

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Gov. Nikki Haley lame duck? 'Not so fast'

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/gov-nikki-haley-lame-duck-not-so-fast/article_cb4f3a7a-a6a1-11e6-af68-7b19c6fba123.html

Gavin Jackson

Tuesday severely altered the arc of Gov. Nikki Haley's political future, but Statehouse players said she'll still be able to push a legislative agenda in her remaining two years. Going from speculation around a 2020 White House run to a future where Donald Trump could control Washington for the next eight years has reshaped her political outlook, which observers add remains bright, despite her earlier battles with the president-elect. Though Haley wasn't Trump's biggest fan, former state Republican Party director Tony Denny said her decision to vote for him, attend the Republican National Convention — albeit briefly — and not waiver her support, helps her as the GOP-sweep moves forward. "I think governors will play a major role in helping Trump," said Denny, who today is the principal of his lobbying firm Denny Public Affairs. "I think that makes her a player. I think for those who say 'lame duck,' I'd say not so fast." Denny doesn't deny Haley, 44, will face some of the same challenges other governors traditionally do as their terms in office ebb. But Haley remains popular in South Carolina and has name recognition across the country that's expected to grow this week.

Associated Press: New Hampshire's Chris Sununu will be youngest governor in US

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

Holly Ramer

As a child, Chris Sununu sat behind his dad's desk at the New Hampshire Statehouse on Inauguration Day, only to be told by his father he'd have to run for governor if he wanted to sit there. He did, and in January the Republican will become the nation's youngest governor at age 42. Sununu, whose birthday was last week, is seven months younger than Republican Eric Greitens, who was elected governor of Missouri on Tuesday, and two years younger than South Carolina's Republican governor, Nikki Haley, who currently holds the "youngest" title. Sununu, whose father, John H. Sununu, served three terms as governor starting in 1983, downplayed the significance of his age. He said this week he's glad voters chose him for his experience. He couldn't be reached Friday for further comment. Haley said she's looking forward to working with Sununu.

Times and Democrat: Witness to mom's shooting finds own value after abuse

http://thetandd.com/news/local/witness-to-mom-s-shooting-finds-own-value-after-abuse/article_29892624-b19a-5b07-8510-cdd13666397f.html

Dionne Gleaton

Keyonnah Haynes vividly remembers the pearl handle of the snub-nose revolver. It was the weapon placed at the side of her mother's head by her abusive stepfather. On the night of Aug. 25, 1994, the massive man burst through the door of their home while her mom was taking a shower. It was the night she almost lost her life. Haynes, who was 8 at the time, remembers standing in the hallway as her mother was yanked from the shower and pummeled in the face before being shot in the head. The man then shot her mother's job supervisor, who was at the home. "My mom was able to get up, blood leaking from her head, dropping blotches and blotches everywhere. She said, 'I just need to get to the hospital,'" Haynes said. She also watched the supervisor take his last breath at the hands of her

stepfather.

NOTE: The solicitor thanks state Gov. Nikki Haley for providing the state funding for additional prosecutors this year. He said the funding has specifically allowed him to bring the CDV cases up to General Sessions Court in Orangeburg and Calhoun counties and to provide a prosecutor in the Magistrate's Court in Dorchester County, with the option to bring cases to General Sessions Court there, too.

General Assembly News:

Post and Courier: Statehouse investigation remains ongoing post-election

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/statehouse-investigation-remains-ongoing-post-election/article_05a3af9a-a818-11e6-a40b-dba24e1cf7cb.html

Gavin Jackson

It's been five months since the state Supreme Court gave special prosecutor David Pascoe the keys back to his Statehouse corruption investigation, which legal experts say could soon result in indictments. With an impaneled state grand jury, the case has produced few rumblings since mid-September when, at Pascoe's request, Statehouse Republicans delivered files covering the past six House majority leaders and the past 21 years. John Freeman, University of South Carolina School of Law professor emeritus, said he thinks that if Pascoe didn't believe he had something, he still wouldn't be investigating. "I expect something to come up," Freeman said last week. "Pascoe is a guy who just takes things in the direction he thinks they need to be taken. He is not trying to protect people or maliciously injury people."

SC Agency News:

Associated Press: DNR cracks down on fossil hunters

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=IUbS0hJj

Bo Petersen

Cars and trucks were pulling in one behind the other along the country roads to Four Holes Swamp. In the tidal Edisto River miles downstream, the same commercial scuba boats kept coming back to the same spots. State wildlife officers wanted to know why. That's what led to a crackdown on illegal underwater collecting of fossil sharks' teeth, spear points, shipwreck and Civil War pieces, as well as other historic and prehistoric artifacts. Since 2015, the S.C. Department of Natural Resources has cited 19 people for collecting without a license. The charges are misdemeanors. The officers found collectors using rakes and shovels, and in at least one case a screen like you'd use to separate gold flakes panned from a stream. And it wasn't just for fun. At least a few of the collectors were looking to profit. A premium fossil sharks' tooth can be worth more than \$1,000 on the trade market. "People were actually wading the river, collecting by hand," said Capt. Lee Ellis of the state Department of Natural Resources.

SC Delegation News:

Post and Courier: Tim Scott, Trey Gowdy could team up for governor, Lt. governor bid

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/tim-scott-trey-gowdy-could-team-up-for-governor-lt/article_3db2dfa8-a84c-11e6-89a3-6bacb2ef32cd.html

Andy Shain and Emma Dumain

Two of South Carolina's most popular Republicans, U.S. Sen. Tim Scott and U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy, are weighing a joint run for governor and lieutenant governor in 2018, The Post and Courier learned Friday. A ticket with a pair of influential members of the state's congressional delegation could clear the 2018 GOP field that is expected to include S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson, the son of a congressman, and Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, an early supporter of President-elect Donald Trump. "It would be like Michael Jordan and LeBron James being on the same team," S.C. GOP Party Chairman Matt Moore said of a Scott-Gowdy ticket. "A lot of South Carolina Republicans would be

very excited if this happens."Moore said he cannot tell candidates whether or not to enter the race but acknowledged challenging the duo "would be an uphill battle for anyone to run against."A decision on a run is expected by year's end, a source with knowledge of the discussions told the newspaper. South Carolina voters will elect a governor and lieutenant governor on the same ticket for the first time in 2018.

NOTE: Scott is considering a run because he always wanted to be governor, which has become possible with the election of South Carolina's first woman and minority governor, Nikki Haley, in 2010, the source said.

NOTE: When he was a congressman, Scott was appointed by Haley in 2013 to fill the unexpired term of U.S. Sen. Jim DeMint, who resigned to take over the conservative advocacy group Heritage Foundation.

NOTE: Gov. Nikki Haley is constitutionally limited from serving a third consecutive term.

SC Political News:

Post and Courier: In South Carolina, an effort to make sense of election results many didn't see coming

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/in-south-carolina-an-effort-to-make-sense-of-election/article_6ad58214-a825-11e6-b9e1-f77b6e0d7f3a.html

Emma Dumain

In the minds of Democrats and old school political observers, Hillary Clinton was supposed to win the 2016 presidential race but lose South Carolina by only single-digit margins. Both predictions were in line with national polling, demographic trends and conventional wisdom about the state of the race forecasting Democrats to stay in power. Didn't happen, or even come close. Clinton – a former secretary of state, U.S. senator and first lady – was throttled by Republican Donald Trump, an outsider with no political experience and significant personal baggage. In the Palmetto State, she ended up 14 percentage points behind, performing worse than President Barack Obama in 2012 (10 percentage points) and in 2008 (11 percentage points). The numbers basically returned South Carolina to solid ground among the reddest of red states. State Democrats emerged blindsided.

