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Governor Nikki Haley News:

WCBD: Governor Nikki Haley set to speak about relief efforts

<http://counton2.com/2016/10/16/governor-nikki-haley-set-to-speak-about-relief-efforts/>

A week after Hurricane Matthew, Governor Nikki Haley is set to hold a press conference Monday, October 17. Governor Nikki Haley, South Carolina Electric & Gas Company officials and representatives from the Central Carolina Community Foundation will discuss the importance of the One SC Fund's ongoing relief efforts during a press conference at 2:00 PM. The One SC Fund's was established to assist South Carolinians recovering from natural disasters. The first project was providing assistance to South Carolinians in the aftermath of last year's thousand year flood. The governor recently announced plans to expand fundraising efforts of the One SC Fund to help those impacted by Hurricane Matthew.

Post and Courier: Gov. Nikki Haley's 'rock star' sign language interpreter going on a T-shirt

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161015/161019711/gov-nikki-haleys-rock-star-sign-language-interpreter-going-on-a-t-shirt->

The animated sign language interpreter who served as a bright spot during Hurricane Matthew will be immortalized in T-shirt form. Certified Deaf Interpreter Jason Hurdich — who stood by for Gov. Nikki Haley's updates — is appearing on T-shirts created by Myrtle Beach screen printing business ImagiNATION Athletics. He's shown with his thumb and pinky finger outstretched delivering the American Sign Language gesture for "now." The sign closely resembles the surfer sign for "hang loose." Wording on the shirt recalls the storm and tells folks to "get out and surf." "With all that's been happening, we just wanted to put a smile on people's faces," ImagiNATION owner Richard Knott said. "It's a cool way to remember something that was really cool during the hurricane." Artist Chris Sanford created the design and within a day of offering the free shirts the shop had to halt requests. "Without a doubt we could have gotten 1,000 orders. Easily," Knott said. Hurdich got a shout-out from Haley for his performances last week, calling him a "rock star." "I want to personally thank you for all that you've done," she said. "Not only do you now have a major fan base, but you've made South Carolinians very proud." Hurdich, of Charleston, continues to take all of the attention in stride, saying it was incredibly humbling to find out his picture was going to be on a shirt.

The State: EXCLUSIVE: 'Did they all get out?' Gov. Haley reflects on Hurricane Matthew

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article108361642.html>

The night Hurricane Matthew struck South Carolina, Gov. Nikki Haley was sleepless at home — and waiting. "I was watching TV. I couldn't keep my eyes off it," Haley recalled Thursday during an exclusive interview with The State newspaper. "I remember Michael saying, 'You need to get some rest,' and I turned off the TV, but I didn't sleep all night. Thinking the rain and wind outside her window was nothing compared with the battering along the coast, Haley said she was hoping the days of planning, emergency conference calls, news conferences and appeals to residents to evacuate would keep people safe. "All I could keep thinking about was: How many people didn't hear us? Did they all

get out? What else could we have done? ... That was the hardest time for me, the waiting."In South Carolina, Hurricane Matthew initially left more than 800,000 people without power, closed nearly 500 roads and bridges, caused nearly two dozen dams to breach, sent more than 6,000 people to shelters and claimed at least five lives. The cost of the storm has yet to be quantified. Days after Matthew left the state, the storm's impact is ongoing as the heavy rainfall courses southeast to the Atlantic Ocean, swelling river banks in the Pee Dee and flooding communities. On Thursday, Haley said the state is not out of the woods.

The State: Darius Rucker to play flood benefit show in Columbia Friday

<http://www.thestate.com/entertainment/celebrities/article108299422.html>

Darius Rucker caused a ripple in the Twitterverse Thursday when he tweeted that he would be in Columbia Friday. A fan asked him if he was planning on doing a benefit concert in Charleston for flood relief, and the country star replied, "Columbiatomorrow." The tweet garnered several dozen favorites and retweets before being deleted. Rucker is in fact performing in Columbia Friday, but it is a private show benefiting One SC Fund, which helps October 2015 flood victims, his publicist said. Gov. Nikki Haley asked Rucker if he would perform, and tickets for the show at Spirit Communications Park Ballroom were sold through corporate sponsorships, his publicist said.

WMBF: Gov. Haley tours damage in Nichols, meets with leaders

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33395386/gov-haley-tours-damage-in-nichols-meets-with-leaders>

The Town of Nichols remains heavily impacted by floodwaters and damage left by Hurricane Matthew. South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley paid residents and evacuees a visit Friday. According to a news release, she arrived midday and met with Mayor Lawson Battle, Police Chief Mark Lewis, SLED Chief Mark Keel, Adjutant General Bob Livingston, DNR Director Colonel Alvin Taylor and other local leaders to discuss the Town's ongoing support needs. After touring damage of the area in a high-water vehicle, she traveled to meet with evacuated Nichols residents at a shelter in Mullins. On her Facebook page, Haley described Nichols as a sweet town having experience loss and devastation. "We saw so much loss and devastation today in Marion County especially in the sweet town of Nichols," said Governor Nikki Haley. "As we visited evacuees at their shelter we were overwhelmed by the grace and goodness of the people there even though they have lost all they had. There is a lot of work to be done but we will get them through it."

WBTW: Governor Haley visits Marion County to talk with flood victims

<http://counton2.com/2016/10/14/governor-haley-visits-marion-county-to-talk-with-flood-victims/>

Governor Nikki Haley spent the day in the Pee Dee Friday looking at the damage and flood waters that still cover Nichols, Mullins, and other areas in Marion County. Haley spent time with people who have been pushed out of their homes because of flooding at the Mullins shelter Latonya Clark has been staying at the shelter this week because her home is now under water. She says Haley being there is a sign of hope. "Our next steps is seeing where we going from here. It's hard, especially the ones with kids. Even if you don't have kids, it's very difficult because we've never been through nothing like this. Nichols, it's gone. What once were our homes, it's gone now," said Clark. Crews from FEMA, the American Red Cross, The National Guard, The Marion County Sheriff's Office were all at the shelter meeting with Haley, and people there say they hope that means they're on the right track to making plans to rebuild.

WPDE: Governor Nikki Haley visits Nichols amid widespread, severe flooding

<http://wpde.com/news/local/gov-nikki-haley-visits-nichols-amid-widespread-severe-flooding>

Friday afternoon, Governor Nikki Haley visited the town of Nichols in Marion County to gain a better

understanding of the terrible flooding that is plaguing so many South Carolinians in the region. On her social media pages, Haley described the scene in Nichols as one of "loss and devastation." She said she was overwhelmed by the "grace and goodness" of those she encountered on her visit, and praised the ability of so many to endure despite difficult circumstances. Haley also took the time to thank all of the officials in the area for their work. "God bless you. Thank you so much. We appreciate it. Ya'll be careful," she said. After her visit, Haley encouraged those who could to help South Carolinians in need by donating to the One SC Relief Fund here.

Index Journal: MUSC board member defends \$22K in spending

<http://www.indexjournal.com/news/MUSC-board-member-defends--22K-in-spending-18358797>

On Wednesday, an ad hoc Medical University of South Carolina committee spent nearly an hour behind closed doors discussing possible changes to spending policies for the board of trustees. Two members of that board -- which racked up more than \$560,000 in expenses since 2011, an August investigation by the Pulitzer Prize-winning Charleston Post and Courier -- are from Greenwood. Greenwood forensic accountant Charles Schulze is calling into question that August report for failing to fully research spending habits of the Medical University of South Carolina's Board of Trustees. That includes \$22,950.47 worth of spending by Schulze himself. The Aug. 26 story was written by Post and Courier reporters Doug Pardue and Lauren Sausser. Schulze, who has been an MUSC trustee since 2002, provided financial details and a lengthy explanation of the \$22,950.47 worth of spending under his name during that five-year span, making him the second trustee willing to publicly answer questions about the expenditures.

NOTE: In the wake of the Post and Courier's reporting, Gov. Nikki Haley called on all MUSC board members to compensate the school for its spending habits.

NOTE: Haley appoints two of the boards 16 members, while the General Assembly appoints the rest. One of Haley's picks -- Dr. Harold Jablon -- agreed to repay more than \$20,000 in reimbursements.

Hurricane Matthew:

Associated Press : 2 more N Carolina deaths raise Matthew's US death toll to 43

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=GPqmN2Jy

Searchers found two more bodies inside vehicles that were submerged in flood waters in North Carolina from Hurricane Matthew, increasing the toll in the state to 26 dead, Gov. Pat McCrory said Saturday. McCrory talked a lot about recovery at his Saturday news conference - one week after the hurricane dumped more than a foot of rain 100 miles inland causing massive flooding in the eastern part of the state. Towns such as Princeville, Lumberton and Fair Bluff remain under water, and not all rivers have crested. Early next week, the governor plans to release a detailed plan on how North Carolina will rebuild, including how to pay for the effort. But he said serious problems remain. "There are still many, may difficult days ahead for North Carolina," McCrory said.

Associated Press: Road to recovery could test patience of Matthew victims

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=TigPlx8n

Tiajuana Williams lives in a one-story apartment building in Princeville, North Carolina, that was flooded by a river bulging with rainwater from Hurricane Matthew. Before driving out of town in her Honda Civic ahead of the storm, she hurriedly packed a small bag with little more than a change of clothes. Now, even while seeking aid to replace her belongings and arrange long-term housing, she has more pressing needs: "I ain't got no clothes. I left my clothes in there!" If other recent floods in Louisiana and elsewhere are any indication, she could face a long road to recovery. She filled out a FEMA application online and signed paperwork Thursday with an agency representative who met

with people in Tarboro, just across the Tar River from Princeville. But Williams was told that it could take a week or more to get to the next step, which will be a phone call from another representative who will go over her information again. She doesn't have renter's insurance and fears her stuff has been ruined. Making matters worse, she hasn't been able to get to her job as a home health nurse and doesn't expect a paycheck this week.

