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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Southern Living: Gov. Nikki Haley is opening her home to the public for a Christmas spectacular <http://www.southernliving.com/home-garden/decorating/south-carolina-christmas-governors-mansion-nikki-haley-open-house>

Meghan Overdeep

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley is upholding a beloved state tradition this holiday season. Palmetto State governors have opened up the Governor's Mansion to the public for 35 years running, inviting citizens to experience the estate's stunning Christmas decorations, done annually by The Columbia Garden Club. This year, the club worked for about a week to decorate the mansion with a trio of live Christmas trees from South Carolina farms and poinsettias grown by the Future Farmers of America from Lexington Technology Center in time for today's open house, the Associated Press reports. "Our family invites yours to enjoy holiday festivities tomorrow evening at your Governor's mansion from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM," Haley wrote on Facebook Sunday. "The event is free to all, but we ask you to please consider bringing canned goods to be donated to Harvest Hope Food Bank. There will be carols, one of a kind South Carolina decorations and lots of cheer—we hope to see you there!!"

Nikki Haley: UN Ambassador News:

NBC News: Donald Trump's Cabinet Picks So Far

<http://www.nbcnews.com/politics/politics-news/donald-trump-s-cabinet-picks-so-far-n690296>

Andrew Rafferty

President-elect Donald Trump is building out his Cabinet with allies, old friends, and even some former rivals. Here's a look at who Trump has picked so far:

NOTE: Gov. Nikki Haley, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations — South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley quickly accepted Trump's offer to become the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations after the two spent much of 2016 in a tiff. Haley endorsed Marco Rubio in the lead up the Palmetto State Primary back in February, and at one point called Trump "everything a governor doesn't want in a president." She then backed Ted Cruz after Rubio ended his run, and only tepidly endorsed Trump at the Republican National Convention in July.

NOTE: Haley became the first woman Trump appointed to his Cabinet, though the 44-year-old's nomination to lead the U.S. delegation to the UN raised some eyebrows since her foreign policy experience is limited. Haley, the daughter of Indian immigrants, served three terms in the South Carolina State House before becoming governor in 2010.

Wall Street Journal: Donald Trump Shuffles the Ideological Deck

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/donald-trump-shuffles-the-ideological-deck-1480955194>

Gerald F. Seib

If President Barack Obama sought to usher America into a postracial era, it is increasingly apparent that President-elect Donald Trump is opening the door to the postideological era. In fact, it's nearly impossible to identify a clear ideological bent in the incoming president's early moves. It's probably a mistake to try, because the definitions of left and right, liberal and conservative, are being scrambled right before our eyes. Some Trump moves so far track with his populist outsider campaign image.

Others are moves a conventional conservative could make. Some on his team would have been comfortable picks by any standard-issue Republican; some could as easily have been made by a Democratic president-elect. The emerging picture suggests only two safe predictions about the Trump presidency. The first is that there will be a continuing struggle between the populist Donald Trump, who battles the corporate world and its love of free markets above all else, and the more conventionally Republican Donald Trump, who is comfortable with the leaders of that same corporate, free-market-loving world.

NOTE: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, picked to be ambassador to the United Nations, and Trump chief of staff Reince Priebus could have fit comfortably into the administration of any of the mainstream Republicans Mr. Trump defeated.

General Assembly News:

The State: First on Buzz: Rock Hill's Simrill set to lead SC House Republicans

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article118980548.html>

Cassie Cope

S.C. Rep. Gary Simrill did not tell his own mother or wife that he is poised to be elected majority leader of the S.C. House Tuesday. Simrill's wife overheard him talking on the phone about it. His mother found out from Simrill's State House deskmate, State Rep. Tommy Pope. "He keeps doing good stuff, and I'll keep telling his mom," said Pope, a fellow York County Republican. The "good stuff" that Simrill has done includes championing spending to repair the state's crumbling roads and bridges, and building consensus among fellow representatives. Simrill, 50, who has been in the House for 25 years, will be elected majority leader Tuesday, when lawmakers return to the State House to adopt House and Senate rules for the upcoming session, which starts in January, and get their committee assignments. That new role means Simrill will be the spokesman for House Republicans; will set the agenda of the majority party, which holds 80 of 124 seats; and will decide Republican Caucus spending in legislative races.

NOTE: The gas-tax increase passed the House, despite opposition from Republican Gov. Nikki Haley, by 87-20 vote.

The State: Top issues for SC lawmakers in 2017

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/article119007808.html>

Cassie Cope

S.C. lawmakers return to Columbia for an organizational session Tuesday as they prepare for the January start of the legislative session, where they will face several hot issues... Pension reform, Road repairs, School funding, Fewer added new dollars, and Looming investigation.