The State: SC Democrats mull next move after big losses on Election Day

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article114448438.html>

Democratic S.C. congressional candidates now are picking up the pieces after being routed Tuesday. Longtime U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn of Columbia easily won re-election Tuesday, the only Democrat to win a congressional race. Other Democratic congressional candidates lost by more than predicted, crushed by an unexpected wave of Donald Trump support. "It was disappointing but kind of consistent with what I saw as I got around the district," said Democrat Fran Person, who ran against U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney, R-Indian Land, in the 5th District. "A whole lot of hard-working folks out there kind of feel disenfranchised by the system." Person, a former aide to Democratic Vice President Joe Biden, was seen as the Democrat's most legitimate challenger this year to a Republican incumbent. But he lost by more than 20 percentage points Tuesday. "The top of the ticket always really dictates what happens on the bottom half," S.C. Democratic Party chair Jaime Harrison said. "If you're able to get more Republicans out in the contest, odds are Republicans are going to do much better."

Post and Courier: Palmetto Politics: Graham on Trump enemies list

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/palmetto-politics-graham-on-trump-enemies-list/article_3073f35e-a761-11e6-b860-13c942d24e72.html

Schuyler Kropf, Brenda Ringe, Gavin Jackson and Glenn Smith

Omarosa Manigault, a star in President-elect Donald Trump's "Apprentice" TV game contest, says the new president will keep a list of Republicans who worked against the GOP nominee's efforts. "It's so great our enemies are making themselves clear so that when we get into the White House, we know where we stand," she told the Independent Journal Review. Manigault singled out Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who repeatedly blistered Trump's conduct before the election and voted for

independent candidate Evan McMullin of Utah for president. "If [Graham] felt his interests was with that candidate, God bless him," said Manigault, who served as Trump's director of African American Outreach. "I would never judge anybody for exercising their right to and the freedom to choose who they want. But let me just tell you, Mr. Trump has a long memory, and we're keeping a list," she said.

Post and Courier: Leadership is still women's work, too

http://www.postandcourier.com/columnists/leadership-is-still-women-s-work-too/article_6c3c371a-a79e-11e6-9d68-2371f294796f.html

Frank Wooten

Hillary Clinton made history by becoming the first woman to win a major-party U.S. presidential nomination. Then she made history by becoming the first woman to win the presidential popular vote. But Mrs. Clinton didn't win the electoral vote Tuesday. And in case you non-civics majors missed it, that means she didn't win the presidency. Of course, we shouldn't cast votes based on gender, race, religion or sports fandom affiliations. After all, whether it's a woman or a man seeking our electoral (and Electoral College) support, what difference, at this point, does it make? Meanwhile, regardless of whether you're testy about the presidential-race outcome or too many sore losers' whining about it, don't concede defeat on this pop test, which delivers timely reminders of how women, too, can lead the way with enlightening perspectives.

NOTE: Gov. Nikki Haley said that on Oct. 26, adding this justification for why she would vote for Donald Trump: "Having said that, what I will tell you is that this is no longer a choice for me on personalities because I'm not a fan of either one. What it is about is policy."

Post and Courier: Obamacare sign-ups surge after election as law's future looks shaky

http://www.postandcourier.com/features/your_health/obamacare-sign-ups-surge-after-election-as-law-s-future/article_b8a7081a-a806-11e6-8fab-871a5cb65ad9.html

Lauren Sausser

While President-elect Donald Trump and the Republican-controlled Congress have made repealing Obamacare one of their top domestic priorities next year, sign-ups on HealthCare.gov surged after the election last week as patients scrambled to enroll before it's too late. Open enrollment for Affordable Care Act plans lasts through Jan. 31. U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell tweeted Thursday more than 100,000 people signed up for an Obamacare plan on Wednesday — the highest number in a single day this season. Experts say it's unlikely these insurance benefits would vanish immediately, even if Trump repeals the law early next year. But that hasn't stopped South Carolinians who depend on Obamacare for health insurance from worrying what comes next.

The State: Small but determined crowd gathers in Columbia for anti-Trump rally

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article114315178.html>

About 200 protesters gathered at the S.C. State House and marched through downtown Columbia Friday night, angrily denouncing president-elect Donald Trump as a racist and a bigot. "Not my president," they chanted, holding signs that read "Dump Trump," "Stronger together" and "Nasty women against Trump" as they walked up and down Main and Gervais streets. Columbia on Friday became the latest in a long list of cities to host rallies protesting the Republican New York businessman's election early Wednesday morning. Trump secured the 270 Electoral College votes needed to defeat Democrat Hillary Clinton despite losing the popular vote to her. "We just hope it makes a statement," said Keith Stephenson, 59, an archaeologist from Columbia who joined the protest Friday night. "We realize it won't do much in the whole election process, but we hope it makes the statement that this is not the president-elect that we voted for or want or can run this country."

Post and Courier: Nearly 100 protest Donald Trump at Marion Square rally Saturday

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/nearly-protest-donald-trump-at-marion-square-rally-saturday/article_20fe288a-a82f-11e6-b182-5752ba355160.html

Gregory Yee

Roughly 100 people gathered to protest against President-elect Donald Trump in Charleston Saturday afternoon. The rally, organized by College of Charleston freshman Noah Jones, began at 1 p.m. and was attended mostly by students but also featured several families with young children. Protesters gathered at Marion Square before marching around the block while chanting slogans. "I can't really stand America's choice because of Trump's ability to use hate and bigotry to get elected," Jones said. "I wanted to unite people in solidarity. There have been many examples of hate toward the people Trump has repeatedly disenfranchised." Zach Zuber, a freshman at Clemson University and a friend of Jones', said that feeling of disenfranchisement is very real in South Carolina for minorities and those with liberal views. "We don't want to be part of that hate and bigotry," Zuber said.

The Herald: As real as any part of America - Trump's supporters are great people, too.

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/andrew-dys/article114508618.html>

Andrew Dys

There is a reason why America, its media, its pollsters, and its pundits were poleaxed by Donald Trump's shocking victory Tuesday. They didn't look past their pointy noses at the people they might disagree with. Make no mistake about it. The snobs were wrong. "All year people have been supporting Donald Trump and all year the media and everybody else said he was going to lose," said Rocky Barrett, a Rock Hill auto dealer. "They were wrong." In January in Rock Hill, the future was obvious and almost nobody paid attention. There were 6,500 packed into the Winthrop Coliseum on a Friday night. Thousands more wanted to get in and could not and were mad as hell that they could not see him. Barrett was the guy near the front of the line who got there five hours early and told everybody to look at the lines and the crowd and see an America that nobody in Washington wanted to see.

Post and Courier: Lowcountry elections certified; no change in outcome

http://www.postandcourier.com/charleston_sc/lowcountry-elections-certified-no-change-in-outcome/article_c40b42ac-a851-11e6-a479-9be7faf0796e.html

Robert Behre

Election officials in Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties met Friday to consider challenged ballots and certify Tuesday's election results. The process largely was drama-free and produced no changes from the unofficial results county election offices reported late Tuesday. Below are the official, certified results from some of the most prominent local contested races in the Lowcountry. For all certified results, visit scvotes.org and check under results by county.

