

**From:** Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>  
**To:**  
**Date:** 11/17/2016 8:34:38 AM  
**Subject:** Morning Clips – Thursday, November 17, 2016

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## Morning Clips – Thursday, November 17, 2016

### Gov. Nikki Haley elected RGA Vice Chairwoman:

#### **RGA:** RGA Announces 2017 Leadership

<https://www.rga.org/rga-announces-2017-leadership/>

The Republican Governors Association announced today that Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker was elected to serve as the RGA Chair for 2017. Additionally, South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley was elected to serve as Vice Chair. Both assume the positions immediately. "Governor Scott Walker never backed down from a challenge, and after he helped build a better tomorrow for Wisconsin, I'm confident that his tireless work ethic and strong leadership will greatly benefit the RGA," said outgoing RGA Chair Susana Martinez. "The record Governor Walker has established in Wisconsin is enormously impressive, and his experience of winning three gubernatorial elections amid turning his state from blue to red will be vital to ensuring our governors and candidates have the resources they need to win in 2017. It has been an honor to serve with him as my Vice Chair for this past year and I look forward to the success he will achieve as the RGA's Chairman for 2017."

#### **Associated Press:** Haley takes bigger leadership role in GOP governors' group

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=M7bA1TNB](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=M7bA1TNB)

SC State Wire

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is taking a bigger leadership role in the Republican Governors Association, further boosting her national profile. The association announced Wednesday that Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker was elected chairman for 2017, and Haley was elected vice chairwoman. The posts take effect immediately. The move means Haley will likely ascend to chairwoman in 2018, the last year of her tenure. The Republican Governors Association held its annual conference this week at in Orlando. The association's outgoing chairwoman, New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez, says Haley's "experience and insight will be integral to the success of our governors and candidates."

Haley's predecessor as South Carolina governor also led the association. Former Gov. Mark Sanford resigned that post as chairman in 2009 when he admitted an extramarital affair.

#### **Post and Courier:** S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley elected RGA vice chairwoman

[http://www.postandcourier.com/news/s-c-gov-nikki-haley-named-rga-vice-chairwoman/article\\_8658bcee-ac13-11e6-b107-478c3b47356d.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/news/s-c-gov-nikki-haley-named-rga-vice-chairwoman/article_8658bcee-ac13-11e6-b107-478c3b47356d.html)

Gavin Jackson

Gov. Nikki Haley was elected vice chairwoman of the Republican Governors Association by her counterparts Wednesday. Republican governors also elected Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker the group chairman as they ended their annual conference in Orlando, Fla. "Republican governors are making a difference, delivering results to the people of their states, and our record-breaking majority shows that the RGA knows what it takes to elect effective leaders," Haley said in a statement. "I look forward to working with Gov. Walker, a trusted friend and colleague, to recruit strong candidates and build on RGA's historic progress in the months ahead." Haley and Walker are two of the 33 Republican governors leading states in 2017, something that hasn't happened in 94 years.

#### **The State:** SC Gov. Haley elected vice chair of the Republican Governors Association

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article115176133.html>

Cassie Cope

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley was elected vice chairman of the Republican Governors Association on Wednesday. Typically, vice chairs become chair of the association the following year. For Haley, that means she would chair the GOP governors group in 2018, her final year as S.C. governor.

“Republican governors are making a difference, delivering results to the people of their states, and our record breaking majority shows that the RGA knows what it takes to elect effective leaders,” said Gov. Haley in a news release. “I look forward to working with Governor Walker, a trusted friend and colleague, to recruit strong candidates and build on RGA’s historic progress in the months ahead.” Political observers say that position will elevate Haley’s national spotlight.

### **Gov. Haley Touted As Possible Secretary of State:**

**McClatchy DC:** SC Gov. Nikki Haley to meet with Donald Trump in New York

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/national/article115300958.html>

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley will meet face-to-face with president-elect Donald Trump in New York City on Thursday, his transition office confirmed on Wednesday night. South Carolina Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster said on Wednesday that members of Trump’s presidential transition team have discussed Haley as a potential secretary of state, as well as for at least one other position. “Her name has been mentioned,” McMaster said, adding, “The depths of consideration for the various names that have been mentioned for various things, I couldn’t tell you.” The meeting with Haley signals a turnaround in Trump’s transition work. Previously the president-elect has mainly met with early supporters of his White House bid, rewarding their loyalty by considering them for top jobs in his administration. Haley was critical of Trump’s candidacy during the campaign, even using her high-profile position giving the Republican State of the Union response in January to urge her party to resist “the siren call of the angriest voices.”

**WSJ:** Trump’s Team Makes Overtures to Democrats as Transition Push Ramps Up

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/trumps-team-makes-overtures-to-democrats-as-transition-push-ramps-up-1479343438>

Peter Nicholas and Michael C. Bender

President-elect Donald Trump is making overtures to Democrats as his transition efforts ramp up, meeting with New York Mayor Bill de Blasio and signaling support for a public-works building program similar to one his partisan opponents have long favored. Mr. Trump hosted the Democratic mayor at an hourlong meeting at Trump Tower in New York, while Vice President-elect Mike Pence went to Vice President Joe Biden’s official residence in Washington for a talk, tour and lunch. It was their second meeting, and Mr. Biden said afterward he was “confident” the government would be “in good hands” after Mr. Trump’s inauguration. On Thursday, Mr. Pence, who heads the Trump transition team, is set to meet with House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California and Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York, who was chosen this week as the new minority leader. Mr. Pence’s portfolio will include shepherding the new president’s agenda through the House and Senate.

**NOTE:** Mr. Trump is meeting on Thursday with Oracle Chief Executive Officer Safra Catz and South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, a transition team spokesman said. Ms. Haley, who reportedly is being considered for a position in his administration, was sharply critical of Mr. Trump’s candidacy during the primary. She rejected his proposal to ban Muslim immigration and said he was “everything a governor doesn’t want in a president.”

**Washington Times:** South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley meeting with Donald Trump Thursday

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/nov/17/nikki-haley-meeting-donald-trump-thursday/>  
David Sherfinski

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is set to meet with President-elect Donald Trump Thursday as Mr. Trump considers a host of candidates to fill key administration slots. “We’re very happy that Governor Haley is coming to meet with President-elect Trump. I’m sure they’ll have a broad, wide-ranging conversation,” Trump transition official Kellyanne Conway said on “CBS This Morning.” Ms. Haley’s

name has been mentioned as a possible secretary of state for Mr. Trump, along with former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, former Ambassador to the U.N. John Bolton and Sen. Bob Corker. Ms. Conway said Mr. Giuliani is “a leading contender for any number of positions.”

**Post and Courier:** Gov. Nikki Haley meeting with Trump Thursday for administration job, sources report

[http://www.postandcourier.com/news/gov-nikki-haley-meeting-with-trump-thursday-for-administration-job/article\\_4f4f4182-ac40-11e6-b549-a3182d3bb377.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/news/gov-nikki-haley-meeting-with-trump-thursday-for-administration-job/article_4f4f4182-ac40-11e6-b549-a3182d3bb377.html)

Andy Shain and Schuyler Kropf

Gov. Nikki Haley is scheduled to meet with President-elect Donald Trump Thursday amid growing reports she is being considered for a spot in his administration. News of the meeting, set for the morning in New York, began to filter out late Wednesday night from multiple press outlets. It also came after Trump-ally Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster told The Post and Courier earlier in the day he and Haley are being considered for Cabinet positions in Trump's White House. McMaster said Haley is being considered for several posts including secretary of state. McMaster, one of Trump's earliest statewide political endorsers, said the daughter of Indian immigrants could provide a fresh set of eyes on foreign affairs. “It would be like how Mr. Trump is bringing fresh eyes to running our government,” he said.

**WIS:** Reports: Gov. Nikki Haley to meet with President-elect Donald Trump

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33727509/reports-sc-gov-haley-to-meet-with-president-elect-donald-trump>

Jeremy Turnage

Could South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley or Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster be joining the newly-forming administration of President-elect Donald Trump? CNN is reporting Haley is set to meet with president-elect Donald Trump Thursday morning amid reports she is being considered for Secretary of State under the Trump administration. Joe Scarborough, former Florida congressman and host of MSNBC's Morning Joe, said sources close to the Trump transition team were telling him Haley and former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani were under consideration for the nation's top diplomat. According to Scarborough, Trump and his transition team have spent several days reaching out to former rivals to fill important cabinet positions. Lt. Gov. McMaster, on the other hand, told the Charleston Post and Courier that he is being considered for attorney general. The lieutenant governor, one of the first mainstream Republicans to back Trump in the GOP primary, was South Carolina's attorney general for two terms and a U.S. Attorney under the Ronald Reagan administration.

**Twitter:** @JoeNBC: Sources tell me Donald Trump is now considering Governor Nikki Haley for Secretary of State.

<https://twitter.com/JoeNBC/status/798979865605210112>

**MSNBC:** VIDEO: Scarborough: Trump considering Haley for Sec. of State

<http://www.msnbc.com/kate-snow/watch/scarborough-trump-considering-haley-for-sec-of-state-810644035966>

MSNBC's Joe Scarborough says that President-elect Donald Trump is considering Gov. Nikki Haley (R-SC) for Secretary of State in his cabinet. Scarborough and MSNBC's Kate Snow discuss.

**MSNBC:** Will Trump's cabinet lack foreign policy experience?

<http://www.msnbc.com/kate-snow/watch/will-trump-s-cabinet-lack-foreign-policy-experience-810689603563>

"David Rothkopf, Foreign Policy CEO and Editor, tells MSNBC's Kate Snow that Gov. Nikki Haley (R-SC), along with other Trump cabinet hopefuls, lack foreign policy experience.”