NOTE: In recent years, Gov. Nikki Haley Haley has pushed lawmakers to spend more on education – on reading coaches, technology and students in poverty. But last spring, legislators failed to pass Haley's proposal to spend state money to help poor districts build and renovate schools. Lawmakers could revive that spending plan in 2017 as part of an effort to address the S.C. Supreme Court's ruling that the state has not done enough for poor schools.

SC Supreme Court News:

Post and Courier: Panel replaces judge as S.C. Supreme Court finalist

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/panel-replaces-administrative-law-judge-as-s-c-supreme-court/article_9f9f4da2-baf6-11e6-a29b-0fa424ba8782.html

Maya T. Prabhu

The panel that nominates the state's Supreme Court justices rescinded the nomination of an Administrative Law Court judge for improperly attending a political function, replacing him with a new candidate Monday. Judge Ralph King "Tripp" Anderson III is no longer one of the three candidates the General Assembly will consider to replace retiring Chief Justice Costa Pleicones. Last week, members

of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission questioned Anderson about his attendance at a political fundraiser. Judges and judicial nominees are prohibited from attending those types of events."Judge Anderson is a great judge and a great guy, and I had a lot of respect for him," commission chairman state Sen. Chip Campsen, R-Isle of Palms, said. "But we had a lot of good candidates. When you have a lot of good candidates and there's a little misstep, one may edge out the other."The panel replaced Anderson with Circuit Judge R. Keith Kelly of Gaffney.

SC Political News:

Post and Courier: Trump meets Monday with S.C.'s Mulvaney and Templeton

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/trump-meets-monday-with-s-c-s-mulvaney-and-templeton/article_f3f342da-bb02-11e6-a808-f394f80a84fe.html

Emma Dumain

Two South Carolina Republicans will sit down with President-elect Donald Trump on Monday to discuss what roles they might play in the new administration. In a call with reporters Monday morning, Trump spokesman Jason Miller confirmed U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney and potential 2018 gubernatorial candidate Catherine Templeton were still on the day's schedule for meetings in New York. Miller described Mulvaney's "very proven track record as a fiscal conservative and government reformer. "Sources told The Post and Courier last week the three-term congressman is in "serious contention" to be nominated for director of the Office of Management and Budget. Mulvaney in October described the position as something he would want to hold in a Trump White House. Templeton, an attorney, was singled out by Miller for her "significant public and private sector experience with labor relations." He also noted she cut budgets in her capacity as former head of both the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control and the S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.

Michael Slagger Case:

Associated Press: Mistrial declared in black motorist's shooting

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=r0lljhcc

Bruce Smith and Seanna Adcox

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

Associated Press: The Latest: Mistrial declared in police officer murder trial

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=4O6z1YHP

SC State Wire

A mistrial has been declared in the trial of a South Carolina police officer charged with murder in the death of a black motorist. Circuit Judge Clifton Newman declared the mistrial after a jury said Monday that it was unable to unanimously agree on a verdict for Michael Slager. The judge had told jurors they could also consider a lesser charge of voluntary manslaughter. Slager was standing trial for shooting 50-year-old Walter Scott to death in North Charleston after stopping him for having a broken taillight. Cellphone video taken by a bystander of the shooting was shown widely in the media and on the internet and sparked national outrage. Race was never made a major issue at trial, even though Slager is white and Scott was black. Jurors had deliberated more than 22 hours over four days.

The State: Judge declares mistrial in case against former North Charleston police officer

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article118998983.html>

Cynthia Roldan

A jury could not reach a decision on Monday in the murder trial against a former North Charleston police officer accused of shooting a black motorist in the back. Shortly after 3:30 p.m., Monday, Circuit Judge Clifton Newman declared a mistrial in the five-week case against Michael Slager, whose defense argued he feared for his life when Walter Scott got control of Slager's stun gun. A passerby turned over video of the encounter between Slager and Scott, 50. Slager was fired by the North Charleston Police Department shortly after. The jury – consisting of one black and 11 white jurors – deliberated for more than 20 hours. They left for home over the weekend undecided. On Monday, jurors sent a note to the judge indicating that "the majority" were still undecided on a verdict. They also posed numerous questions to the judge. They asked for clarification on why voluntary manslaughter was added as a possible verdict and whether the definition of self-defense for a police is different than for the average person.