Herald-Journal: Poll worker shortage leads to challenge in Woodruff mayor's race

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161112/poll-worker-shortage-leads-to-challenge-in-woodruff-mayors-race?rssfeed=true>

Allison M. Roberts

Long waits to vote Tuesday caused in part by a shortage of poll workers in Spartanburg County led to a challenge of the results of the Woodruff mayor's race. Woodruff's current mayor, Kenneth E. Gist, was defeated by his challenger, Brad Burnett, the former mayor of Woodruff, by 18 votes. Gist filed a formal protest Friday after the certified results were announced and asked the county to grant a new election. At a Saturday hearing before the Board of Voter Registration and Elections, Gist asked for a new election because he said the hours-long wait to vote caused some people to get frustrated and leave before they could cast their ballot. "The long lines, that's understandable, but the two- or two-and-a-half-hour wait, I just felt like with poll workers there that was uncalled for," Gist said at the hearing. "We just seen some things that I feel (should permit) me and also Mr. Burnett to come back and do a re-election and make sure it's fair and done properly."

President-elect Trump News:

Associated Press: Trump may revisit Trump Country during a victory tour

<http://bigstory.ap.org/9939bdac5f6546d8a25955f17fc39118>

Donald Trump may take a victory tour to states that elected him president, an aide said Saturday, as boisterous protests unfolded outside the tower where he holed up with members of his transition team and fielded calls congratulating him. While he's announced one decision — putting Vice President-elect Mike Pence in charge of the transition instead of Chris Christie — Trump must identify other people for top White House jobs and Cabinet posts. The president-elect remained out of sight at Trump Tower, with streets outside swarming with thousands objecting to the results of Election Day. At one point, documentary filmmaker Michael Moore, a liberal critic of Trump who nevertheless had predicted his victory, entered the tower lobby with a camera crew in tow and asked to see Trump. "I just thought I'd see if I could get into Trump Tower and ride the famous escalator," said Moore, who did just that until he reached the fourth floor and the Secret Service told him he could go no higher.

Associated Press: Trump's presidential pen could remake Supreme Court's agenda

<http://bigstory.ap.org/3620c574233043c49969502893b3e495>

Even before Donald Trump chooses a Supreme Court nominee, the new president can take steps to make several contentious court cases go away. Legal challenges involving immigration, climate change, cost-free contraceptive care and transgender rights all could be affected, without any help from Congress. The cases turn on Obama administration policies that rely on the president's pen, regulations or decisions made by federal agencies. And what one administration can do, the next can undo. It is not uncommon for the court's docket to change when one party replaces the other in the White House. That change in direction is magnified by the high-court seat Trump will get to fill after Senate Republicans refused to consider President Barack Obama's nomination of Judge Merrick Garland.

Associated Press: EU foreign ministers to gather to grapple with Trump impact

<http://bigstory.ap.org/875c4c9f86904e978a10e573eeec8f29>

European Union foreign ministers will gather Sunday to discuss the impact of Donald Trump's election on trans-Atlantic ties and whether it will complicate relations with an increasingly belligerent Russia. At informal dinner talks in Brussels, well away from the media, the ministers will debate how many of Trump's campaign announcements — like isolationist positions on security, his rejection of international trade pacts and refusal to criticize Russian President Vladimir Putin — might translate into real policy. Before the talks, NATO's secretary-general appealed for trans-Atlantic unity and warned that "going it alone" wasn't an option for either Europe or the U.S. Before the dinner, EU diplomats were at a loss to explain Trump's stunning victory or understand yet what it might really mean.

Associated Press: Anti-Trump protesters march by tens of thousands nationwide

<http://bigstory.ap.org/20272b78d2054162895063727b724a32>

Donald Trump's presidential upset win sparked a fourth day of protests across the United States, with tens of thousands of protesters marching and railing against him. Saturday protests — held in big cities such as Los Angeles, New York and Chicago as well as smaller ones, such as Worcester, Massachusetts, and Iowa City, Iowa — were largely peaceful, although two police officers were slightly injured in protests in Indianapolis. Demonstrators rallied at New York's Union Square before taking their cause up Fifth Avenue toward Trump Tower, where they were held back by police barricades. The Republican president-elect was inside his tower apartment, working with aides on the transition to the White House. Among those railing against him was filmmaker Michael Moore, who tweeted a demand that Trump "step aside." Fashion designer Noemi Abad, 30, agreed.

Associated Press: Clinton blames FBI director for presidential election loss

<http://bigstory.ap.org/fb6ce27ac9894a4abfd1b713d1f15170>

Hillary Clinton is blaming the FBI's decision to revive its examination of her email accounts for her devastating defeat in the presidential election. On a call Saturday with top campaign donors, Clinton said her campaign was winning until FBI director James Comey sent a letter to Congress on Oct. 28 announcing that the FBI had uncovered emails possibly related to its earlier probe into her use of a

private server as secretary of state. The new examination was sparked by an unrelated investigation into former New York Rep. Anthony Weiner, the estranged husband of one of her top aides. The surprise announcement by the FBI came after three debates in which Republican Donald Trump was widely panned for his performance. Clinton told the donors that her campaign was leading by large margins in nearly every battleground state and was tied in Arizona, a traditionally Republican stronghold, until Comey released his letter. Trump's campaign and Republican supporters seized on the news, even though it was unclear whether Clinton's correspondence was tied up in the probe.

Wildfires Across Southeast:

Associated Press: The Latest: SC officials recommend wildfire evacuations

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=TKvU7lqT

SC State Wire

Authorities are recommending that people who live just south and southwest of the Pinnacle Mountain Fire at Table Rock Park should leave their homes. WYFF-TV reports (<http://bit.ly/2fNkDNI>) that the South Carolina Forestry Commission and the Pickens Fire Department are recommending the evacuation. Forestry Commission officials emphasize that residents are not in imminent danger and that the evacuation is a precautionary measure. Midway Baptist Church in Pickens has opened as a shelter. Authorities say infrared imagery provided by overnight flights indicates the fire was 1,400 acres early Saturday, double its size on Friday night.

Associated Press: Bottled water, other drinks needed for SC fire responders

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=PGjqIFd1

SC State Wire

The Easley Fire Department is asking residents to donate water and other drinks to help the people fighting a fire on Pinnacle Mountain. Capt. Matthew Littleton of the fire department says responders need bottled water and Gatorade- and Powerade-type drinks. Since officials are asking people to stay away from the fire, they don't want the items brought directly to the responders. Instead, he asks that residents bring the bottled drinks to Station 1 at 1089 South Pendleton Street in Easley. He says no supplies other than the bottled drinks are needed now.

Associated Press: Dry, windy conditions feed wildfires across the Southeast

<http://bigstory.ap.org/b4b4fa3df6f44d19ba680dfafa7af00f>

Many of the nation's largest active wildfires have been burning in the southern Appalachian mountains, where a relentless drought has turned pine trees into torches and forced evacuations in dozens of communities. More than 5,000 firefighters and support staff from around the nation have poured into the Southeast to try to suppress these fires, Shardul Raval, director of fire and aviation management for the southern region of the U.S. Forest Service, said Thursday. The effort includes about 40 aircraft, including three large air tankers flying out of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Tens of thousands of acres of forest have burned and about a dozen of the largest fires were uncontained, the forest service said. High winds and temperatures and weeks without rain have combined to spark blaze after blaze in the unusually dry landscape. Numerous teams reported wind-driven fires racing up slopes and down ravines as they struggled to protect hundreds of threatened structures.

Associated Press: The Latest: South Carolina extends burning ban in Piedmont

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=S4LCPaQX

SC State Wire

The South Carolina Forestry Commission has expanded its burning ban from five Upstate counties to all 19 Piedmont counties. A statement from the commission said the ban took effect at 6 p.m. Thursday. State Forester Gene Kodama expanded the ban because of weather conditions in the Piedmont that led to an elevated risk of wildfire. The commission's statement also said the diversion of resources to a wildfire in Pickens County also led to the expanded burning ban. A wildfire on Pinnacle Mountain at Table Rock State Park has grown from 15 to 250 acres in the past 24 hours.

because of dry conditions. The commission is sending extra firefighters to the area in addition to deploying an incident management team.

