town 135 miles southeast of Columbia. But Brothers, who has been chief for 16 months, said conditions were better than

expected after he returned from evacuating shortly before the storm came Friday. "I was concerned I was going to come back to nothing," he said. His return trip, though, required several stops to use chainsaws to get around fallen trees. Town residents and owners of rental homes are being allowed in through security checkpoints to look over dwellings in selected neighborhoods as fallen trees are removed and downed power lines put back up. "We've got to make sure people don't get themselves in a mess," Brothers said.

The State: S.C. farmers eye significant crop losses

<http://www.thestate.com/news/business/article107614942.html>

Significant losses to the state's cotton crop and moderate losses to the soybean crop are expected as a result of Hurricane Matthew, state agriculture officials said Tuesday. And while many peanut farmers had made harvests prior to the storm's punch, more than half the state's peanut buying locations are without power, so that crop's storage needs could soon be impacted, the agriculture department said. In addition, future harvests of high-value fall fruits and vegetables will be impacted, the department said, though farmers were able to extract their initial harvests. State Agriculture Commissioner Hugh Weathers and South Carolina Forestry Association Executive Director Cam Crawford did an initial damage assessment Monday that included a flyover of areas in the Pee Dee impacted by the hurricane. "Farmers are facing very similar challenges to last October's flooding, and this natural disaster will be another significant setback to our state's No. 1 industry," Weathers said. Hurricane Matthew's foray into the state came almost on the anniversary of last year's October flood, and affected many of the same areas even as those farmers were still trying to recover, state officials said.

Post and Courier: "The worst thing we've ever seen" — rivers are cresting with flood waters

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161012/161019808/the-worst-thing-weve-ever-seen--rivers-are-cresting-with-flood-waters->

Traffic was stopped briefly on Highway 378 Wednesday, not because of the countless downed trees from Hurricane Matthew or the floodwaters swamping parts of the Pee Dee, but to let volunteers back in trailers to the submerged entrance of Pastor Jamie Montgomery's desperate church. "We were told it was going to rise about four more foot so it's going to wipe us out totally," an exasperated Montgomery said about the Little Pee Dee River floodwaters surrounding Piney Grove Baptist Church. He drove the last trailer-full of church pews, in total worth about \$60,000, and other items to waiting helpers parked alongside the highway. "This right here is just the worst thing we've ever seen," Montgomery said looking at the waters he expected to enter the church by nightfall. "But we've had about 50 to 60 people stop and help so we've just been blessed." As South Carolina braces for a rush of Matthew's rainfall-turned-to-river swell, thousands of volunteers and responders are moving to help get those in danger to safety.

Post and Courier: Flood warning continues for Edisto River, coastal flooding possible in Charleston

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161013/161019795/flood-warning-continues-for-edisto-river-coastal-flooding-possible-in-charleston>

The National Weather Service in Charleston is keeping a close eye on coastal and river flooding Thursday due to high tides and Hurricane Matthew's heavy rainfall. While a coastal flood advisory for Charleston expired at 8 a.m., the weather service says another advisory may be issued during this evening's high tide, which is expected to be just before 6:30 p.m. and could reach 6.3 feet. Minor coastal flooding is anticipated. Moderate to major coastal flooding will be possible Friday into the weekend, as tides will remain elevated. There will also be a higher risk of rip currents through the weekend. Parts of Charleston, Colleton and Dorchester counties remain under flood warning until 1 p.

m., impacting the Edisto and Ashley rivers, as well as Four Holes Swamp. Though they are receding, the Santee River near Jamestown and the Black River near Kingstree are also being monitored under the flood warning.

Post and Courier: Battered by Hurricane Matthew, Edisto Island starts to rebuild

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161012/161019801/battered-by-hurricane-matthew-edisto-island-starts-to-rebuild>

She was wearing her good shoes —a pair of dainty, black ballet flats, each adorned with a bow — but she climbed out of her white Mercedes anyway and marched down Palmetto Boulevard, escorted by three National Guardsmen, to take in the sight of the beach's main thoroughfare four days after Hurricane Matthew swept through the coast. "Like our four-lane road?" she asked in a sweet Southern drawl. "With sidewalks?" Mayor Jane Darby was being sarcastic. The street was blanketed in a thin veil of sand, mounds of which were piled high along the road's edges. Porches had been ripped from the ground. Concrete driveways were shattered. Entire septic tanks were exposed. One house had collapsed in a heap, like a deck of cards, leaving a clump of furniture, fencing and floorboards in the place it once stood. "It gets better out here," assured Lt. Col. Chris Hyman, commander of the S.C. Army National Guard's 122nd Engineer Battalion. "It does," Darby said. Before the National Guard arrived with their military-grade excavators and equipment, Palmetto Boulevard was buried in sand, in some places up to 5 feet deep, encasing mailboxes and street signs for a mile and a half. Mighty gusts of wind had toppled power lines, severed tree trunks and scattered debris across town. Homes flooded. The beach eroded.

Post and Courier : Flood warning issued for Charleston, Dorchester and Colleton counties

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161012/161019817/flood-warning-issued-for-charleston-dorchester-and-colleton-counties>

Parts of the Edisto and other Lowcountry rivers that were overloaded during Hurricane Matthew's rains are under flood warning, as water has reached homes and inundated area roads. By 8 p.m. Wednesday, the Edisto near Givhans Ferry on the border of Dorchester and Colleton counties had swelled to 14.9 feet, just shy of the major flood level of 15 feet. The National Weather Service said the river is forecast to rise to near 15.2 feet by early Friday morning, then begin to recede. Flood stage is 10 feet. The flood warning includes parts of Dorchester, Charleston and Colleton counties and is in effect until 1 p.m. Thursday. Emergency management officials anticipated this week's flooding and urged residents along the Edisto, the Little Pee Dee and the Waccamaw rivers to secure their property and prepare to evacuate. Local and state officials took to boats to perform welfare checks on residents along the Edisto.

Post and Courier: South Carolina asks farmers to report damage online, farm agency says

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161012/161019823/south-carolina-asks-farmers-to-report-damage-online-farm-agency-says>

South Carolina farmers are being asked to fill out an online assessment form to help government officials tally the damage inflicted on the state's biggest industry by Hurricane Matthew. The information is being compiled by Clemson University. "It's important that we know what problems we face so that resources can be allocated to meet the need," said Dr. Charlotte Krugler, an emergency preparedness veterinarian at Clemson. "The state also needs damage estimates as it submits its federal disaster applications." An early assessment of Matthew's impact on the farming industry shows significant losses for cotton growers, the S.C. Department of Agriculture said. "Almost on the anniversary of last October's flood, this storm has affected many of the same areas still trying to recover," the agency said in a statement. The department said it is working with Clemson, South

Carolina Farm Bureau, Farm Credit and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to measure the impact. Aside from the cotton damage, early reports indicate moderate loss of soybeans. And while many peanut crops were harvested before the weekend storm, "storage could soon become an issue" because seven of 12 buying points in South Carolina are without power, the department said.

Post and Courier: Thanks to erosion, Hurricane Matthew made Kiawah a slightly smaller island
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161012/161019812/thanks-to-erosion-hurricane-matthew-made-kiawah-a-slightly-smaller-island>

Hurricane Matthew did relatively little damage to homes on Kiawah Island, but its surge and pounding waves pushed the island's beach landward from 10 to 220 feet, a survey from the town said. Kiawah surveyed the island two days before the storm and again Tuesday. The northern end, near the resort's famed Ocean Course, saw 220 feet of beach and dunes disappear, while the southern end, known as Capt. Sam's Spit, saw losses of 100 to 110 feet, the report found. The spit's already narrow neck and the area near the county's Beachwalker Park lost between 70 and 100 feet, the survey found. "Our beach got pounded a lot," said Stephanie Monroe Tillerson, town administrator. But because homes are behind several dunes, few homes suffered damage. The town's surveys showed the center of the island suffered erosion losses of 30 to 50 feet. The least erosion happened near the Beach Club and Ocean Course Clubhouse, areas that saw as little as 10 feet of beach loss.