Dylann Roof Case:

Associated Press: Dylann Roof allowed to hire lawyers back, for now

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ZxHWvcu2

Jeffrey Collins

A federal judge agreed Monday to let a white man accused of fatally shooting nine black parishioners rehire his attorneys until a verdict is reached, but to remain his own lawyer if he is found guilty and the trial moves into a penalty phase. The decision by U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel ended a week of Roof acting as his own lawyer in his death penalty trial. Roof wrote the Judge a handwritten note with his request over the weekend. It is unclear why Roof is so determined to keep the lawyers out of the penalty part of his case. In their own motion Friday asking Gergel to order Roof to hire them back, they suggested there is something embarrassing Roof is afraid they might use to try to spare his life. They did not elaborate. Roof, in his gray and white jail jumpsuit, simply answered questions with "yes" or "no." Then after Gergel ruled, the 22-year-old described by his lawyers as a "ninth-grade dropout" quietly slid back into the far left chair at the defense table. Lead lawyer and capital defense expert David Bruck took back the lead chair, at least for now.

Associated Press: The Latest: Prosecutors say they need 7 days in church case

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=IFpvO3Uv

SC State Wire

Prosecutors estimate it will take about seven days to present their case against Dylann Roof, who is charged with hate crimes in the fatal shooting of nine black parishioners in a Charleston, South Carolina, church last year. Roof's lawyers were put back on the case Monday by the judge after Roof requested it. They said they wouldn't need much time to prepare for the guilt phase of Roof's trial, which is scheduled to begin Wednesday. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty for Roof, meaning there will be a second, penalty phase of the trial if he's found guilty. For that part, Roof wants to go back to being his own lawyer. U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel also ruled Monday that Roof's parents, grandmother and grandfather can remain in the courtroom during the trial even though they're potential witnesses. All other witnesses must stay out until they testify. Roof's grandfather is a lawyer.

Post and Courier: Dylann Roof's attorneys take over guilt phase only of death penalty trial

http://www.postandcourier.com/church_shooting/dylann-roof-s-attorneys-take-over-guilt-phase-only-of/article_0f2c7f40-baee-11e6-acc5-57571574d8a3.html

Jennifer Berry Hawes

With opening statements just two days away, a federal judge granted accused Emanuel AME Church shooter Dylann Roof's request to let his attorneys represent him again during the guilt phase of his federal death penalty trial. Roof will take over his defense again, however, during the penalty phase. Survivors of the shooting and family members of the nine people gunned down in June 2015 packed

one side of the courtroom Monday as Roof stood before the judge to reverse his earlier request to act as his own attorney during the entire hate crimes trial. Instead, he will represent himself only during the portion when jurors decide if he gets a death sentence or life in prison without parole."You are delegating to (defense attorneys) your strategic decisions in the guilt phase, and that is acceptable to you?" U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel asked Roof."Yes," said Roof, still clad in his grey striped jail jumpsuit.

Serial Killer Todd Kohlhepp:

Independent Mail: Carver's estate sues Kohlhepp, his mother

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/12/05/carvers-estate-sues-kohlhepp-his-mother/95007528/>

Kirk Brown

A representative of Charles David Carver's estate filed a wrongful death suit Monday against Todd Kohlhepp. The suit was filed Monday in Spartanburg County by Greenville attorney R. Mills Ariail Jr., court records show. The suit says that Kohlhepp "gunned down" Carver on Kohlhepp's Woodruff property. Carver's body was discovered on Kohlhepp's property after authorities found Kala Brown chained inside a metal storage container Nov. 3. Carver and Brown had shared an apartment in Anderson before they disappeared in late August. The suit says that Carver went to Kohlhepp's property on Aug. 31 to do some work that involved cleaning up the land. The suit says that Kohlhepp held Carver against his will before taking his life.

Herald-Journal: First wrongful death suit filed against Todd Kohlhepp

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161205/first-wrongful-death-suit-filed-against-todd-kohlhepp?rssfeed=true>

Daniel J. Gross

A wrongful death suit against Todd Kohlhepp has been filed in the Spartanburg County Court of Common Pleas on behalf of the estate of Charlie David Carver. Filed Monday afternoon, it marks the first wrongful death suit and third civil lawsuit overall against the accused serial killer since his November arrest. Kohlhepp has been charged with killing seven people since he was arrested after missing Anderson woman Kala Brown was found alive but chained inside a locked container on his 96-acre Woodruff property Nov. 3. Carver, 32, was Brown's boyfriend. His body was found in a shallow grave near the shipping container that Brown had been in for about two months. The Anderson couple had been reported missing since Aug. 31. The wrongful death suit demands a jury trial. The suit claims that Kohlhepp kidnapped Carver on or about Aug. 31.