**CNN:** Source: Haley under consideration for State Dept., Trump meeting Thursday

<http://www.edition.cnn.com/2016/11/16/politics/donald-trump-nikki-haley-transition/index.html>

Jim Acosta and Daniella Diaz

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is under consideration by President-elect Donald Trump for secretary of state, and other cabinet positions, a transition source told CNN Wednesday, despite their rocky history. Trump is going to meet with Haley, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Florida Gov. Rick Scott, Cincinnati Mayor Ken Blackwell, Admiral Mike Rogers and Rep. Jeb Hensarling on Thursday, according to Trump's communication director Jason Miller and Republican National Committee spokesman Sean Spicer. RNC aide: Trump will avoid business 'conflicts of interest' Haley, South Carolina's first female and Indian-American governor, had spent most of the election season criticizing Trump, including taking aim at him during her high-profile role giving the Republican response to the State of the Union.

**MSN:** Governor Nikki Haley May Be The Next Secretary Of State

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/offbeat/governor-nikki-haley-may-be-the-next-secretary-of-state/vp-AAkou29>

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is under consideration to be President-elect Donald Trump's secretary of state, her lieutenant governor told the Post and Courier Wednesday. Lt. Gov Henry McMaster said he too is being considered for a position in Trump's cabinet — including possibly attorney general — and told the Post and Courier that he's in contact with the Trump transition team. As with all cabinet staffing rumors, it should be noted that both potential candidates and their allies (as well as the transition team itself) have incentives to float potential selections — even ones who are unlikely to be chosen.

**Today Show:** Mike Flynn, Nikki Haley could be eyed for top posts in Trump administration

<http://www.today.com/video/mike-flynn-nikki-haley-could-be-eyed-for-top-posts-in-trump-administration-811246659626>

VIDEO: President-elect Donald Trump is expected to meet with more potential members of his inner circle Thursday, including Gov. Nikki Haley and former ambassador John Bolton. Sources tell NBC News that retired Lt. Gen. Mike Flynn is at the top of the list to be national security adviser. Meanwhile, Vice President-elect Mike Pence is meeting with Democratic leaders Rep. Nancy Pelosi and Sen. Chuck Schumer. NBC's Hallie Jackson reports for TODAY.

**Bloomberg:** Governor Nikki Haley Being Touted as Possible Secretary of State

<http://www.bloomberg.com/politics/videos/2016-11-16/nikki-haley-being-touted-as-possible-secretary-of-state>

On "With All Due Respect," Democratic strategist Lis Smith and Republican strategist Steve Schmidt discuss the possibility of South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley being named secretary of state and the politics of the transition.

**Bloomberg:** Trump Transition Team Gives Detailed Update Amid Infighting

<http://www.bloomberg.com/politics/trackers/2016-11-17/trump-to-meet-with-s-c-s-haley-kissinger-hensarling-thursday>

President-elect Donald Trump's transition team gave its first detailed update amid reports of infighting and disorganization. In a conference call with reporters Wednesday night, aides named more than a dozen people who are either candidates for jobs in the Trump administration or were meeting with Trump to provide advice. The list includes South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley, who once said Trump represented "everything a governor doesn't want in a president" but more recently has said she looks forward to working with a Republican president and Congress.

**Reuters:** Factbox: Short list of potential picks for Trump administration

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trump-staff-factbox-idUSKBN13C00R?il=0>

Ginger Gibson and Susan Cornwell

New candidates to serve in U.S. President-elect Donald Trump's Cabinet emerged on Wednesday, including U.S. Senator Ted Cruz as a potential attorney general and North Carolina Governor Nikki Haley as secretary of state, as he works to fill administration positions ahead of his inauguration on

Jan. 20. Trump said on Sunday he would hire Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus as White House chief of staff and named Stephen Bannon, former head of the conservative website Breitbart News, as his chief strategist and senior counselor. Below are people mentioned as contenders for senior roles.

**Politico:** Nikki Haley under consideration to lead State Department, her Lt. gov. says  
<http://www.politico.com/blogs/donald-trump-administration/2016/11/haley-being-considered-for-secretary-of-state-her-lieutenant-governor-says-231509>

Matthew Nussbaum

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is under consideration to be President-elect Donald Trump's secretary of state, her lieutenant governor told the Post and Courier Wednesday. Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster said he too is being considered for a position in Trump's cabinet — including possibly attorney general — and told the Post and Courier that he's in contact with the Trump transition team. Haley, considered a rising star in the Republican Party, backed Sen. Marco Rubio in the Republican primary. The daughter of Indian immigrants, she would bring both racial and gender diversity to Trump's cabinet. Former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani is also a strong contender for the position, per multiple reports and sources. Haley was elected governor of South Carolina in 2010 after three terms in Congress. McMaster was elected Lt. Gov. in 2014 after serving from 2003-2011 as the state's attorney general. As with all cabinet staffing rumors, it should be noted that both potential candidates and their allies (as well as the transition team itself) have incentives to float potential selections — even ones who are unlikely to be chosen.

**The Hill:** Trump considering SC Gov. Nikki Haley for secretary of State: reports  
<http://origin-ny1.thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/306503-trump-considering-sc-gov-nikki-haley-for-secretary-of-state-reports>

Evelyn Rupert

Trump considering SC Gov. Nikki Haley for secretary of State: reports South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is being considered for secretary of State in Donald Trump's administration, a source told CNN Wednesday. MSNBC's Joe Scarborough reported the same thing earlier in the day. The Trump campaign also announced Wednesday that Haley, along with a string of other current and former lawmakers, will meet with the president-elect Thursday. Trump will also be meeting with Florida Gov. Rick Scott, Cincinnati Mayor Ken Blackwell, NSA head Mike Rogers, Rep. Jeb Hensarling (Texas), and former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. Haley was a reluctant supporter of Trump during his presidential run and supported Marco Rubio during the GOP primary.

**Washington Post:** Haley, McMaster reportedly being considered for posts in Trump administration  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/wp/2016/11/16/haley-mcmaster-reportedly-being-considered-for-posts-in-trump-administration/>

Sari Horwitz

South Carolina Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster said he is being considered for attorney general, according to the Charleston-based The Post and Courier. McMaster, a former U.S. attorney in South Carolina from 1981 to 1985, told the Post and Courier Wednesday that he has been talking to people on the Trump transition team. McMaster, an early Trump supporter, also said that South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley — who endorsed Marco Rubio in the GOP presidential primary — is being considered for several possible Cabinet positions, including secretary of state. Haley once said that Trump represented “everything a governor doesn't want in a president.” In her response this year to President Obama's State of the Union address, she referred to “the siren call of the angriest voices.” But on Tuesday at the Republican Governor's Association meeting in Orlando, Haley told reporters that she is “just giddy” about what lies ahead in a Trump administration.

**New York Times:** Nikki Haley, Hillary Clinton, Janet Yellen: Your Thursday Briefing  
[http://mobile.nytimes.com/2016/11/17/briefing/us-briefing-nikki-haley-hillary-clinton-janet-yellen.html?\\_r=0&referrer=https://www.google.com/](http://mobile.nytimes.com/2016/11/17/briefing/us-briefing-nikki-haley-hillary-clinton-janet-yellen.html?_r=0&referrer=https://www.google.com/)

Sean Alfano

Anticipation is mounting over who President-elect Donald J. Trump might appoint to his cabinet. Mr. Trump is scheduled to meet today with Gov. Nikki R. Haley of South Carolina, who is now being discussed as a possible candidate for secretary of state.

**Business Insider:** Here's a quick rundown on each of the candidates Trump is considering for secretary of state

<http://www.businessinsider.com/trump-secretary-of-state-2016-11>

Pamela Engel

President-elect Donald Trump and his transition team are at work vetting individuals to serve in the incoming White House cabinet. And a few names have cropped up repeatedly for the secretary of state job — former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, Tennessee Sen. Bob Corker, former US ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, and South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley. Here's a rundown on each candidate.

**NOTE:** Haley's name was added to the list on Wednesday, according to MSNBC host Joe Scarborough. The South Carolina governor has become a rising star within the Republican party in recent years. She delivered a well-received rebuttal to President Barack Obama's State of the Union address this year, calling for unity seeming to negate Trump's campaign tactics by urging people to "resist the temptation" of following the "siren call of the angriest voices." She also took a swipe at anti-immigrant rhetoric, saying that "no one who is willing to work hard, abide by our laws, and love our traditions should ever feel unwelcome in this country."

**Newsmax:** Report: Trump Considering Nikki Haley for Secretary of State

<http://www.newsmax.com/Politics/nikki-haley-considered-secretary-of-state-cabinet/2016/11/16/id/759302/>

Todd Beamon

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is being considered for secretary of state and at least one other position, Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster said Wednesday. "Her name has been mentioned," McMaster, 69, told McClatchy. "The depths of consideration for the various names that have been mentioned for various things, I couldn't tell you." In addition, McMaster said that he was approached about being U. S. attorney general. News of Haley's consideration was also disclosed on Twitter by "Morning Joe" co-host Joe Scarborough... Regarding his possibility of serving in a Trump White House, McMaster told McClatchy: "I've been asked if I would be interested." He is a former South Carolina attorney general who was first to endorse Trump. Others being considered for secretary of state include former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani and former U.N. Ambassador John Bolton.

**Daily Mail:** Donald Trump to meet Nikki Haley and an 'unbelievable' line-up of guests on Thursday - as the South Carolina Governor is tipped to become Secretary of State

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3944600/Donald-Trump-meet-Nikki-Haley-Manhattan-Thursday.html>

Thomas Burrows

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley is being considered by President-elect Donald Trump for the position of secretary of state, despite their war of words in the past.

Haley, 44, South Carolina's first female governor, was a vocal critic of 'The Donald' during the bitter campaign.

Speaking in January she said: 'During anxious times, it can be tempting to follow the siren call of the angriest voices. We must resist that temptation. No one who is willing to work hard, abide by our laws and love our traditions should ever feel unwelcome in this country.' Trump, in typical forthright fashion, shot back at Haley. 'She's very weak on illegal immigration,' the then-Republican hopeful said during a Fox News interview.

'I feel very strongly about immigration. She doesn't.' Haley initially backed Marco Rubio but finally endorsed Trump in October despite admitting she was still 'not a fan'.