Associated Press: Marion, Orangeburg counties added to federal disaster list

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=6WzJSEUW

Officials have added Marion and Orangeburg counties to the list of counties considered federal disaster areas after Hurricane Matthew. Saturday's order allows those counties and 13 others to get federal money to help with local and state recovery efforts from the winds and flooding from last weekend's storm. The declaration allows the federal government to reimburse local governments, state agencies, some nonprofit organizations and electric cooperatives. Flooding from the hurricane is still affecting parts of the state. Businesses and residents in Conway are watching as the Waccamaw River is expected to come within a few inches of its record crest Sunday. The Little Pee Dee River also has major flooding. Power companies reported 18,000 outages Saturday afternoon. Most of them are South Carolina Electric Cooperatives customers in the Pee Dee.

The State: Some signs of normalcy returning to SC coastal areas struck by Hurricane Matthew

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article108554942.html>

It will be a long time before many parts of the South Carolina coast return to what they were before Hurricane Matthew. But communities continued to take steps toward recovery one week after the destructive storm unleashed winds and a storm surge on the S.C. coast and then dumped large amounts of rain in North Carolina that's now inundating rivers in South Carolina's inland counties. S.C. National Guard troops are starting to pull back. Most coastal schools will be reopened by early next week. Florence County's emergency operations center is taking a break for the weekend. Power has been restored to even more residents. And some vacation and tourism spots are looking forward to reopening. At least nine hotels and resorts in the Hilton Head Island area had opened as of Saturday, and three more planned to open on Monday. At least a half-dozen golf courses had reopened in Beaufort County by Saturday, too, though it will take weeks for some others to be ready for play.

The State: Many Conway residents brace for flood waters in their homes

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article108537987.html>

Just a few miles north of a sign welcoming motorists to Conway, a "historic rivertown," several cars and trucks – and boats – sit on the edge of Waccamaw Drive. They belong to residents who live along the Waccamaw River, which is expected to crest at 17.2 feet just after midnight Sunday, at least a day earlier than officials expected. Several rivers flooded in North Carolina because of Hurricane Matthew earlier this week. The water is making its way downstream, flooding several South Carolina communities along the way. As they have during past floods, residents of Waccamaw Drive are parking their cars on nearby roads and boating in and out of their homes. Many of the houses are elevated, said Maurice Stephens, a resident of the neighborhood who has lived on that street for eight years. Though he sits on stilts, many other houses don't and are underwater. Stephens, 52, has been staying elsewhere with family. He visits his home every other day to check on his cat. He said he'd be staying home, if it weren't for the lack of power. He said he's not too worried about water getting into his home. "The last two Octobers have been pretty cruel," Stephens said. "Those things are going to happen when you live on the river."

The State: Hurricane survivors in 2 inland counties now eligible to apply for FEMA money

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article108477737.html>

Homeowners, renters and business owners in Orangeburg and Marion counties will now be eligible to apply for individual assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to help them recover from Hurricane Matthew's destruction. Storm survivors in those counties, both located inland of the coast but both suffering significant damage, might be eligible for grants for temporary housing and home repairs and for other serious disaster-related needs, such as medical and dental expenses or funeral and burial costs. Loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration also might be available to cover losses not fully paid for by insurance. The announcement of funding for these counties comes a day after the state's U.S. Congressional delegation issued a plea for federal funding for individual hurricane survivors. Earlier this week, a disaster declaration by President Barack Obama made state and local agencies covering 13 counties eligible for FEMA disaster funding, but it did not apply to individuals seeking funding.

The State: Ash ponds, hog lagoons and septic tanks have SC residents nervous as river rises

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article108374052.html>

As the Waccamaw River swells this weekend, concerns are rising about potential contamination from a coal ash pond, septic tanks and hog farms that contain potentially harmful bacteria and metals. The Santee Cooper power company was working this week to protect a coal ash pond that is under pressure from the Waccamaw. The ash pond, west of Myrtle Beach, contains at least 660,000 tons of the toxin-riddled ash at Santee Cooper's old Grainger power station. Water is within three feet of the top of a retaining wall around the Grainger site near Conway, said Waccamaw Riverkeeper Emma Gerald Boyer. Soaking rains from Hurricane Matthew last weekend caused the Waccamaw to rise in North Carolina and that water is now working its way down river into South Carolina, where Conway and small communities nearby are flooding. "You never know with this much water; it could affect the integrity of the containment," Boyer said. "Dams will just collapse due to pressure, as opposed to only washing over the top."

The State: Beware of displaced wildlife, and don't hunt in Waccamaw basin, SC DNR says

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article108270717.html>

Hunting will be temporarily banned in the Waccamaw River drainage system in portions of Horry and Georgetown counties, the S.C. Department of Natural Resources announced Friday. High river levels and widespread flooding have displaced many animals from their normal escape routes and confined them to small areas of high ground, making them vulnerable to exploitation by hunters, DNR said in a post on its website Friday. The 10-day hunting ban goes into effect at midnight Saturday and will last through midnight Tuesday, Oct. 25. It applies to all game except for alligators, doves, hogs and coyotes. DNR also warned people to be cautious of animals that have moved to higher ground in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew. It's a natural instinct for wildlife to seek safety and return to their natural habitats as they can, DNR officials said in a news release Friday. But people who spot wildlife should not approach, attempt to feed or attempt to catch the animals, officials warn. "While SCDNR understands and appreciates public concern, we want to assure everyone that the overall fish and wildlife populations are stable and should not experience any long-term negative impacts from this natural disaster," said Emily Cope, deputy director of wildlife and freshwater fisheries for DNR.

Post and Courier: Residents in two S.C. counties now eligible for individual FEMA aid

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161015/161019615/residents-in-two-sc-counties-now-eligible-for-individual-fema-aid>

Residents in two South Carolina counties can now get financial help from the federal government to repair or replace homes or businesses lost in Hurricane Matthew. The Federal Emergency

Management Administration said in a news release Saturday that homeowners, renters and business owners in Marion and Orangeburg counties could apply for federal aid under its Individual Assistance Program. The assistance can take many forms, including grants for temporary housing and home repairs, as well as for other serious disaster-related needs like medical and dental expenses or funeral or burial costs. To be eligible for this assistance, FEMA said homeowners, renters and business owners must have storm damage and losses that happened as a result of Hurricane Matthew beginning on Oct. 4. Individuals who may qualify for this help are encouraged to register with FEMA as soon as possible. People with phone or internet access can register with FEMA in the following ways..

Post and Courier: Conway braces for impact of rising Waccamaw River

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161014/161019717/conway-braces-for-impact-of-rising-waccamaw-river>

George Bullock is keeping a close eye on the Waccamaw River right outside his business. The owner of The Cypress Inn in Conway said he expects his small bed and breakfast along the marina to lose about \$10,000 worth of business by the time the overflowing river recedes. "The water came over the marina and it's creeping up into our yard now," he said. "In another 18 inches it will be in our building. I'm hoping it doesn't reach that 18 inches and it may not." But it's gonna be darn close. "As of late Friday, the Waccamaw was at about 16.5 feet and is expected to crest at 17 feet by Tuesday before the water level begins to go back down. That's a massive amount of water since the Waccamaw in Conway is usually below 10 feet. Bullock has not had a guest in his 12-room hotel since Oct. 8 when the cancellations began due to Hurricane Matthew. The street to his inn has been completely covered in water since then and he said it will be another seven to 10 days before things return to normal.

NOTE: Horry and Marion counties have been hit hard in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, with Gov. Nikki Haley spending time in the tiny, hard-hit flooded town of Nichols, near the North Carolina border, Friday to see the havoc caused there. "We saw so much loss and devastation today in Marion County especially in the sweet town of Nichols," Haley said in a statement on her Facebook page. "As we visited evacuees at their shelter we were overwhelmed by the grace and goodness of the people there even though they have lost all they had."

NOTE: The state's congressional delegation on Friday echoed Haley's sentiments and asked President Barack Obama to grant individual assistance for South Carolinians affected by Hurricane Matthew.

Post and Courier : More coastal flooding expected this morning

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161016/161019573/more-coastal-flooding-expected-this-morning-->

A coastal flood advisory is in effect until noon Sunday along the Lowcountry's coast. The National Weather Service predicts high tide will occur shortly before 8:30 a.m. and peak between 7.4 and 7.7 feet. Low-lying coastal areas could see inundation of water, leading to road closures and the possibility of minor flooding to properties. Anyone parking in downtown Charleston should avoid flood-prone areas. Police on Saturday night closed streets when the tide peaked at 7.4 feet. There were no reports of major flooding. Some coastal areas that don't typically flood at such tide levels may experience minor to moderate flooding due to beach erosion caused by Hurricane Matthew, the weather service said. Forecasters are also advising that wind and wave conditions are right for strong, life-threatening rip currents through the evening.

Post and Courier: Charleston streets reopen after tidal flooding

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161016/161019574/charleston-streets-reopen-after-tidal-flooding>

Charleston police have reopened streets that were closed Saturday due to tidal flooding. Shortly before 10 p.m., police closed Hagwood Avenue, Morrison Drive and the intersection of Wentworth and Barre streets. Police said Sunday morning that the streets are back open. High tide peaked at 7.4 feet Saturday night in downtown Charleston, according to the National Weather Service. There were no reports of significant flooding. More coastal flooding is expected through noon Sunday.

Post and Courier: Does Charleston area development bear some blame for Hurricane Matthew flooding?

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161016/161019760/does-charleston-area-development-bear-some-blame-for-hurricane-matthew-flooding>

Rip out the sodden carpet, drag the wet, smelly furniture to the curb, choke back the mold, call the insurance company, and figure out where to live in the coming months. That's the situation residents of several Charleston-area neighborhoods found themselves in last week, for at least the second time in a year. Many homeowners say nearby development is to blame for stormwater flooding that used to happen less frequently, or not at all, and they want the government to either address the problem or buy their homes. "We're stuck," said Otis Green, an electrician who's lived in North Charleston's Pepperhill neighborhood for 15 years. "It's going to happen again, and nobody cares." Green's house was flooded waist-deep in the historic October 2015 storm — the first time it ever flooded, he said — so as Hurricane Matthew approached, Green laid sandbags around his house and prepared. At 3 a.m. on Oct. 8 he awoke to a foot of water in his living room.

