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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Thursday, October 27, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Jasper Sun Times: Ridgeland, Gov. Haley, to host Hurricane Matthew relief event

<http://www.jaspersuntimes.com/news/2016-10-27/ridgeland-host-hurricane-matthew-relief-event>

Gov. Nikki Haley will visit Ridgeland on Wednesday, Nov. 2 for a Team South Carolina Hurricane Matthew relief event, according to a news release. Team South Carolina Lowcountry Day will be 11 a. m. to 3 p.m. at Jasper County's Farmers Market at 9935 South Jacob Smart Blvd. It will serve residents impacted by the storm from Jasper, Beaufort, Colleton and Hampton counties. The Team South Carolina event will serve as a one-stop where residents can find out about resources available to families and businesses to aid recovery. The event will bring together representatives from state and federal agencies and non-profit organizations to assist those in need in the wake of destruction caused by Hurricane Matthew.

Island Packet: Nikki Haley heading to Ridgeland to answer our Hurricane Matthew questions

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article110856467.html>

Stephen Fastenau

Get your post-Hurricane Matthew questions ready. South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley plans to visit Ridgeland on Wednesday for a Hurricane Matthew relief event, a news release from her office said Thursday. The Team South Carolina Lowcountry Day will be held from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Jasper County Farmers Market. Federal, state and nonprofit organization officials will be available to answer questions from residents of Beaufort, Jasper, Colleton and Hampton counties about assistance for families and businesses after the storm. At the event, residents will have the opportunity to...

CNN: Nikki Haley 'not a fan' of Trump -- but still going to vote for him

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/10/27/politics/nikki-haley-donald-trump/>

Tom Kludt

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is reaffirming her support for Donald Trump, vowing to vote for the GOP nominee despite his attacks on her earlier this year. "That doesn't mean it's an easy vote," Haley, a Republican, said at a news conference on Wednesday. "But it does mean that I'm watching out for the people of South Carolina and I'm watching out for the people of this country, and that's who I will be voting for on November 8." Haley drew the ire of Trump earlier this year after she endorsed Sen. Marco Rubio in the GOP nominating contest. "The people of South Carolina are embarrassed by Nikki Haley!" Trump tweeted at the time. (Haley's response over Twitter: "Bless your heart.") Trump easily won the state's primary in February. After Rubio dropped out, Haley said her "hope and prayer" was that Texas Sen. Ted Cruz would become the next president. Since then, Haley has said that she intends to vote for Trump, but her support has been tepid. On Wednesday, Haley said the 2016 campaign has left her disgusted. "I think I've been really clear. This election has turned my stomach upside down," she said. "It has been embarrassing for both parties. It's not something that the country deserves, but it's what we've got."

Newsmax: SC Gov. Nikki Haley Voting for Trump on Policy, Not Personality

<http://www.newsmax.com/Politics/South-Carolina-vote-presidential-race/2016/10/27/id/755695/>

Jason Devaney

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said Thursday she is "not a fan" of either Donald Trump or his opponent Hillary Clinton but will vote Trump for president. Haley, a Republican, was asked if she still supports Trump during a press conference pertaining to her flood and Hurricane Matthew relief fund. "I think I've been really clear," Haley said. "This election has really turned my stomach upside down. It has been embarrassing for both parties. It's not something the country deserves, but it's what we've got." Having said that, I will tell you, 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." WIS-TV posted video of Haley's remarks. Haley then touched on several policy issues, including national security, Obamacare, and the appointment of Supreme Court justices.