Charlotte Observer: Evacuations ordered as Chimney Rock wildfire advances toward homes

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/local/article114172793.html>

Bruce Henderson and Theoden Janes

The tinder-dry, windy weather that set the stage for about a dozen wildfires blazing in the North Carolina mountains is also making it hard to snuff them out. Evacuation notices went out Friday for parts of two Rutherford County communities threatened by a nearly 1,000-acre wildfire that jumped its containment line overnight. Even larger fires are burning to the west, in Nantahala National Forest. More than 565 firefighters and support staff are battling 10 wildfires that now cover more than 22,000 acres. The effects could be felt as far away as Charlotte on Friday, when the city woke up to hazy skies and an unhealthy dose of smoke in the air. The Party Rock fire, as the Rutherford County blaze near Chimney Rock State Park is called, covered 344 acres but was 30 percent contained on Tuesday. By Thursday night, it had spread to 977 acres of steep terrain – then got worse, racing across a containment line on Shumont Mountain.

Independent Mail: Firefighters struggle with Pinnacle blazes

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/11/12/firefighters-struggle-pinnacle-blazes/93747632/>

Abe Hardesty

Pinnacle Mountain residents north of S.C. Highway 11 evacuated their homes Saturday as more than 20 crews of firefighters battled multiple fires. By the end of the day, Darryl Jones, Forest Protection Chief for SC Forestry Commission, said crews struggled to keep pace with the fires. "It's still only about 15 percent contained," said Jones, who planned to get infra-red photos at 5 a.m. that would give him a better picture of fires that swept across the South Carolina mountains overnight Friday and all day Saturday. The National Weather Service forecast included a slight chance of rain Sunday, but Jones said it would not likely be enough to stop the fires. "Even if we get some rain, it won't take care of the problem. We're going to be here until we get significant rain," he said. Meanwhile, firefighters from around the Upstate knocked on doors of Pinnacle Mountain residents living on the north side of S.C. 11 near Table Rock State Park Saturday — a total of about 100 residents — urging them to leave immediately. All complied.

Independent Mail: Officials issue mandatory fire evacuation

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/2016/11/11/crews-fight-contain-pinnacle-fire/93651414/>

Mike Eads and Abe Hardesty

The South Carolina Forestry Commission has issued a mandatory evacuation for Pinnacle Mountain residents north of S.C. Highway 11. The evacuation applies to all residents between the intersection of S.C. 178 and to the west gate of Table Rock State Park. The fire has continued to move down the mountain. Earlier on Saturday, Doug Wood, director of communications, said residents in designated areas north of S.C. Highway 11 were recommended to evacuate their homes while crews fight forest fires in the area. The evacuations are a precaution, Wood said., involving residents who live south and southwest of Pinnacle Mountain near Table Rock State Park in Pickens County. The decision was made as persistent winds of 6-10 miles an hour pushed the fires toward Highway 11.

Greenville News: Health warnings issued for wildfire smoke

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/11/11/health-warnings-issues-wildfire-smoke/93646030/>

Liv Osby

With smoke from area wildfires blanketing the region, respiratory experts say residents should stay indoors and avoid exposure - especially those with asthma or other respiratory conditions. People - particularly the very young, the elderly and those with lung illnesses - should protect themselves and their families, said Mike Shoemaker, manager of respiratory care services at AnMed Health Women's

and Children's Hospital.

Herald-Journal: Mandatory evacuation ordered in Lake Lure fire

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161112/mandatory-evacuation-ordered-in-lake-lure-fire?rssfeed=true>

An immediate mandatory evacuation has been ordered for residents in communities along Highway 64/74-A from the Henderson County line to Highway 9, Highway 9 to Shumont Road and all Henderson County homes on Shumont Road. The evacuations were ordered due to the fire's potential growth to the west-northwest, the N.C. Forest Service said in a 1:15 p.m. update. An evacuee shelter has been established at Bat Cave Baptist Church at 5095 Chimney Rock Road in Hendersonville. The shelter can also be reached at 828-625-9061. The shelter is also open to Buncombe County evacuees responding to a voluntary evacuation issued earlier this morning.

Aiken Standard: Smoke blankets Aiken as nearby wildfires continue to burn

http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/smoke-blankets-aiken-as-nearby-wildfires-continue-to-burn/article_42b59b46-a831-11e6-9089-1b93c605a81b.html

Tripp Girardeau

Residents were seeing and smelling smoke all over the Aiken County area Friday, and those with respiratory issues are encouraged to take some precautions. The South Carolina Forestry Commission announced Thursday that a wildfire on Pinnacle Mountain at Table Rock State Park in the Pickens County area has grown from 15 to 250 acres in the past 24 hours, according to a release. Fire Chief Darryl Jones, with the S.C. Carolina Forestry Commission, said smoke from this fire is mixing with smoke from several other fires in surround states, and wind conditions are causing the smoke to spread to areas all over the state.

Post and Courier: Mountain fires hazing Lowcountry, fire threat widespread

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/mountain-fires-hazing-lowcountry-fire-threat-widespread/article_d29f6bd4-a835-11e6-8831-f7d2d985ce4f.html

Bo Petersen

Smoke sifted like dust across the Lowcountry on Friday, blown in from blazes raging in the mountains. It was expected to clear somewhat by Saturday as winds shift to the northeast. Fire officials are alarmed that with parched conditions throughout the region, wildfires could erupt anywhere at any time. The Upstate is in severe drought conditions, and all 19 of the state's mountain and Piedmont counties are now under a burn ban. It hasn't rained in Charleston in more than a month. Across the Lowcountry, "it is very dry," said Mike Bowers, Awendaw Fire Department public information officer. Flammable undergrowth, leafs and debris in the woods aren't as dry here as they are farther inland right now, because of the rains from Hurricane Matthew in early October, said Darryl Jones, S.C. Forestry Commission fire chief. But they are drying up as the days go by without rain. The commission cautioned residents in counties not under the ban to be extremely vigilant when burning.

Morning News: West Florence, SC Forestry Commission battle Savannah Grove brush fire

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_16df3150-a942-11e6-ad15-fb9b115d454c.html

A Savannah Road debris pile that had once been a mobile home burned Saturday night and that fire spread into the woods surrounding the pile. Capt. Tony Fox with West Florence Fire Department said they received the call at 3001 Savannah Grove Road Saturday evening and arrived to find two fires -- the debris pile and a second fire farther back into the woods.

Morning News: Burn ban posted for Darlington County

http://www.scnow.com/messenger/news/article_4e8a23c4-a903-11e6-885d-4be728fa4521.html

Darlington County officials have posted a burn ban for the county. A long-dry period in the wake of Hurricane Matthew, low humidity and high winds have increased the danger posed by wildfires, according to a release issued by the Darlington County Emergency Management Division. The

ongoing wildfires in Georgia and the Carolinas have limited resources that would otherwise be available to combat such fires, according to the release.

WSPA: Fire grows to over 2,000 acres in Rutherford Co.

<http://wspa.com/2016/11/12/party-rock-fire-grows-to-over-2000-acres/>

Scottie Kay Auton

The Party Rock fire has grown to about 2,883 acres in size, according to the North Carolina Forest Service. They say only about 15 percent of the fire is contained at this time. The fire has been most active on the northern perimeter, they say. The southern edge of the fire continues to move downhill off Round Top Mountain and Rumbling Bald Mountain towards Boys Camp Road. Firefighters have set up structure protection for homes, Chimney Rock village, and along Highway 64/74-A. No structures have been lost to date. If dense ground smoke occurs, travelers are encouraged to slow down on the roads.