**APP:** Indian-American Nikki Haley under consideration for secretary of state

<http://www.app.com.pk/indian-american-nikki-haley-under-consideration-for-secretary-of-state/>

The Governor of the U.S. State of South Carolina, Nikki Haley, who is of Indian ancestry, is under consideration by President-elect Donald Trump for secretary of state, and other cabinet positions, CNN reported Wednesday evening. Trump is set to meet with Ms. Haley, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Florida Governor Rick Scott, Cincinnati's Afro-American Mayor Ken Blackwell, Admiral Mike Rogers and Congressman Jeb Hensarling on Thursday, the network said, citing Trump's Communication Director Jason Miller and Republican National Committee spokesman Sean Spicer. Born as Nimrata Randhawa to Sikh parents who migrated from Indian Punjab, Haley created history by becoming the first woman to occupy the governor's mansion of South Carolina. She has since converted to Christianity, but occasionally goes to Sikh services at her parents request. She is married to Michael Haley, an officer in US defence department. Haley, South Carolina's first female governor, had spent most of the election season criticizing Trump, especially his vow to ban Muslims from entering the US, and took aim at him during her high-profile role giving the Republican response to the State of the Union.

**Associated Press:** McMaster: Trump team considering him, Haley in Cabinet

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=qz0pmmKp](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=qz0pmmKp)

SC State Wire

South Carolina's lieutenant governor says a member of Donald Trump's transition team has asked if he's interested in being attorney general. Henry McMaster also says he's been told that South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is being considered for secretary of state. McMaster tells The Associated Press he was contacted Wednesday. The former U.S. attorney and two-term state attorney general declined to specify who on the team called him. In January, McMaster became the first statewide officeholder to back Trump. His endorsement split with Haley, who endorsed and campaigned with Marco Rubio for South Carolina's first-in-the-South presidential primary. When Rubio dropped out, she backed Ted Cruz. Haley criticized Trump throughout the contest. Trump won South Carolina's primary by 10 percentage points. McMaster says that primary victory gave Trump a "stamp of approval" and was pivotal in getting him elected.

**Post and Courier:** Henry McMaster says he, S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley being considered for Trump Cabinet positions

[http://www.postandcourier.com/news/henry-mcmaster-says-he-s-c-gov-nikki-haley-being/article\\_4f4f4182-ac40-11e6-b549-a3182d3bb377.html?](http://www.postandcourier.com/news/henry-mcmaster-says-he-s-c-gov-nikki-haley-being/article_4f4f4182-ac40-11e6-b549-a3182d3bb377.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=user-share)

[utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter&utm\\_campaign=user-share](http://www.postandcourier.com/news/henry-mcmaster-says-he-s-c-gov-nikki-haley-being/article_4f4f4182-ac40-11e6-b549-a3182d3bb377.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=user-share)

Andy Shain and Schuyler Kropf

South Carolina Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster told The Post and Courier on Wednesday that he and Gov. Nikki Haley are being considered for Cabinet positions in President-elect Donald Trump's administration. McMaster said Haley is being considered for several Cabinet posts including secretary of state. McMaster, one of Trump's earliest statewide political endorsers, said the daughter of Indian immigrants could provide a fresh set of eyes on foreign affairs. "It would be like how Mr. Trump is bringing fresh eyes to running our government," he said. McMaster said he has been speaking with the Trump transition team about becoming attorney general. McMaster was a U.S. attorney and the elected state attorney general before becoming lieutenant governor.

**The State:** Haley, McMaster reportedly being considered for Trump Administration

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article115191438.html>

Bristow Marchant and Cassie Cope

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley and Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster are contenders for positions in President-elect Donald Trump's cabinet. Trump's transition team approached McMaster, a former S.C. attorney general, about possibly being U.S. attorney general. "I've been asked if I would be interested," said McMaster, who was the first statewide elected official nationally to endorse Trump. In addition, members of Trump's presidential transition team have discussed Haley as a potential secretary of

state and for at least one other position, McMaster said, declining to name the other position. "Her name has been mentioned," McMaster said, adding, "The depths of consideration for the various names that have been mentioned for various things, I couldn't tell you."

**Greenville News:** Greenville News: MSNBC host suggests Haley may be considered for Trump cabinet post

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/11/16/msnbc-host-suggests-haley-may-considered-trump-cabinet-post/93978316/>

Amanda Coyne

"Morning Joe" host Joe Scarborough tweeted Wednesday afternoon that Gov. Nikki Haley may be under consideration for a post in President-elect Donald Trump's cabinet. "Sources tell me Donald Trump is now considering Governor Nikki Haley for Secretary of State," Scarborough said. Spokespeople for Haley did not immediately return emails or phone calls seeking additional information. Haley has led trade missions to countries including India, Sweden and Germany, but her foreign policy experience is otherwise limited. The U.S. secretary of state is one of the highest-ranking foreign policy officials in the federal government. Haley would be an unlikely pick for a Trump administration cabinet, considering her past friction with the incoming president. Haley endorsed U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida in South Carolina's Republican primary, which Trump won. After Rubio withdrew from the race, Haley endorsed Sen. Ted Cruz over Trump. Once Trump became the nominee, Haley said she would vote for him based on "policy," but that she did not like his "personality."

**Aiken Standard:** Morning Joe host floats Gov. Haley's name around for Secretary of State

[http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/morning-joe-host-floats-gov-haley-s-name-around-for/article\\_92ed7cd2-ac3c-11e6-ad6b-338961ed94ff.html](http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/morning-joe-host-floats-gov-haley-s-name-around-for/article_92ed7cd2-ac3c-11e6-ad6b-338961ed94ff.html)

Maayan Schechter

Though South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley's office has made no indication she is considering a slot in President-elect Donald Trump's administration, MSNBC's "Morning Joe" host floated her name around on social media as a possible choice for U.S. Secretary of State. Joe Scarborough, a former Florida Congressman, tweeted on Wednesday afternoon, "Sources tell me Donald Trump is now considering Governor Nikki Haley for Secretary of State." Scarborough followed that tweet with, "Trump has spent the past several days reaching out to political figures who opposed him in the Republican primary to fill major positions." Haley's office was not immediately available for comment.

**Index-Journal:** Trump eyeing SC leaders? Reports say top Republicans could be up for cabinet posts

<http://www.indexjournal.com/news/Trump-eyeing-SC-leaders--18956008>

Gov. Nikki Haley might be one choice for the president-elect's top diplomat, according to a former Republican congressman. Joe Scarborough, now a host of MSNBC's Morning Joe, tweeted Wednesday, "Sources tell me Donald Trump is now considering Governor Nikki Haley for Secretary of State." She might not be the only top South Carolina Republican under consideration for a top post. Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, a former state attorney general, told several news outlets that Trump's transition team reached out to him to see if he might be interested in being U.S. attorney general. He also confirmed that Haley is under consideration for several positions, including secretary of state. If Haley and McMaster were to leave their posts at the same time, Senate president pro tempore Hugh Leatherman would become governor.

**South Carolina Radio Network:** Haley's name linked to potential Trump Cabinet position

<https://www.southcarolinaradionetwork.com/2016/11/16/haleys-name-linked-potential-trump-cabinet-position/>

Gov. Nikki Haley's name has been linked to a potential Cabinet position in President-elect Donald Trump's incoming administration as the businessman begins to consider his new government. The governor's name began to be included in rumors after MSNBC host and former congressman Joe

Scarborough tweeted, "Sources tell me Donald Trump is now considering Governor Nikki Haley for Secretary of State," before adding in a second tweet that, "Trump has spent the past several days reaching out to political figures who opposed him in the Republican primary to fill major positions." Then Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster confirmed the report to multiple news outlets, adding that Trump's transition team had also approached him about being attorney general. McMaster has been an ally to Trump's campaign, being the first elected official to back Trump when he endorsed the businessman in January. Haley's office has not commented on the reports, which have not been verified by anyone inside Trump's transition team.

**WIS:** Reports: Haley, McMaster being considered for major cabinet positions in Trump admin  
[http://www.wistv.com/story/33727509/report-gov-nikki-haley-being-considered-for-major-cabinet-position-in-trump-admin?clienttype=generic&utm\\_content=bufferde274&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter.com&utm\\_campaign=buffer](http://www.wistv.com/story/33727509/report-gov-nikki-haley-being-considered-for-major-cabinet-position-in-trump-admin?clienttype=generic&utm_content=bufferde274&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer)

Could South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley or Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster be joining the newly-forming administration of President-elect Donald Trump? According to Joe Scarborough, former Florida congressman and host of MSNBC's Morning Joe, sources close to him say Haley is being considered for Secretary of State alongside former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani. According to Scarborough, Trump and his transition team have spent several days reaching out to former rivals to fill important cabinet positions. McMaster, on the other hand, has told the Charleston Post and Courier that he is being considered for attorney general. The lieutenant governor, one of the first mainstream Republicans to back Trump in the GOP primary, was South Carolina's attorney general for two terms and a U.S. Attorney under the Ronald Reagan administration. Haley was one of Trump's detractors on the campaign trail as the Republican presidential primary process came through South Carolina.

**WLTX:** Haley for Secretary of State, McMaster for Attorney General?  
<http://www.wltx.com/news/politics/gov-nikki-haley-being-considered-for-secretary-of-state/352900483>  
South Carolina's lieutenant governor says a member of Donald Trump's transition team has asked if he's interested in being attorney general. Henry McMaster also says he's been told that South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is being considered for secretary of state. McMaster tells The Associated Press he was contacted Wednesday. The former U.S. attorney and two-term state attorney general declined to specify who on the team called him. MSNBC host and anchor Joe Scarborough also ignited the talk Wednesday when he tweeted, "sources tell me Donald Trump is now considering Governor Nikki Haley for Secretary of State." In January, McMaster became the first statewide officeholder to back Trump. His endorsement split with Haley, who endorsed and campaigned with Marco Rubio for South Carolina's first-in-the-South presidential primary. When Rubio dropped out, she backed Ted Cruz.