BuzzFeed News: Nikki Haley: Election "Turned My Stomach Upside Down," Voting For Trump
https://www.buzzfeed.com/nathanielmeyersohn/nikki-haley-election-turned-my-stomach-upside-down-voting-fo?utm_term=.wqMkrE9lZ#.reBW1Engm

Nathaniel Meyersohn

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said Wednesday that she still planned to vote for Donald Trump despite what she called an "embarrassing" election that "has really turned my stomach upside down." Speaking at a news conference about her efforts to help aid South Carolina in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, Haley resigned herself to a choice between two candidates whom she found personally distasteful. "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," said Haley, who gave a ringing endorsement of Marco Rubio during the Republican primary. "I think I've been really clear. This election has really turned my stomach upside down. It has been embarrassing for both parties. It's not something the country deserves, but it's what we've got." Haley, who said in May, "I have great respect for the will of the people, and as I have always said, I will support the Republican nominee for president" and appeared at the Republican National Convention in July, added that she based her vote on policy decisions.

Red State: Nikki Haley: This Election Turns My Stomach But I'm Voting For Trump
<http://www.redstate.com/streiff/2016/10/27/nikki-haley-election-turns-stomach-im-voting-trump/>

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley has announced that she is voting for Donald Trump in what might be the most backhanded semi-endorsement ever.

I think these are false hopes but we are in an election where all you can do is either vote your hopes or fears. I can't blame her for trusting to hope. Haley, if you recall, was an early endorser of Senator Marco Rubio and when he flamed out she endorsed Senator Ted Cruz. Her reasons are based in hope: "As a governor of this state, knowing what our state's needs are and knowing the processes that are going to take place, there's a few things that worry me," Haley said. "One of the things will be who will be put into place at those agencies because we've had to deal with the EPA, whether it's been the National Labor Relations Board, whether it's been any of the mandates passed down from Health and Human Services, education — all of those issues came into play in South Carolina, and they caused us a lot of heartache." I think these are false hopes but we are in an election where all you can do is either vote your hopes or fears. I can't blame her for trusting to hope.

WIS: Gov. Nikki Haley voting for Donald Trump only for policy reasons
<http://www.wistv.com/story/33486802/gov-nikki-haley-voting-for-donald-trump-only-for-policy-reasons>
Jeremy Turnage

Gov. Nikki Haley says she's not really happy with either of her choices for president this year, but she still plans to vote for businessman Donald Trump on Nov. 8. Speaking at a news conference for her flood and Hurricane Matthew relief fund, Haley was asked once about voting for Trump. "I think I've been really clear," Haley said. "This election has really turned my stomach upside down. It has been embarrassing for both parties. It's not something the country deserves, but it's what we've got." Haley's support for Trump has been tenuous considering she once supported Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz after Rubio dropped out of the race. Even as other mainstream Republicans have dropped support of Trump in the last few weeks of this election cycle after video of the businessman's lewd remarks against women were released, Haley said she has decided to stick

with him because of specific policy issues he espouses.

WACH: Haley: The best person based on policies still is Donald Trump

<http://wach.com/news/local/haley-the-best-person-based-on-policies-is-still-donald-trump>

Matthew Stevens

During a news conference Wednesday Governor Nikki Haley said that she will be voting for Republican nominee Donald Trump. "The best person based on the policies and dealing with things like Obamacare still is Donald Trump. That's who I will be voting for November 8," announced Haley.

The governor said that this election has "turned her stomach upside down" and that she is not a fan of either candidate. "It has been embarrassing for both parties," said Haley on the events leading up to the election. Haley's decision to vote for Trump comes a couple weeks after SC Democrats called for all Republicans to pull their support for Trump after a tape was leaked of the billionaire making inappropriate comments about women. Haley and Trump have not always seen eye-to-eye with both taking jabs at each other over the year, which included a back and forth on Twitter.

WOLO: Governor Haley Says She'll Vote Trump Over Clinton Based on Policy

<http://www.abccolumbia.com/2016/10/26/governor-haley-says-shell-vote-trump-over-clinton-based-on-policy/>

Gabrielle Franklin

Governor Nikki Haley has never shied away from her criticism of Republican nominee Donald Trump, but she said, he will still get her vote. "The best person based on the policies and dealing with things like Obamacare still is Donald Trump," Haley said. Haley says the vote won't be easy but she feels that she will do what's best for the nation and the Palmetto state. "This is no longer a choice for me on personalities because I'm not a fan of either one. What is about is policy," Haley said. Some residents around Columbia agree that voting based on issues and policy is a good idea. "Sticking by a person based on the policy and not based in personality and who can best do the job, that's good reasoning and logic," said Phoebe Smith. "There's been mudslinging left and right, some of it is uncalled for. Basically what needs to be addressed is the issues," said Mark Chestnut of Columbia.