Hurricane Matthew Recovery:

Sun News: Some roads closed by Hurricane Matthew not expected to open for another year

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article118917238.html>

Todd Garvin

The South Carolina Department of Transportation has released new information on when roads closed by damage by Hurricane Matthew might reopen in Horry County. Five sections of roadways are still closed because of the October storm, with one not expected to reopen until fall of next year.

Tornadoes Across Southeast:

Greenville News: Tornado victims in Simpsonville area may not qualify for federal aid

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/12/05/tornado-victims-may-not-qualify-federal-aid/95004338/>

Michael Burns

Dozens of Simpsonville-area residents are struggling to return to the daily lives they knew before last week, when they were struck by the strongest tornado to touch down in Greenville County since

2008. Whether or not they will qualify for federal assistance is still being determined. Uninsured losses from the tornado will have to reach a threshold of about \$4.5 million in the county in order for those suffering from its wake to qualify for federal disaster aid, according to Jay Marett, deputy director of emergency management for Greenville County. Officials hope to complete those tabulations this week. "I personally believe, and this is of course nothing official, that it may be tough to reach that, but it's not out of the realm of possibility," Marett said. "Things do tend to add up."

Opinion/Editorial:

Post and Courier: Stay the course on prison reform

http://www.postandcourier.com/opinion/editorials/stay-the-course-on-prison-reform/article_06a81c9c-b681-11e6-9e72-9795a8db48c3.html

Editorial

The state Legislature and prison officials deserve a pat on the back for sentencing reforms that saved taxpayers some \$491 million since 2010. But rising inmate levels and worsening security issues say it's no time for complacency. This budget savings should be viewed as an opportunity to plow funding back into a corrections system with ongoing problems. Crime rates, down for the past 20 years, are now showing a slight uptick. And absent policy changes in the next five years, South Carolina's prison population, now around 21,000, is projected to hit 28,000, costing an additional \$141 million in operating costs and \$317 million in new prison construction, according to the state's Sentencing Reform Oversight Committee. The state may have already reaped most of its rewards from the 2010 act, with admission and recidivism rates increasing for the first time since the reforms reduced sentences for nonviolent and drug offenders and increased opportunities for parole. The main drivers of incarceration are the crime rate, the ratio of arrests to crimes, the share of offenders sent to prison and the length of prison sentences, according to the nonpartisan Washington, D.C.-based Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

North Carolina News:

Charlotte Observer: Gov. Pat McCrory concedes defeat to Roy Cooper as Durham recount wraps up

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/politics-government/article118942758.html>

Colin Campbell

Republican Gov. Pat McCrory announced Monday that he's conceded the election to Democrat Roy Cooper, the state's attorney general, and will support transition efforts. McCrory made the concession in a video message posted around noon Monday as a recount he requested in Durham County entered its final hours. Durham officials plan to finish the recount later Monday, but early results from the recount showed virtually no change in the vote tally there. "I personally believe that the majority of our citizens have spoken, and we now should do everything we can to support the 75th governor of North Carolina, Roy Cooper," McCrory says in the video. "The McCrory administration team will assist in every way to help the new administration make a smooth transition. "It's time to celebrate our democratic process and respect what I see to be the ultimate outcome of the closest North Carolina governor's race in modern history."

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Baby's first flight: Woman gives birth while on airplane

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

SC State Wire

A Southwest Airlines plane made an emergency landing in Charleston, South Carolina, after a baby was born in the middle of the flight. Airline spokeswoman Melissa Ford tells local news outlets that Flight 556 was on its way from Philadelphia to Orlando, Florida, on Sunday when a woman went into

labor. Ford says medical personnel who were on the flight helped with the delivery, and the family was taken to an area hospital when the plane landed. Officials say the flight and the remaining passengers arrived in Orlando just over an hour behind schedule.

Post and Courier: S.C. gas prices rise slightly following OPEC production cut

http://www.postandcourier.com/business/s-c-gas-prices-rise-slightly-following-opec-production-cut/article_51f661f4-baff-11e6-a45c-6fa768bef4fc.html

Warren L. Wise

The price of gasoline across South Carolina rose nearly a nickel a gallon following an agreement last week by oil producers to cut production. The average price per gallon across the Palmetto State climbed to \$1.97 on Monday, according to gas price service GasBuddy. Motor club AAA puts the price a penny higher. That's about 17 cents higher per gallon than this time last year. Nationally, the price jumped 4.4 cents per gallon during the past week to \$2.18, according to both gas price services. That's about 14 cents more than this time one year ago. Gas prices should continue to rise over the next two weeks as the market responds to the production cuts announced last week by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, but one analyst doesn't believe it will hold long-term. "If I had a nickel for every time OPEC said it was going to cut oil production, I could probably buy everyone free gas on Christmas," said Patrick DeHaan, senior petroleum analyst for GasBuddy.