Post and Courier: With Matthew's damage minimal, S.C. forestry industry looks to future growth, exports surge

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161015/161019701/with-matthews-damage-minimal-sc-forestry-industry-looks-to-future-growth-exports-surge>

As he surveyed the fallen trees near his Berkeley County home last week, Gene Kodama worried about Hurricane Matthew's impact on forests in South Carolina. "I thought, 'This is going to be terrible,'" said Kodama, the state forester with the S.C. Forestry Commission. "But when I got up in the plane to assess the damage, there wasn't as much as I thought there would be. For some individual landowners, there is significant damage. But statewide, it's not that bad." Trees near roadsides and in open areas bore the biggest brunt of the storm. There also was damage to recently thinned stands of trees. Post-storm flooding is likely to kill some trees planted within the last three years, as they will be under water for extended periods. With the commission preparing for this week's Southern Forest Products Exports Conference, an opportunity to spotlight the industry's regional economic impact, Kodama said the state's forestry business should count itself lucky.

Post and Courier: Magnolia Plantation loses historic Adam Bennett oak tree in Hurricane Matthew

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161014/161019663/magnolia-plantation-loses-historic-adam-bennett-oak-tree-in-hurricane-matthew>

Charleston's major attractions are open again after the hurricane, but there are a few scars, including a lost piece of history. Magnolia Plantation lost the Adam Bennett tree, a huge oak near the Drayton family tomb in the center of the garden. The tree is 4 feet across and snapped off near the ground, according to Tom Johnson, the director of gardens. Fortunately, it didn't fall on the tomb. Adam Bennett was a slave who oversaw the gardens. During the Civil War, he stayed behind when the family fled to Flat Rock, North Carolina, as Union troops approached. According to stories, soldiers tied him to the tree and threatened to hang him when he refused to tell them where the family silver was buried. They let him live and burned down the house. Supposedly, he walked all the way to Flat Rock to tell the family the news. "That one was a major loss," Johnson said. "We hate missing it. It's

just a historically significant tree that you can't replace. We're all sad about losing it."The storm took down three dozen other trees, mostly 1- to 2-feet in diameter. The old azaleas and camelias came out fine. They've been through worse.

Post and Courier: Access big problem for hunters following Hurricane Matthew

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161015/161019731/access-big-problem-for-hunters-following-hurricane-matthew>

Deer hunters anxious to get back in the woods following Hurricane Matthew will likely find themselves battling downed trees and flooded property. The deer will still be there, but finding them and getting to your hunting properties will be much more difficult than usual. "Typically, you don't have a lot of direct mortality, other than an occasional animal. We aren't getting any number of calls related to direct mortality," said Charles Ruth, Deer and Wild Turkey Program coordinator for the S.C. Department of Natural Resources. "I think the bigger impact is to the hunter. If you live in (an area affected by Hurricane Matthew), you are probably more concerned about fixing your house or cleaning up your yard for the next few weeks rather than deer hunting. Then you get into the situation where the property you hunt may be flooded and you can't get to your stand." Ruth said the flooding in South Carolina is not as extensive as last October's record flooding. Nonetheless, a number of public hunting options have been closed and public hunts canceled because of Hurricane Matthew.

Island Packet: Hilton Head Island mayor has some firsthand making up to do for absence during hurricane

<http://www.islandpacket.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/liz-farrell/article108510367.html>

Hilton Head Island Mayor David Bennett wants you to know he experienced Hurricane Matthew firsthand. In Orlando, Fla. His friends and supporters have instructed anyone who finds this troublesome to move on. They tell us that the location of a mayor while his town faces certain destruction is irrelevant. They say it's not a big deal that the mayor — someone who frequently reminds people that his mayoral job is part-time — chose to remain on vacation rather than return to the town he leads. People telecommute all the time. Wouldn't you rather your leader be in a safe place guaranteed to have phone service and internet? And besides, they say, he DID stay in touch. He posted videos and he regularly updated people on Facebook. Which is true. Bennett was very diligent about this. Well, mostly. He tried. It doesn't help that, just over the bridges, Bluffton Mayor Lisa Sulka was embedded with first-responders and practically flak-jacketed while maintaining an authentic and informative presence on social media. Yes, she lost internet and phone service at one point, but she could still communicate with town employees, emergency responders, and print and TV reporters because she was there with them.

Island Packet: Hundreds of Hilton Head property owners likely will pay cost of waterline breaks

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article108310322.html>

More than 1,000 property owners on Hilton Head Island are estimated to have waterline breaks, a cost they likely will be footing. Water and sewer providers on the island say waterlines running from meters to houses or businesses are the property owners' responsibility. "It is your line," Pete Nardi, Hilton Head Public Service District's general manager, said Friday. "You need to call a plumber to have the break fixed." Russ Dubisky, executive director of the South Carolina Insurance Association, said piping outside a home typically is not covered by homeowners' insurance. "You can sometimes purchase a separate insurance for piping underground, but it is offered through your water and sewer provider," Dubisky said. It's also uncertain if that insurance, even if available, would cover an act-of-God situation such as Hurricane Matthew, he said. None of the water and sewer providers on Hilton Head partners with insurance companies to provide the coverage, service district managers told The

Island Packet and The Beaufort Gazette.

Island Packet: Most of Hunting Island park — but not all — to remain closed through end of 2016

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article108319397.html>

Devastation is everywhere. Trees were toppled. Several of them smashed through public restrooms and the park store. Storm surge obliterated dunes near the campground and destroyed toilets and showers. It will be months before the public again has full access to Hunting Island State Park, one of South Carolina's most popular. "In the meantime, it's heartbreaking to see," said S.C. Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism director Duane Parrish, who toured the park Friday with the help of a red Honda all-terrain vehicle. Hunting Island's nature center and fishing pier will reopen with normal hours on Wednesday, even though the end of the pier was damaged in the storm and will be blocked off. And the rest of the park's 5,000 acres of beach and maritime forest will be closed through at least the end of the year as crews restore power, repair septic systems, patch some buildings and, possibly, relocate others. When the park reopens, some visitors probably won't recognize many once-familiar spots, Parrish said.

Island Packet : Beaufort, Jasper county schools set to reopen Monday

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article108214187.html>

Students in Beaufort and Jasper county public schools should return to school Monday after Hurricane Matthew. Power has been restored to all Beaufort County School District schools except Daufuskie Island School, spokesman Jim Foster said. School buses should also be able to run their normal routes by Monday. The Jasper County School District also will reopen Monday, according to a news release. American Red Cross shelters at Battery Creek High School and Bluffton High School are closing Friday in preparation for schools reopening. About 11 people remained at the Battery Creek shelter on Friday morning, and all had somewhere else to go, according to shelter manager Jessica Brain said. The last of the residents at Bluffton High departed before 11 a.m. Friday. Food and water distribution centers at the Hilton Head Island schools complex and at St. Helena Elementary School will remain open until no longer needed, according to a Beaufort County Sheriff's Office news release.

NOTE: It's not clear if or when students will make up the eight days of classes that have been missed since Wednesday, Oct. 5, the day the evacuation order for Beaufort County was issued by Gov. Nikki Haley.

Island Packet: No active sewer overflows on Hilton Head; some boil orders, water restrictions remain

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article108233802.html>

There are currently no active sewer overflows on Hilton Head Island, but overflows are possible at any point, officials said Friday. Many boil-water orders have been lifted, and most of the island is still being asked to conserve water usage. Here's a breakdown of the current status of water and sewer service on the island..

Island Packet: Last family out of disaster shelter heads home to uncertain future

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article108241407.html>

A complicated mix of emotions danced across the faces of the Fields family Friday morning as they loaded a van with clothes and supplies from the Red Cross shelter at Battery Creek High School. After being cooped up in the Beaufort shelter since Monday, the family of nine — including three young children and a month-old infant — was looking forward to heading home to St. Helena Island. But how much of home remained, no one knew. The Fields were the last family to leave before the Red Cross shut down its Hurricane Matthew shelters at Battery Creek and Bluffton High schools. Felicia Fields

has heard reports from neighbors that the condition of the family home “might not be really that good. ““We are concerned, but we are going to see what’s going on with (the house),” she said. Her niece Jahana Fields said the family “is just worried about all our stuff.” “We have no idea what’s going to be left,” she said.

Island Packet: Lessons from a community that just got blasted

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article108464092.html>

Hurricane Matthew raked Beaufort County with the power to twist oak trees like shoelaces, destroy marinas and gobble vast chunks of shoreline. Parts of the islands look like a tornado ripped through. We take photographs of giant pines and oaks fallen onto rooftops, sometimes four or more on a single home, only to realize a camera cannot capture its full scope. For decades, we have feared this day. But we spent a lot of those years thinking about it and preparing for it. Our study and experience tells us this was not the big one, not the land-leveler of Hurricanes Hugo or Andrew. The largest dividend of our collective preparation is that no lives were lost here to Hurricane Matthew. As the reality begins to seep in, we need to: Be patient. Be realistic. Be appreciative. Be helpful. Be attentive. Be thankful.

Island Packet: Bluffton photographer turns disaster into beauty for babies born during Hurricane Matthew

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article108472522.html>

Nothing Lauren Young had planned for her baby’s delivery came true. Her husband, Joey Young, was supposed to be there. She wasn’t supposed to give birth to their baby girl so far away from their Ridgeland home. Her baby wasn’t supposed to pose next to fallen trees for her newborn pictures after Hurricane Matthew passed. “I just started to break down crying,” Lauren Young said of the night she began to go into labor. “I was like, ‘Oh my gosh, this isn’t happening right now. I don’t want to do this without my husband.’” Joey Young was miles away from the Rock Hill hospital Lauren was admitted to on Oct. 7 after she had evacuated with her 2-year-old son and mother before the storm hit. Joey couldn’t leave because he was called to work round-the-clock shifts as a Jasper County Fire and Rescue firefighter. But at 6:01 a.m. on Oct. 8, Lauren held their daughter Charlotte for the first time. Joey had gotten to watch via FaceTime but was quickly called to help Jasper County recover.