WSPA: Fire at Pinnacle Mtn. prompts partial evacuation in Pickens Co.

<http://wspa.com/2016/11/12/fire-at-pinnacle-mtn-prompts-partial-evacuation-in-pickens-co/>

Craig Anderson

The SC Forestry Commission and Pickens Fire Department recommend that residents living just south and southwest of Pinnacle Mountain in Table Rock State Park evacuate. All residents north of Highway 11 between the eastern marker of Sleepy Springs Dr. and the western edge at Falcon Crest Way. Also, all residents of Sugar Likker Rd. are advised to evacuate as well. The SC Forestry Commission want to make it clear that residents in this area are not in imminent danger and that this evacuation is precautionary. Additional streets within this zone include Laurel Ford Ln., Centurion Ln., Lake Barbara Rd., and Woodmere Dr. Midway Baptist Church at 1200 Midway Rd. will be a shelter for all evacuees.

Hurricane Matthew Recovery:

Palmetto Daily Business: Vending Association boosts One SC Fund after hurricane

<http://palmettobusinessdaily.com/stories/511041615-vending-association-boosts-one-sc-fund-after-hurricane>

(SCVA) of Columbia, which recently donated \$5,000 to the One SC Fund for statewide post-hurricane relief efforts. SCVA provided the package in conjunction with fellow vending organizations in the Southeastern U.S. at the 2016 Atlantic Coast Exposition in Myrtle Beach less than a week after Hurricane Matthew tore through the region; suppliers also donated a truck full of products to the Community Kitchen of Myrtle Beach. The South Carolina Vending Association joined the North Carolina Vending Association, Virginia Automatic Merchandising Association and with corporate members and sponsors to collectively pledge a total of approximately \$27,000 to aid various disaster relief funds across the area. The One SC Relief Fund is a Columbia-based fundraising effort to help South Carolinians recovering from a disaster, such as Hurricane Matthew and the 2015 Thousand Year Flood. With help from the Central Carolina Community Foundation, Gov. Nikki Haley established One SC in late 2015 following major flooding throughout the Palmetto State to assist victims in two dozen FEMA-designated emergency counties.

Post and Courier: Millions paid in aid for Matthew victims as requests ebb

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/millions-paid-in-aid-for-matthew-victims-as-requests-ebb/article_8cf553d8-a771-11e6-9440-97b4b37e3acb.html

Bo Petersen

The older couple came looking for help with food but had to venture behind an office building outside the barbed wire of the county jail, where the RV was parked. It wasn't the ideal spot for a FEMA assistance operation. But the federal crew was making do at the makeshift disaster assistance center this week. Set-up centers across the Lowcountry were in their fourth week of the recovery after Hurricane Matthew, and applications were winding down. The Charleston couple, who asked not to

be named, were the only people at the office in the Cannon Detention Center lot during a one-hour period Thursday, its first full day of operation. So far, nearly \$28 million in Federal Emergency Management Agency aid has been given out in disaster assistance, among more than 39,000 applicants in 24 counties that include Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester, said FEMA spokesman William Lindsey. More than 27,000 homes have been inspected for damage. More than \$53 million total in aid and insurance payments have been given out statewide, according to the S.C. Emergency Management Division.

Island Packet: Hunting Island to refund \$1 million in camping reservations

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article113903783.html>

Stephen Fastenau

The final cost of Hurricane Matthew's damage to Hunting Island isn't yet known, but the state will absorb at least a million-dollar hit in the coming weeks. The park will remain closed until at least next spring, and the oceanfront campground sites will be closed at least through next year. Those who reserved inland campsites through May 21 will receive refunds, and all the oceanfront site reservations next year will be refunded. In all, the park will give back \$1.1 million in camping fees, state parks spokeswoman Dawn Dawson-House said Thursday. "It's a jewel, and we've always known that," Dawson-House said. "It's like a child of ours.... It's important we recover and restore as quickly as we can." Notices will go out to those with reservations Friday. The refunds could take about two weeks to process. People who made reservations will have the chance to transfer the reservation to another state park for a 15 percent discount. The north end of Hunting Island, including the lighthouse, could reopen to visitors sometime this spring, Dawson-House said. The nature center and part of the fishing pier reopened in October.

Island Packet: How will Hilton Head cover estimated \$55 million in Hurricane Matthew bills?

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article114226908.html>

Teresa Moss

With a projected \$55 million in Hurricane Matthew bills, the town of Hilton Head Island could deplete its reserves and look to taxpayers for help in the future, warns Town Manager Steve Riley. But both Riley and Mayor David Bennett say they aren't worried about a cash-flow problem. Riley told The Island Packet and The Beaufort Gazette this week that recovery costs will likely rise, as some expenses are unknown for now. Another unknown is when the Federal Emergency Management Agency will reimburse the town for 75 percent, or about \$37.2 million, of the recovery costs, Riley said. "You will spend several years in some cases trying to get your money back from FEMA," he said. "We are still negotiating with FEMA for funds over damage from the October (2015) storms." A property tax increase is one option the town could explore to cover Hurricane Matthew costs, Riley said. "Everyone is going to have to have this conversation in the spring," he said. "A week before the storm we were for lower taxes and less government. That has changed."

Island Packet: What we know about Hilton Head, a month after Matthew

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article114184673.html>

Teresa Moss

A month after Hurricane Matthew, recovery efforts continue on Hilton Head Island — with months left to go. Town Mayor David Bennett says staff has worked diligently in the weeks following the Category 2 storm. "I think it is doing exactly what it needs to be doing," Bennett told The Island Packet and The Beaufort Gazette when asked about various restoration projects. "I continue to be impressed with the town staff, debris removal contractors and the progress being made on our beaches." Here is a look at where recovery efforts stand now..

Aiken Standard: Barnwell residents can register for FEMA assistance after hurricane

http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/barnwell-residents-can-register-for-fema-assistance-after-hurricane/article_f3ab5984-a833-11e6-aaa1-5f0c0be33492.html

Christina Cleveland

Residents in 21 qualified South Carolina counties, including Barnwell County, have until Dec. 13 to apply for federal disaster aid after Hurricane Matthew, according to the S.C. Emergency Management Division. The agency said in a news release registering with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, better known as FEMA, is the first step to attaining federal disaster assistance. FEMA will ask applicants to provide information about the property damage they sustained from the hurricane, proof of identity and residency, insurance and other documentation to help determine eligibility, the release states. Survivors in those counties should register with FEMA even if they have insurance, according to the statement, which says FEMA cannot duplicate insurance payments, but under-insured applicants may receive help after their insurance claims have been settled.

Serial Killer Todd Kohlhepp:

Associated Press: Successful real-estate firm built between grisly crimes

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=dP03Yd7V

Jonathan Drew and Seanna Adcox

As he built a successful real estate firm, Todd Kohlhepp's behavior struck some as odd: watching pornographic videos during work, making macabre jokes in marketing literature and openly discussing that he was a sex offender. But he was also an award-winning agent described as a hard worker and good boss. All the while, authorities say, he was hiding a grisly secret that included seven killings over 13 years. He gunned down four people at a motorcycle shop in 2003 and within the last year killed three more, authorities said. The crimes were uncovered earlier this month when investigators rescued a woman chained up in a 30-foot long storage container on his property. "He was the kind of Type Double A, hair-on-fire kind of guy. ... You felt that if he wanted to take you out, he could take you out easily," said Lawrence Shorts, a mortgage banker who worked on transactions with Kohlhepp.