WLTX: Gov. Haley: 'This Election Has Turned My Stomach Upside Down'

<http://www.wltx.com/news/politics/gov-haley-this-election-has-turned-my-stomach-upside-down/342260461>

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley says the current election has been an embarrassment for both parties, but while she says it's not an easy vote, she reaffirmed her support for Donald Trump Wednesday. Haley was speaking to reporters about the state's disaster recovery efforts when she was asked about the current election cycle. "This election has turned my stomach upside down," she said. "It has been embarrassing for both parties. It's not something that the country deserves, but it's what we've got." Back in February, Haley supported Marco Rubio's candidacy for the Republican nomination, but he had to drop out just weeks later. She'd also made comments that seem to criticize some of Trump's most controversial statements. But since he won the nomination, she's been asked numerous times about his candidacy, and has said before that she would vote for him, while at the same time not offering a full endorsement. But in these latest remarks, she laid out the case for casting her vote for her party's nominee.

WYFF4: Gov. Nikki Haley will still vote for Trump in 'embarrassing' election

<http://www.wyff4.com/article/gov-nikki-haley-will-still-vote-for-trump-in-embarrassing-election/7506409>

Carla Field

Gov. Nikki Haley says she's not really happy with either of the choices for president this year, but she still plans to vote for Donald Trump on Nov. 8. Speaking at a news conference for her flood and Hurricane Matthew relief fund, Haley was asked about voting for Trump. "I think I've been really clear," Haley said. "This election has really turned my stomach upside down. It has been embarrassing for both parties. It's not something the country deserves, but it's what we've got." Haley once supported Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, and then Texas Sen. Ted Cruz after Rubio dropped out of the race. "As a

governor of this state, knowing what our state's needs are and knowing the processes that are going to take place, there's a few things that worry me," Haley said. "One of the things will be who will be put into place at those agencies because we've had to deal with the EPA, whether it's been the National Labor Relations Board, whether it's been any of the mandates passed down from Health and Human Services, education -- all of those issues came into play in South Carolina, and they caused us a lot of heartache."

WIS: Recreation commission to meet, discuss Haley's request for information

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33498627/recreation-commission-to-meet-discuss-haleys-request-for-information>

Jeremy Turnage

The Richland County Recreation Commission will be holding a special meeting Wednesday night to discuss the next steps after Gov. Nikki Haley requested more information in the investigation against the former commission executive director. Haley said she is considering a request from a majority of Richland County legislators to remove five members of the board for backing former director James Brown III. Brown resigned after prosecutors said he coerced female employees into having sexual contact with him. The commission is set to meet Thursday at 6 p.m.

Hurricane Matthew:

Associated Press: Researchers: Matthew a \$20M hit to Hilton Head Tourism

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

SC State Wire

New research shows that Hurricane Matthew dealt an almost \$20 million hit to the tourism industry on Hilton Head Island. The research was compiled by John Salazar, the director of USC-Beaufort's Lowcountry and Resort Islands Tourism Institute, as well as Clemson research economist Rob Carey. The researchers issued a news release estimating the total economic loss to tourism as a result of the weeklong mandatory evacuation of the resort island at \$19.6 million. The storm earlier this month battered Hilton Head and officials say an estimated 3,700 structures on the island suffered some damage. Almost 400 of them had substantial damage amounting to more than half the assessed value of the building.