Sun News: Waccamaw River inches towards historical record

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article108535547.html>

Paul and Erica Hadden are having a streak of bad luck. Forced out of their Carolina Forest home just weeks ago after a fire, they rented a waterfront home here complete with a swimming pool and boat ramp leading to the Waccamaw River. Then Hurricane Matthew struck, smacking this inland area with winds that ripped trees from the roots and downed power lines, leaving most of the city in the dark for days. The good news is that the Haddens have electricity. The bad news is that their house is completely surrounded by the river that laps at the stilts underneath. The Waccamaw has claimed the pool, the street and the homes of residents all along the sprawling waterway in Horry County. The couple pointed to a water mark at the base of the house that snaked around the dwelling, indicating where Hurricane Floyd left his final mark in 1999. By Saturday afternoon, the Waccamaw was just inches away from topping it.

Sun News: Socastee flooding: ‘Not just heart-breaking, it’s shocking’

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article108565947.html>

No one told them the water was coming. Just like in Brittons Neck and Galivants Ferry, residents in the flooded Rosewood neighborhood in Socastee were left scrambling on Saturday morning to get

out without forewarning of the rising water from the Intracoastal Waterway. The flooded Waccamaw River flows into the waterway, and the 11 a.m. high tide just made the problem worse, residents said. Patrick Lanahan was standing ankle deep in water inside his house on Dogwood Circle on Saturday morning, helping his roommates wade through the knee-deep water in their flooded front yard to load boxes and bags onto a U-Haul truck. "This is the first it's ever happened, and this house was built back in '81," he said. "The water has never even touched the house in the back. And last year during the big flood, this never happened. And this year, to see all this, it's not just heart-breaking, it's shocking. It's absolutely destructive. It's unstoppable right now. I don't even know what to think about it. I just want to break down in tears right now."

Sun News: An oasis in Matthew's aftermath, local church hosts relief efforts

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article108369622.html>

Harvest Church hardly looked like a place of worship on Thursday morning. A small green sign with the name of the church sat out by the road, just off S.C. 9, and a large wooden cross sat at the corner of the building. But everywhere else, people were running and forklifts were beeping as members of this and other churches in the Green Sea area loaded boxes of water, non-perishable food and toiletries into trucks and trailers. Harvest Church is, since Tuesday, the central distribution center for Hearts With Hands, an Asheville, N.C.-based organization that is aiding those flooded out as the waters from Hurricane Matthew swell rivers in northeast South Carolina. "We've found the most successful way to help these communities is to go into the local churches," said Winston Parrish, a field operations director for Hearts With Hands. "Not necessarily any denomination, but any church that has a group of people in need or know people in need."

Sun News: Bucksport threatened by converging swamps; Florence dam stabilized

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article108389517.html>

An "at-risk" dam that sends water to the Pee Dee river system has been stabilized, according to the Department of Health and Environmental Control. A spokeswoman for the agency said the Oakdale Dam in Florence County is being monitored and has been reinforced with sandbags and rip rap. On Thursday, Bucksport was evacuated due to flooding, and some residents said they were warned that a dam break would cause problems. Officials on the ground would not comment on flooding, and a DHEC spokeswoman said the dam poses no risk to flooding on the Waccamaw or Pee Dee rivers.

Sun News: Flood waters are potentially stew of bacteria, debris. Officials say stay out!

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article108274597.html>

Floodwaters from Hurricane Matthew are still plaguing some hard-hit areas, and officials say residents should not wade or play in these pools of potentially dangerous debris and bacteria. "With rivers such as the Pee Dee, Little Pee Dee, Lumber, Lynches and Waccamaw near or at flood stages, residents are strongly warned to stay out of floodwaters to reduce the risk of infections and illness," said Myra Reece, director of the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's Environmental Affairs in a news release. These waters flow past yards, septic tanks, and industrial sites, gathering waste and bacteria as they stream along, creating a "yucky stew" that also could have dangerous debris as a main ingredient, Robert Yanity, S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control said. Hidden hazards, like wood with nails in it, sharp tree limbs, bacteria, and more often lurk in these waters and while some may be tempted to splash in them, they should definitely resist the urge, health officials said.

Morning News: Closer to normal: Floodwaters recede, more people get power back in Pee Dee

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_1b584252-9273-11e6-a56a-7339544ae4cd.html

Water from Hurricane Matthew continues to recede in the northern and central portions of Florence County along with the total number of people without power. Water and power problems remain in the Johnsonville area as water drains down the Lynches River through Johnsonville on its way to the Great Pee Dee River. Sandbagging had stabilized the dam at Lake Oakdale, and it wasn't a current concern for emergency managers, said Andrew Golden, the public information officer with the Florence County Emergency Management Department. He said the Country Club of South Carolina dam that failed early in the week was in a low-impact area and said the dam at Forest Lake was OK and not a concern. Golden said the Lynches River at Effingham dropped below flood stage and the flooding in Johnsonville should diminish as the weekend goes along. As a sign the county was returning to normal Golden said the emergency operations center would be closed for the weekend.

Morning News: Resilient Pee Dee shaken but still standing after Hurricane Matthew

http://www.scnw.com/news/local/article_a7fb2ada-9318-11e6-ace9-ab1619c18c11.html

Meteorologists said Hurricane Matthew was going to menace the coasts of Florida and Georgia before skirting the South Carolina shores up through Georgetown. Then it was supposed to curve out to sea. These weather experts still predicted heavy rain in the Pee Dee, but it looked as if we were going to be spared the punch of strong winds. Wrong, wrong, wrong. Hurricane Matthew delivered a left hook. Almost exactly a year after we were affected by an extraordinary flood, we were afflicted with a powerful storm. The Pee Dee staggered, then started fighting back. What's next? An earthquake? A volcano eruption? Locusts? Rescue has turned to relief and recovery, which will give way to rebuilding. These are the stories of resilience.

Morning News: Howe Springs Fire delivers 8 tons of supplies to hurricane victims in Nichols

http://www.scnw.com/news/article_b9137776-9301-11e6-990c-274ce1297059.html

The Howe Springs Fire Department delivered approximately eight tons of donated supplies to residents in Nichols on Friday, where many are still without power or water nearly a week after Hurricane Matthew passed through the Pee Dee. Nichols was dealt a major blow by the powerful storm and many homes were flooded and completely destroyed. Fire Chief Billy Dillon said his department put a request out on social media on Tuesday asking people to donate supplies and food to Nichols residents. Dillon said the response was overwhelming and supplies began pouring into the station. Florence County citizens and business owners have blessed us with the opportunity to make this plan a success," Dillon said. "We are truly a caring county." Supplies including bottled water, canned food, snacks, toys and health care products were brought by donors to the main fire station at 2229 Howe Springs Road and transported to Nichols residents in need.

Morning News : FEMA clears Marion County residents to receive individual disaster assistance

http://www.scnw.com/news/local/article_ab8b4014-9317-11e6-9303-d30161be0ab7.html

Homeowners, renters and business owners in Marion and Orangeburg counties may apply for federal disaster assistance for Hurricane Matthew damages and losses in South Carolina. To be eligible for federal aid under FEMA's Individual Assistance Program, storm damage and losses from the hurricane and flooding must have occurred, as a result of Hurricane Matthew, beginning on Oct. 4. Survivors are encouraged to register with FEMA as soon as possible. If you have phone or internet access, you may register online at DisasterAssistance.gov or on the FEMA Mobile App, or by calling 800-621-3362 (FEMA). Applicants who use 711 or Video Relay Service may also call 800-621-3362. People who are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech disability and use a TTY may call 800-462-7585. The toll-free numbers are open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., seven days a week. Multilingual operators are available.

Morning News: FEMA assistance can cover myriad of flood costs

http://www.scnw.com/news/local/article_6c38cc82-92eb-11e6-a75b-2b0565be9b26.html

Residents in Marion and Orangeburg counties who were impacted by Hurricane Matthew are now eligible for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Individual Assistance program. Survivors who sustained losses in these two designated counties can apply for federal assistance by registering online at DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling 800-621-3362. Assistance can include money for temporary rental assistance and essential home repairs for primary homes, low-interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration to cover uninsured property losses and other programs to help survivors recover from the effects of the disaster.

Greenville News: Devastation in the heart of agricultural South Carolina

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/10/15/devastation-heart-agricultural-south-carolina-hurricane-matthew/92027014/>

Anita Hunt sat and stared into the distance at the water that glistened as it spilled across the highway that leads to her home. Or at least what was her home. She didn't know anymore. She hadn't seen it yet and probably wouldn't for days to come. She hoped it was still there. Her home was the place where two families became one, where she and her husband built a life in the tiny rural town of Nichols, South Carolina, for their six children, ages 6-16 – a Brady Bunch blended family from different marriages. It'd been home for 13 years and it had been hard to leave even as the wind swirled and rain pelted from Hurricane Matthew late on a Saturday night – October 8th – as thigh-deep water pooled in the yard, rising rapidly, and made it impossible to grab even their most-valuable keepsakes. So Hunt had grabbed Gloria, their Chihuahua, waded to the car and left. That was the last time she'd seen home. And now she sat and watched from the driver's seat of her SUV as the water flowed slowly and silently across the road in front of her, through the trees beside her and into the fields next to her, forming a peninsula that kept the townspeople away from their town. Her husband, Roy, left by boat two hours ago to check on the house and hadn't yet returned. She needn't await word from him. The mayor of Nichols had already broken the news their house was destroyed. "We just have to start over."