The State: Wrecks on South Carolina roads kill 2 during weekend

<http://www.thestate.com/news/state/south-carolina/article118990343.html>

Jane Moon Dial

South Carolina Department of Public Safety officials said there were two road deaths reported during this past weekend. Officials said both of the deaths occurred on U.S. routes, S.C. roads and secondary roads. In one of the deaths, officials said a seat belt was not used. The other death was a pedestrian. As of Monday, 924 people have died on state highways, compared to 915 highway deaths during the same time period in 2015. Of the 596 motor-vehicle occupants who have died in 2016, 294 were not wearing seat belts. According to DPS, 129 pedestrians have been killed compared to 115 during the same time period in 2015. So far 133 motorcyclists have been killed compared to 130 this time in 2015. Twenty-five bicyclists have died in 2016 compared to 15 this time last year.

Local News:

The Herald: Lancaster school board member accused of drug dealing resigns, says he will be cleared

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/crime/article118966243.html>

Andrew Dys

The Lancaster County school board member charged last month with trafficking drugs and weapon possession has resigned his seat, but claims that he will be cleared of the charges. James Brooks, 50, submitted his resignation Friday to school board and district officials, said David Knight, spokesman for the Lancaster County school district. Brooks told school officials he resigned because of the "negative publicity" after his arrest became public Nov. 28, adding that it is in the best interests of the students and school district for him to step down. Brooks faces two felonies and other charges after police said they found 24 grams of methamphetamine, as well as marijuana and a gun. He says he will be exonerated. "I am positive that I will be cleared of all the allegations and my name will be cleared of any wrongdoing; until then, I do not want to be the cause of any more distractions," Brooks wrote in a letter to school officials.

The Herald: Judge denies new trial, upholds \$150,000 award in York County case against Sheriff's office

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article118944188.html>

Andrew Dys

The judge who handled the trial where a York County jury awarded a man \$150,000 for malicious

prosecution has upheld the verdict and refused a request by deputies for a new trial. Russell Shane Carter won his civil suit in November after he had been charged with assault in a case where he said another man attacked him at his home. York County Sheriff's Office deputies arrested Carter. The assault charges against Carter were dropped by prosecutors weeks later, but Carter and his lawyers successfully argued that Carter was the victim of malicious prosecution. The jury's \$150,000 verdict pushed lawyers for the sheriff's office to ask for a new trial, claiming in court documents that the amount was "grossly excessive" for what was only "emotional" injuries to Carter. The request for a new trial claimed the jury decided the damages based on "passion, prejudice, partiality, or other improper motives." The trial judge, John C. Hayes III, issued an order Monday supporting the jury's decision and the amount awarded. "The verdict is not grossly excessive and does not shock the conscience," Hayes wrote in the order.

Sun News: Gun ordinance was met with backlash in 2012, so they're keeping it quieter this time
<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article118996018.html>

Audrey Hudson

The Horry County Council is reviving a proposal restricting the discharge of firearms on private property that was dropped in 2012 after overwhelming opposition by gun owners. But this time, officials are keeping a tighter lid on the details. Horry County Attorney Arrigo Carotti resurrected the 2012 ordinance that he says is still on his computer and offered it for reconsideration to county councilmen tasked with tackling complaints from some residents that guns are being fired too close to their homes. Carotti told council members last week that the original measure caused a public backlash when it was inadvertently made public in 2012. When asked for a copy of the original proposal, the county employee declined to release it to the Sun News citing attorney-client privilege. "There was a draft ordinance that was circulated in-house and was inadvertently made public without having gone through the full vetting of staff or council, and that created a bit of a furor in public," Carotti told councilmen on the Public Safety Committee.

Sun News: Deaths on Horry County roads down, but still the highest in South Carolina
<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article118938963.html>

Todd Garvin

Horry County has seen less traffic deaths through Dec. 4 compared to last year, but still has the deadliest roadways in South Carolina. Through Sunday, 65 people had died because of crashes on county roads, compared to 77 from 2015, according to the South Carolina Department of Public Safety. Richland County was second with 62. A total of 924 people have perished on S.C. highways compared to 915 through the same period in 2015. Of the 596 motor vehicle occupants who died, 294 were not wearing seat belts.