Associated Press: Sen. Tim Scott raising money for Hurricane Matthew relief

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

SC State Wire

U.S. Sen. Tim Scott is helping raise money to help people affected by Hurricane Matthew. The South Carolina Republican is hosting a barbecue fundraiser on Thursday at Founders Hall at Charles Towne Landing. Scott says donations raised at the event will go toward the Hurricane Matthew relief fund. Checks may be written, payable to the Lowcountry South Carolina Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Associated Press: From bridges to dunes, Horry County tallies Matthew damage

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

SC State Wire

Officials in Horry County are assessing the damage caused by Hurricane Matthew from damaged roads and bridges to battered seaside sand dunes. The Sun News of Myrtle Beach reports (<http://bit.ly/2dJBvIv>) that there has not yet been a definitive cost estimate. But county Public Works Director David Gilreath says almost 1,000 county roads were damaged. Among them are 200 roads that had to be closed during the storm. Dozens of county bridges were also damaged. Officials say as many as 700 homes were damaged and dunes along county beaches were washed away. In Garden City about three feet of sand was washed onto waterfront roadways and will have to be plowed back to the beaches. Officials estimate as much as 150,000 cubic yards of debris will have to be removed countywide.

Associated Press: Mostly empty school buses cost South Carolina \$1M in Matthew

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=R1LxKVOI

SC State Wire

South Carolina spent nearly \$1 million sending 300 school buses to Charleston County on the coast during Hurricane Matthew to evacuate residents, but only 24 of the buses were used, state education records show. And the only people who rode the buses to inland shelters were residents of a nursing home, according to information from the state Education Department obtained by The Greenville News (<http://grnol.co/2dLmWOL>). Fuel for the buses, meals and hotels for the drivers and bus aides, the cost of a team from the state Forestry Commission and other expenses totaled \$954,779. State officials said they think federal disaster money should repay much of that cost. Some residents did go to North Charleston to get on the buses, but were directed to local shelters instead because of a rule that stated the buses couldn't be used until nearby shelters were at least half full.

WSPA: Cost to Send School Buses to SC Coast for Hurricane Evac at Least \$600,000

<http://wspa.com/2016/10/26/cost-to-send-school-buses-to-sc-coast-for-hurricane-evac-at-least-600000/>

Robert Kittle

The cost of sending school buses from Greenville and the Midlands to the South Carolina coast to help with Hurricane Matthew evacuation will likely be at least \$600,000 and could approach \$1 million, according to the state Department of Education. DOE spokesman Ryan Brown says the cost of fuel, bus drivers' pay, and the cost of their food and hotels is expected to be about \$600,000. But there are other costs, like damage to some bus facilities along the coast and one bus that had to be repaired, which could bring the total closer to \$1 million. The state sent the buses to the Lowcountry to help evacuate people who didn't have transportation, with the plan being to bring evacuees to the Upstate, but most of the buses ended up not being used. Only about 25 of them were used to take nursing home residents to a shelter in the Lowcountry.

NOTE: Gov. Nikki Haley says the state's emergency plans include sending to counties and cities whatever help they need. "They anticipated a lot more people who would need transportation out, so they requested the number of buses. The state EMD did what they wanted them to do and gave the buses there, and basically what we said and learned from that is we've got to manage these requests that are coming in," she says.

Associated Press: Return of Haitian detainees delayed because of Matthew

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

SC State Wire

About 125 Haitians at the Charleston County jail awaiting deportation won't be going home any time soon. Charleston Sheriff's spokesman Eric Watson tells local news outlets that another 125 are expected this week, but none of them can be sent back to Haiti because of damage there caused by Hurricane Matthew. Authorities say they'll be deported when conditions improve. Matthew hammered Haiti this month before moving north and making landfall in Charleston County. Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokesman Bryan Cox says the detainees were already in this country before the hurricane. The federal government recently agreed to pay the jail \$55 a day for each detainee it houses.