WIS: Nichols mayor: Matthew flooding has been 'humbling' experience

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33394795/nichols-mayor-matthew-flooding-has-been-humbling-experience>

Some South Carolinians still without a home days after Hurricane Matthew. The town of Nichols in Marion County is still under water. After speaking with the Mayor of Nichols and a state representative from Marion County, they say the water has gone down some, but it's still a disaster zone and they're expecting state help to get through it. Mayor Lawson Battle says he lost everything, has no car, no house, just two changes of clothes, and is sleeping on a friend's couch. But he says state law enforcement, Department of Natural Resources agents, and National Guardsmen have held their hands through it and are at the very least, helping with moral support. He imagines state funding will be necessary once everything dries out. "I've never seen anything close," Battle said. "This has been the most six humbling days of my whole life. I've never seen anything like it on television. You know, it's been humbling. You know, on the state level, the emergency management teams are staying with us. They're holding our hands, helping us through it. Nichols is a very small, close-knit community and we have to have someone like that to help us through it." The National Weather Service says it could be weeks before the waters recede and even more flooding could happen in the Pee Dee region.

WOLO: One SC Fund for Hurricane/Flood Victims

<http://www.abccolumbia.com/2016/10/15/one-sc-fund-hurricaneflood-victims/>

Looking to give aid to the Hurricane Mathew Victims and Flood victims? Here's how you can help. The One SC Fund helps South Carolinians recover from natural disasters, it's first project was to aid Flood Victims in the Historic Floods last October. According to officials, One SC has distributed \$2,000,000 in grants to nonprofit organizations supporting flood recovery projects across our state and has helped over 1,500 of our families return home.

WLTX: 'Flood Of Hope' for a Columbia Neighborhood

<http://www.wltx.com/news/local/flood-recovery/flood-of-hope-for-a-columbia-neighborhood-1/336454282>

One neighborhood in the St. Andrews area was hit really hard by the floods last year. Saturday night, they got together to celebrate the flood of hope that came afterwards. Folks around Wilton Hill Road are still feeling the wrath of the October floods. For some, it destroyed all their belonging; others had to move out permanently, but on the other hand, it brought everyone much closer together. Linda Hayward, played a big part in that. Andy Stafford has been a resident for over two decades and just finished his reconstruction three weeks ago. He says people around the block nicknamed Linda ricochet, "because she was in and out what do you need, what do you need, what do you need, I'll get it for you, I'll get it for you." Hayward was the one who helped organize the block party to celebrate. That we are not flood victims anymore, we're flood survivors" said Hope Tavenner.

WMBF: Cherry Grove Fire causes estimated \$6.9 million in damage

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33396136/cherry-grove-fire-causes-estimated-69-million-in-damage>

Officials now estimate nearly \$7 million in damages resulted from the fire that started in Cherry Grove last Saturday during Hurricane Matthew. Sue Handy is a permanent resident in the building next door to the rubble, which likely would have caught fire as well if not for firefighters. Handy says she's glad she took the Governor Nikki Haley's advice and got out when she did. "I think one of the points about evacuation is that people say, 'Oh I don't have to, I can ride it out.' But when I left here, I never anticipated a fire," said Sue Handy. Handy watched live on social media as the fire spread across six structures and barely missed her home. "It was across the street so I thought that's where it is. And then we literally watched it jump across the street and then you could just see that the wind was all heading in this direction," Handy said.

WMBF: Waccamaw River and Intracoastal Waterway experiencing record flooding

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33342042/waccamaw-river-and-intracoastal-waterway-see-record-flooding>

While most rivers are beginning to fall, the Waccamaw and Waterway continue to push past the old record water levels. Flooding is expected to get worse along these rivers into next week...

WPDE: Bucksport community begins to grasp magnitude of flooding

<http://wpde.com/news/local/bucksport-community-begins-to-grasp-magnitude-of-flooding>

Saturday marks one week since Hurricane Matthew slammed through South Carolina. The massive storm left behind damage and power outages, but the damage isn't over yet. Rivers in our area are continuing to rise and flood people's homes. People have been evacuated in the Bucksport community because the Waccamaw River is making its way into many people's homes. Rose Graham has lived in the Bucksport community her whole life, but says she's never seen anything like it. As the magnitude of just how much water there already was Saturday set in, Graham said she was nervous. "It's real scary because I'm afraid of, I don't know where I'm going to go from here, I really don't," she said. The National Guard took a group of residents, including Graham, back to their homes to get

essential items left behind like medications.

WPDE: DSS to help those in Lake View replace food lost during storm

<http://wpde.com/news/local/dss-to-help-those-in-lake-view-replace-food-lost-during-storm>

The South Carolina Department of Social Services will be at the Lake View Community Center on Richard Temple Boulevard in Lake View on Monday to help residents who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) replace food lost as a result of Hurricane Matthew, according to Dillon County Fire Station Three Chief John Smith. Smith said DSS will be on sight from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Lake View is one of the hardest hit areas in Dillon County. There are still pockets of communities without power. Crews are working around the clock to restore power throughout Lake View. The Red Cross has providing hot meals to hundreds of people without power and water. Smith said the community is really working together to help those in need.

WCSC: Mount Pleasant contractor offers "pay what you can" and free labor for home repairs after Matthew

<http://www.live5news.com/story/33399405/mount-pleasant-contractor-offers-pay-what-you-can-and-free-labor-for-home-repairs-after-matthew>

A Mount Pleasant contractor is offering "pay what you can" or free labor to help people in need who are trying to restore their home after Hurricane Matthew. Mount Pleasant Masterworks, LLC owner Greg Smith knows what it's like to need help after a storm. "I was one that went through Hurricane Hugo and my wife and I were building our first home and we lost the whole house during construction," Smith said. He says with Hurricane Matthew things were different for him. "I didn't have a lot of storm damage at my house, basically the mailbox blew over and so I thought well I don't have a lot to deal with," Smith said. So he decided to help others with home repairs. He posted on social media that he would be offering labor at three rates. For free if you're in need, "pay what you can", and "pay a little extra" if you're well off. That would help cover the free labor. "I just imaged in my mind that some people might potentially be struggling even if they didn't have a huge amount of damage they were very much stood to not get any insurance money for it," Smith said.

General Assembly News:

The State : Hurricane Matthew costs loom over SC state budget

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article108499697.html>

Budget debates could be less controversial next year under the State House dome. Hurricane Matthew is expected to wreak havoc on state spending, leaving lawmakers with even fewer added tax dollars to argue over. Lawmakers expect to have about \$440 million in "new" – or added – money to spend next year, less than a third of the added money they spent last year. But Hurricane Matthew's costs quickly will cut into that added money. If last October's flooding is an indicator, the state will have to send roughly \$150 million in flood-recovery money to local governments and farmers, and to repair roads. Official Hurricane Matthew costs have not yet been determined. Still, Matthew will change the way lawmakers look at the budget for next year, said state Sen. Darrell Jackson, D-Richland, a member of the Senate Finance Committee. Paying for Matthew's damages will be a priority because of what's at stake, Jackson said, citing farmers as an example.

Associated Press : Richland County rec leader charged with witness intimidation

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

Deputies say the director of the Richland County Recreation Commission tried to intimidate a witness

two days after he was indicted on a charge he tried to coerce female employees to have sex with him. Authorities said James Brown III was at the commission's office Friday when he approached a woman in a threatening manner. Brown is not supposed to talk to the woman because of the current investigation into the agency. Deputies charged Brown with intimidation of a witness. He was indicted Wednesday on a misconduct in office charge. Brown's lawyer says in a statement that none of the allegations are true and prosecutors are just looking to charge Brown with something.

The State: Richland recreation head makes bond after charge of intimidating a witness

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article108603452.html>

The head of the Richland County Recreation Commission, charged Friday with intimidating a witness, made bond and was released from jail Saturday. James Brown III was released on a \$20,000 bond, officials at the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center said. The charge and arrest came after an indictment by a county grand jury, which accused Brown of using his position "to coerce and attempt to coerce female employees into having sexual contact with him."

The State: District 22 race heats up

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article108518922.html>

State schools Superintendent Molly Spearman has endorsed Richland 2 school board member Susan Brill in the District 22 race to succeed outgoing state Sen. Joel Lourie, D-Richland. "Susan Brill is a life-long supporter of public education and has done an excellent job representing parents, students, and educators during her tenure on the school board in Richland School District 2," Spearman said of her fellow Republican in a statement. Meanwhile, the Conservation Voters of South Carolina are backing Brill's Nov. 8 opponent, state Rep. Mia McLeod. The group's political director, John Tynan, cited McLeod's sponsorship of conservation legislation this year, including the Conservation Bank re-authorization bill. McLeod said she was "humbled" by the endorsement. "Last year and this past weekend, as the water, wind and rain ripped through my district and our state, we were reminded of the symbiotic relationship between people and our environment," McLeod Butler said in a statement.

The State: No beef with dual party membership for SC Dems

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article108518827.html>

The S.C. Democratic Party says it has no problem with three of its congressional candidates also representing other parties on the ballot. U.S. Senate candidate Thomas Dixon of North Charleston, U.S. House 1st District candidate Dimitri Cherny of Charleston and U.S. House 2nd District candidate Arik Bjorn of Columbia all won the S.C. Democratic Party's nomination for those seats. Bjorn also accepted the S.C. Green Party's nomination. Dixon and Cherny accepted the nomination of the Green Party and the S.C. Working Families Party, with Cherny saying, earlier this month, he identifies "mostly as a Green." At a Columbia rally for Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein earlier this month, Cherny said there were "hardcore" members of both the Democratic and Green parties who were angered he had accepted the other party's nomination. But the S.C. Democratic Party has no issue with it, party spokesman Matthew Ellison said in a statement Thursday.