Associated Press: Mother of suspect in 7 killings says he is 'not a monster'

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=huCeJ8WM

Seanna Adcox and Jonathan Drew

The mother of a South Carolina man suspected of killing seven people says her son is "very misunderstood" but not a monster. Regina Tague told CBS for a "48 Hours" special airing Saturday she hates that her son, Todd Kohlhepp, is called a serial killer. "I know that's what they say. He was very misunderstood," she told CBS late Thursday. "Todd is not a monster. He's not even close to it. He wasn't doing it for enjoyment. He was doing it because he was mad and he was hurt." Kohlhepp was charged with kidnapping last week after investigators found a 30-year-old woman who had been missing for two months chained inside a metal storage container on his property in rural Woodruff. Authorities later found the bodies of her boyfriend, 32-year-old Charles Carver, and another missing couple. Sheriff Chuck Wright said Kohlhepp confessed Saturday to gunning down four people at a motorcycle shop elsewhere in Spartanburg County in 2003. Kohlhepp, 45, is charged with four counts of murder in that case. Investigations are still underway in the other three killings.

Greenville News: Kohlhepp's mother tries to explain his alleged crimes

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/11/11/mom-explains-kohlhepps-crimes/93637888/>

Michael Burns

Todd Kohlhepp's mother says her son told her there are no more bodies buried on his property and that she expects him to plead guilty in the deaths of the seven victims whose remains have been unearthed there, CBS News has reported. Regina Tague, a Moore resident, described her son's apparent motives – as she says he related to her after his arrest last week – during an interview to be broadcast in part during "48 Hours" on Saturday night. Saying her son, a 45-year-old registered sex offender and real estate broker, is "not a monster," Tague said Kohlhepp told her he killed four people at Superbike Motorsports in 2003 because they had embarrassed him about not knowing how to ride a motorcycle when he was previously shopping at the store.

The State: Mother talks about accused serial killer son's alleged crimes

<http://www.thestate.com/news/state/south-carolina/article114090388.html>

Rachael Myers Lowe

The mother of accused serial killer Todd Kohlhepp, 45, told an upstate television station that her son admitted the crimes to her earlier this week. The first part of Reggie Tague's interview with WSPA was broadcast Thursday night. Three bodies were found on the 96 acres of land in Woodruff belonging to Tague's son. The discoveries were made after the rescue of an Anderson woman on November 3, 2016, who was found chained up in a locked container on the property. One of the bodies was identified as Charlie Carver who went missing last August at the same time as the rescued woman. The two other bodies were identified as Spartanburg couple Meagan Leigh McCraw Coxie and Johnny Joe Coxie. Authorities said Kohlhepp also confessed to being responsible for the 2003 Superbike Motorsports quadruple homicide in Chesnee that left Scott Ponder, Brian Lucas, Beverly Guy and Chris Sherbert dead.

Greenville News: Kohlhepp driven by anger

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2016/11/12/driven-anger/93548938/>

Eric Connor

Todd Christopher Kohlhepp has been angry ever since he learned to walk and talk. It's the type of uncontrollable anger that fueled him to destroy classmates' preschool projects, torture pets and lay waste to a neighbor's teenage innocence. Now, authorities say, the 45-year-old real estate agent is a serial killer. It was anger and hurt that motivated her only child to kill four people in a motorcycle store in 2003, and again what drove him late this summer to kill the boyfriend of a woman authorities say Kohlhepp kept bound in chains for two months, his mother says. Two others, a Spartanburg couple, also were killed last December, and authorities say like the boyfriend were buried within a compound that Kohlhepp was carving out of 95 acres in rural Spartanburg County.

Independent Mail: '48 Hours' to feature Kohlhepp case

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/crime/2016/11/12/48-hours-feature-kohlhepp-case/93650978/>

Saturday's edition of '48 Hours' will be about the cases connected to Todd Kohlhepp, a real estate agent and convicted sex offender accused of kidnapping Anderson resident Kala Brown. Brown and her boyfriend, Charles David Carver, disappeared from Anderson at the end of August. Investigators found her alive Nov. 3, chained in a metal storage container on property in Woodruff that belongs to Kohlhepp. Carver's body was found on Kohlhepp's 95-acre property. So were the bodies of Meagan McCraw Coxie and Johnny Coxie, a husband and wife who were last seen alive in Spartanburg nearly a year ago. Kohlhepp has confessed to the 2003 quadruple homicide at Superbike Motorsports in Chesnee. The '48 Hours' episode "Buried Secrets" will air at 10 p.m. Saturday on CBS.

Greenville News: How police used pings from a cell phone to find Kala Brown

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2016/11/11/how-police-used-pings-cell-phone-find-kala-brown/93666136/>

Nathaniel Cary

While many details of just how authorities were able to zero in on Todd Kohlhepp's 95-acre property in Woodruff as the site where a missing Anderson woman was being held captive, they have said that pings from kidnapping victim Kala Brown's cell phone played a role in helping them to locate her. Anderson police investigators were able to obtain cell phone records from AT&T, Brown's cell phone service provider, after they had obtained a search warrant or court order, said Ann Elsas, spokeswoman for AT&T in South Carolina. The technology investigators used to locate Brown's last cell phone signal isn't like the more-common GPS technology most people are familiar with from using Apple or Android devices. That technology would have worked only if she had location services turned on or a "find my phone" feature, said Gary Miliefsky, CEO of Snoopwall, an electronic security company. Instead, investigators obtained cell phone records to show which cell phone towers Brown's phone had connected to up until the moment it died, according to security experts.

Dylann Roof Case:

Associated Press: Documents question Charleston massacre suspect's competency

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=UNvXlZj5

Seanna Adcox

The judge in the death penalty trial of Dylann Roof believes it's possible the white man charged with gunning down nine black parishioners in Charleston last year may not be mentally competent to stand trial, according to newly unsealed court documents. A defense motion unsealed Friday mentions U.S. Judge Richard Gergel's finding that it's reasonable to believe Roof "may presently be suffering from a mental disease or defect." The motion says the judge's finding doesn't alter Roof's constitutional rights. Gergel ordered another competency exam for Roof earlier this week, one day after halting jury selection, because of the defense motion. He held a hearing with only himself, Roof and defense lawyers present to consider the defense motion. "The court is mindful that this delay in jury selection may be disappointing to some," reads Tuesday's order. But "under the present circumstances, the court finds this brief delay in jury selection to serve the ends of justice."

The State: Roof's mental status uncertain; his attorneys seek delay to Charleston death penalty trial

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article114149038.html>

John Monk

The current mental status of accused Charleston church killer Dylann Roof has emerged as a key issue and may delay the start of his upcoming death penalty trial. Legal papers on the U.S. District Court's website made public Friday make it clear that defense and prosecution lawyers are wrangling over the issue of Roof's mental competency. Already, U.S. Judge Richard Gergel has made a preliminary finding that there "is reasonable cause to believe that the defendant may presently be suffering from a mental disease or defect rendering him mentally incompetent to stand trial ...," according to unsealed documents from the defense team. Gergel made that finding after a closed hearing Monday in Charleston, during which he heard from only Roof and his defense attorneys. Government prosecutors, who might have been able to argue the facts differently from Roof's attorneys, were excluded from that hearing.