**WACH:** Report: Haley, McMaster being considered for Trump's cabinet  
<http://wach.com/news/local/report-haley-being-considered-for-trumps-secretary-of-state>  
Matthew Stevens

Governor Nikki Haley and Lt. Governor Henry McMaster could be heading to Washington DC. According to Joe Scarborough with MSNBC, Donald Trump is considering Nikki Haley for Secretary of State. Scarborough added that Trump has reached out to politicians who opposed him in the Republican primary to fill cabinet positions. Haley and Trump have traded jabs leading up to the election over social media and the governor endorsed Florida Senator Marco Rubio over Trump prior to the First in the South Primary in February. Gov. Haley did note that she did vote for Trump over Hillary Clinton in the election, saying he was the best choice "based on policy." Earlier in the year, Haley was rumored as a potential vice presidential candidate after she gained national notoriety for her handling of the removal of the Confederate flag from State House grounds and the historic flooding. According to the Post and Courier, McMaster told the publication Trump is considering the Lt. Governor for Attorney General.

**WOLO:** Report: Haley Under Consideration for Secretary of State

<http://www.abccolumbia.com/2016/11/16/report-haley-consideration-secretary-state/>

Rob Dew

Governor Haley was never shy with her criticism of Donald Trump, now she may end up as part of his cabinet. Joe Scarborough, host of MSNBC's Morning Joe tweeted Wednesday afternoon sources are telling him Governor Haley is under consideration for secretary of state. ABC Columbia reached out to the governor's office for comment but have not yet received a reply.

### **SC Political News:**

**McClatchy DC:** Graham wants the past to be past with Trump. There are huge deals to be done

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/national/article115019603.html>

Matt Schofield

After spending the better part of a year questioning the character and quality of candidate Donald Trump, South Carolina's senior senator Tuesday said it was time to focus on the positives the president-elect brings to the office. The Republican Lindsey Graham on election day very publicly announced that he was voting for independent Evan McMullin because he didn't believe in the vision of his party's candidate. During the campaign he voiced concerns about what he perceived to be Trump's lack of understanding of foreign policy, and he questioned the now president-elect's conspiracy theories, such as the notion that the election was rigged in favor of democrat Hillary Clinton (who lost). But Tuesday afternoon in a small press gallery in the Capitol, Sen. Graham said that as the votes are now in, it's time for him to focus on helping Trump become a successful president. Graham is an influential member of the Senate, with a particularly strong reputation on military matters and foreign affairs. On the latter, he hoped the incoming president would learn a bit more about the realities of foreign policy and that his positions would evolve.

**Post and Courier:** Graham is ready to work, and 'ready to talk,' to President-Elect Trump

[http://www.postandcourier.com/news/graham-is-ready-to-work-and-ready-to-talk-to/article\\_86981c78-ab77-11e6-ab5b-230a082f61cf.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/news/graham-is-ready-to-work-and-ready-to-talk-to/article_86981c78-ab77-11e6-ab5b-230a082f61cf.html)

Emma Dumain

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham spent the better part of a year ridiculing Donald Trump, never expecting the GOP nominee for president to actually win the race for the White House. Now, the South Carolina Republican is rumored to be on a literal or figurative "enemies" list circulating among Trump allies — a warning he could be shut out of negotiating rooms by the new administration. However, if Graham is worried about retribution, he isn't showing it. In a meeting Tuesday with members of the Capitol Hill press corps that he convened, Graham made it clear he is still a senior legislator with plans, connections, clout and a willingness to be helpful. "Clearly, me and 'the Donald' have issues," Graham said. "And I will do everything I can to help him because he will be commander-in-chief in dangerous times." Graham said he could be a partner of Trump's in efforts to pass major infrastructure legislation, citing his many years of work in support of deepening the Port of Charleston, and other ports as well. He said he was gratified by Trump's stated commitment to boosting defense spending, recalling that his own short-lived bid for president was centered on strengthening the military.

### **President-elect Trump News:**

**Associated Press:** Trump battles back against charges of transition tumult

<http://bigstory.ap.org/32e478b5a0b24cbda9e1bfd8f0ff7e49>

President-elect Donald Trump and his team are battling back against charges of chaos and infighting as they race to set up an administration. The incoming Republican administration got an unlikely boost from outgoing Vice President Joe Biden, who said "no administration is ready on Day One." Trump stayed out of the public eye Wednesday, meeting with a stream of visitors at his New York skyscraper. But he took to Twitter to dispute reports of internal tension, declaring the transition operation was proceeding "so smoothly." Trump's team said Wednesday night that it would be rolling

out teams to interact with federal agencies during the transition, starting with national security advisers who would work with officials at the State, Justice, Defense and other national security departments. They also said transition and administration officials would be required to sever lobbying ties and pledge that they will not lobby the government for five years after departing the Trump administration.

### **SC Delegation News:**

**McClatchy DC:** S. Carolina needs more time before driver's licenses become obsolete as federal ID <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/national/article115248408.html>

Matthew Schofield

If U.S. Rep Mark Sanford fails with the second pass at convincing Homeland Security to grant South Carolinians an extension, folks hoping to jet off for holidays after January 2018 should either bring a passport, or be prepared for disappointment. The Congressman and former governor sent a letter Wednesday to Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson asking him to push back a looming deadline for when the state must comply with the "REAL ID Act of 2005." He's suggested the state needs more time, and has asked the state be granted until Oct. 10, 2017. The law generally goes into effect about a year after being imposed. "I've never been a fan of this national program," Sanford said Wednesday evening. "I fought it as a governor. My dream is more towards changing the law rather than extension."

**Post and Courier:** Clyburn to seek reelection to Assistant Leader position

[http://www.postandcourier.com/news/clyburn-to-seek-reelection-to-assistant-leader-position/article\\_4fcb8948-ac74-11e6-925a-dbb0a481da6a.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/news/clyburn-to-seek-reelection-to-assistant-leader-position/article_4fcb8948-ac74-11e6-925a-dbb0a481da6a.html)

Emma Dumain

U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn is asking his colleagues to give him a fourth term as Assistant Democratic Leader - the third most senior position in his party's leadership structure in the U.S. House. The South Carolinian is in no real danger of losing his leadership seat or facing a competitive challenger - or any challenger at that. Indeed, his bid to retain his posting in the 115th Congress was expected and came as no surprise. The formal announcement was a customary gesture. Still, Clyburn's letter Wednesday evening to lawmakers comes as Democrats are reeling from a demoralizing Election Night just eight days ago, when their candidate lost the presidency in a stunning defeat and their party was doomed to the minority for at least another two years.

### **SC Supreme Court News:**

**Associated Press:** Comments on settlement in teen's death gets judge suspended

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=OCS1gJJI](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=OCS1gJJI)

Seanna Adcox

The South Carolina Supreme Court has suspended a judge who wrote on his Facebook page that a family's \$2 million settlement after an officer fatally shot their son was "all about the money." Justices unanimously accepted a six-month suspension for Oconee County Probate Judge Kenneth Johns. But Wednesday's filing is retroactive to Johns' interim suspension, meaning his disciplinary period ended last month. Attorney Eric Bland called Johns' actions a "stain on the justice system." Bland represents the family of 19-year-old Zachary Hammond, who was shot to death in July 2015 as he tried to drive away during a drug sting in a fast-food restaurant parking lot in Seneca. Bland said the light discipline surprised him. "This goes to the very fabric of our justice system, which has to be unbiased, free from personal opinions," Bland said. "You should never know what a judge's beliefs are."

### **Wildfires Across Southeast:**

**Associated Press:** Southern wildfires have threatened communities on edge

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=sx4b372j](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=sx4b372j)

Jeff Martin

Thick smoke has settled over a wide area of the southern Appalachians, where dozens of uncontrolled wildfires are burning through decades of leaf litter and people breathe in tiny bits of the forest with every gulp of air. It's a constant reminder of the threat to many small mountain communities, where relentless drought and now persistent fires and smoke have people under duress. "A lot of the ladies just went to tears and said this happens in other places, it doesn't happen here," pastor Scott Cates said as townspeople donated water, cough drops and other supplies for the firefighters at the Liberty Baptist Church in Tiger, Georgia. Here, these fires don't sleep. They burn through the night, through the now-desiccated tinder of deciduous forests accustomed to wet, humid summers and autumns.

**Associated Press:** Officials warn wildfire smoke to cause bad air quality in SC

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=64ZBXkcj](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=64ZBXkcj)

SC State Wire

Smoke from wildfires in the Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina mountains will make air quality unhealthy throughout South Carolina. The Department of Health and Environmental Control issued a code red alert for 25 counties along and west of Interstate 77 through to Orangeburg County. DHEC says everyone should limit their time outdoors if possible, especially people with respiratory issues. A code orange alert has been issued for much of the rest of the state. Smoke from the fires spread over the state Tuesday, settling into Columbia before daybreak and later making it hundreds of miles away to Charleston. Forecasters expect the smoke to stay around until the wind shifts Thursday.

**Greenville News:** Evacuations planned as health issues rise from 'historic fire'

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/south-carolina/2016/11/16/evacuations-planned-health-issues-rise-historic-fire/93979670/>

Liv Osby

Firefighters will take aggressive measures on Thursday to bring the Pinnacle Mountain wildfire under control by burning more than 2,000 acres ahead of the fire, officials said Wednesday. Local fire departments are going door-to-door to evacuate about 70 families who live in the affected area close to the burnout operation. The evacuation affects the area north of State 11 from Back Park Road to South Saluda Road and north to Table Rock Reservoir, according to Russell Hubright, spokesman for the SC Forestry Commission. Fire officials are concerned about a cold front moving into the Upstate that will bring high winds and lower humidity, he said. The burnout affects both sides of Table Rock and will extend north to the Table Rock Reservoir, south to the Pinnacle Lake area, and east to the Table Rock State Park boundary near High Low Gap. The burnout also will significantly increase the amount of smoke in the air, Hubright said. The smoke on Wednesday forced state health officials to declare another air quality alert, while the prospect for rain to ease the situation remained grim.