Post and Courier: More than 100 Haitians held in Charleston County jail

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/more-than-haitians-held-in-charleston-county-jail/article_1b42162a-9b8e-11e6-8e3d-17306f2b8c03.html

Prentiss Findlay

About 125 Haitians awaiting deportation are being housed at the Cannon Detention Center in North Charleston, a Sheriff's Office spokesman said. That number is expected to double this week, said Maj. Eric Watson. "We don't have an estimate for how long they will be here," he said. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement will deport the Haitians when conditions improve in their country, he said. "The

reason they are being housed here is because right now Haiti is unable to receive them due to Hurricane Matthew. They have a lot of infrastructure issues going on there," he said. The county is being paid \$55 per day for each detainee, he said. A section of the jail is assigned to the Haitians, he said. "It won't have any impact on our normal, routine jail operations as far as booking in new inmates or prisoners, court processes, things like that," he said. The Haitians have been through a medical screening process, he said. Currently the jail is operating at below capacity with just over 1,000 inmates, he said.

Post and Courier: Storm recovery a haul for thousands

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/storm-recovery-a-haul-for-thousands/article_2168bdf2-9b97-11e6-b8f9-6fe2847d5b70.html

Bo Petersen

She walks stiffly from the debris pile to the electric line connection torn from the wall, rubbing her hands fretfully as she talks. "They came by my house today to pick up leaves, took a look and said, 'We'll be back tomorrow,' " Ann Lowther said, trying to grin about it. When a tree fell on her house during Hurricane Matthew three weeks ago, it poked holes through the roof and collapsed the siding like a ladder, compounding the mess. Lowther is 70 years old and arthritic. Her husband died two years ago. Her insurance has too high a deductible to meet and she just can't do everything anymore, she said. The Hanahan resident is one of more than 900 Berkeley County residents who registered for Federal Emergency Management Agency assistance by Wednesday, the day after the county was made eligible. By Thursday, more than 3,850 people were registered across Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties. In eligible coastal counties across the state, the number was 29,359.

Island Packet: State DNR to area boaters: Slow down, reduce your wake

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/article110761022.html>

The S.C. Department of Natural Resources is advising boaters to keep wake to a minimum while traveling waterways in Beaufort and Jasper counties. Most of the docks throughout the counties sustained damage from Hurricane Matthew, and the force that comes with wake is strong enough to further damage these docks, according to a SCDNR news release. Some dock owners are also expressing concerns about the inability to work on their docks because of the constant wake being created by passing boats. SCDNR officers will be patrolling local waterways over the next few weeks to ensure boaters are traveling at appropriate speeds and are obeying boating laws, the release said.

Island Packet: Relative's ashes among items stolen from Beaufort home during evacuation

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article110815537.html>

Joan McDonough

A burglar stole guns, cigars, jewelry and the ashes of a deceased relative from a Beaufort family's Second Street home in Polk Village after they evacuated for Hurricane Matthew. The burglary occurred between Oct. 7 and Oct. 10 and was reported as soon as the family returned home, according to a Beaufort County Sheriff's Office report made available on Thursday. The burglar cut a hole in a side screen door, and smashed the door's glass, according to the report. Three rifles, a box of cigars, eight watches, various pieces of jewelry and an urn holding the ashes of a deceased loved one were stolen from the house. The report put the value of the missing items at \$2,389.

Sun News: Disaster Recovery Center To Open In Horry County

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article110786002.html>

A disaster recovery center will open Friday in Myrtle Beach to help residents with damages and losses from Hurricane Matthew. The Horry County center will be open Monday through Saturday until further notice. Representatives from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Small Business Administration and other public and private agencies are at the center to explain disaster assistance programs and help survivors with applications for aid. The disaster recovery center is located at the Horry County South Strand

Recreation Center, 9650 Scipio Lane, Myrtle Beach. Hours will be from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Friday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday. It will be closed on Sunday.