Post and Courier: Matthew's impact on mosquitoes has officials urging resident to empty water containers
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161012/161019818/matthews-impact-on-mosquitoes-has-officials-urging-resident-to-empty-water-containers>

Even before Hurricane Matthew, local mosquito control efforts were going full steam to keep populations in check, particularly with the potential threat of the Zika virus. Matthew's storm surge and rainfall inundated many areas, including ditches and dredge disposal sites, keeping crews busy inspecting for larvae. Frank Carson, operations manager with Charleston County Public Works, said Charleston County Mosquito Control has stepped up its efforts and hours spent in the field. "We have been focusing on larviciding because of all of the additional areas of standing water. If we see increases in adult populations we would then consider additional spraying," Carson said. Earlier in the week, Charleston County Mosquito Control already was spraying larvicide, Vectobac 12AS, via the ground and air in McClellanville, Awendaw and Mount Pleasant.

Island Packet: Sewage overflow a serious problem on Hilton Head, anticipated in Port Royal too
<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article107722522.html>
Allen Drake had raw sewage running down his Hilton Head Island driveway Wednesday afternoon — into his street and backyard, and, as he says, "off into the grand beyond." Of all the things that happened to him during Hurricane Matthew, including an evacuation to Bluffton, losing power and finding three feet of flooding in his Hilton Head Plantation home, this was a problem he hadn't expected. And it could continue for him and other residents for weeks. Hilton Head Islanders and potentially residents of Port Royal may experience sewage overflow if they, like Drake, live near a manhole or near exposed PVC pipe due to numerous breaks in sewer and water lines. When residents returned to the island Tuesday and began using their showers and toilets again, sewage and dirty water began backing up fast. "There's scores of (breaks). There's hundreds," said Hilton Head Public Service District general manager Pete Nardi. Palmetto Hall went so far as to ask residents who have returned to the island to leave again.

Island Packet: Checkpoint to Harbor, Fripp islands lifted; not everyone allowed back yet, however

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article107696712.html>

Evacuees were allowed on Harbor, Hunting and Fripp islands shortly before 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, four full days since Hurricane Matthew tore through the area, the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office said in a statement. The barrier islands had been the last areas of Beaufort County where county officials restricted residents and property owners' reentry after the storm. Fripp Island residents are not yet allowed back on the island, however, according to Chris Assaf, president of the Fripp Island Property Owners Association. The delay is a result of damage to on either end of the Harbor Island Bridge, along the only roadway leading to the islands from St. Helena Island. The bridge itself has not sustained major damage, S.C. Department of Transportation spokesman James Law said Tuesday, but washouts undermined the pavement leading to the span and made travel there perilous.

Island Packet: Blessed to be a blessing: Coming home after Matthew

<http://www.islandpacket.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/david-lauderdale/article107690372.html>

That's all I can think about as we return to Hilton Head Island after evacuating for Hurricane Matthew. Nothing hit our house. Nothing hit the car in the driveway. Around the corner, a tall pine crashed onto the roof of the house with the prettiest yard. My junky yard has nine pines and three oaks in the front yard, and six oaks in the back yard. None of them budged, while an oak four yards into the neighbor's yard was splintered. Its trunk, bigger than I can wrap my arms around, snapped a huge pine on its way down. Neither of them hit either of our houses. So you're left asking, Why? All I can think of is a sermon from Doug Fletcher at First Presbyterian on Hilton Head. We didn't have church last Sunday. Nobody was here. But the week before, he read in Genesis God's covenant with Abram. He said it was the theme of the whole Bible. Blessed to be a blessing was how it went.

Island Packet: Power is back and Hilton Head, Bluffton working toward recovery

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article107753982.html>

Chainsaws buzzed all over Hilton Head Island and Bluffton on Wednesday as thousands returned home and began cleanup work. The restoration of power to most of the south of the Broad River area had residents sighing with relief, businesses opening their doors and several organizations serving hot meals to first responders. But worries still remain. The many broken sewer lines jutting out of the ground could delay a full recovery. A handful of residents are still without power. And long waits could be in store for those who need professional help with tree removal and debris pickup. Here's a look around the island and Bluffton from Wednesday.

Island Packet: Vacationers wondering if their paradise has disappeared – for now

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article107806807.html>

Cindy Bramble's love affair with Hilton Head Island started the year after she graduated from high school. "In 1984, we found Hilton Head, and we've been coming back every year," the Frankfort, Kentucky, second-grade teacher said. But maybe not this year – thanks to Hurricane Matthew. Bramble, her parents and two of her children – one in high school, the other in eighth grade – were supposed to be vacationing starting last Saturday for a week at an Ocean One condominium on South Forest Beach Drive. But the Category 2 hurricane that struck during the early morning hours on Saturday changed those plans. "I should have been on the beach right now," Bramble told The Island Packet and The Beaufort Gazette when contacted Wednesday. Bramble said she's tried unsuccessfully to find out from her vacation rental company whether it's safe now at the condominium. She's not sure exactly what she'll do for the time being but likely will take her chances with a family road trip to the Carolinas.

Sun News: Waccamaw River continues to rise, Little Pee Dee crests at record-breaking level

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article107722372.html>

The Waccamaw River will continue to rise until Oct. 17 or 18, according to a forecast from the National Weather Service. The river is currently just under 15 feet near Conway, and major flood stage begins at 14 feet. Levels could crest at about 17 feet, half a foot above crest levels in last year's flood, according to the forecast. Water upstream from North Carolina is feeding into the water system that flows to the Waccamaw, said Richard Neuherz of the NWS in Wilmington, North Carolina. "Residential flooding will continue to worsen. The Conway Marina will be flooded. Railroad trestles in downtown Conway will flood at 15.9 feet," according to the forecast. The Little Pee Dee River near Galivants Ferry reached roughly 17 feet on Tuesday, breaking a record set in 1928 and obliterating levels brought on by Hurricane Floyd by five feet. That river is expected to begin returning to normal levels in the next 24 hours, Neuherz said.

Sun News: Single mother leaves uninsured home as flood waters trickle in

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article107877442.html>

Angela Larrimore didn't see her flooded property near Brittons Neck until 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, when she got back from her daughter's doctor's appointment in Columbia. The record flooding on the Little Pee Dee River had almost made it into her house. "We've been down there ever since," said Larrimore, who goes by Angie. "We knew the water was coming up but not as bad as it is now. "Larrimore, a single parent, was sitting in a boat with her two children, Blake Tyler, 16, and Kaylie Larimore, 9, as she and her friends and family made one last run to the house to salvage whatever they could. "There's not a whole lot I can save," said Angie Larrimore. "Just making sure I get my animals out, which we've got them, and some clothes to change in and stuff like that. I have a lot of pictures and different other pieces of history that my grandma gave me." Kaylie Larrimore, who goes to Whittemore Park Middle School in Conway, said she was "surprised" to see the flood. There was one item she had to retrieve from the house when she had the chance.

Sun News: Surfside may not rebuild pier, will seek public input

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article107827602.html>

The town of Surfside Beach has hired a contractor to haul away debris that once comprised its centerpiece pier, but it's unclear what might replace the structure. Town Administrator Micki Fellner said in a council meeting weeks ago that parts of the pier were beginning to deteriorate. Now, after Hurricane Matthew destroyed much of the pier, members of town council agreed a special meeting was needed to weigh options for rebuilding, modifying or possibly removing the pier altogether. All council members called for public input, and Mayor Bob Childs said he was in favor of three different public meetings, so that as many people as possible would be able to attend. "We're gonna get plenty of input before we go into this thing," Childs said. "We're gonna make sure everybody has a chance to speak." A few different ideas were floated, but the council agreed that the city is short on funds for possible rebuilding. "The reality is no matter what we do, if we decide to rebuild the pier, it's got to be paid for. That costs money, and money we don't have," Councilman Randle Stevens said.

Georgetown Times: Georgetown County Fire/EMS responds after Santee Electric Cooperative substation blows

<http://www.southstrandnews.com/20161012/161019957/georgetown-county-fireems-responds-after-santee-electric-cooperative-substation-blows>

Firefighters have closed a section of Saints Delight Road after a Santee Electric Cooperative substation blew while the company was trying to reactivate it. At about 6:30 p.m., Georgetown County Fire/EMS units were called to the Sampit substation after receiving word of an explosive short in the substation. SEC Manager of Community Relations Adrel Langley added that no one was hurt when

the substation blew. Langley said line workers were in the process of reactivating the substation as part of SEC's ongoing effort to restore electric service to county residents, but that the cause of the explosion itself was still under investigation. "That was the only station that had not been energized," Langley said. "We were trying to get everything hooked back up. We're not sure of any details right now, other than that there were no injuries, and we're very thankful for that." Fire/EMS closed the portion of Saints Delight Road that stretches from U.S. Highway 521 to Pennyroyal Road and advised motorists to avoid the area. Assistant Chief Tony Hucks confirmed Fire/EMS units were on standby in case of a fire outbreak.