**Independent Mail:** Pickens emergency declaration will help pay fire-fighting costs

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/2016/11/16/state-emergency-likely-pickens/93954456/>

Mike Eads

The Pickens County Council declared a state of emergency today, one week after a major forest fire broke out on Pinnacle Mountain. County Attorney Ken Roper said the council members met after the Twelve Mile Recreation Park groundbreaking ceremony at Cateechee Beach this morning. The declaration is necessary to qualify the county for state and federal disaster relief funds. It will also give County Administrator Gerald Wilson wide leeway in managing the county's fire response and cleanup. "That's the big motivation for it," said Roper. "It will give the administrator some authority to free up money" from other county funds to cover fire-related expenses. County Emergency Management Director Denise Kwiatek said after the council vote that the declaration would allow Pickens County to bring in more local, state and federal agencies for help. The state of emergency would also allow Wilson to mandate an evacuation, unlike the voluntary one issued Saturday.

**Herald-Journal:** Firefighters plan burnout to slow Pinnacle fire

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161116/firefighters-plan-burnout-to-slow-pinnacle-fire?rssfeed=true>

Bob Montgomery

Nearly six dozen families in northern Pickens County have been asked to leave their homes while firefighters conduct a large-scale burnout operation Thursday to stop the spread of a growing wildfire. So far there have been no injuries or damaged structures resulting from the 3,283-acre wildfire that was started last week by an errant campfire, S.C. Forestry Commission spokesman Russell Hubright said Wednesday.

Thursday's burnout will cover about 2,000 acres and "will put a tremendous amount of additional smoke in the air in northern Pickens County," Hubright said. "Motorists traveling in the area are urged to use caution and avoid SC 11, and people with respiratory conditions are encouraged to stay indoors," he said. An area north of SC 11 that is close to the burnout operation, from Back Park Road to South Saluda Road and north to Table Rock Reservoir, will be evacuated Thursday. Residents are being told to prepare to be away from their homes for 72 hours, according to Pickens County Emergency Management.

**Herald-Journal:** Pinnacle fire in Pickens County now 35 percent contained

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161116/pinnacle-fire-in-pickens-county-now-35-percent-contained?rssfeed=true>

Fire crews in Pickens County made progress on the Pinnacle Mountain Fire Tuesday, and the blaze is now 35 percent contained. S.C. Forestry Commission spokesman Russell Hubright said in a statement Wednesday morning that firelines built by crews earlier this week lessened the chance of the fire spreading northwest. National Guard helicopters dropped water on hot spots, including at areas between Pinnacle Mountain and Table Rock, Hubright said. At 35 percent contained, an approximated 3,283 acres are still burning, he said. Hubright said Wednesday, crews would patrol several areas and work to improve firelines, designated spots crew build so the flames cannot spread beyond it. Fire department personnel will continue going door-to-door, informing area residents of the status of the fire, Hubright said. Nearly 170 personnel assigned to this incident. This mission is being coordinated under a unified command between the SC Forestry Commission and the Holly Springs Fire Department.

**The State:** Code red: Runners, pets, children, asthmatics need to avoid smoke outside

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article115239118.html>

Cynthia Roldan

The air quality of more than half of South Carolina's counties was declared unhealthy Wednesday by the state's health agency. Just six days after the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control warned of possible side effects related to the wildfires burning throughout several Southeastern states, the agency issued a "Code Red" air quality alert for 25 counties, including Richland and Lexington. Melissa Overman, assistant state epidemiologist, warned against children spending too much time outdoors, since they take in more air than adults. Kids who are suffering from the air's pollutants might complain of tightness in their chests or irritated eyes and throats. Overman said healthy athletes should consider limiting their time outside as well. She also suggested not taking pets for a jog. Plus, those with respiratory illnesses, such as asthma and bronchitis, who live in the areas that will remain under code red on Thursday should remain indoors as much as possible, she said.

**Post and Courier:** Code orange air quality alert issued for Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester counties as smoke persists

[http://www.postandcourier.com/news/smoke-hanging-in-the-air-in-the-lowcountry-expected-to/article\\_6d736a6c-ab50-11e6-ba46-a71ddf91cbe4.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/news/smoke-hanging-in-the-air-in-the-lowcountry-expected-to/article_6d736a6c-ab50-11e6-ba46-a71ddf91cbe4.html)

Bo Petersen

A code orange air quality alert was issued for the Lowcountry until midnight Wednesday as smoke from wildfires in the mountains again fumes the region. The air quality alert indicates that fine particles from smoke could approach dangerous levels for sensitive adults, according to the National Weather Service. Individuals with respiratory conditions should limit their time outdoors through the alert's duration. "We're seeing it now," said meteorologist Bob Bright, National Weather Service, Charleston on Tuesday. Forecasters say northwest winds pushing the air through the area are expected to move more northward by Thursday, bringing some relief, but "there's really no way to predict" how thick the wildfire smoke will remain, Bright said.

**Aiken Standard:** S.C. health agency asks smokers to kick the habit during Great American Smokeout

[http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/s-c-health-agency-asks-smokers-to-kick-the-habit/article\\_8f39a3b2-ac29-11e6-aa0e-23dc9949b521.html](http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/s-c-health-agency-asks-smokers-to-kick-the-habit/article_8f39a3b2-ac29-11e6-aa0e-23dc9949b521.html)

Thomas Gardiner

On average, about 54 Americans die from cigarette smoking every day, according to statistics from the Center for Disease Control. Every third Thursday in November, the American Cancer Society sponsors the Great American Smokeout to help inspire more people to kick the habit. The Great American Smokeout encourages smokers to quit for 24 hours and to build a plan to quit for good. To support that mission and build plans for individual smokers, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control has launched a statewide Quitline. This year marks the support service's 10th anniversary. "For a decade, DHEC's statewide Quitline has provided free tobacco treatment and cessation counseling services to nearly 100,000 tobacco users in South Carolina," said Sharon Biggers, DHEC's director of the agency's Division of Tobacco Prevention and Control.

**Aiken Standard:** Aiken County back under code orange air quality alert

[http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/aiken-county-back-under-code-orange-air-quality-alert/article\\_0a4d1a00-ac40-11e6-882a-2b0bf4f9af25.html](http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/aiken-county-back-under-code-orange-air-quality-alert/article_0a4d1a00-ac40-11e6-882a-2b0bf4f9af25.html)

Maayan Schechter

Aiken County is back under a code orange air quality alert as of Wednesday afternoon, according to the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. The alert is for Aiken, Abbeville, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun and Charleston counties. The smoke seen lingering in Aiken County is due to a nearby wildfire in Pickens County that continued to grow. The South Carolina Fire Commission reported the Pinnacle Mountain Fire at Table Rock State Park grew from 2,312 acres on Sunday to 2,765 acres by late Monday.

**Sun News:** Update: Air quality alert extended, unlikely in Horry County

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article115107618.html>

Elizabeth Townsend

An air quality alert has been issued for Georgetown and Murrells Inlet along the Grand Strand due to large smoke plumes produced by numerous wildfires in the southern Appalachian Mountain region, and health officials advise those with respiratory issues limit their time outside. The National Weather Service in Wilmington, N.C. issued the alert late Tuesday evening and has extended the alert until midnight Thursday for inland Georgetown County, including Kingstree, Andrews, Georgetown, and Murrells Inlet, according to weather officials. Williamsburg County is also under the alert.

**Hurricane Matthew Recovery:**

**Island Packet:** Ridgeland disaster relief center to close soon; Beaufort County locations still open

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article115109658.html>

Wade Livingston

The Jasper County Disaster Recovery Center in Ridgeland is tentatively slated to close at 7 p.m. Friday, according to officials. While that center — located at 1509 Grays Highway — should shut down, Beaufort County relief centers will remain open, according to Jasper County Emergency

Services. Those centers are located on Hilton Head Island at the Hilton Head Island Town Hall Council Chambers at 1 Town Center Court, and in Beaufort at Burton Wells Recreation Center at 1 Middleton Recreation Dr. The Hilton Head center's hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday. The Beaufort location is open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. Jasper residents in need of help after the Ridgeland center closes can register with FEMA disaster assistance at [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov) or call 1-800-621-3362.

**Island Packet:** FEMA approves debris removal for more Hilton Head private roads

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article115205338.html>

Teresa Moss

The Town of Hilton Head Island so far has hauled 636,038 cubic yards of Hurricane Matthew debris — enough to fill Madison Square Garden two times, town official Charles Cousins said Wednesday. And the debris piles keep growing. On Wednesday, the town was preparing to add another 16 private communities to its debris-removal list. The Federal Emergency Management Agency late last week approved the town's request for reimbursement of the removal in those areas. According to a letter sent Thursday to the town by FEMA, the approved neighborhoods include...

**Island Packet:** Hurricane Matthew debris clogs Beaufort County waterways. Who will clean it up?

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article115147438.html>

Lucas High

More than a month after Hurricane Matthew's winds and waves sunk boats and destroyed docks and marinas, questions remain as to who is responsible for cleaning up debris in local waterways and marshland areas. While Beaufort County is partnering with local municipalities and state agencies on efforts to remove storm debris from roadways, that's not yet the case for debris in the water. "For marine debris, we are not as far along in the removal process as we are with debris along the roads," county stormwater manager Eric Larson said earlier this week. "We are working with state agencies trying to determine who is going to take the lead on this." In the days following Hurricane Matthew, crews with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources "removed debris from the navigable channel (of local waterways) and set it aside in the marsh."

**Morning News:** City of Florence updates Hurricane Matthew recovery efforts

[http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article\\_d93fbaa0-ac7e-11e6-847f-ebf417b7986c.html](http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_d93fbaa0-ac7e-11e6-847f-ebf417b7986c.html)

Joshua Lloyd

Florence officials said Wednesday that the city is taking strides in an effort called "Next Phase Florence" to clean up the large amounts of debris left last month after Hurricane Matthew. Officials said about 275 loads of debris, totaling more than 2,200 cubic yards of waste, have been picked up by city crews.