Associated Press: Report: train carrying BMWs derails, 97 automobiles damaged
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=qbwldHiV

SC State Wire

Authorities say a train carrying BMWs from an automaking plant in South Carolina has derailed and that 97 of the vehicles were damaged. Multiple media organizations report that train carrying nearly 100 autos was on its way to Charleston from BMW's plant in Greer when it derailed Sunday afternoon near the state capital of Columbia. Officials say no one was hurt but that two locomotives also were damaged, along with the cars. Authorities say motorists in the area of the derailment should expect delays because heavy equipment is being brought in to set the rail cars upright and repair the tracks.

Greenville News: 120 BMWs headed for export damaged in train derailment
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/greer/2016/12/05/train-carrying-bmws-greer-derails-fairfield-county/94984016/>

Amanda Coyne

More than 100 BMWs headed for export were damaged Sunday when the freight train carrying them

derailed in Fairfield County. The 120 X Models were being shipped from BMW's Greer plant to the Port of Charleston. They were damaged when 12 Norfolk Southern train cars derailed in Jenkinsville. No people were injured in the derailment. Officials from BMW are traveling to the scene to assess the damage to the SUVs and crossovers, which were manufactured in the Upstate. Authorities say drivers should expect delays because heavy equipment is being brought in to set the rail cars upright and repair the tracks.

Post and Courier: Train derailment damages 120 BMWs on their way to Port of Charleston

http://www.postandcourier.com/business/train-derailment-damages-bmws-on-their-way-to-port-of/article_c6c77ba2-baf6-11e6-aec1-27eb7ca3f8a5.html

David Wren

A Norfolk Southern freight train derailed northwest of Columbia on Sunday, damaging up to 120 BMW automobiles on their way to the Port of Charleston to be shipped overseas. Norfolk Southern spokeswoman Susan Terpay said two locomotives and 12 of the train's 96 rail cars derailed in Blair shortly before 3 p.m. The cause of the accident is being investigated. The two members of the crew were taken to a local hospital for evaluation and released Sunday, Norfolk Southern said. There were no injuries. Each rail car carries 10 BMWs, putting the total number involved in the derailment at 120 vehicles. Terpay said it was not clear how many of those vehicles sustained damage. An additional 840 vehicles made at the Spartanburg County automotive plant were being transported. "BMW personnel are traveling to the scene and will assess the damage to these 120 BMWs," company spokesman Steve Wilson said in a statement. "We will continue to work with Norfolk Southern in this situation to assess the damages."

Island Packet: Beaufort County leaders: AG's opinion could reduce "opportunistic annexations"

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article118947658.html>

Lucas High

If local towns and cities had to pay the full cost of the construction and maintenance of roads within their borders, would they think twice about annexing portions of unincorporated Beaufort County? County administration leaders think a recent opinion from the S.C. Attorney General's office may result in those sort of second thoughts from municipal officials and property owners. The opinion, authored last month by Assistant Attorney General Elinor Lister, says "that (the) municipality, and not the county, is responsible for the maintenance and repair of roads located inside its corporate limits. It is 'irrelevant what political subdivision built or traditionally maintained the streets,'" according to the opinion. Beaufort County attorney Tom Keaveny says the opinion makes clear that even if the county paid for the construction of a road, a municipality would be responsible for maintaining it should municipal leaders annex the roadway into a town or city.

Post and Courier: Santee Cooper's newest budget includes rate increase, better solar power incentives

http://www.postandcourier.com/santee-cooper-s-newest-budget-includes-rate-increase-better-solar/article_fb5ae318-bb19-11e6-ac16-bb2c92805e95.html

David Wren

Santee Cooper's board of directors on Monday approved a \$3.2 billion budget for the coming year that includes a rate increase of about 2.2 percent for residential customers -- the second annual increase under a plan the electric utility's board first approved a year ago. The board also raised the amount of money it will pay to customers who take part in the Moncks Corner-based utility's solar power initiatives. Under the new plan, residential and business customers who install electricity generating solar panels will get a rebate of \$1.60 for each watt generated -- up from the previous \$1.30 per watt. Customers who invest in the utility's community solar program, called Solar Share, will get a rebate of \$1.40 per watt, up from the previous \$1 per watt. Also, the rebates are available for up to a 6-kilowatt installation. Santee Cooper previously limited the rebates to 4-kilowatt installations.