Jasper Sun Times: Storm recap: Residents given OK to return home

<http://www.jaspersuntimes.com/hardeeville/2016-10-12/jasper-residents-return-home>

Hurricane Matthew brought whipping wind and torrential rain late Friday into Saturday morning that forced thousands of people to leave their homes. The storm left downed trees and power lines and flooded the roads, which made for dangerous conditions.

Initially residents, many who left on Wednesday, were not allowed to return to the county. The National Guard and South Carolina Highway Patrol guarded Jasper's borders. Interstate 95 in Jasper was closed. Jasper County Council Chairman Marty Sauls estimated that 75 to 80 percent of the county evacuated. It pained him to keep residents away. "I want people to come home, see things are safe, I do," Sauls said Saturday. Sauls thought a re-entry plan wouldn't move forward until Tuesday, but at 6:45 Sunday evening, he delivered the message many were waiting to hear. "Everybody can come home," he said.

Morning News : Pee Dee farmers dealing with heavy losses after Hurricane Matthew

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_928b1f24-90df-11e6-8a2f-db7146be0e7e.html

Before Hurricane Matthew showed up last weekend, a soybean field next to Larry Floyd's house was chest high. On Wednesday it was a little higher than his border terrier Packy. "The barn shed is all tore up, trees are down across the roads going into fields and trees going into ditches," said his brother M. D. Floyd. For Larry, M.D. and their brother Thurmond -- and other farmers all over the Pee Dee -- the work of clearing downed trees and debris is a huge task that is a top priority. The Floyds can't even reach parts of their acreage until the fallen pines and oaks are cut away. M.D. Floyd, 62, was boiling peanuts in "the big shed" when the full fury of the winds kicked in around 2 p.m. on Saturday. He later found an uprooted utility pole that brought power to a trio of tobacco curing barns that each hold about 3,500 pounds of leaves. The pole was behind the barns, which had some structural damage. "Sounded like trains, the wind did," he said. "We were sitting around boiling peanuts and talking. There was nothing else we could do. I didn't hear the pole and then bam! It's gone."

Morning News: Yard waste cleanup in Florence will take months, officials say

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_da030f2a-90de-11e6-ba73-1f279918d3ef.html

With cleanup from Hurricane Matthew in full swing, yard debris and home waste are beginning to pile up along roadways in Florence -- especially in residential areas. The city of Florence does provide debris cleanup but officials say the primary focus right now is getting all city roadways cleared for travel. "What we've been doing since Saturday is what we call our first push," said Chuck Pope, director of city public works. "We're cutting debris from roadways and corridors to open it up for traffic flow. That debris is mainly being pushed to the side for now and clean-up will come later." This means regular yard waste clean-up for city residents will be strained for several months. Weeks may pass before debris is picked up from your yard by a city crew. City Manager Drew Griffin said the city is working to determine the amount of debris that will be handled but he anticipates it will take months before all is done. "If this is like similar events we will be collecting significant amounts of debris

through Thanksgiving, heading toward Christmas," Griffin said. "For county residents, there are manned waste dump sites throughout Florence County.

Morning News: Crews working to restore electricity, clear Pee Dee roads and streets

http://www.scnw.com/news/local/article_7ec834e6-90de-11e6-a89d-571fe3de6157.html

Power recovery efforts continued Wednesday as Duke Energy crews and those working with them made restorations across the Pee Dee and state highway crews worked to protect the U.S. 501 bridges at Galivants Ferry. South Carolina outage numbers had fallen to about 50,000, down from about 140,000 customers immediately after the storm. "We're working the recovery; we're fighting back," said Andrew Golden, Florence County Emergency Management Division spokesman. Power restoration is going to be key in restoring normalcy to the lives of Florence County residents, Golden said. Black Creek at Quincy and the Lynches River at Effingham continued to recede toward their banks and the county's remaining shelter at South Florence High School is scheduled to close at 8 a. m. today, Golden said.

Sumter Item: Troops turn up to fill void

<http://www.theitem.com/stories/troops-turn-up-to-fill-void,277836>

A small army invaded North Sumter on Monday, and new troops are arriving daily. Contractors for Duke Energy descended on the city and are making camp at a spec building on Wise Drive near Sumter Airport. As of Wednesday morning, 700 contractors had arrived with convoys of trucks for linemen and other trucks to support the workers. Charlie Martin, site coordinator for Emergency Disaster Services, said reinforcements of about 300 more linemen should be on their way. Martin said EDS, which contracts with Duke Energy to provide the logistics concerning housing, parking, security, showers, laundry services and food service, set up 1,200 cots in the spec building Monday. On Wednesday, Martin was overseeing the offloading of a tractor-trailer load of water and food to feed the linemen breakfast, lunch and dinner. Duke Energy Communications Manager Ryan Mosier said the base camp serves roughly the counties of Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee and Sumter, but contractors are not limited to the geographic boundaries of the counties. Duke Energy Contract Specialist Eddie Baker was "onboarding" newly arriving contractors Wednesday morning.

Sumter Item: Tri-county region not in initial federal disaster aid area

<http://www.theitem.com/stories/disasterdeclaration,277837>

Sumter, Lee and Clarendon counties are not yet among the South Carolina counties President Obama declared part of a major disaster in the State of South Carolina, but Sumter County Emergency Management Director Erik Hayes says he is confident the county will qualify. The declaration allows the Federal Emergency Management Agency to partially reimburse local governments, state agencies, eligible private nonprofit organizations and electric co-operatives for certain expenses they have incurred. Federal disaster aid is not available for individual residents at this time, according to a press release from the governor's office. On Oct. 10, Gov. Nikki Haley formally requested a disaster declaration from the White House for Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Jasper, Marion and Williamsburg counties, according to the release. Her request followed an assessment of damages by representatives of South Carolina Emergency Management Division, Federal Emergency Management Agency, affected electric co-operatives, and local and municipal governments. As emergency managers assess the damage caused by Hurricane Matthew, FEMA could determine that additional counties are eligible to receive the federal assistance.

WIS: Farmers frustrated after weather damages crops for second straight year

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33378717/farmers-disappointed-after-crops-destroyed-by-storm-damage-for-second-straight-year>

For the second straight year, some farmers in South Carolina are expecting to take a loss on crops because of storm damage. Following Hurricane Matthew, some fields remain soaked and under water nearly destroying crops like cotton, soybeans, peanuts, and corn. The South Carolina Department of Agriculture reports there are farms still running on generators and hundreds of thousands of chickens have died because of that loss of power. One Marion County farmer said it's disappointing to be back in the place he was a year ago after the historic flood of October 2015. "It's kind of hard to work all year long and two years in a row have something get destroyed," said Neal Baxley. "You know, the weather's not in our hands. It's in somebody else's who's a lot larger's hands. We work with nature and we work with God's creation but it takes and it gives." At this point, it's too early to determine how much has been lost, but farmers believe some government aid may be needed.

WACH: Sumter County digging out after the wrath of Hurricane Matthew

<http://wach.com/news/local/sumter-county-digging-out-after-the-wrath-of-hurricane-matthew>

Sumter County is one of the many areas still struggling to recover after Hurricane Matthew. Though Wednesday night was the first night in days a curfew hasn't been in place and that is a sign normalcy is around the corner, the road to recovery is still ongoing for some residents. Sue Towery is one of those residents impacted by Matthew and still digging out after the storm. "Trees were all over the place," recalled Towery. The Sumter County woman lost power for three days after a tree fell on power lines outside her home. "I was lucky enough to have like a camp stove that I cooked with on the back porch, but basically everything had to be thrown out," she said. Debris, leaves and branches still line the streets in the Heathlywoods neighborhood, but Towery said she was one of the lucky ones as power has been restored to her home. As of Wednesday afternoon, 5,000 to 6,000 residents were without power.