**Serial Killer Todd Kohlhepp:**

**Herald-Journal:** Kohlhepp real estate record never prompted action

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161116/kohlhepp-real-estate-record-never-prompted-action?rssfeed=true>

Bob Montgomery

Todd Kohlhepp, a registered sex offender and felon, bought and sold real estate for 10 years without ever drawing the attention of state regulators. It wasn't until he was arrested and charged with the kidnapping of missing Anderson woman Kala Brown, who was found alive in a container on his property, that Kohlhepp ever faced any kind of disciplinary action from the S.C. Real Estate Commission. The commission, which oversees and regulates licensing for agents and brokers, temporarily suspended Kohlhepp's real estate license on Nov. 4, stating "the public safety and welfare imperatively requires emergency action." Kohlhepp's seemingly clean real estate record appears to be one more area in which the man charged in the deaths of four people and suspected in three others flew beneath the radar of authorities. Since 2009, Kohlhepp was the owner and broker in

charge of TKA Real Estate, which is now closed. Before that, he worked as a sales associate for Weichert Realtors.

### **Michael Slagger Case:**

**Associated Press:** The Latest: Defense begins case in black motorist death

<http://bigstory.ap.org/1aec34a731874819afd2155a7f982f42>

The defense has called its first witness in the trial of Michael Slager, the white former South Carolina patrolman charged with murder in the shooting death of an unarmed black motorist. Slager faces 30 years to life if convicted of the charge in the death of 50-year-old Walter Scott, who was shot while fleeing from a traffic stop in North Charleston in April of 2015. The shooting was captured on dramatic cellphone video. Court adjourned for the day Wednesday after jurors heard from the first defense witness. David Hallimore, an audio expert, played enhanced audio from Slager's uniform microphone taken at the time of the shooting. Slager can be heard shouting "Taser! Taser! Taser!" as he ran after Scott. The defense contends that Scott was shot after getting control of Slager's stun gun.

**Associated Press:** Defense opens case in officer's shooting of black motorist

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=i2vKHAAtC](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=i2vKHAAtC)

Bruce Smith

The defense has opened its case in the murder trial of Michael Slager, the white former South Carolina patrolman charged in the shooting death of an unarmed black motorist. Slager is charged in the April 2015 shooting of 50-year-old Walter Scott as he ran from a traffic stop. Cellphone video recorded by a bystander shows Scott being shot five times in the back. The defense contends the two men struggled and Scott got hold of the officer's Taser before the shooting. The prosecution rested late Wednesday after calling 32 witnesses over nine days. The first defense witness was an audio expert who played enhanced audio from Slager's uniform microphone in which the officer warns Scott he is firing his stun gun.

**Associated Press:** Prosecution rests case in black motorist's shooting death

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=H14xCGid](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=H14xCGid)

Bruce Smith

The prosecution rested its case Wednesday in the murder trial of a white former South Carolina patrolman after showing jurors an animation of the shooting of a black motorist and a 3-D computerized scan of the scene. Fired North Charleston patrolman Michael Slager is charged in the April 2015 shooting of 50-year-old Walter Scott, who ran unarmed from a traffic stop. Cellphone video of the shooting recorded by a bystander shows Scott being shot five times in the back by Slager from yards away. It stunned the nation and was seen worldwide on the internet. The animation of the shooting was compiled by government witness Bill Williams, who recreates crime scenes. The animation was created by melding cellphone and dashcam video, police radio chatter and drone footage of the scene. Williams testified that he spent 500 hours putting it together and was paid \$15,000 by the state.

**Post and Courier:** Defense in murder trial explores what was said, done in Walter Scott confrontation

[http://www.postandcourier.com/news/defense-in-murder-trial-explores-what-was-said-done-in/article\\_4bf85696-ac71-11e6-9782-677402bdd996.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/news/defense-in-murder-trial-explores-what-was-said-done-in/article_4bf85696-ac71-11e6-9782-677402bdd996.html)

Andrew Knapp

As it takes shape Thursday, Michael Slager's defense case in his murder trial will hinge on what happened in a minute-long confrontation between the North Charleston policeman and Walter Scott before the gunfire that ended Scott's life. It started Wednesday with expert testimony about what the men said, and it likely will continue Thursday with opinions about what they did. The first defense witness, expert David Hallimore, said he removed background noise from audio recordings in police radio transmissions and bystander Feidin Santana's video of the shooting. It was an attempt to isolate

the men's voices. His work captured Slager ordering Scott to get on the ground after Scott ran from an April 4, 2015, traffic stop. Portions of the police radio transmissions, Hallimore said, also depict Scott's words.

**Post and Courier:** State rests in Michael Slager murder trial; judge denies bid for acquittal

[http://www.postandcourier.com/news/state-rests-in-michael-slager-murder-trial-judge-denies-bid/article\\_502aacec-abb7-11e6-997e-df7b2b8791f7.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/news/state-rests-in-michael-slager-murder-trial-judge-denies-bid/article_502aacec-abb7-11e6-997e-df7b2b8791f7.html)

Andrew Knapp and Brenda Rindge

Charleston's top prosecutor stepped in front of a jury Wednesday and grabbed one end of a tape measure. A witness, one of the last to testify against former North Charleston policeman Michael Slager, stretched out the other end and walked 17 feet. That's how far the witness said Walter Scott had run from Slager when the officer fired the first gunshot. He walked farther and stopped near a courtroom door, holding the measuring tape to his chest. "That's 34 feet," the prosecutor, 9th Circuit Solicitor Scarlett Wilson, said. "The seventh shot." Scott would step a few more feet before the eighth and final shot rang out. A silence spread over the room during the demonstration. A juror's eyes grew wide. Two others scratched their chins with their fingers.

**Dylann Roof Case:**

**Associated Press:** Judge asked to change mind on closed Dylann Roof hearing

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

Jeffrey Collins

A federal judge will hear arguments on whether he should change his mind and open to the public a hearing on whether Dylann Roof is competent to stand trial for killing nine black worshippers in a Charleston church. Judge Richard Gergel will hear from lawyers hired by The Associated Press and other media outlets at 1 p.m. Thursday. Gergel ruled Wednesday that Roof's competency hearing next week should be closed because statements from Roof and other evidence from the hearing could prevent potential jurors from giving him a fair trial. Roof's attorneys questioned his ability to help them at his death penalty trial on the eve of jury selection earlier this month. Gergel has tentatively ruled he'll begin jury selection Nov. 28 if Roof is found competent.

**Associated Press:** Judge closes Dylann Roof competency hearing to the public

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=3ppiMErW](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=3ppiMErW)

Jeffrey Collins

The public won't get to hear the evidence of whether Dylann Roof is competent to face a death penalty trial in the killings of nine black people in a Charleston church, according to an order Wednesday from a judge. There will be interviews with Roof and evidence presented at the hearing that may not end up being allowed before the jury and that could keep Roof from getting a fair trial, judge Richard Gergel wrote. Gergel is giving media organizations a chance to argue against his ruling Thursday afternoon. The Associated Press, The Post and Courier of Charleston, The State of Columbia, NPR and WCSC-TV have all asked the hearing be kept open along with prosecutors. Roof's closed competency hearing is scheduled for Monday, with Gergel scheduling jury selection to tentatively begin Nov. 28 in Roof's federal death penalty trial if he is found competent. Gergel said he will issue a public order on Roof's competency, blacking out material he doesn't think should be public.

**The State:** Judge again rules Dylann Roof's mental competency hearing is closed

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article115188193.html>

John Monk

A federal judge has ruled that a hearing to assess the mental competence of accused Charleston church killer Dylann Roof will be closed to the public. Gergel moved the hearing from Thursday to Monday, but set aside time Thursday for media lawyers and others can weigh in if they object to the closure of the Monday hearing. This delay all but ensures Roof's upcoming death penalty trial will spill

over into January. If, after Monday's hearing, Gergel finds Roof competent to stand trial, the judge will likely not be able to start jury selection until the first part of December. Since jury selection will take an estimated three to four weeks, and Gergel has already indicated court will recess during the Christmas holiday period, that would push the start of trial testimony to January.

**Post and Courier:** Judge rules Dylann Roof competency hearing closed to the public

[http://www.postandcourier.com/church\\_shooting/judge-rules-dylann-roof-competency-hearing-closed-to-the-public/article\\_5d9cc1ea-ac01-11e6-86fb-6706dd09ccfb.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/church_shooting/judge-rules-dylann-roof-competency-hearing-closed-to-the-public/article_5d9cc1ea-ac01-11e6-86fb-6706dd09ccfb.html)

Jennifer Berry Hawes

A federal judge on Wednesday ruled that a hearing to determine if Dylann Roof is competent to stand trial won't be open to the public, disappointing victims' loved ones who wanted to observe the proceedings. At the competency hearing, now scheduled for Monday, attorneys will discuss a new psychiatric examination of the Emanuel AME Church shooter. That evaluation relied heavily on extensive interviews with Roof, which attorneys likely will discuss at the hearing. "Under these circumstances, the Court finds it wholly impractical to conduct a proper competency hearing in this matter without running the substantial risk of disclosing information that would prejudice Defendant's right to a fair trial and an impartial jury," U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel ruled after an in-chambers conference with attorneys. He also filed three other orders in the case Wednesday, all sealed to the public.

**Greenville News:** Judge orders Roof competency hearing closed, changes date

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/11/16/judge-orders-roof-competency-hearing-closed-changes-date/93974040/>

Tim Smith

U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel on Wednesday ordered that a competency hearing for Dylann Roof be closed to the public, finding that leaving it open would threaten Roof's right to a fair trial. But Gergel also said that he would hear objections to his order at a hearing Thursday at 1 p.m. He ordered the competency hearing to be moved to Monday, saying the defense needed more time to prepare. "In reaching the decision to close the competency hearing in this case, the court remains mindful of the strong interest of the press, the public and the victims' families in open and transparent court proceedings," Gergel wrote. "The court shares that commitment to an open courthouse and open court proceedings. But no one's interest is served by a violation (of a) defendant's fair trial rights, and the court will continue to weigh carefully and respectfully that delicate balance between two of the most sacred rights enshrined in the United States Constitution — the right to open court proceedings and an accused's right to a fair trial."