Herald-Journal: Pension crisis looms as SC retirement system debt grows

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161015/pension-crisis-looms-as-sc-retirement-system-debt-grows?rssfeed=true>

Retirement is still a few months away for Byrnes High School biology teacher Teresa Schiltz, but she's looking forward to the day when she can travel to Europe after a rewarding career. Like thousands of other teachers, Schiltz, 56, has paid into and earned a pension over the years — a nest

egg for retirement, and modest compensation for turning down a more lucrative career in private industry when she was younger. "I look at my pension as the reward in the end for giving my life to education for the lesser salary I received," she said. But like many of the 321,000 retirees and active participants in South Carolina's retirement system, Schiltz is concerned about reports that the system has a \$21.3 billion debt that is expected to reach \$23 billion soon. Experts say workers are likely to see more taken out of their paychecks to shore up the struggling system, and employers will likely be asked to increase their contributions to the system, too. And, some state employee groups say, that will hurt recruitment and retention for critical state jobs such as teaching and law enforcement.

SC Delegation News:

Independent Mail: U.S. Rep. Duncan to speak at GOP fundraiser

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/10/15/us-rep-duncan-speak-gop-fundraiser/92144592/>

U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan will be the featured speaker Monday at an Anderson County Republican Party fundraiser. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., and the event will begin at 6 p.m. at Oxford Farm, 312 Five Forks Road, in Anderson County. Creekside BBQ is catering the fundraiser. A ticket costs \$20 and can be bought at the event. For more information, call 864-933-6141.

SC Political News:

The State: Trump raises \$1.3 million from SC donors Friday, campaign says

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article108486432.html>

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump raised \$1.3 million from South Carolina donors during a Friday night fundraiser, his campaign said. The fundraiser, held in a south Charlotte community, had about 115-120 guests and raised a total of \$1.5 million from the Carolinas, Trump's South Carolina campaign chairman Ed McMullen said. But the biggest haul came from Palmetto State donors who made up about 90 percent of the people in attendance, he said. Trump also attended the fundraiser, held at the Longview Country Club in Weddington, N.C., a community not far from Lancaster County and Indian Land in South Carolina. The campaign settled on the date and site after plans changed for the fundraiser several times. S.C. Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, an early Trump endorser, also was in attendance.

Post and Courier: At South Carolina fundraiser for Trump, Republicans report few signs of a campaign in turmoil

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161015/161019609/at-south-carolina-fundraiser-for-trump-republicans-report-few-signs-of-a-campaign-in-turmoil>

By all accounts, Donald Trump had a difficult week, struggling to keep his campaign on track while fending off allegations of sexual misconduct over the course of his decades-spanning career in business and reality television. But that didn't stop the Republican presidential nominee from raking in \$1.3 million from South Carolina donors at a Friday night fundraiser in Waxhaw, N.C., at a country club just over the S.C. border. North Carolina donors also attending the event helped bump up the grand total to nearly \$1.5 million. Organizers called the sum record-breaking for a South Carolina Republican donor-driven effort, second only to the 2004 fundraiser in Greenville for President George W. Bush's re-election campaign. At that event, the haul hovered past the \$1 million mark. It's a sign, the organizers said, that at least among the Palmetto State's most deep-pocketed GOP donors and establishment figures, enthusiasm for Trump isn't wavering.

Post and Courier: Despite lewd comments and sexual assault accusations, many Evangelicals still back Trump

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161015/161019680/despite-lewd-comments-and-sexual-assault-accusations-many-evangelicals-still-back-trump>

The 2016 presidential election has not been easy for the Rev. Ed Grant, pastor of Calvary Lutheran Church, or his conservative congregation in West Ashley, thanks to the unorthodox candidacy of Donald Trump. "I haven't met a person yet in my congregation who is happy about the choices," Grant said. "There is great heart ache and grief over this." Grant will reluctantly cast his vote for Trump this November in spite of a video showing the Republican candidate making vulgar remarks about sexually assaulting women and a new flood of allegations from women accusing Trump of sexual misconduct and inappropriate behavior. Evangelical support for the thrice-married reality TV star and real estate tycoon is beginning to erode. But some of his conservative Christian backers are standing behind him. For Grant, he feels he has no other option. "I have to look beyond the personality and at the planks of the party and what does the party stand for," Grant said. "(The Republican Party) stands for the conservative values I embrace."

The State: Some SC voters disillusioned by government that doesn't work

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article108566512.html>

Robert Clark's faith in the U.S. political system is at an all-time low. The 62-year-old construction contractor from Columbia blames Democratic policies for the 2007 housing crash and recession that led him to close his small business after 26 years. And he was jarred in September when he received a letter saying he made too much money in 2014 and now must repay the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for co-payments it made for his doctors' visits over the past year, another example, he says, of politicians' broken promises to care for veterans. Like many disgruntled voters this year, Clark blames a broken system, led by career politicians who no longer look after constituents' interests, for the ills of the federal government and the U.S. economy. "It does need shaking up a little bit," Clark said of the U.S. political system. And, Clark adds, GOP nominee Donald Trump is the man for the job. "They need to rattle the cages over there." Many more across South Carolina share Clark's disillusionment with "politics as usual." S.C. voters gave Trump, an unpredictable political outsider, a 10-point victory in the state's February Republican primary. But while some – like Clark – are happy with the offerings in November, others across the Palmetto State have buyer's remorse, questioning how the country can move forward with either Trump or Clinton.

Independent Mail: Number of registered voters rises in SC, Upstate

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/10/15/number-registered-voters-rises-sc-upstate/92040498/>

More than 3.1 million South Carolina residents are registered to vote in next month's general election, an increase of about 9 percent from 2012, according to figures that state officials compiled last week. Anderson County now has 118,631 registered voters, which is 10,608 more than four years ago, according to the South Carolina State Election Commission. There are 69,295 registered voters in Pickens County, an increase of 5,162 from 2012. Oconee County has added 4,703 registered voters since 2012, with a current total of 50,219. Greenville County leads the state with 313,858 registered voters, an increase of 27,460 from 2012. Greenville County also has the state's highest number of Asian and Hispanic registered voters. The four Upstate counties represent 18 percent of South Carolina's total registered voters.

Independent Mail: GOP candidates fear Trump could hurt their chances

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/10/15/gop-candidates-fear-trump-could-hurt-their-chances/91995792/>

Joshua Putnam and Anne Thayer are afraid that Donald Trump's past lewd remarks about women may hurt their chances of getting re-elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives. "I am scared that Republicans will stay home," Putnam said. He is being challenged by Democrat Anna Brown in House District 10, which covers parts of Anderson, Greenville and Pickens counties. Thayer also is worried about a lower than usual turnout of GOP voters. She is opposed by Democrat Mary Geren in House District 9, which stretches from Anderson to Pelzer. Such fears are warranted, said U. S. Sen. Tim Scott, who visited Anderson last week. "It definitely should be concerning to all of us that voters will be disgusted with the process," said Scott, a Republican from North Charleston who also is seeking re-election. Scott said that Trump, the GOP presidential nominee, and Democratic Party standard-bearer Hillary Clinton "should be ashamed of themselves" for waging the most negative campaigns that he has seen in his lifetime.

Emanuel 9 News:

Post and Courier: Attorney asks judge to dismiss series of wrongful death lawsuits brought by families of the Emanuel 9

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161015/161019581/attorney-asks-judge-to-dismiss-series-of-wrongful-death-lawsuits-brought-by-families-of-the-emanuel-9>

An attorney for the federal government is asking a judge to throw out a series of lawsuits brought by the survivors of the Emanuel AME shooting victims. Stephen R. Terrell, an attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice, filed motions Friday asking a judge to dismiss the lawsuits on grounds that the court lacks the proper jurisdiction to hear the cases, and that the plaintiffs failed to fully outline their claims. Relatives of the nine Emanuel AME Church shooting victims filed a series of wrongful death lawsuits alleging that clerical errors allowed Dylann Roof to buy the gun he used during last year's shooting. The complaints allege Roof should have been prevented from buying a gun because he previously admitted to using an illegal drug, but authorities botched a federally-mandated background check. After the three-day window for the check closed in April 2015, a West Columbia gun store owner sold Roof a .45-caliber Glock authorities say he used in the mass shooting two months later.

Opinion/Editorial:

Post and Courier: Climate lessons from Matthew

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161016/161019600/climate-lessons-from-matthew>

Editorial

On Oct. 4, Gov. Nikki Haley announced her plan to start ordering evacuations of the South Carolina coast on the next day. By Oct. 7, as Hurricane Matthew bumped along the eastern edge of Florida, Charleston was almost empty. The Charleston airport, which had operated efficiently and safely all week, closed at noon in advance of high winds and buckets of rain. The Interstate 26 lane reversal performed well. Charlestonians had flocked to Lowe's and Home Depot to buy plywood, sandbags and tools to prepare houses. Drivers waited in hour-long lines to fill gas tanks. Shoppers mobbed grocery stores for food, bottled water, rope and Pampers. Residents took occasional breaks from their own preparations to discuss the situation with neighbors and relatives. By my non-scientific study, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) hurricane tracker website was the most popular source of information. People pondered the probability of the storm's predicted turn to the east and the potential height of the tidal surge. In three days, Charlestonians has a crash course in weather, statistics, logistics and economics. This they did collaboratively, logically and

respectfully.

NOTE: Some people felt Gov. Haley may have jumped the gun on the evacuation, which cost retailers tens of millions of dollars in lost revenue. But everyone understood that the governor had to make a judgment call under extremely uncertain circumstances. She had to weigh the costs of evacuating against the potential danger presented by Matthew. By Saturday, her judgment had proven correct.

Post and Courier: Matthew's lingering reminders

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161016/161019604/matthews-lingering-reminders>

Many South Carolina residents feared the worst as Hurricane Matthew slowly but surely came our way amid dire forecasts of the natural disaster's eventual impact here. Then, after the storm inflicted significantly less overall harm in our state than initially feared, many South Carolinians shared a collective sigh of relief. But though Matthew might seem like old news to some people in our state, his ill effects linger for others — and not just in Haiti, where the storm killed more than 800 people. Among the S.C. areas still stuck in recovery mode after taking a hard hit from the storm are Edisto Island and parts of Summerville, Moncks Corner and Florence County. Closer to home, flooding on Main Road, which connects West Ashley and Johns Island, forced wide-ranging traffic problems into last week, and re-confirmed the need for a long-term solution for that thoroughfare. The heavy rains Matthew brought also continue to drive serious flooding in Horry and Marion counties. And as our front page reported Saturday, the Waccamaw River is now far above normal levels, threatening Conway.