WACH: "Rock star" interpreter inspires local elementary school class

<http://wach.com/news/local/rock-star-interpreter-inspires-local-elementary-school-class>

South Carolina's "rock star" interpreter Jason Hurdich paid a visit to a group of students who are in deaf/ hard of hearing classes at Brennan Elementary School Tuesday. Hurdich spoke to the students about the recent hurricane, weather and his profession. He told the children that to always believe in yourself and no goal is unattainable. Hurdich, who is the state's only certified deaf interpreter, has risen to fame over the last week for his signing work during Gov. Nikki Haley's recent news conferences on Hurricane Matthew. During her update Tuesday Haley thanked Hurdich and called him a true "rock star" for all his hard work.

WLTX: FEMA Crews Perform Initial Damage Assessment After Hurricane Matthew

<http://www.wltx.com/news/local/fema-crews-perform-initial-damage-assessment-after-hurricane-matthew/335145830>

Three FEMA crews are working in South Carolina to perform the initial damage assessment left behind by Hurricane Matthew. One of those crews is in Orangeburg County this week. Director of Emergency Services for Orangeburg County, Billy Staley says representatives from the Small Business Administration, Individual Assistance and Public Assistance are traveling around the county adding up the damages. He tells News 19, "We had significant damages in the Holly Hill area, from flooding, which gave us substantial numbers out of Holly Hill. But in the city of Orangeburg, this is one of the hardest hit neighborhoods. We have people that the poles were falling around them as they were leaving. "Late Wednesday afternoon, the electricity is back on, on Perryclear Street in Orangeburg, five days after Hurricane Matthew left his mark on Richard Hall's Home. He says five

trees total fell on his property. He says, "The carport is completely gone. Electrical service was torn off. That was just replaced today. truck damage. I actually have a limb in my master bathroom, so that's a nice new decoration."

WMBF: Over 200 guns stolen from Longs gun shop during Hurricane Matthew, owner says

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33376494/over-200-guns-stolen-from-longs-gun-shop-during-hurricane-matthew-owner-says>

A gun shop owner says about 225 guns were stolen from his Longs shop in the middle of Hurricane Matthew. While the owner of Five Star Guns is still struggling with being hit so hard during the storm, he's worried these guns are definitely in the wrong hands. "Broke the front doors, smashed the glass, and came in and just looted," owner Daniel Huneycutt said. Like many other businesses, Five Star Guns was without power throughout Hurricane Matthew. A friend who went to check out a fallen tree outside noticed something was seriously wrong at the shop and called the owner to get there as soon as possible. Huneycutt came upon a sight he is having trouble forgetting. "Glass everywhere, guns thrown out on the floor that they missed and didn't pick up, poured bleach over everything. Just made a mess of everything," he said. Not only does Huneycutt believe it must have been planned, he thinks the suspects knew exactly what they were coming for.

WMBF: More than 53K remain without power in Grand Strand, Pee Dee

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33345267/more-than-72k-remain-without-power-in-grand-strand-pee-dee>

Approximately 53,196 customers in our viewing area remained without power in the Grand Strand and Pee Dee Wednesday afternoon. Below is the list of electric companies and power outages as of 5:40 a.m. Thursday...

WBTW: Lineman crews working long hours in tough conditions to restore power

<http://wbtw.com/2016/10/13/16-hour-shifts-skipping-meals-and-leaving-homes-without-power-what-life-is-like-for-linesman-working-to-get-lights-back-on/>

Power outages are still affecting thousands of people across South Carolina. Horry County suffered some of the worst outages in the state. While it's easy to get frustrated when the power is off, hundreds of crews have been working 16 hour shifts to get the lights back on. About a hundred extra power crews from all over the country have been also been called in to help. They've had to remove large trees from power lines and roadways, repair broken poles, and have been working day and night. Crews started on substations and main line feeders which effects the bulk of customers, moved onto the taps that spring from those, and finally started fixing the transformers that feed individual neighborhoods. Often times these workers have left their own homes that lacked electricity to make sure others could get back up and running. "Some of my guys, they didn't have power until last night. We've got crews that came in to the area, places they're staying might not even have power. So, you know, that's the heart of them is to take care of the customers we have," said Luke Burgess, a crew supervisor for Santee Cooper.

WBTW: Explosion reported at electrical substation in Georgetown

<http://wbtw.com/2016/10/12/explosion-reported-at-electrical-substation-in-georgetown/>

A Santee Electric Cooperative substation has exploded on Saints Delight and Pennyroyal Road. Georgetown County spokesperson Jackie Broach confirms that an explosion occurred when the substation re-energized. According to Broach, there were no injuries reported. Evacuation of the area is in progress.

WPDE: 225 guns stolen from Longs gun store during Hurricane Matthew

<http://wpde.com/news/local/225-guns-taken-from-five-star-gun-in-longs-during-hurricane-matthew>

More than 225 guns were stolen sometime Saturday after 8 p.m., when Hurricane Matthew was coming in full force, according to Dan Huneycutt, owner of Five Star Gun in Longs. "There are a lot of really dangerous weapons now on the street," Huneycutt said. Huneycutt said the shop has a security system that they monitored until the power outage and until the batteries died. "The backup batteries only lasted about four hours," he said. "We watched the cameras until about 8 p.m., but after that the wind was so bad and we couldn't even get out." Huneycutt said he didn't even know about the break-in until Sunday morning. "We have a friend who is a retired police officer and he was going around Sunday taking pictures of damage and he stopped at the store to get a picture of a tree down," he said, "then he realized that something didn't look right and that is when he noticed the glass broken. "When Huneycutt finally got to the store and took inventory, he realized that more than 225 guns including handguns, assault rifles, AK's, rifles and shotguns were gone.

WPDE: Woman who lives behind the Waccamaw River: "It's like living in Hell."

<http://wpde.com/news/local/its-like-living-in-hell-woman-who-lives-behind-the-waccamaw-river>

The rising levels of the Waccamaw River have people who live near it facing the difficult situation of either being forced out or trapped. Lenore Letellier, who lives behind the Waccamaw River, said she doesn't have a boat. That means if she wants to get back home, she has to rely on neighbors. If she does go home, she doesn't know how long she'll be stuck there. She said going through this again is like living in Hell. The river has never gotten into her home, but if it crests at 17 feet like projected, then it might. "We are in danger of it coming to our house and really having some trouble," she said. She had to leave her husband and pets at home, so she could head to work and clock some much needed hours. "It's horrible, I mean, we just had to spend money on a generator because we're not going to have power for another 7 to 10 days. When you don't have an income coming and you're shelling out a big chunk of change like that to keep yourself safe and warm, it's horrible," she said.

WPDE: Coastal Carolina University evacuees return from Clemson

<http://wpde.com/news/local/coastal-carolina-university-evacuees-return-from-clemson>

Hurricane Matthew sent many people away from the coast, including students from Coastal Carolina University. Wednesday they returned to campus. 46 students from CCU that spent the past week waiting at Clemson University for the hurricane to pass. While they were at Clemson the students stayed in a former residence hall. Some students said the hardest part about being away was hearing about the devastation on the coast and not being able to do anything to help. "Hearing things like the pier got swept away and like some people were talking about how there was a tornado that touched down in North Myrtle Beach, I had to call and make sure because, like, that's a little nerve wracking you don't want anything to happen. Even though you're safe, your family is not," said Joshua Mishoe, a freshman at CCU. Now that students are back CCU officials say some Saturday classes will be required to make up for lost time in the lecture halls.

WCIV: More Edisto Beach residents allowed back in Thursday with day pass

<http://abcnews4.com/news/local/more-edisto-beach-residents-allowed-back-in-thursday-with-day-pass>

As several agencies, work along side members of the National Guard to clear Edisto Beach streets and roads, some residents are being allowed back on their property. For one day, residents of Edisto Beach worried their property may be buried beneath feet of sand will be allowed back home. Town officials say they have created a day pass schedule to allow residents to return and secure property. They expect to announce new areas that have been cleared each day by noon and schedule day

passes between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. In a press release issued Tuesday, town officials say some residents may have to wade through water to access property. "You may have to wade through water so dress appropriately with boots, long pants, etc. No resources are currently available. Plan to bring any supplies you need. Water, food, etc. No water is available for cleaning." Those wishing to get into the area will need to show an ID with their address before they will be issued a day pass.