Sun News: Storm scammers target North Myrtle Beach

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article110754297.html>

Elizabeth Townsend

Scammers were reportedly trying to con residents out of money in the North Myrtle Beach area, according to a warning post on the North Myrtle Beach Department of Public Safety page. A black pick-up truck bearing a sign that read "FEMA" was seen traveling through neighborhoods in the north end of the city, and the truck's occupants were allegedly telling residents they would remove hurricane debris for \$1,500, officials said. FEMA personnel don't operate this way, and anyone who sees the truck is urged to provide its license plate information to North Myrtle Beach police by calling 843-280-5511. State and federal officials have warned that Hurricane Matthew has created fertile ground for scammers and con artists who may attempt to take advantage of vulnerable storm survivors. Residents are encouraged to be on guard and always check identification of anyone offering aid.

Morning News: Florence officials say debris clean-up will last through Christmas

http://www.scnow.com/news/article_a0e2c2a4-9c59-11e6-a86b-8f4cf0aa53b9.html

Joshua Lloyd

City officials announced Thursday their plan to tackle the more than 150,000 cubic yards of debris in the city, with a goal of returning to a normal schedule by the start of 2017. They've divided the city into six sections, four of which will be handled by contracted debris clean-up crews. Officials say clean-up should be in full-effect by mid-November. "In the areas that have the largest amount of debris, we're going to use contract work for those areas," said City Manager Drew Griffin. "We're trying to get bid proposals out by tomorrow or Monday, give people about two weeks to submit a bid, then we will choose a contractor or multiple contractors." Griffin said city debris crews have been running routes but the sheer volume of debris—about four years' worth of normal waste—is too much to handle.

WMBF: Houses still surrounded by water in Lees Landing

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33491391/houses-still-surrounded-by-water-in-lees-landing>

Amy Lipman

Flooding in Lees Landing has gone down significantly and some people said it's receded faster than they've ever seen before. Still, they are ready for the water to be completely gone. It's still not easy for people to get in and out of the neighborhood. Some are using larger trucks or SUVs now, while others continue to use small boats. Stephen Stonstrom drove to his house for the first time Wednesday since the Waccamaw River flooded. He had been taking a boat to check on the house when the flooding was more severe. Stonstrom lives in Myrtle Beach and bought his house in Lees Landing three months before last October to enjoy life by the river. He went through the 2015 flooding, but this year the water got into his pool. "There's still items in the garage that we didn't think it was going to get this high, so we lost a trailer full of items last year," he said. "This year we'll probably lose about the same. We've got stuff up on shelves about five or six feet, but it got over eight feet."

WMBF: Over \$21K raised during WMBF, Salvation Army telethon to benefit Matthew victims

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33465561/over-21k-raised-during-wmbf-salvation-army-telethon-to-benefit-matthew-victims>

Christel Bell

WMBF hosted a telethon with the Salvation Army to raise money for hurricane and flood victims across the region on Wednesday. Major Angela Repass, director of the Horry County Salvation Army, said many flood victims have come to their offices for the first time in need of assistance. She added she has heard first-hand how the devastation has hurt many families. "They have lost absolutely everything, all of their clothing, all of their furniture, their walls, their floors," Repass said. "So every donation that is received is going to allow us to offer a little bit of hope." Volunteers with the Salvation

Army will be set to answer calls at a phone bank that will be set up in the WMBF News studios. The number to call will be announced throughout the Wednesday evening broadcasts.

WMBF: SCDOT worker returns to damaged home after Hurricane Matthew

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33491240/scdot-worker-returns-to-damaged-home-after-hurricane-matthew>

Lisa Gresci

Getting through Hurricane Matthew was one thing for the Larrimore family, but what came after not only took them by surprise, it left them with one choice - leave their century-old family home knowing it would likely never be the same. "I mean, you work all your life to have a house and within 24 hours it's gone," Michael Larrimore said. Michael Larrimore works for the South Carolina Department of Transportation's Conway office and spent much of the hurricane and subsequent flooding away from a home he's lived in for decades. That home was passed down from his father, and a home he once went to church in as a kid. "It was our home. It's not just a house," his wife, Michele Larrimore, said in tears. Federal Emergency Management Agency officials measured the water at 22 inches inside the Larrimore's house.