**LGBT Laws:**

**Greenville News:** Transgender student faces assault, disturbing schools charges

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/pickens-county/2016/11/16/pickens-county-transgender-student-faces-assault-disturbing-schools-charges/92718682/>

Ron Barnett

A transgender student at the Pickens County Career & Technology Center was charged with third-degree assault and disturbing schools after an alleged altercation with a deputy over which bathroom the student was allowed to use, according to an incident report and tickets issued in the case. Kinsey Lynn Evans, 18, was arrested after using the boys' bathroom and being told to use the faculty/staff men's bathroom, the incident report says. The school district said the arrest was based on a confrontation the next day between the student and the school resource officer, not the student's use of the boys' bathroom.

**Opinion/Editorial:**

**The State:** An awful win-loss record, but reasons for optimism <http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn->

Cindi Ross Scoppe

LET'S JUST GO straight to the ugly numbers: Two-thirds of the candidates our editorial board endorsed in last week's election lost. We have never seen numbers like that since I joined the board in 1997 — and as far as I can tell for decades before that. Normally, it's more like 25 percent. Of course, "normally" normally covers a lot more endorsements — at least a dozen, sometimes 20 or more. This time there were just three, because we didn't have the time to do all the races we normally would, and three — the president and the two local state Senate races — was the only logical cutoff that gave us a manageable number. We could have run up the numbers by making endorsements without holding lengthy meetings with the candidates. If we had done that, I have little doubt that we would have endorsed Rep. Kirkman Finlay and newcomer Micah Caskey for the House, and likely newcomer Ivory Thigpen for the House. That would have brought us up to a respectable 4-2. But we feel like those meetings are important, even when we're confident we know enough about the candidates to make a decision

### **South Carolina News:**

**Associated Press:** South Carolina man resolves 22-year-old drunk driving charge

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=BB0zYg5c](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=BB0zYg5c)

SC State Wire

Authorities say a South Carolina man has appeared in a Massachusetts court to resolve a drunken driving case more than 20 years after he was arrested on the charge. Hingham police Sgt. Steven Dearth says 54-year-old Alexander Richey on Wednesday admitted to sufficient facts for a finding of guilt in court. The case was continued without a finding for a year and will be dismissed if Richey stays out of trouble. Dearth says Richey contacted a local attorney last week to clear up the case, which has been open since his July 1994 arrest. He says Richey never showed for a court date that month. He says Richey returned because he couldn't renew his license due to the outstanding warrant. Dearth says Richey will serve unsupervised probation in South Carolina.

**Associated Press:** West Virginia highway project bribes alleged

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=OF2J9ec2](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=OF2J9ec2)

SC State Wire

Federal prosecutors say four people conspired to steer \$1.5 million of West Virginia highways project to a South Carolina business for bribes and kickbacks between 2008 and 2014. According to prosecutors, 60-year-old Bruce Kenney III of Norfolk, Virginia, used his former state position to funnel structural inspection work to the Dennis Corp. of Columbia while covertly receiving nearly \$200,000. Thirty-eight-year-old Andrew Nichols of Lesage, West Virginia, a former Dennis manager, allegedly ensured the payments. Fifty-two-year-old Mark Whitt of Winfield, West Virginia, owner of Bayliss and Ramey Inc., allegedly used its state contract to funnel work to Dennis and inflate invoices 20 percent. Forty-year-old James Travis Miller of Hurricane, West Virginia, who left the state payroll to work for Dennis, allegedly delivered payments. Calls to their attorneys were not immediately returned.

### **Local News:**

**Associated Press:** Police: S. Carolina man jailed; claimed bomb in White House

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=EYqcTC8P](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=EYqcTC8P)

SC State Wire

A South Carolina man has been jailed after allegedly calling police to say there was a bomb in the White House. A North Myrtle Beach police news release says authorities spoke with 25-year-old Justin McCoy of Little River on the phone and in person late Tuesday, and he confirmed making the threat. The release says no bombs were located at the White House. Police say McCoy was previously convicted of making a bomb threat and also threatening the life of a public official. Now he's charged with making a bomb threat or conveying false information about a bomb threat. The sheriff's website

says McCoy is being held without bail. A city spokesman said the Secret Service is interviewing McCoy. The spokesman didn't answer whether McCoy has an attorney.

**Sun News:** Horry County man arrested for threat to White House, Charleston

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article115092333.html>

North Myrtle Beach Police arrested Justin M. McCoy, 25, of Horry County on Tuesday, after officers say he called in reports of bombs in the White House and somewhere in Charleston. McCoy called the North Myrtle Beach Department of Public Safety Communications office at 11:25 p.m. on Tuesday, telling dispatchers to call the FBI because "there is a bomb planted in the White House," according to a police report. McCoy then hung up the phone, police said. Ten minutes later, dispatchers say the same caller called again, this time saying there was a bomb planted in Charleston, the report stated. "Dispatch called the caller back and the caller identified himself as Justin McCoy." Officers met with McCoy at a gas station on 33rd Avenue South in North Myrtle Beach and police say he confessed to the calls, but would not say whether or not the threats were legit.

**WLTX:** Ex-Criminal Changes Life Through Faith, Helps Others

<http://www.wltx.com/news/community/ex-criminal-changes-life-through-faith-helps-others/353163072>

Janae Frazier

An ex-criminal is now using the past of his pain to move others forward. "I was introduced to crack cocaine by my stepfather, um and from 16 to about 19, uh found myself in the streets using crack cocaine," Terrence Gallman explained. Gallman has had a rough start to life. "I knew everybody in the street. Everybody who sold and used and I was able to make a lot of money really fast and I did not stop until I was indicted," Gallman said. He was sentenced to 27 years for federal drug charges and served 12. "Prison is very dark, very cold, I mean it's almost indescribable in the realness," Gallman said of his past. While there, he went back to the faith his grandfather instilled in him when he was younger. "So you know it came back to me at that time to just be thankful and to want to do better," Gallman said of his faith. He says his faith helped him cope with the misery of being locked up and the guilt of his bad decisions. "And through going to church in the prisons and through meeting the guys who you know seem to be living beyond the walls because of their spiritual life and their faith life, those are the guys you want to get connected with in order to survive," Gallman said. "I was able to build on those relationships and build my faith to sustain."

**Aiken Standard:** Aiken Public Safety awarded grant to hire domestic violence investigator

[http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/aiken-public-safety-awarded-grant-to-hire-domestic-violence-investigator/article\\_7b458c92-abf5-11e6-a267-57623307e8b2.html](http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/aiken-public-safety-awarded-grant-to-hire-domestic-violence-investigator/article_7b458c92-abf5-11e6-a267-57623307e8b2.html)

Dan Brown

The Aiken Department of Public Safety was awarded this week a grant dedicated to the hiring of a domestic violence investigator. Public Safety Chief Charles Barranco made the announcement Monday at City's Council meeting. The more than \$88,000 grant, with a 10-percent local match, is funded through the South Carolina Justice Assistance Grant, or JAG, program. In a memo to Council, Barranco said, "Through our Safe Communities Initiative, we have identified that many of our offenders have domestic violence issues in their families. It is felt that having a dedicated investigator to work with the offenders – and by referring them to support agencies – would help reduce occurrences of domestic violence." Last year, 47 South Carolinians were killed by their partners – 35 female and 12 male, according to the South Carolina Attorney General's Office. In Aiken County last year, four people were killed by their partners – three women and one man.

**Morning News:** SLED helping investigate series of fires in Florence

[http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article\\_b0a766be-ac7f-11e6-b43a-bf4e4c281c25.html](http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_b0a766be-ac7f-11e6-b43a-bf4e4c281c25.html)

Investigators are continuing to follow up on leads in a series of fires that have burned several houses, a mobile home and a tire warehouse in and around Florence starting election night. Lt. Mike Brandt said the Florence Police Department's arson investigator is working with South Carolina Law Enforcement Division agents on leads in the investigation and additional personnel have been

assigned to patrol the city in an attempt to prevent other fires.

**Associated Press:** Black chamber building fire in S. Carolina ruled an accident

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=n2iUBFmT](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=n2iUBFmT)

SC State Wire

Authorities have ruled out arson in a fire that destroyed the almost-completed new headquarters of the Beaufort County Black Chamber of Commerce. Local Fire Chief Reece Bertholf said Wednesday investigators determined the fire was accidental. According to a joint announcement from city, state and federal agencies, preliminary findings are that the fire started between the first and second floors in a sealed-off space that allowed no access. Bertholf told reporters Wednesday the investigation continues, but the findings shouldn't change. Construction of the three-story structure was nearly complete when it burned early Saturday, causing at least \$2 million in damages. There were no reported injuries. A grand opening was planned for Jan. 12. Federal agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms took over the investigation Sunday.

**Island Packet:** Investigators: Black Chamber fire not arson, tied to electrical issue

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article115168133.html>

A fire that burned the Beaufort County Black Chamber of Commerce on Saturday wasn't arson, investigators said Wednesday. The fire started in an enclosed space between the first and second floors in an area sealed off after initial framing and utilities were in place, Beaufort-Port Royal Fire Chief Reece Bertholf said. Electrical wiring was the only possible source of the heat that started the fire, he said. In response to any remaining public concern about the cause, Bertholf said some of the country's top investigators worked the scene and there was no way anything else could have gotten into the space where the fire began. Nothing in surveillance footage of the fire changed investigators' determination, he added. "This fire was accidental," he said.