WCIV: Charleston area non-profit will provide water to Hurricane Matthew devastated Haiti

<http://abcnews4.com/weather/hurricane-center/charleston-area-non-profit-will-provide-water-to-hurricane-matthew-devastated-haiti>

The extent of the damage in Haiti can hardly be put into words. Hurricane Matthew hit the small country with category 4 winds, nearly a thousand people were killed. Currently, thousands more are in dire need of food, shelter, and most importantly—clean drinking water. This week, officials report current conditions are desperate and diseases like cholera are spreading throughout the region. Water Mission, a Lowcountry non-profit is bringing disaster areas much needed relief over the next few days. The organization is shipping over two dozen water filtration systems, manufactured in their North Charleston warehouse. Each system can provide water for up to 5,000 people. On Wednesday, Douglas Greene, Water Mission's President and Chief Operating Officer said time is crucial, but getting there has not been easy. "While there are huge needs in the Carolinas that are a result of Hurricane Matthew, when you look at how they compare to what's going on in Haiti, it's really not comparable," Greene said.

WSPA: Hurricane Recovery Underway on SC Coast but Flooding Still an Issue

<http://wspa.com/2016/10/12/hurricane-recovery-underway-on-sc-coast-but-flooding-still-an-issue/>

South Carolina is assessing the damage from Hurricane Matthew and starting the recovery process in some parts of the state, but flooding in the Pee Dee has the state's Emergency Operations Center fully activated around the clock. "There's re-entry in most areas along the coast; not everywhere, but most areas along the coast, so things are proceeding I think reasonably well, given the circumstances," says Emergency Management Division director Kim Stenson. The EOC has had 671 requests from cities and counties for resources, things like generators, sandbags, aerial resources, and manpower and support staff. They're also getting requests for food and water. They're expecting more calls for assistance because of the flooding. "That's what a lot of people here are kind of planning for and geared up for, is potential requests from local authorities to assist with water rescues or water evacuations along those rivers," Stenson says. As of Wednesday evening, about 145,000 people were without power, down from a peak of 850,000 right after the storm. There are 12 shelters open with about 100 people in them, most of them in the Florence and Myrtle Beach areas.

General Assembly News:

Associated Press: Richland County Recreation leader indicted in sex case

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

A grand jury has indicted the leader of the Richland County Recreation Commission, saying he used his power to get woman to have sex with him. James Brown III was indicted Wednesday on one count of misconduct in office, which carried up to 10 years in prison. The Recreation Commission has angered county and state leaders for months. Richland County deputies, the State Law Enforcement Division and the FBI are all investigating sexual harassment, bribery and other allegations and the commission is fighting several lawsuits. The county is withholding funding for the commission as well. The indictment is the first charge to come out of those investigations. Brown was on paid leave when he was charged. It wasn't known if Brown had a lawyer.

The State: Indictment: Recreation Commission director forced "sexual contact" on female workers
<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article107751247.html>

The controversial director of the Richland County Recreation Commission has been indicted by a Richland County Grand Jury on one count of misconduct in office. James Brown III faces up to 10 years in prison if found guilty of misconduct in office. The one paragraph indictment alleges that from 2012 to 2015, Brown used his position as executive director of the Recreation Commission to coerce and attempt to coerce female employees into having sexual contact with him. Brown and the Recreation Commission, along with some other top employees and a pair board members, are named defendants the subjects of numerous pending civil lawsuits that accuse the director of various inappropriate behaviors, including sexual harassment, bribery and creating a hostile work environment. In April, a group of Richland County legislators called for an investigation into the Recreation Commission before later calling for the suspension of Brown and the resignation of five board members who have supported him. In July, Brown agreed to take a voluntary, paid leave of absence amid the swirling controversy and investigations by local, state and federal law enforcement.

SC Delegation News:

Post and Courier: Scott and the 'toxic' election dump

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161013/161019820/scott-and-the-toxic-election-dump>

Donald Trump charged in June that a "Mexican" judge born in Indiana couldn't fairly rule on lawsuits against his university. Back then, U.S. Sen. Tim Scott rightly called that remark "racially toxic." On Monday, Scott justifiably played the "toxic" card on Trump again during a visit with The Post and Courier editorial board. He branded Trump's ugly comments in a vulgar video, recorded in 2005 without his knowledge and released last Friday, as "toxic, indefensible, disgusting words." Our junior senator lamented of his party's presidential nominee: "He's said so many indefensible things it's just breathtaking." Yet Scott is still backing Trump: "I think you have to look at his opponent, as well. She has said some offensive, abrasive, downright mean things, as well." And: "I think the Supreme Court weighs heavily on my heart."

Greenville News: 'Relationships' are key to solving poverty, U.S. Sen. Tim Scott tells Clemson students

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/pickens-county/2016/10/12/us-sen-tim-scott-visits-mckissick-elementary/91958540/>

Government programs have failed to solve poverty in America, but a new nongovernmental movement that acknowledges the critical role that human relationships play in reaching people in need is offering hope, U.S. Sen. Tim Scott said in a forum at Clemson University on Wednesday. Scott spoke as part of an event showcasing a documentary on programs that have been successful in inner city neighborhoods. Scott was among those featured in the film, produced by an organization called Opportunity Lives. "I'm a strong believer in the concept of each one, love one," said Scott, who told about how a young Citadel graduate turned his life around when he was struggling after his parents' divorce when he was seven years old. "People are hopeless because they are without relationships," the Republican senator said. "Be that person who shows up when there's nothing in it for you." About 50 students participated in the event, which included watching segments of the documentary, "Comeback," which included footage of Scott in his old neighborhood in Charleston.

SC Political News:

The State: SC sees a quarter-million new voters in 2016

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article107714567.html>

South Carolina's electorate is growing at a faster rate than the population at large. A total of 3,134,652 voters registered for the 2016 general election, according to the S.C. Election Commission, a 9 percent jump from the 2,875,221 voters in 2012. The Election Commission released the total voter numbers on Wednesday, after an extended deadline passed for would-be voters to get their applications in. The state's total population grew less than 6 percent in the five years from the 2010 census, from 4,625,364 to an estimate of 4,896,146 in 2015. The heated presidential race may be encouraging previously unregistered voters to sign up, after primaries earlier this year saw historic turnout levels and the first presidential debate between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump drew a record audience. Final numbers show a 43 percent jump in Hispanic voter registration, while Asian registration is up 34 percent. White registration is up 10 percent, and the number of African-American voters went up 5 percent.

The State: More, diverse SC voters set for Election Day

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article107804462.html>

The number of S.C. voters is growing at a faster rate than the state's population. A total of 3,134,652 South Carolinians are registered to vote in November's general election, up 9 percent from 2012, according to the S.C. Election Commission. That increase added 259,431 voters to the Palmetto State's voter rolls ahead of the Nov. 8 election. Those increased numbers also show some shifts in the state's demographics, including... In comparison, the state's population grew less than 6 percent — to an estimated 4,896,146 — from 2015 to 2010. The Election Commission released the voter numbers Wednesday, after it extended the registration deadline for would-be voters to get their applications in. With Hurricane Matthew approaching last week, many county voter offices shut down ahead of Saturday's registration deadline. In response, state officials extended the deadline to midnight Sunday for online applications and to Tuesday for mail-in registrations.

LGBT Laws:

Sun News: Coastal Carolina will host ACC Women's Basketball Tournament in 2017

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/sports/college/article107678282.html>

The Grand Strand will be the site of two Atlantic Coast Conference collegiate championships this school year. On Wednesday, the conference announced the 2017 ACC Women's Basketball Tournament will be held March 1-5 at the HTC Center on the campus of Coastal Carolina University. Last week, the conference announced its 2017 54-hole women's golf championship will be held at the private Reserve Club in Pawleys Island, likely from April 13-15. The ACC said it would move 10 neutral-site championships out of North Carolina because of the state's passing of House Bill 2, which many believe restricts the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people. The women's hoops tournament was the final event to find a new home for 2016-17. This season's football championship game was moved from Charlotte to Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press: ACC moves women's basketball tournament to South Carolina

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

The Atlantic Coast Conference is moving its women's basketball tournament to South Carolina after relocating it from North Carolina because of a law that restricts the rights of LGBT people. League officials announced Wednesday that the tournament is headed to Myrtle Beach. The ACC pulled 10 neutral-site championships out of North Carolina last month because of the law. Coastal Carolina will host the tournament from March 1-5. It's the conference's seventh appearance in the state of South

Carolina and first since a five-year run in Rock Hill from 1992-96. ACC women's basketball associate commissioner Nora Lynn Finch said the conference also was looking at Florida and Virginia as possible sites. She didn't know if Myrtle Beach was going to be a one-year site.