WMBF: Fake 'FEMA' officials trying to scam North Myrtle Beach residents

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33490267/fake-fema-officials-trying-to-scam-north-myrtle-beach-residents>

Brad Dickerson

Public safety officials in North Myrtle Beach are alerting the public of a Hurricane Matthew-related scam. According to information on the North Myrtle Beach Department of Public Safety's Facebook page, a black pickup truck with a sign that says "FEMA" was seen going through neighborhoods in the north end of the city. The people inside the truck are telling residents they will remove hurricane debris for \$1,500. The NMBDPS reiterates that FEMA officials do not operate in such a manner. FEMA Media Relations Specialist Renee Bafalis said FEMA does not employ or certify any contractors to do debris removal or make repairs.

WMBF: Law puts pressure on Cherry Grove homeowners to bulldoze or sell, await debris pick-up

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33497691/law-puts-pressure-on-cherry-grove-homeowners-to-bulldoze-or-sell-await-debris-pick-up>

The road to recovery includes scams, flood laws, long waits and, of course, a lot of stress for the people in Cherry Grove whose homes flooded in Hurricane Matthew. It seems to be one thing after another for some, and one homeowner describes the experience as "becoming an insurance expert. "People were spotted driving a black pick-up truck, pretending to be FEMA contractors on Wednesday, according to the North Myrtle Beach Department of Public Safety. The scammers were offering to pick up debris for \$1,500. Public safety said to call if you run across these people, this is not how FEMA operates.

WPDE: Conway family angry state officials didn't apply for D-SNAP for hurricane victims

<http://wpde.com/news/local/conway-family-angry-didnt-apply-for-dsnap-in-south-carolina>

Eddie Kadhim

South Carolina families impacted by the power outages as a result of Hurricane Matthew won't get help from the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP). Last year the Department of Social Services reviewed a little over 9,000 applications for D-SNAP help and found that around 300 were fraudulent. Michael Mackenzie, who lives in Conway, said he lost all the food in his fridge and freezer when Hurricane Matthew knocked out the power. He's angry that families like his won't get the help he says they need because of others' selfish actions after last year's historic flooding. "It's not other people's fault that they took advantage of it," said Mackenzie. "The governor has no right to take it away from the people that do need it."

NOTE: At a press conference on Wednesday, South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley said officials did not see the need for D-SNAP this time around. "It actually didn't go well last year to the point that we

wanted it to," said Haley. "We just stuck with making sure that everybody who had food stamps, that if they had lost any food, that we resupplied that food quickly."

WPDE: Mayor of Nichols: "We're so far from getting back to normal"

<http://wpde.com/news/local/mayor-of-nichols-were-so-far-from-getting-back-to-normal>

Erin Macpherson

After Hurricane Matthew hit, the Little Pee Dee River and the Lumber River rose, flooding Nichols and causing everyone in the town to evacuate. Now that the water has receded, and the town is trying to rebuild. "It's going to take a miracle to get the help we need," said Lawson Battle, the Mayor of Nichols. Battle's Nichols home had three trees fall on it and about two feet of water inside. While his home has just as much damage as everyone else in town, he's dedicating his time to the community. "Just doing everything we can for the people right now. Make sure they're doing the proper paper work, trying to get all resources and help they can and they deserve," said Battle. There are 261 homes in Nichols. 234 have severe damage. Battle said there are three or four homes that had water go up to the duck work, "that have to be torn up and replaced." He said the rest are destroyed.

WIS: WATCH: The 'Daufuskie 100' has a story to tell post-Matthew

<http://www.wistv.com/clip/12856586/watch-the-daufuskie-100-has-a-story-to-tell-post-matthew>

Jeremy Turnage

Almost 100 residents of Daufuskie Island ignored pleas from Gov. Nikki Haley to evacuate the coast ahead of Hurricane Matthew.