Post and Courier: New questions arise about Dylann Roof's competency to stand trial

http://www.postandcourier.com/church_shooting/new-questions-arise-about-dylann-roof-s-competency-to-stand/article_b6fae7fa-a830-11e6-b43c-0f09048ebac8.html

Jennifer Berry Hawes

A newly unsealed defense motion in accused Emanuel AME Church shooter Dylann Roof's federal trial indicates a judge found reason to believe his mental state might have left him incompetent to stand trial, leading to an evaluation now underway. U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel on Friday unsealed the defense motion that deals with a last-minute competency evaluation being conducted on Roof, and a Nov. 16 hearing scheduled to discuss its findings. Some portions were redacted. "The Court's finding that there is reasonable cause to believe that the defendant may presently be suffering from a mental disease or defect rendering him mentally incompetent to stand trial" does not alter the need to protect certain of Roof's rights, the defense filing states. The sentence before that is blacked out, making it difficult to know the full context. Earlier court filings have indicated defense lawyers plan to provide evidence of a "mental disease or defect or any other mental condition." Defense attorneys and prosecutors declined to comment.

Townville Shooting:

Independent Mail: Sheriff's deputy protecting his former school in Townville

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/11/12/sheriffs-deputy-protecting-his-former-school-townville/93661868/>

Kirk Brown

Students were alarmed when they saw an ambulance and fire truck arrive recently at Townville Elementary School, which was the site of a deadly Sept. 28 shooting. "Some of the kids on the playground were like, 'What's happened?'" said Steven Cole, the newly hired school resource officer at Townville Elementary. He said the students calmed down after he assured them that the emergency vehicles were there for a fire-safety education program. Cole said he has received a warm welcome from students, parents and teachers since starting work last month. "I think they like having that sense of security," he said. "The students have been great. Not a day goes by that one doesn't come up to me and give me a high-five or hug me. I've had some come up to me and ask if I was there to catch bad guys."

Opinion/Editorial:

Sun News: Healing, unity needed at S.C. grassroots as well as in Washington

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/opinion/editorials/article113942963.html>

Editorial

The campaign of 2016 is over. Donald Trump carried Horry and Georgetown counties, South Carolina and enough other states to win the presidency. In January, he will become our 45th president. Now the challenge is for the Trump transition team – and divided Congressional Republicans – to put together government that truly serves the nation by doing what's best for all people and creating unity that America sorely needs. Hillary Clinton was the choice of half the voters – she may have won the popular vote – and has 248 of the 538 electoral votes. The Constitution of the United States established the Electoral College, which formally elects presidents and vice presidents. The closeness illustrates the nation's division: by urban-rural populations, racially, socioeconomic and sociopolitical lines. Unity will not come easily, certainly not by the president-elect if his advisors and legislators are acting like they are still campaigning. Trump did not create the division – but he did tap it to his political benefit and his campaign conduct fostered division.

NOTE: The Trump victory shows that a majority of Americans are fed up with partisan politics that puts party first, before nation, and contributes to dysfunction. This message is for the S.C. congressional delegation, including U.S. Rep. Tom Rice and U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, each re-elected last week. U.S. Sen. Lindsay Graham, no fan of Trump, called for unity, as did Gov. Nikki Haley. Unity should be the goal of everyone.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Itron closing Kentucky 400-worker factory , moving to SC

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=w0m9fjxH

SC State Wire

Itron Inc. plans to close its Owenton plant within the next two years, leaving more than 400 employees out of work. The Lexington Herald-Leader reports (<http://bit.ly/2fMzk3A>) that Owen County officials had little warning about the decision to shutter the plant and move production to South Carolina. Judge-Executive Casey Ellis said the news "caught us by surprise to say the very least." Ellis said despite entreaties to Itron, there doesn't appear to be anything the county or state can "say, do or offer" to keep the company in Owenton. The Itron plant making natural gas meters, regulators and fittings is the county's largest private employer and has been operational since 1978. The state Cabinet for Economic Development lists employment at Itron at 411.

Local News:

Island Packet: Beaufort County Black Chamber building burns, cause investigated

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article114373978.html>

A fire gutted the Beaufort County Black Chamber of Commerce building early Saturday morning. The cause of the fire is being investigated. Firefighters responded to the blaze about 1:40 a.m. Saturday and worked about two hours to control the fire, Beaufort-Port Royal Fire Chief Reece Bertholf said.

The \$2.2 million building at Duke and Bladen streets in downtown Beaufort was on schedule to be completed in December, with a grand opening planned for January. The building will include a commercial kitchen, art gallery and office space for entrepreneurs. The project has been the target of vandals and intense controversy. Before the building broke ground, someone spray painted "Racist" in red letters on the sign. Beaufort County Black Chamber CEO and president Larry Holman received a call about the fire at 4 a.m. and arrived to find the building engulfed in flames. He said plans for the new facility would move forward, no matter the cause of the fire.

Associated Press: Fire guts Black Chamber building in SC; vandalized in past

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=GZ3Kfrhd

SC State Wire

Investigators in South Carolina are looking into the cause of a fire that gutted the Beaufort County Black Chamber of Commerce building, which had been the target of vandals in the past. The Beaufort-Port Royal Fire Chief told the Beaufort Gazette (<http://bit.ly/2g5TE2L>) that local investigators and S.C. Law Enforcement Division officials will work to determine the cause of the fire and where it started. The blaze broke out early Saturday morning and took about two hours to get under control, Fire Chief Reece Bertholf said. "The only thing I could think about is 'Who? Who did it? Why? Why?'" Beaufort County Black Chamber CEO and president Larry Holman said. "This was something that was bringing the community back together and now we have a building here that is no good to anybody at this point." Before the building broke ground, someone spray painted "Racist" in red letters on its sign in July 2015.

Associated Press: Remains ID'd as Myrtle Beach man, former New York officer

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=VYDfOQ1t

SC State Wire

Authorities say human remains discovered in a wooded lot have been identified as those of a Myrtle Beach man and former New York man reported missing in late September. The Sun News of Myrtle Beach reports (<http://bit.ly/2fM9puW>) Horry County police found the remains of 51-year-old Timothy Francis Buckley on Thursday. Horry County Coroner Robert Edge says Buckley was identified through dental records and jewelry. He says he believes the cause of death is homicide. He was last seen Sept. 28 as headed toward his camper at Springmaid Resort. Local media in New York report Buckley was a former town council member and police officer in Riverhead, New York, located in Suffolk County on the north shore of Long Island.

The State: Murder-suicide suspected in deaths of husband, wife <http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article114374888.html>

A woman was shot to death in a Richland County home, and her husband is also dead, with a murder-suicide suspected, according to Richland County sheriff's deputies. Richland County sheriff's deputies arrived to do a welfare check, at the request of the Orangeburg County sheriff's department, at a home in the 200 block of Morningside Drive, near St. Andrews Park and Pine Grove Elementary School off Broad River Road, around 6:15 a.m. Saturday. Danielle Lavonne Colburn-Govan, 46, was found dead in her home with gunshot wounds in her upper body, deputies said. An autopsy is scheduled for Sunday, according to Richland County Coroner Gary Watts. Her husband was found dead in Orangeburg County. The deaths are being investigated as a possible murder-suicide, according to the Richland County Sheriff's Department.

Associated Press: S. Carolina man faces charges in pedestrian death in Durham

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Gy4V9m2C

SC State Wire

A South Carolina man who was driving a rental truck faces charges in the death of an 18-year-old pedestrian in Durham. Authorities say 58-year-old John Gieser of Spartanburg is charged with misdemeanor death by motor vehicle in the death of 18-year-old Nickey Cureton of Durham. He's also charged with failure to maintain lane control. Authorities say Cureton was killed Friday afternoon

when the truck ran off the road in an intersection. Cureton was pronounced dead at the scene.