Associated Press: Notre Dame picked to win ACC again; tournament moving to SC

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=N1rfbil2

It seems like an annual rite of the preseason to pick Notre Dame to win the Atlantic Coast Conference. The three-time defending champion Fighting Irish were selected Wednesday to win the ACC again. They've been the favorite every year since joining the conference before the 2013-14 season. Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw knows it won't be easy to win a fourth straight title. "This league is getting better every year," she said. "We have a lot of young talent to go along with a strong veteran group, but there are a lot of really good teams in this conference." To win a fourth consecutive conference title, the Irish will have to do it in a new venue. The ACC announced Wednesday that its conference tournament would relocate from Greensboro, North Carolina, to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, because of a state law that restricts the rights of LGBT people. The ACC pulled 10 neutral-site championships out of North Carolina last month because of the law.

Keith Scott Shooting:

Charlotte Observer: Keith Lamont Scott's second autopsy released

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/special-reports/charlotte-shooting-protests/article107865957.html>

Keith Lamont Scott's widow told CBS news that she doesn't believe a black police officer shot and killed her husband, contradicting a scenario presented by Charlotte Mecklenburg Police investigators of the deadly encounter that took place last month in a University City parking lot. Rakeyia Scott told "CBS This Morning" co-host Gayle King in an interview broadcast Thursday that race played a "100 percent role" in the death of her husband, who is African American. Scott stopped short of accusing one of the white officers on the scene of shooting her husband, and said she isn't sure what CMPD has to gain by saying a black officer was the shooter. However, activists around the nation have said the shooting is the latest example of police brutality against African Americans. Such accusations were made repeatedly during a week of violent protests in Charlotte that followed Scott's shooting. The violence included looting, vandalism of more than two dozen uptown sites.

Savannah River Site/MOX News:

Aiken Standard: Energy Department to hold meetings for next Savannah River Site management, operations contract

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20161012/161019829/energy-department-to-hold-meetings-for-next-savannah-river-site-management-operations-contract>

The Savannah River Site management and operations contract with the U.S. Department of Energy is set to expire, leading DOE to hold industry and community days to clarify the needs of the department and SRS stakeholders. The Energy Department said in a news release, "The Industry Day and Community Day presentations will provide a site overview and technical discussion of the major elements of scope for the anticipated procurement, and encourage industry/community feedback to aid the Department in the development of the acquisition strategy." According to the release, one-on-one sessions will last 30 minutes and give interested parties a chance to present their thoughts and suggestions on the procurement. Industry Day will be held Oct. 24. Community Day is set for Oct. 27. "DOE recognizes the importance of including the public and community stakeholders at an early

stage of the process," the release said. "Through the Community Day activities, the public and community stakeholders will have the opportunity to meet DOE and provide feedback to aid the Department in the development of the Acquisition Plan."

Aiken Standard: Savannah River Site tank closure procedures could activate old leak sites

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20161012/161019852/savannah-river-site-tank-closure-procedures-could-activate-old-leak-sites>

Liquid waste management and disposal progress at Savannah River Site are crossing a risk threshold as efforts get under way to close the next waste tank. In a press release Wednesday, the U. S. Department of Energy announced that processes to remove the sludge waste from Tank 15 could reactivate old leak sites in the tank. In order to prepare the sludge to be turned into glass through the Defense Waste Processing Facility, it must be mixed to meet material requirements for the infrastructure to handle the waste stream. As the sludge is mixed, the volume of material in the tank could rise to the levels of previously documented leak points in the tank's primary tank wall. According to the release, a containment system is in place around the tank to keep any potential leak contained, similar to a cup and saucer arrangement.

Opinion/Editorial:

The State: Is that candidate clueless, or trying to mislead you?

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scope/article107799807.html>

WITH A DEEPLY disturbing presidential campaign sucking all the oxygen out of the room, voters with legislative elections to consider this fall are very nearly on their own. So a bit of advice: Beware of candidates promising to make lawmakers tell us where they get their income. Or candidates promising to make lawmakers stop policing their own ethics. Those promises might not mean as much as they seem to. In fact, the best thing you can do is to ask precisely what it is those candidates mean. If they stare blankly or start stammering, that suggests they either don't know, or else are hoping you don't know, that the Legislature passed laws this year to make both of those reforms. Both possibilities are much bigger problems than the flaws in our ethics law, and they raise some serious questions about the candidates. They're problems we see over and over with candidates at all levels — in fact, it's probably the most consistent problem I've seen in a quarter century of writing about elections; it's just that the ethics claims have struck me the most this year.

Aiken Standard: Editorial: Williston Public Schools 29 fixes public input paradox

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20161011/161019866/editorial-williston-public-schools-29-fixes-public-input-paradox>

After months of pressing by the Aiken Standard, we're happy to report that public access to the business of Williston Public Schools 29 has taken a positive step forward. At its September monthly board meeting, school board members voted unanimously to reduce the cutoff time to speak in public participation — also known as public input — from three days to one. This was a critical step in ensuring openness and transparency. Not only was the three-day threshold a restrictive policy in its own right, but it also made it virtually impossible for the public to participate in the board's business. Williston 29 often provides notice of its meetings one to two days ahead of time, in compliance with the law, which requires 24 hours notice. But with the cutoff for public input previously set three days out, taxpayers had no chance of addressing the board's business until a month later. During the summer, we minted the phrase "public input paradox" to describe the board's old way of doing things. The board's policy troubled us so much that the Aiken Standard took the unusual step of signing up for public participation to air our concerns in person.

NOTE: Gov. Nikki Haley affirmed this in May 2016, when she vetoed a bill that would've restricted the release of teacher evaluations.

Post and Courier: Revealing diagnosis of Obamacare

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161013/161019803/revealing-diagnosis-of-obamacare>

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is misguided — and misnamed. The landmark law also, according to a withering assessment last week from a prominent American, has created a "crazy system where all of a sudden 25 million more people have health care and then the people who are out there busting it, sometimes 60 hours a week, wind up with their premiums doubled and their coverage cut in half. It's the craziest thing in the world." That astute diagnosis wasn't expressed by Donald Trump, Mike Pence, Nikki Haley, Tim Scott or another Republican. It was delivered by former President Bill Clinton at a campaign rally in Flint, Mich., for his wife Hillary, the Democratic White House nominee who has stressed her commitment to building on the alleged successes of the ACA. Mr. Clinton, since providing that fair analysis, has been trying to, in the modern political vernacular, "walk it back." For instance, at a rally in Athens, Ohio, one day after his "craziest" comment, he gave this damage-control spin: "Look, the Affordable Health Care Act did a world of good, and the 50-something efforts to repeal it that the Republicans have staged were a terrible mistake. We, for the first time in our history, at least are providing insurance to more than 90 percent of our people." Yet the fundamental truth of his initial observation last week persists.

South Carolina News:

Greenville News: SC reports first flu death of the season

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/10/12/sc-reports-first-flu-death-season/91967048/>

South Carolina has reported its first flu-related fatality so far this season with the death of someone from the Midlands last week, health officials said Wednesday. In addition, five people have been hospitalized for the disease, according to the state Department of Health and Environmental Control. "We are in the beginning stages of our state's flu season," said Dr. Teresa Foo, an immunization medical consultant with the DHEC. "The flu vaccine is still the best way to prevent serious illness this fall and winter." Flu season typically runs from October to March, peaking in February. Symptoms include sudden onset of fever, headache, extreme fatigue, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose and muscle aches. Children may also have nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

Associated Press: Residents of 5 states risk penalties over 9/11 Real ID law

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=rx2YFAcA

Residents of five states may be barred from boarding a commercial flight using a driver's license beginning in 2018 because of their states' refusal to comply with national proof-of-identity requirements. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security confirmed Wednesday that it rejected requests from Oklahoma, Kentucky, Maine, Pennsylvania and South Carolina for an extension to comply with the federal Real ID Act. The law, passed in 2005 in response to the 9/11 attacks, imposes tougher requirements for proof of legal U.S. residency in order for state driver's licenses to be valid for federal purposes. Three other states - Minnesota, Missouri and Washington - were previously notified that they are not in compliance with federal law. Twenty-three other states and the District of Columbia are in compliance, while others are under review or have been granted limited extensions, DHS reported on its website.