**Associated Press:** Restaurant owner opposed in bid to lower Confederate flag

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=cziFHQ9V](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=cziFHQ9V)

Jeffrey Collins

Tommy Daras had planned on a small ceremony Wednesday to remove the Confederate flag flying from the edge of the parking lot at his South Carolina restaurant. Then he encountered a hitch. Two members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans showed up at the flagpole and advised Daras the group owns a small tract of land where the flag flies, deeded to them in 2005 by a former restaurant operator who kept literature supporting slavery in his barbecue joints. Warned they could have him arrested for trespassing, Daras is now rethinking his options in his bid to replace the Confederate flag with an American flag outside his restaurant. "I wanted to compromise. I tried to work with them," Daras said of months of negotiations. "But I realized today they are racists and they are bringing down my business with them."

**The State:** Civil rights leader Bryan Stevenson to receive Columbia's Key to the City

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article115142203.html>

Sarah Ellis

Modern civil rights leader Bryan Stevenson will receive the honorary Key to the City from Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin. Stevenson, a lawyer and the founder of the Equal Justice Initiative in Alabama, has dedicated his career to helping the poor, the incarcerated and the condemned. He and his staff have won court battles to limit excessive and unfair sentencing, exonerate death row prisoners, stand against abuse of the imprisoned and the mentally ill and to help children who are prosecuted as adults. Stevenson will speak about his experience with the justice system Thursday at The Township Auditorium. Benjamin will give the opening remarks at a program that also will include music by DJ Liv, a historical photography exhibit and a question-and-answer session with Stevenson.

**The State:** Columbia Police honored for its excellence in law enforcement

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article115135578.html>

Cynthia Roldan

The Columbia Police Department is celebrating an excellence award the agency received by the state's law enforcement association on Tuesday. The South Carolina Law Enforcement Association honored the Columbia Police Department with the Santee Cooper Excellence in Law Enforcement Award. Previous winners include the Charleston Police Department in 2015 and the Aiken Department of Public Safety in 2014, according to reports. The award aims to recognize the overall activities and achievements of an entire law enforcement agency or department, according to the association's awards information page. Qualifications that are taken into consideration for the award include the agency's effort, innovative service to the community, efficiency and results, the page said.

**Associated Press:** Toxins drained into Columbia creeks as sewage systems failed

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=kSywcXa0](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=kSywcXa0)

SC State Wire

Researchers at the University of South Carolina have found that mercury and other toxic metals poured into major creeks in the Saluda, Congaree and Broad river basins after sewage systems failed during the past year. The State newspaper (<http://bit.ly/2fYtryH>) reports that university researchers discovered elevated amounts of metals in wastewater spilling at Stoops Creek and Crane Creek from November 2015 to March. The two creeks are large tributaries of Columbia rivers. When wastewater treatment plants are operating properly, the metals are treated and removed. USC scientist Sarah Rothenberg says the findings suggest metals from sewage spills could have more of an effect on rivers and aquatic life than previously thought. The findings are scheduled to be presented Friday at a conference at the school.

**The State:** Mercury, other toxins drained into Columbia-area creeks as sewage systems failed

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article115158578.html>

Sammy Fretwell

Mercury and other toxic metals have poured into major creeks in the Saluda, Congaree and Broad river basins after sewage systems failed during the past year, researchers at the University of South Carolina have found. From November 2015 to this past March, USC researchers discovered elevated amounts of metals in wastewater spilling at Stoops Creek and Crane Creek, both of which are large tributaries of Columbia rivers. The findings, to be presented Friday at a USC conference in Columbia, suggest that metals from sewage spills may be having more of an impact on rivers than previously thought, said USC scientist Sarah Rothenberg, who co-authored the study with other university researchers and Congaree Riverkeeper Bill Stangler. "You have metals going into the environment that would otherwise have been treated and removed at a wastewater treatment plant," said Rothenberg, an assistant professor in Carolina's public health school. "The fact that this is just going right into the environment .... suggests that it may be a more significant source than previously believed."

**Associated Press:** SC free medical clinic sees more patients, needs more money

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ag00F9PN](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ag00F9PN)

SC State Wire

The demand for services from Spartanburg's free medical clinic continues to grow as its administrators seek new money to pay bills. The Herald-Journal of Spartanburg reports (<http://bit.ly/2f7BonX>) St. Luke's Medical Clinic plans to open a second location by Jan. 1. This year, the clinic is on pace for more than 8,000 visits, up from 6,000 last year. Executive director Patsy Whitney attributes the increase to hiring a full-time nurse practitioner, along with greater awareness that the free clinic exists. The clinic also hired a mental health counselor and a health coach this year through grant funding. Whitney says revenues through the end of 2015 totaled about \$803,500 while expenses were about \$801,000. This year, she says expenses are expected to surpass revenues since the clinic lost about \$100,000 in funding.

**Herald-Journal:** Immigrant impact expected to grow in Upstate

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161116/immigrant-impact-expected-to-grow-in-upstate?rssfeed=true>

Zach Fox

After an election where immigration became a hot-button topic, a University of South Carolina Upstate event highlighted the growing diversity of the Upstate and the impact of immigration on the area. Wednesday's panel discussion, The Global South, examined the changing face of the Upstate. Panelists noted how the region has grown more diverse over the past few decades due to international businesses and a changing population. "No region in the United States has undergone greater transformation than the American South," said Ramon Galinanes Jr., the keynote speaker. Galinanes is one of the founders of the Hispanic American Alliance of Spartanburg and is a professor and the coordinator of the Bonner Scholars program at Wofford College. He said now more than ever, public policies that give immigrants a respected, dignified and recognized voice have to be fought for. "I believe we're living in times of strong nativism here and in the country as a whole, and that narrative is troubling," he said. "The narrative that immigrants or 'strangers' are blamed for social problems or other issues is problematic."

**Island Packet:** Moss receives 'proficient' evaluation, but are ethics concerns behind him?

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article115280653.html>

Wade Livingston

The Beaufort County Board of Education gave Superintendent Jeff Moss a "proficient" annual evaluation Wednesday evening, a little more than three months after he admitted to ethics violations stemming from allegations of nepotism. And while the board acknowledged its role in the matter — the hiring of the superintendent's wife, Darlene Moss, to a district-level job, and the public outcry that resulted — it said the matter was resolved. "However, concerning the ethics case involving the superintendent, the board, of course, is pleased that the matter was resolved in early August and is now behind us," board member and secretary Evva Anderson said, reading Moss' evaluation into the record during the special-called meeting.

**National News:**

**Associated Press:** Officer charged in shooting that was streamed on Facebook

<http://bigstory.ap.org/a6dd3a0a30e34d3c996bdd02ba6439a1>

When Philando Castile was pulled over in July, he calmly told the officer he had a gun and was licensed to carry it, according to prosecutors. Moments later, the officer fired on the motorist, and a bleeding Castile uttered his last words: "I wasn't reaching for it." On Wednesday, that officer was charged with second-degree manslaughter following an investigation by prosecutors, who concluded that Jeronimo Yanez was wrong to use his weapon in the traffic stop, which was seen by millions after Castile's girlfriend streamed his final gruesome moments live on Facebook. "No reasonable officer, knowing, seeing and hearing what officer Yanez did at the time, would've used deadly force under these circumstances," Ramsey County Attorney John Choi said. Prosecutors believe Castile never tried to pull his handgun from his pocket, and Yanez's unreasonable fear did not justify the shooting, Choi said. If convicted, the officer could face up to 10 years in prison.

**Associated Press:** McConnell to lead Senate GOP, Schumer new Democratic leader

<http://bigstory.ap.org/bb4c20778b9e4e0aab4870fcd48b92e9>

Senate Republicans re-elected Mitch McConnell on Wednesday to be majority leader next year while Democrats picked Chuck Schumer to lead them, setting the chief actors as the chamber prepares for an agenda that will be dominated by Donald Trump and the GOP. McConnell, 74, is a discreet but deadly master of the Senate's legislative chess game. His role will be to steer GOP bills to the desk of a president whose name he barely spoke during a tumultuous campaign in which many Republicans viewed Trump and his incendiary comments on Muslims, veterans and others as political poison. "It's time to accept the results of the election, to lower the tone and to see what we can do together to make progress for the country," McConnell, from Kentucky, told reporters Wednesday. As Senate

minority leader, Schumer will assume his weakened party's most powerful remaining post as it struggles to define its role in a Republican-dominated government.

**Associated Press:** In pep talk, Clinton urges backers to 'never, ever give up'

<http://bigstory.ap.org/fdfe30a6a84a4adbb29a39d354c0f8b9>

Hillary Clinton is acknowledging the difficulty of her loss in the presidential race for her supporters and urging them to persevere through the Donald Trump era. In remarks that were equal parts pep talk and funeral dirge, Clinton encouraged her backers to "never, ever give up." "I know this isn't easy. I know that over the past week a lot of people have asked themselves whether America is the country we thought it was," Clinton said Wednesday night at the annual gala of the Children's Defense Fund, the child advocacy organization where she started her legal career. "But please listen to me when I say this: America is worth it." She added: "It's up to each and every one of us to keep working to make America better and stronger and fairer." Clinton never cited the president-elect by name in her remarks, making only an oblique reference to the controversial policies that fueled his rise to the White House.

**World News:**

**Associated Press:** Obama to meet Merkel in Germany, top trade partner and ally

<http://bigstory.ap.org/4ba8108cf1bd4638869fd2e3d4498d46>

President Barack Obama is stressing a message of solidarity and trans-Atlantic cooperation on his final visit Thursday to Germany — a top trade partner, key NATO ally and home to thousands of American troops, as well as a nation critical to solving Europe's migrant crisis and debt woes. Obama arrived Wednesday night in Berlin from Greece, making his sixth and final visit as president to Germany, where he has been popular since even before he was elected. His eight years in office have helped erase much of the anti-American sentiment that had grown during the administration of George W. Bush over the Iraq war and other policies. German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who worked well with Bush before Obama's election, dined with Obama Wednesday night at his hotel and was to hold talks with him Thursday afternoon. The downtown area around the Chancellery and hotel where Obama was staying was locked down tightly, with some 2,400 police officers on hand manning road blocks and checkpoints.

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Camlin Moore

Cell: 803-206-8236

Office: 803-734-8044