Associated Press: 3 children, 1 adult die in wreck on Interstate 95

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=zj5dYwjX

SC State Wire

Three children and one adult have been killed in a wreck on Interstate 95 in Colleton County involving a car and a tractor-trailer. Three other people were hurt. South Carolina Highway Patrol Sgt. Bob Beres said the wreck happened shortly before 4 a.m. Friday near Yemassee. Beres said the tractor-trailer hit the back of a car carrying six people. The vehicles ran off the road into some trees. Beres said those killed were in the backseat of a Ford Taurus. He said the truck driver was taken to Colleton County Medical Center in Walterboro. The two adults in the car's front seat were also taken to hospitals. Beres said the highway has reopened although traffic is moving slowly. The names of the victims have not been released.

The State: Pitbull puppy set on fire dies, person responsible being sought

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article114475968.html>

Rachael Myers Lowe

Responding to a call shortly after 7 p.m. on Saturday Richland County sheriff's deputies found a pitbull puppy that had been set on fire in a church parking lot, said Sgt. Brittany Jackamonis of the Richland County Sheriff's Department. The animal was initially taken to the South Carolina Veterinary emergency clinic on Fernandina Road but late Saturday night Jackamonis reported that the 8-10 week old female puppy had died. The animal was found in the parking lot of Grace United Methodist Church on Harbison Boulevard. Deputies are looking for a man a witness described as an African American in his early 20s and wearing a gray hoodie, said Jackamonis.

Aiken Standard: Aiken County EMS tests employees to ensure healthy workers

http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/aiken-county-ems-tests-employees-to-ensure-healthy-workers/article_e67d2e56-a85e-11e6-b687-93b09dd58305.html

Tripp Girardeau

Aiken County Emergency Management Services held a pilot program train-the-trainer course Thursday to effectively improve its operation. "The idea here is to help reduce injuries and instill a healthy lifestyle for EMS workers," said Chief Daryl Davis, Aiken County EMS. Davis said they brought in an expert who taught the current EMS employees methods to help in their work, from eating healthy to proper lifting techniques. The nine employees were being timed on a course Thursday that each had to complete within 13 minutes. "The course is designed to mimic real-world situations," Davis said. There were 12 stations in the course that included carrying an EKG monitor and an ALS kit up stairs, a 150-pound dummy roll and dummy drag, and three minutes of CPR on a dummy.

The State: Cops target dealers as deadly heroin gains popularity in the Midlands

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article114394318.html>

Cynthia Roldan

Law enforcement officials say heroin now can be found in just about every urban corner of the Midlands, bucking a decades-long trend of declining use. Heroin can be found in the corners where dealers once sold crack and cocaine. And it can be purchased from colleagues who are hoping to finance their own addiction by selling some on the side. And, while it isn't ravaging the Midlands as it has elsewhere – yet, anyway – heroin is on its way to becoming the drug of choice. In Richland County, heroin busts this year are on track to outpace arrests for the county's longtime popular drugs, crack and cocaine. It's become an epidemic that is gripping many parts of the nation. In an attempt to raise awareness, law enforcement officials around the country have started publishing images and videos of people suffering from overdoses.

Post and Courier: National Weather Service: Coastal flood watch for Charleston, surrounding areas

<http://www.postandcourier.com/news/national-weather-service-coastal-flood-watch-for-charleston->

surrounding-areas/article_53e04a82-a940-11e6-8653-23d59fe1f889.html

Gregory Yee

The National Weather Service Charleston Office has issued a coastal flood watch for Sunday morning. The watch will be in effect from 4 a.m. through the rest of the morning in low-lying coastal areas of southeast South Carolina, including downtown Charleston, the Weather Service said. High tide will peak around 6:15 a.m. and be between 7.7 and 8 feet at Charleston Harbor, the Weather Service said. Shallow, saltwater flooding will be possible for 1-2 hours before and after high tide. Residents should expect moderate to major flooding in and near low-lying coastal areas, the Weather Service said. Road closures and property flooding are possible.

Post and Courier: Seabrook Island beach renourishment project among the best

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/seabrook-island-beach-renourishment-project-among-the-best/article_dab199aa-a691-11e6-be46-7f1232c0c5e3.html

Prentiss Findlay

Seabrook Island has received national recognition from the American Shore & Beach Preservation Association for having one of the best restored beaches in the country. The island will be honored at the ASBPA annual summit in March in Washington D.C. The National Academy of Sciences also recognized the Seabrook beach restoration for its economy and sensitivity to the environment, said Dr. Tim Kana of Coastal Science and Engineering. On Tuesday, Kana will provide a guided tour of the Seabrook beach renourishment project for island residents, according to Tidelines, the Seabrook blog. He was lead engineer for the restoration work. The event begins with a brief presentation at the Community Center on Oyster Catcher Court at 1:30 p.m. Attendees will then head to North Beach for the tour, which will conclude about 3 p.m.

The State: Columbia will be 'the place to be' for once-in-a-lifetime solar eclipse

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article114305958.html>

Cynthia Roldan

An upcoming, once-in-a-lifetime solar eclipse has inspired South Carolina's "Famously Hot" city to adopt a new moniker: the "total eclipse municipality of the East Coast." On Aug. 21, parts of the continental United States will darken for the first time in 99 years through a total eclipse of the sun. The eclipse will travel in a narrow, diagonal swath across the United States, entering through Oregon and exiting through South Carolina. Columbia is the second largest city on the East Coast in the path of the eclipse and the largest city in the state with the longest blackout time, at about two minutes and 36 seconds. Charleston is expected to see about one minute and 30 seconds of darkness, while Greenville falls in the two minutes and 10 seconds range.

World News:

Associated Press: Powerful quake strikes near New Zealand, triggering tsunami

<http://bigstory.ap.org/ed39cb5c63b148a39c279e737563c57b>

A powerful earthquake struck New Zealand's South Island early Monday, shaking awake residents, causing damage to buildings and prompting emergency services to warn people along the coast to move to higher ground to avoid tsunami waves. The magnitude-7.8 earthquake struck in a mostly rural area close to the city of Christchurch but appeared to be more strongly felt in the capital, Wellington, more than 200 kilometers (120 miles) away. The quake was followed by a number of strong aftershocks. The quake knocked out New Zealand's emergency call number, 111, for about 10 minutes, police reported. It caused items to fall from shelves and windows to break in Wellington, and forced hundreds of tourists onto the streets as hotels were evacuated. New Zealand's Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management reported that a tsunami wave struck at about 1:50 a.m. and warned residents living in low-lying areas anywhere along the country's east coast to move to higher ground.

Associated Press: France marks Paris attacks anniversary with somber silence

<http://bigstory.ap.org/cb0b8cd59a504112b07d220382669732>

France marked the anniversary of Islamic extremists' coordinated attacks on Paris with a somber silence on Sunday that was broken only by voices reciting the names of the 130 slain, and the son of the first person to die stressing the importance of integration. Michael Dias lauded the lessons his father Manuel, an immigrant from Portugal, taught him so youth can integrate instead of turning themselves into "cannon fodder." Under heavy security, President Francois Hollande unveiled a plaque outside the Stade de France "in memory of Manuel Dias," pulling away a French flag covering it on a wall at one of the entrances to the French national stadium, where Dias was killed on Nov. 13, 2015, by a suicide bomber. Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo joined the president six other sites where crowds ate, drank or reveled in music at the Bataclan concert hall. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attacks. Three teams of extremists coming from neighboring Belgium targeted six bars and eateries, turning scenes of Friday night fun into bloodbaths.

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Camlin Moore

Cell: 803-206-8236

Office: 803-734-8044