Associated Press: Army: Come tour Fort Jackson and see how your soldiers train

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

Get a chance to eat Army chow, get yelled at by drill sergeants and blast away with a simulated rifle during a public tour of the Army's largest training installation. Commander Maj. Gen. Pete Johnson is inviting the public to visit Fort Jackson. The eight-hour tour is on Oct. 20, but Thursday is the last day to register. The tour reveals what happens during the soldiers' first days in the military. Visitors tour training sites, see a military graduation and spend a lot of time walking. Lunch costs \$5.55. The event begins at 7:30 a.m. and is open to people 13 and older. Space is limited and reservations are required. For more information or to register please call Fort Jackson Community Relations at (803) 751-1474.

Associated Press : South Carolina State Fair offers break from storm

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Kp3tVMOI

As the state works to recover from the effects of Hurricane Matthew, the South Carolina State Fair has opened in Columbia, a welcome diversion for many people. The fair opened at midday Wednesday and will run through Oct. 23. The 147th State Fair includes several new foods, three new rides and plenty of other activities. The fall-like weather and sunny skies seemed to be just what fairgoers were looking for Wednesday. Assistant general manager Nancy Smith says fair officials expect about 500,000 to attend this year.

The State : State Fair opens to hundreds waiting for food, rides and exhibits

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article107865422.html>

After a rough week following Hurricane Matthew, South Carolinians seem ready for fun. At least that's what the lines seemed to indicate Wednesday, as people streamed in at noon for the start of the 147th State Fair. With 12 days of fair fun ahead – including several new foods, three new rides and other activities – many visitors on the first day sought out their favorite traditions. Tatianna Harmon, a student at Midlands Technical College, went for her favorite first stop – the food – snapping up some vinegar fries, along with powdered-sugar-topped donuts. Jill Hunt, who traveled from Lake City for opening day, came for the food but was tempted by some of the other attractions, too. "I'm here for the candy apples and the animals. I'm also looking forward to the 'sundae specials,' and I'm interested in the Cracker Jack caramel sundae," she said, noting some of the new foods this year. Jaime Smith was starting a new tradition for his family, bringing his double-stroller-bound newborns for their first experience at the fair. "I'm a sucker for the Elephant Ears," Smith said. "It's a whole experience."

Local News:

Sun News : Human traffickers are targeting children in the Grand Strand, forum speakers say

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article107871137.html>

Human trafficking is a big problem in the Grand Strand where victims as young as 4 years old have reported being forced into sexual servitude, but leaders across the state are "deputizing" citizens to help them fight it. Four Horry County residents were arrested and charged with sexual exploitation in March after a 4-year-old girl and 4-year-old boy said they were forced to have sex with their siblings and other adults. Another case emerged a month later when a woman told North Myrtle Beach police she was sexually and physically assaulted for months by a man, who operates a Mexican store where she was allegedly being held in a back room. Both cases are still pending in court, but they aren't the only signs of trafficking local law enforcement officers have seen. Labor trafficking is also a huge problem. International guests, who come here to work for a season, can find themselves trapped in a life of slavery when their passports are held at ransom, according to speakers at a human trafficking forum in North Myrtle Beach on Wednesday.

The State: As SC falls on domestic violence list, North Columbia business leaders still worried

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article107753192.html>

A pageant winner and a police chief shared a mic Wednesday to talk about cupcakes and guns for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The news conference was hosted by the North Columbia Business Association, because members are concerned about incidents of domestic violence in the 29203 zip code. "Domestic violence affects every area of our lives," said Sabrina Odom, executive director for the business association. Columbia Police Chief Skip Holbrook took the conference, held at Eau Claire Town Hall, as a chance to come down hard on how easy it is to get a gun in South Carolina. "Guns remain the primary weapon when it comes to domestic violence homicides," Holbrook said. "I make no secret – I think guns are way too accessible." When guns fall into the hands of those under mental and emotional stress, Holbrook said, it leads to disaster.

The State: Columbia police get \$2 million to fight gun crime and domestic violence

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article107783662.html>

The Columbia Police Department is beefing up its manpower thanks to more than \$2 million in grants, with the goals of targeting gun violence and helping victims of domestic and sexual assault. The money comes in three grants, two from the U.S. Department of Justice and one from the S.C. Department of Public Safety, according to a news release. They're meant to enhance Columbia's community policing. "We're so proud of the work they've been doing, and we're excited to see how our community will benefit in receiving these grants," Mayor Steve Benjamin said. Funds from a three-year grant will cover salary and benefits for 15 new officers. The department's application asked for these officers specifically to combat gun violence. That's also the target of the second grant, allocated over two years, and directed toward Ceasefire Columbia. That program started last year to address gun crime in the 29203 neighborhoods of Columbia, and works to deter people who are on probation or parole from committing firearms-related offenses.

WIS: Law enforcement, business leaders come together to fight domestic violence

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33377622/law-enforcement-business-leaders-come-together-to-fight-domestic-violence>

The battle against domestic violence got an extra boost Wednesday on Columbia's north side. Members of the Columbia Police Department, Richland County Sheriff's Department, and North Columbia Business Association were among those who came together to fight the issue. Recently, South Carolina has been ranked as having one of the country's highest rates of domestic violence. Columbia Police Chief Skip Holbrook said the state has been improving, but there is still a lot of work to do especially when it comes to the role of guns. "We also can't lose track of the fact that guns remain the primary weapon when it comes to domestic violence and you know I make no secret," Chief Holbrook said. "I think guns are way too accessible. I think gun accessibility and guns falling into the wrong hands of people that are under mental stress, mental duress, emotional duress, especially in domestic violence situations, it leads to disaster." Chief Holbrook said gun-related domestic violence isn't only a criminal matter, but it is also a public health issue.

The Herald: Family wants Chester parolee's name cleared: "They wanted to put our black men in jail"

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/andrew-dys/article107815907.html>

In a little house on Cemetery Street in Chester, Wednesday morning brought both joy and anger. Joy, that James Robert McClurkin, 61, who has been in prison since age 18 for crimes he and his family say he did not commit, was paroled Tuesday on his 16th try. And anger, that it took so long. And still, McClurkin's name has not been cleared. Yet. The people inside that house said that in the 1970s,

when a white man was killed, a black man was one thing: a suspect."In Chester in those days, and even these days, they wanted to put our black men in jail," said Linda Hardy, McClurkin's sister. "Our mother died when he was in prison. My father died 11 months later, trying to find him a lawyer to save him. They died because their hearts were broke."Hardy's daughter, Wanda White, put it bluntly: "What happened to my uncle – he went away when I was a baby – is pure racism. He never had a life. They stole it."Raymond McClurkin, James McClurkin's younger brother, was 11 years old when his brother went to prison."They took his whole life away," Raymond McClurkin said.

Associated Press: Clemson University police investigate KKK fliers, slurs

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=LPF5sR2Z

Clemson University police are investigating the discovery of Ku Klux Klan recruitment fliers that appeared around the South Carolina school's campus recently. The Clemson University Police Department said in a news release that officers have increased patrols following the appearance of the flyers over the weekend as well as three separate reports of students being subjected to racial slurs Monday while walking across campus. Authorities say officers stopped and identified the individuals responsible in two of those three cases. None had ties to the university. The KKK fliers were found inside several clear, zipped bags. Investigators believe they were dropped from a moving vehicle. Police said they are in contact with local, state and federal law enforcement partners regarding the incidents.