Bluffton Today (Opinion): Lowcountry owes many thanks

<http://www.blufftontoday.com/bluffton-opinion/2016-10-16/lowcountry-owes-many-thanks#.WAN9Z5MrK9Y>

The spirit of the past week should be on display this afternoon at Oscar Frazier Park. First Zion Baptist Church, the town of Bluffton and its police department, Gullah Fried Sweet, Covert Aire and Well-Fed are partnering on a special Sunday meal for first responders and "anyone else that helped restore our Bluffton State of Mind" after Hurricane Matthew. Anyone who has been displaced from their home or is still without power and in need of a hot meal also is invited to bring a lawn chair to enjoy "Bluffton Strong: Food & Fellowship After Matthew" from noon to 3 p.m. All the people who have helped Bluffton and the rest of Beaufort County start the recovery process deserve our gratitude and this is a good place to start. It's also a reminder that while life has largely returned to normal for many of us, some of our neighbors are still going through a tough time. Homes are damaged and electricity still has not returned in some places. People who are in difficult circumstances need our help and likely will for some time. Don't forget we all are the beneficiaries of countless hours of hard work by people who helped us prepare for and start cleaning up after the storm.

NOTE: State and local officials closely monitored Matthew as the forecast predicted it would track along the Florida coast and into the Carolinas. Gov. Nikki Haley ordered a timely evacuation and residents mostly were able to flee the coast without much trouble. Employees and business owners accommodated residents who stocked up on gas, water and other essentials with the storm en route.

Bluffton Today (Opinion) : Bluffton's heart grew through enduring storm

<http://www.blufftontoday.com/bluffton-opinion/2016-10-16/blufftons-heart-grew-through-enduring-storm#.WAN9oJMrK9Y>

What a week we have had in Beaufort County. The majority of our residents in Bluffton had only heard about hurricane evacuations but never experienced it until now. First, I want to thank Gov. Nikki Haley for the foresight to get as many residents out of our county as possible. Many Blufftonians took

heed — some right away and many others later — able to lodge in a safe location and ride through the storm. I evacuated during Hugo, and I know the frustration of not knowing on a minute-by-minute basis what is going on with your property. This is why I decided to post frequently on Facebook and other social media. The response from you was overwhelming and kept me focused on continuing through the night and several days after. As mayor, my role was to be accessible to sign emergency documents and authorize funds for storm response. I was at Bluffton's Emergency Operations Center, which was located in the Bluffton Police Department, during the entire storm. Bluffton Police Chief Joey Reynolds and town manager Marc Orlando led their troops throughout the hurricane. These two men never left their staff, working, sleeping, eating beside them as we all responded to the needs of our residents.

South Carolina News:

The State: Is your favorite State Fair ride safe?

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article108557587.html>

Michael and Kristy LeRoux of Columbia were visiting the South Carolina State Fair on Friday, enjoying a beautiful fall afternoon on the second day of the fair's 12-day run. Michael, a defense department employee at Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter, had purchased \$30 wristbands for each of their three daughters, Jillian, 15, Katherine, 11, and Hannah, 8, allowing them unlimited rides. But the family was shying away from the larger, scarier thrill rides in favor of more low-impact fun. "I do a risk assessment," Michael said. "I look at the complexity of the ride. These things have been taken up and down and up and down. That raises the chances that something could go wrong." Thousands of children are hurt each year on rides in amusement parks, traveling shows, malls and arcades, according to a study by the Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. The study, released in 2013, used data from the Consumer Product Safety Commission from 1990 to 2010, the most recent available.

Local News:

The Herald: A pledge to make it right for wrongly convicted Chester men jailed 40 years for murder

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/andrew-dys/article108499402.html>

The song of justice sometimes starts with a whisper and a whimper, from the darkest reaches of a maximum security prison and the voices inside a man's head who has been branded a killer forever. But in Chester the chorus for justice is rising into shouts from police, lawyers and families who are all saying that two black men convicted of a 1973 killing of a 73-year-old white man named Claude Killian - based solely on the testimony of a snitch, career criminal out to save his own skin, are innocent and have wrongly spent the past 40 years in jail. More, the families and lawyers want more than just parole for James Robert McClurkin and Ray Charles Degraffenreid. They want the justice that appears to have been denied to the men so long ago, based solely on the testimony of another black man who was a killer and a criminal who later admitted that he made the whole thing up. A law professor says that if the men are exonerated - and it seems clear to him that they should be - each should receive damages from the State of South Carolina for their four decades in prison.

The State: 3 months after soldiers were killed at Chapin bar, community hasn't forgotten

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article108467662.html>

The Chapin restaurant where two soldiers were gunned down in July is holding a benefit Saturday afternoon for the men's families. Sgt. 1st Class Charles Allen Judge Jr., 40, and Sgt. 1st Class Jonathon Michael Prins, 29, died after they rushed to help in a standoff with a man that deputies have

identified as Joseph Elijah Mills of Little Mountain. Mills is charged with two counts of murder. The benefit will include live music, a hog roast, a boat raffle and fireworks, according to the Frayed Knot Bar & Grill's Facebook page. The music will go from 1 p.m. to 1 a.m., with fireworks at 9 p.m. Raffle winners will be announced after the fireworks. Lesa Dennis, mother of Prins, said she and other family members will be in attendance. "It is truly amazing that there are people in this world that would go up and beyond what some others would consider," Dennis said. "The owners of Frayed Knot have showed our family compassion."

Herald-Journal: Volunteers work to ensure vets' graves treated with dignity

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161015/volunteers-work-to-ensure-vets-graves-treated-with-dignity?rssfeed=true>

In a small, overgrown cemetery in Inman, a group of volunteers worked to make sure the final resting place of dozens of veterans showed respect for their service. Volunteers from Inman and American Legion Post 45 spent Saturday morning cutting weeds, mowing grass and cleaning grave sites on Price Street in Inman. The group came together to spruce up the cemetery in honor of those buried there, many of whom gave their lives to their country. "We're cleaning it up; it's a mess," said Legion Post 45 member Wayne Brown. "We're going to cut the grass, weed eat and put down some Round-Up. Hopefully that keeps it looking good." Brown was one of about 10 volunteers who showed up at the small cemetery Saturday morning. There is currently no funding set aside for maintenance and care of the cemetery, said Travis Page, an employee at the nearby Seawright Funeral Home.

Associated Press: Baby sitter gets 10 years behind bars in 3-month-old's death

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=w8xfXDhR

A baby sitter has been ordered to spend 10 years in prison for abusing and killing a child she was caring for in Spartanburg County. Prosecutors said 33-year-old Katie Harris pleaded guilty Friday to voluntary manslaughter. A judge sentenced her to 30 years in prison, but that sentence will be suspended if she successfully serves at least 8 ½ years behind bars, five years of home detention and five years of probation. Authorities say 3-month-old Everly Dickard died in March 2015, 10 days after he was found unconscious at Harris' home. Doctors said the baby had a head injury, bleeding on the brain and a head fracture. Harris was originally charged with homicide by child abuse, but prosecutors say the baby's family agreed with the plea bargain.

Associated Press : Coroner: Man overdoses a week after killing girlfriend

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

Authorities say a man appears to have killed himself with an overdose at least a week after he shot his girlfriend to death in their Warrenton home. Aiken County Coroner Tim Carlton said 66-year-old William Boyd left a note saying he killed 47-year-old Sheryl Stone after she attacked him, but he says the evidence doesn't support that claim. Carlton didn't specify what drugs Boyd might have taken to kill himself. Authorities say neighbors smelled a foul odor and called police Thursday. The bodies were found when deputies broke down the door. Carlton says drug and alcohol testing will be done to confirm Boyd's cause of death.

The Herald: Many hands required for meth lab cleanup, York County drug official says

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/crime/article108488747.html>

Making methamphetamine may be a small-scale operation today, thanks to newer, more compact methods. However, the response by law enforcement and health officials to remove those labs – like the one busted this week across from Winthrop University – is much larger and more expensive. Older, more obsolete forms of making meth involved items like pots and hoses, and the drug was

actually cooked on a stovetop or hot surface, according to Marvin Brown, commander of the York County Multijurisdictional Drug Enforcement Unit. The newer "one-pot" or "shake and bake" method involves mixing the ingredients in a plastic 20-ounce bottle, causing a chemical reaction that makes methamphetamine. Regardless of how it's made, the chemicals are just as volatile. Six agents in the drug unit are certified to handle the chemicals in a meth lab busted by law enforcement, Brown said, and they typically remove the ingredients and items and place them on a tarp outside.

Herald-Journal: Suit claims SRHS schemed to defraud federal health programs

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161015/suit-claims-srhs-schemed-to-defraud-federal-health-programs?rssfeed=true>

The federal government is investigating claims in a lawsuit filed by a former Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System employee who alleges the health system schemed to defraud the government by filing false claims with Medicaid, Tricare and Medicare in order to boost revenues by "hundreds of millions of dollars" since 2009. The suit alleges SRHS acquired medical practices and overpaid the physicians, resulting in losses to those practices, with the understanding that those physicians would refer patients to SRHS for more extensive medical procedures that could be billed to Tricare, Medicare and Medicaid. "More referrals equals more revenue," said Greenville attorney R. Mills Ariail Jr., who represents the plaintiff, Elisabeth Markley, a former SRHS physician compensation coordinator. Markley was fired in April 2015, according to the suit. "SRHS' plan is simple — to pay whatever it takes to guarantee that physicians in SRHS' practice division, Medical Group of the Carolinas, direct all medical procedures, ancillary services and referrals to SRHS," the suit states.