Charlotte Observer: LPL Financial CEO to retire; president will replace him

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/business/article118918123.html>

Deon Roberts

Brokerage firm LPL Financial, which has a major Charlotte-area operation, announced Monday that Mark Casady will retire as CEO on Jan. 3 and that president Dan Arnold will replace him. The announcement comes after the Boston-based company last week held a grand opening for its new Fort Mill campus, where it plans to eventually employ up to 3,000. Company spokesman Jeff Mochal told the Observer that Monday's news does not change LPL's plans to continue adding most of its new employees at the Fort Mill campus. "Moving forward, I would say that the bulk, the vast, vast majority, of growth that we have in the employee base will be here in (Fort Mill)," Mochal said. Casady, 56, who has been with LPL more than 14 years and in the industry for 34 years, will continue as non-executive chair of the board of directors until March 3, 2017. Arnold, 51, has been with the company since 2007 and served as president since March 2015. LPL provides back-end services for a network of more than 14,000 independent financial advisers. The firm's primary offices are in Boston, Fort Mill and San Diego.

President-elect Trump News:

Associated Press: Trump taps former campaign rival Carson as housing secretary

<http://bigstory.ap.org/9f312a7447b84cc78a047fdff94bc4>

President-elect Donald Trump, moving closer to filling his Cabinet, chose former campaign rival Ben Carson on Monday to be secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Trump's decision, announced by his transition office, comes as the real estate mogul continues a series of conferences with aides and others — including unlikely figures such as former Vice President Al Gore — aimed at forming his administration and its policies. He announced several Cabinet selections last week. In a statement, Trump said he was "thrilled to nominate" Carson, describing the retired neurosurgeon as having "a brilliant mind" and being "passionate about strengthening communities and families within those communities." Carson had been coy about joining the new administration, saying shortly after Trump's election victory that he wasn't certain he'd fit into a Cabinet-style role. The discussion at that time centered on speculation that he might be selected to head the sprawling Department of Health and Human Services.

Associated Press: The Latest: GOP weighs adding Mattis provision to bill

<http://bigstory.ap.org/116e7858e4634592a2c5ca70e6733a8b>

Congressional Republicans may include in a must-pass government spending bill a provision aimed at accelerating the confirmation of retired Marine Corps Gen. James Mattis to be defense secretary. Capitol Hill aides say the measure, if it's added, would essentially fast-track the legislative waiver required for President-elect Donald Trump's pick to serve in the Pentagon's top civilian post. A law prohibits an officer from leading the Defense Department before he has been out of the military for seven years. Mattis retired in 2013. The goal is to get a vote on the waiver legislation soon after lawmakers begin the 115th Congress in early January. Claude Chafin, a House Armed Services Committee spokesman, says there is no discussion about including the waiver for Mattis in the spending bill, known as a continuing resolution. He says what's under consideration are the "procedures for how the waiver will be considered."

Associated Press: The Latest: Son of Trump adviser has sent posts on Pizzagate

<http://bigstory.ap.org/7c2629db9df64709bf9f4889a709fa68>

The conspiracy theory involving a fake news story that links Hillary Clinton and a D.C. pizza shop to a child exploitation ring has at least one prominent adherent connected to President-elect Donald Trump's transition team. Michael Flynn Jr. is an adviser to his father, Michael Flynn, whom Trump selected to serve as national security adviser. Flynn Jr. has sent numerous posts on Twitter about the conspiracy theories of Pizzagate, a fake news story that suggests a pizza shop called Comet Ping Pong plays a key role in a child sex trafficking ring run by Clinton. Police say the conspiracy theory led to violence Sunday when a North Carolina man fired a rifle in the restaurant as he sought to

investigate the accusations. No one was injured, and the man was arrested. Flynn Jr., who has accompanied his father to presidential transition meetings inside Trump Tower and lists the presidential transition website as part of his Twitter bio, tweeted Sunday night that, "Until #Pizzagate proven to be false, it'll remain a story." Trump's team had no immediate response to questions about the conspiracy theory or the younger Flynn's role in the presidential transition.

National News:

Associated Press: No bail for 15-year-old charged with decapitating classmate

<http://bigstory.ap.org/423127300d634102b72972ccee40c8c4>

A 15-year-old boy charged with killing a high school classmate whose headless body was found near a river said in a police report made public Monday that they had gone to smoke marijuana together and he had last seen the classmate alive. Mathew Borges was held without bail after pleading not guilty at his brief arraignment in Lawrence District Court on a murder charge. Borges is being prosecuted as an adult, so court proceedings were open. His lawyer, Edward Hayden, did not argue for bail. The body of 16-year-old Lee Manuel Vilorio-Paulino was found near the Merrimack River in Lawrence on Thursday by a woman walking her dog. Police recovered his head nearby. His forearms had also been cut off, but it was unclear if they were recovered. Borges told police that he and Vilorio-Paulino had gone to the river on Nov. 18 to smoke pot and later parted ways. But the police report also said Borges told a witness that he had "done something bad" and that he had "stabbed a kid and cut his head off killing him." Borges was arrested Saturday.