Independent Mail: Clemson U. police investigate KKK fliers

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/2016/10/12/clemson-university-police-investigating-kkk-flyers/91954582/>

Clemson University police are looking into the discovery of Ku Klux Klan recruitment fliers found on campus Monday. CUPD chief Eric Hendricks said the fliers were found "along some campus roadways and parking lots" and in Oconee County. His staff is looking at video surveillance that indicates the zip locked packets of fliers were thrown out from a moving car. He said the investigation continues, but said no arrests are in the works. University police also reported Monday that there have been a few incidents of Clemson students being "subjected to racial slurs and other inappropriate conduct while walking on our campus." CUPD officers did stop and identify the individuals responsible in those cases, who had no ties to the university, according to a statement from campus media relations.

Post and Courier: Charleston gets approval for "homeless court" pilot project

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161012/161019845/charleston-gets-approval-for-homeless-court-pilot-project>

Charleston is getting the state's second municipal court set up especially to deal with minor crimes committed by the homeless as advocates look to break the cycle for its participants. The state Supreme Court approved the alternative pilot program Wednesday after it was requested for a test launch by the South Carolina Access to Justice Commission. The homeless court has been years in the making and has drawn support from multiple levels of the legal community, including the American Bar Association. As envisioned, the actual courtroom will be situated at the One80 Place homeless shelter off Meeting Street, where the judges, court clerks and bailiffs would set up a functioning courtroom in the area currently serving as the shelter dining room. That means cases would be heard in the same building where many of the area's homeless find their temporary housing — and not at the city of Charleston's municipal building on Lockwood Boulevard where the current municipal courtroom and police station operate.

Post and Courier: MUSC to pay \$87,000 in malpractice case involving deceased patient

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161012/161019824/musc-to-pay-87000-in-malpractice-case-involving-deceased-patient>

The Medical University of South Carolina must pay more than \$87,000 in attorney fees and costs after a court found that employees altered paperwork, provided false testimony and took too long to produce medical records for the family of a deceased patient. In a court sanction dated Sept. 28, the Charleston County Court of Common Pleas found that the hospital mishandled records for 49-year-old Charles Mikell, a patient who went to the hospital on Oct. 1, 2010, for a colonoscopy. While under anesthesia for the procedure, Mikell's blood oxygen level "dropped to dangerous levels" and he ultimately went into cardiac arrest, according to the sanction. Mikell was rescued from cardiac arrest but stayed hospitalized at MUSC until his death on Jan. 2, 2011. According to the sanction, Mikell's family noted several discrepancies when they obtained his medical chart, including eight minutes of missing blood oxygen data on an anesthesia report.

Independent Mail: Anderson County leaders to discuss rescue squads' health

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/10/12/anderson-county-leaders-discuss-rescue-squads-health/91971638/>

The Anderson County Council will go behind closed doors Thursday to find out whether the rescue squads that residents depend on are fiscally healthy or weak. The findings could shape the future of emergency medical care in Anderson County. Anderson County Council Chairman Tommy Dunn said the findings will not be discussed in a public forum because they relate to "contractual matters" and because elected officials need to be able to have "an open and free discussion" about whatever information is presented to them. Dunn said that while he has not seen the written findings, he has been briefed on them, and some parts of it are "not what we would hope." "In a nutshell, the people of Anderson County are paying for emergency medical services and they are not getting the most bang for their buck," he said. He declined to elaborate, saying that anything else would be speculation without a document to back it up.

Independent Mail: Toccoa police, firefighters to carry naloxone

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/northeast-georgia/2016/10/11/toccoa-police-firefighters-carry-narcan/91901782/>

Members of the Toccoa police and fire departments soon will carry a drug that can help save the life of a person overdosing on opioids. Toccoa city commissioners unanimously approved on Monday the administration of naloxone by Toccoa police officers and firefighters. The resolution states that the police and fire departments will "use and have available" the drug "under approved guidelines and subject to undergoing comprehensive and approved training," said Toccoa City Manager Billy Morse. Toccoa has been awarded a grant to buy naloxone and to train the police and fire departments about how to properly administer the drug. Naloxone is used to help save the life of someone who has overdosed on opioids, such as heroin and morphine, by temporarily blocking the effects of such drugs.

Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press: 2016 race devolves into ugly fight over treatment of women

<http://bigstory.ap.org/6b66c9d2df3f4e72b19d3bef20c03b02>

Already deeply divisive, America's campaign for president is quickly devolving into an ugly fight over who has treated women worse: Donald Trump, whose White House bid is floundering, or former President Bill Clinton, who isn't on the ballot. Trump's campaign is now openly signaling it will spend

the election's final month relitigating Bill Clinton's marital affairs and unproven charges of sexual assault, as well as his wife and Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton's unverified role in intimidating the women who were involved. But Trump is a deeply imperfect messenger, given that his attacks on the Clintons' treatment of women are being overshadowed by a flood of allegations that he kissed and groped women without their consent. On Wednesday, The New York Times and the Palm Beach Post reported stories about three women who alleged Trump had inappropriately touched them. Separately, a People Magazine reporter wrote a detailed first-person account of being attacked by Trump while interviewing the businessman and his wife, Melania Trump.

Associated Press : In key battleground, love for late Democrat shifts to Trump

<http://bigstory.ap.org/37f9fe0c1309489db916d4c93e9da7ea>

Countless former Democrats in Ohio's blue-collar Mahoning Valley are transferring their adoration for the late Democratic U.S. Rep. James A. Traficant Jr. to Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump. When 76-year-old Connie Kessler casts her vote for the brash and big-haired billionaire Trump, she is sure the equally brash and big-haired Traficant, who died in 2014, will be looking down and smiling. "Jim Traficant used to yell and holler and scream for the people," Kessler said. "I mean, he went out there and fought his heart out. And that's what Trump is doing." It's a pivotal voting trend in the battleground-inside-a-battleground that is Youngstown. More than 1 million registered Democrats and independents voted Republican in Ohio's presidential primary, according to state elections data. One of the biggest swings was in Mahoning County, where more than half of Trump's 11,000-vote primary victory came from crossover voters.

National News:

Associated Press : The Latest: Wounded Boston police officers out of surgery

<http://bigstory.ap.org/2fcfdf95a01a4e44b2b754c0f69e78b1>

Two Boston police officers shot and critically injured responding to a domestic incident are out of surgery. Police Commissioner William Evans tells WBZ-AM on Thursday morning that he understood that surgery "went well" and the officers' families are with them. He says they were shot Wednesday night by a 33-year-old man with body armor and what he described as an "assault" rifle. The suspect was shot and killed by police. Evans described a "hectic scene" with other officers rushing to the aid of their injured colleagues and pulling them to safety. He said one officer fashioned a tourniquet, while another put a finger on one of the wounds. The injured officers' names were not immediately released. He says deadly force is a last resort for police but in this case "we had to do what we had to do."

World News:

Associated Press : Iran says it is deploying two warships off Yemen

<http://bigstory.ap.org/f03b50ff873a471c88ebb1538c1e3dc9>

Iran says it will deploy two warships into the Bab el-Mandeb strait and the Gulf of Aden, making the announcement just hours after a U.S. missile strike on Yemen. The semi-official Tasnim news agency announced Thursday the movement of the Alvand and the Bushehr. It described the maneuver as part of a regular anti-piracy patrol off Yemen and East Africa. But the announcement came just after the U. S. carried out strikes for the first time against Yemen's Shiite Houthi rebels, who are supported by Iran. The American strikes hit three radar facilities belonging to the Houthis after missile fire from rebel-held areas hit near the USS Mason, a U.S. warship deployed off Yemen.

Associated Press: 'Extremely dangerous' Hurricane Nicole to pummel Bermuda

<http://bigstory.ap.org/cbfe9d39d2c9410ca84f7e364e46c121>

The British territory of Bermuda hunkered down overnight as Hurricane Nicole rapidly strengthened into a major Category 4 storm and took aim at the tiny island in the northern Atlantic Ocean. The U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami called Nicole an "extremely dangerous" storm and urged islanders to rush preparations for its powerful rain and winds. It said Nicole should pass near Bermuda on Thursday morning. The storm was located about 100 miles (165 kilometers) southwest of Bermuda early Thursday morning. It had maximum sustained winds of 130 mph (215 kph) and was moving north-northeast at 15 mph (24 kph). Rains were already hitting Bermuda and authorities Wednesday ordered schools and government offices closed, and asked people to remain indoors. "I believe we are generally ready for it," Premier Michael Dunkley said. "Now we just have to hope and pray for the best."

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