Post and Courier: With court decisions on Taser use, latest \$600,000 settlement could be new norm

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161014/161019775/with-court-decisions-on-taser-use-latest-600000-settlement-could-be-new-norm>

A man shocked with a Taser and paralyzed by a Charleston County deputy's bullet will get \$600,000 in a settlement from his excessive force lawsuit. Coupled with the U.S. Supreme Court's refusal this month to review a ruling that deemed many stun gun uses in South Carolina to be excessive, such high-dollar settlements might be the new normal in allegations of police brutality. The court's decision means little for past cases, but for those to come, it lends even greater leverage to people who claim to have been abused at the hands of police. The federal appeals court that oversees the Palmetto State and four others made the new law when it ruled that officers cannot fire Tasers if a suspect's resistance doesn't pose an immediate danger. The weapons cannot be used on people simply trying to get away.

Greenville News: EEOC files suit over treatment of intellectually disabled men in Newberry

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/10/16/eec-files-suit-over-treatment-intellectually-disabled-men-newberry/91951344/>

A Newberry labor firm took advantage of a group of intellectually disabled men for years, requiring them to live in substandard housing and denying them wages or paying them lesser wages for work at a local turkey processing plant, according to a lawsuit filed by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The complaint, filed on behalf of six men on Sept. 29, alleges unlawful employment practices by Work Services Inc. and asks the court to order back wages and compensation for what it describes as unlawful employment practices and "malicious or reckless conduct." "Right now we're not focused on working conditions at the plant," EEOC attorney Robert Canino told The Greenville News. "This is about why were these individuals kept, in essence, virtually captive in this bunkhouse when they should have been given a choice of where they wanted to live and provided transportation and other types of supports." A man answering the phone at Work

Services said the only person authorized to speak to the newspaper was a manager who was out of town for two weeks.

Post and Courier: Sales tax referendum support waning after Summey, I-526 fallout

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161015/161019700/sales-tax-referendum-support-waning-after-summey-i-526-fallout>

Building the Interstate 526 extension will prove more difficult now that Charleston County Council Chairman Elliott Summey has been discovered playing both sides of the argument. The Post and Courier reported this month that secretly made recordings from opposition group Nix 526 show Summey had been presenting himself as the public champion of the highway extension while meeting quietly with opponents to shut it down. Groups that oppose the road across Johns and James Islands — including Nix 526 and the Coastal Conservation League — already have said they would not support a half-cent sales tax referendum on the Nov. 8 ballot. Future income from that sales tax is required to fund a deal that could indirectly allow the road project to move forward. But now, several groups that think I-526 desperately needs to be completed also are publicly opposing the referendum, largely because they don't trust local officials to build the road even if the referendum passes. Teresa Tidestrom, executive director of West Ashley United, said she and most of the group's 2,700 members support the completion of I-526, but they won't vote in favor of the referendum. The average citizen is fed up, she said.

Herald-Journal: GSP, downtown airport assets in economic development

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161016/gsp-downtown-airport-assets-in-economic-development?rssfeed=true>

Flying in and out of an airport is supposed to be a pleasant experience. It's especially important to business travelers. If it means greeting them with cookies and sandwiches or a rental car and keys to a hotel room, the job of a fixed-based operator is to cater to their every need. "I think we're very customer-friendly and customer-oriented," said Darwin Simpson, director of Spartanburg Downtown Memorial Airport. "Anything they need to make their stay pleasant and enjoyable, we do." The downtown airport is in the midst of a \$25 million expansion project with upgrades to the terminal and extension of the runway from 5,200 feet to 6,000 feet. Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport is in the final stages of a \$125 million terminal improvement program designed to make the airport safer, more efficient and user-friendly. Officials at both airports say they place a big emphasis on their fixed-base operations. GSP is taking over its own operations on Jan. 1 with a new service called Cerulean, which replaces the longtime private operator Stevens Aviation.

Associated Press: Clemson dean's wish: Move engineering college to Greenville

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=OMf33anB

The dean of Clemson University's engineering wants about 200,000 additional square feet of research space. But Anand Gramopadhye told trustees if he had his wish, he would move the whole engineering college to Greenville to be near Clemson's International Center for Automotive Research. "If we don't claim it, somebody else will," Gramopadhye said, according to The Greenville News (<http://grnol.co/2eiBMO>). Gramopadhye said the move would also help because Greenville has a high number of engineering jobs per capita and is growing rapidly. He also pointed out that just the engineering college at Clemson is bigger than Furman University and The Citadel combined. Trustees didn't indicate whether they liked Gramopadhye's idea to move the college, but praised him for thinking outside the box. They will consider his request for more research space on campus.

Associated Press: Special India YMCA leader visits Greenville

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=2gxFXoV4

The only female executive of the India YMCA came to Greenville during her first visit to the United States. Shamilla Doris is the general secretary - the equivalent of a president/CEO of a YMCA in the United States - at the Madurai YMCA in southern India. Her visit here was part of YMCA of Greenville's connection with YMCA World Alliance. "For a couple of years, the YMCA of Greenville has provided training for YMCAs in India and is now considering other ways that we can be a helpful resource for their future work, said Scot Baddley, president and CEO of the YMCA of Greenville. "Doris is among the India YMCA leaders that have benefited from such training provided by Jamie Inman, chief mission advancement officer for YMCA of Greenville. Inman's opportunity to do so came after she responded to an email from the YMCA of the USA looking for volunteer consultants to be part of the Asia Pacific Alliance of YMCAs.

Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press : Trump's latest unfounded charge has Clinton on drugs

<http://bigstory.ap.org/0048f803cd0f4352be4d26243682d0e1>

Donald Trump's latest unsubstantiated salvo against rival Hillary Clinton charges she might have been on drugs during their last debate and challenges her to join him in undergoing a pre-debate drug test ahead of their third and final clash. The unfounded claim that the Democratic nominee needed pharmaceutical help took some attention away from whether voters would believe the women who claim that Trump sexually assaulted them or instead accept the Republican's flat denials. Also overshadowed by Trump's accusation was the release Saturday of yet more emails hacked from accounts of Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta. The latest batch showed the campaign worrying whether Sen. Elizabeth Warren might endorse Bernie Sanders and wrestling with how to respond to revelations about her private email use. Another subject: lining up materials to respond to fresh accusations from Juanita Broaddrick, who accused Bill Clinton of raping her decades ago. He denied the rape accusation, which was never adjudicated by a criminal court.

Associated Press : Koch brothers' network focusing on GOP Senate, not Trump

<http://bigstory.ap.org/bd4b6d967abf4acd8a8304bbb182c8a8>

To the Republicans in the red "Can't Afford Katie" T-shirts, it's as if Donald Trump doesn't even exist. These activists have been sprinting through Pennsylvania neighborhoods, talking to people about how bad Democrat Katie McGinty would be as a U.S. senator. Here to help save Republican Sen. Pat Toomey — and, more broadly, the party's control of the Senate — are employees and volunteers for Americans for Prosperity, the best-known group financed by conservative billionaires Charles and David Koch. Similar scenes are playing out in North Carolina, Florida and Ohio. In addition to having nail-biting Senate races this year, those four states are some of the most important battlegrounds in the presidential race. Yet the Koch activists interacting with millions of people who could be Trump's most crucial voters aren't supposed to utter a word about him or Hillary Clinton, a Democrat they'd been preparing for years to attack.

Associated Press: Speech transcripts show Clinton avoided blaming Wall Street

<http://bigstory.ap.org/cd42104deec7474889920d350d76765c>

Hillary Clinton generally avoided direct criticism of Wall Street as she examined the causes and responses to the financial meltdown during a series of paid speeches to Goldman Sachs, according to transcripts disclosed Saturday by WikiLeaks. Three transcripts released as part of the hack of her campaign chairman's emails did not contain any new bombshells showing she was unduly influenced by contributions from the banking industry, as her primary rival Bernie Sanders had suggested. Still,

her soft-handed approach in the speeches was likely to act as a reminder to liberals in the party of their concerns that the Democratic presidential nominee is too close to Wall Street to be an effective check on its excesses if elected. In October 2013, the transcripts show, Clinton told bankers she had "great relations" and worked closely with Wall Street as New York's senator, and said "the jury is still out" on whether the Dodd-Frank financial reforms put in place after the financial crisis had been the right approach. She said more openness from the start could have prevented the uproar on Wall Street over those reforms. "What happened, how did it happen, how do we prevent it from happening? You guys help us figure it out, and let's make sure that we do it right this time," she said.

World News:

Associated Press : US, S. Korea say latest N. Korea missile launch fails

<http://bigstory.ap.org/e407aa5bfee7417f8c23bf4ef5090eb4>

South Korea and the U.S. said Sunday that the latest missile launch by North Korea ended in a failure after the projectile reportedly exploded soon after liftoff. The South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement that the military believes the North unsuccessfully attempted to fire a mid-range Musudan missile. It said the failed launch was made near an airport in the North's North Pyongan province. South Korea's Yonhap news agency said that the missile was believed to have exploded soon after liftoff. Yonhap cited no source for this information. South Korea strongly condemns the launch because it violates U.N. Security Council resolutions that bans any ballistic activities by North Korea, the statement said.

Associated Press: Nigerian parents eager to see 21 girls freed by Boko Haram

<http://bigstory.ap.org/aa86590bb22a49f2810a4ff9ae4642d7>

A group of Nigerian parents are excitedly waiting to be reunited with 21 schoolgirls kidnapped by Boko Haram 2 ½ years ago and freed in the first negotiated release organized by the government and the Islamic extremist group. "When we heard that they found some of the girls and our daughter was among them ... we wanted the day to break in a hurry to see if the government is going to call us to come see our daughter," father Muta Abana told The Associated Press. The girls were released Thursday and flown to Abuja, Nigeria's capital, but it's taken days for the parents to arrive. Most arrived Sunday after driving hours over potholed roads slowed by military checkpoints and the danger of attack by the insurgents, said community leader Tsambido Hosea Abana. The parents came from the remote northeastern town of Chibok, where nearly 300 girls were kidnapped on April 2014 in a mass abduction that shocked the world. Dozens of schoolgirls escaped in the first few hours but after last week's release, 197 remain captive. The government says negotiations are continuing to win their freedom.

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