Associated Press: Man convicted in son's hot-car death gets life, no parole

<http://bigstory.ap.org/6fc718deac554caa83d46797268f3fff>

A judge on Monday sentenced a Georgia man to serve life in prison without the possibility of parole after a jury found that he intentionally left his toddler son in a hot SUV to die. Jurors last month convicted Justin Ross Harris, 36, of malice murder and other charges in the June 2014 death of his 22-month-old son, Cooper. Prosecutors argued throughout the trial that Harris was unhappily married and intentionally killed his son because he wanted an escape from family life. Defense attorneys maintained that Harris was a loving father and that while he was responsible for the boy's death, it was a tragic accident. Harris did not testify at trial and did not speak at his sentencing hearing. Cobb County Superior Court Judge Mary Staley Clark told Harris she thought about statements Harris made during conversations with police and his wife the day his son died about wishing to be an advocate to keep anyone else from ever leaving a child in a hot vehicle.

Associated Press: The Latest: Gov. Jerry Brown sends condolences to families

<http://bigstory.ap.org/5ddf43e84ea74b64bd23e18722f1bb3d>

California Gov. Jerry Brown is expressing condolences to the families of the victims of the Oakland warehouse fire, one of the worst in the state's history. But Brown says Monday it is too soon to draw conclusions about factors that played into the fire, including a lack of affordable housing. Brown would say only that code provisions and permitting are important functions of local government. He didn't directly answer when asked whether the state was playing a role in investigating the fire. The blaze erupted during a dance party late Friday night. The death toll has grown to 36 with more victims expected to be found in the rubble in the coming days. Eleven of those killed have been identified, but all the names have been publicly released.

Associated Press: Death toll climbs to 36 in Oakland warehouse fire

<http://bigstory.ap.org/ed955fda627f4398a4f8c27009e7c58a>

The death toll in the Oakland warehouse fire climbed to 36 Monday with more bodies still feared buried in the blackened ruins, and families anxiously awaited word of their missing loved ones. The laborious job of digging with shovels and buckets was suspended overnight because of a dangerously unstable wall but resumed mid-morning. Officials said 70 percent of the building had

been searched. Flames tore through the building, known as the "Ghost Ship," during a dance party Friday night. The cluttered warehouse had been converted to artists' studios and illegal living spaces, and former denizens said it was a death trap of piled wood, furniture, snaking electrical cords and only two exits. It was the most lethal building fire in the U.S. in more than a decade. Authorities have identified at least 11 of the bodies but withheld some of the names. Those whose identities were yet to be released included a 17-year-old and the son of a sheriff's deputy, authorities said.

Associated Press: Teens, young artists among California warehouse fire victims

<http://bigstory.ap.org/a5e62996d71f4dcabd69d91375840f64>

Teenagers, the son of a sheriff's deputy and young artists who loved music were among the dozens of people killed when a fire tore through a converted Oakland warehouse during a dance party. The death toll from Friday night's fire climbed to 36 on Monday with more bodies still feared buried in the rubble. The victims included 17-year-olds and people from Europe and Asia, Alameda County Sheriff's Sgt. Ray Kelly said. Here's a closer look at who they were...

World News:

Associated Press: White House: 9/11 law permits US attacks on extremists

<http://bigstory.ap.org/4b9709c55c5a4d10ac499e16b151ade9>

The White House shed new light Monday on the legal foundations for President Barack Obama's expansive use of U.S. military power to target extremists overseas, in a report that also offered the first confirmation that the U.S. now deems the al-Shabab group in Somalia to be inherently linked to al-Qaida. In a 60-page report obtained by The Associated Press ahead of its public release, expected Monday, the administration said it believes the U.S. can target al-Shabab, which seeks to establish a strict Islamic emirate, under a law Congress passed in 2001 just after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The decision reflects a deepening U.S. engagement in the fight against Islamic militants in Somalia as well as a broadening application for the law initially written to authorize the president to target al-Qaida. Until recently, the administration had not designated al-Shabab as part of the al-Qaida conflict, which meant the U.S. was limited to targeting individual Shabab leaders that the U.S. determined were closely tied to al-Qaida. Other strikes by the U.S. in Somalia were justified as self-defense for U.S. forces helping partners like the African Union.

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