General Assembly News:

Associated Press: Ethics Commission reprimands state treasurer for 2011 hire

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

Seanna Adcox

The State Ethics Commission says state Treasurer Curtis Loftis violated ethics law when he helped in hiring a long-time friend to represent his office in a lawsuit against the Bank of New York. In an order released Thursday, commissioners publicly reprimanded Loftis and told him to pay \$500. Loftis says he will appeal the decision. His critics have long questioned a 2013 settlement of \$9 million to the state's two contracted attorneys. Of that, \$2 million went to Michael Montgomery, who Loftis helped bring aboard soon after taking office in 2011. Beyond being a long-time friend, Montgomery was a board member of a charity Loftis founded. The commission found that violated state law barring public officials from using their position to economically benefit an associate, even if it was unintentional.

Post and Courier: Ethics Commission finds Treasurer Loftis violated law

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/ethics-commission-finds-treasurer-loftis-violated-law/article_8e7aac8e-9c7d-11e6-90b8-cfb3a97a7fd1.html

Gavin Jackson

State Treasurer Curtis Loftis was fined and reprimanded by the state Ethics Commission on Thursday for helping hire a friend to represent his office in a lawsuit. Weeks after a seven-hour State Ethics Commission hearing, the panel found Loftis violated ethics law by hiring lawyer Michael Montgomery to assist in a suit against Bank of New York Mellon. Montgomery received \$2 million in legal fees for his work on the case. Loftis and Montgomery served on the Board of Trustees of the Saluda Charitable Foundation together, a connection the ethics panel said created the conflict. "It is undisputed that the decision to hire Montgomery was a governmental decision and Montgomery had an economic interest in his retention as special counsel for the state treasurer," Regina Hollins Lewis, chair of the ethics hearing panel, wrote.

The State: Ethics officials reprimand Loftis for role in hiring of friend

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article110858902.html>

Tim Flach

State ethics officials reprimanded State Treasurer Curtis Loftis but didn't fine him for helping steer \$2 million in legal work to a longtime friend. The decision made public Thursday concluded Loftis failed to tell other officials of his association with the lawyer chosen. Public officials "should err on the side of disclosure" when their actions made raise questions about "the appearance of impropriety," the decision by the State Ethics Commission said. Loftis contended that his failure to do that was inadvertent instead of intentional, according to the decision. The decision followed a private review by the panel after Loftis, who campaigned on opening more of state government to scrutiny, did not ask that it be conducted publicly. Leaders of a state retiree group questioned a hiring that they said cost their members \$2 million in legal fees paid as part of a settlement of a dispute with a bank.

WIS: Treasurer Curtis Loftis convicted of ethics violation, ordered to pay fine

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33499935/treasurer-curtis-loftis-convicted-of-ethics-violation-ordered-to-pay-fine>

Jeremy Turnage

South Carolina Treasurer Curtis Loftis has been convicted of a violation of state Ethics laws and ordered to pay a \$500 fine. According to a court order finalized on Oct. 26 by hearing panel Chairwoman Regina Lewis, Loftis used his position as state treasurer to try and hire his friend, Michael H. Montgomery, to litigate a case Loftis has against the Bank of New York Mellon Corporation. The court order details how Loftis wanted to hire Montgomery, an old friend and fraternity brother of his, to aid in the suit against the bank as a special counsel. The decision includes a public reprimand against Loftis. Loftis released a statement following the judgment, calling it "subjective and unprecedented" and vowed to appeal the decision. "This action was filed by cronies of the SC Investment Commission, the same Commission that lost \$7 billion of the public's money through their disastrous investment decisions," Loftis said. "I blew the whistle on their unbelievably poor performance and this is just one part of their retribution." Loftis has 90 days to pay the fine.

The State: Sources: Any General Assembly public corruption indictments may come by December

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article110686702.html>

John Monk

A special prosecutor's investigation into public corruption in the S.C. General Assembly may possibly result in indictments by December, according to sources familiar with the probe. And two figures already named publicly as possible targets of the investigation – Reps. Rick Quinn, R-Lexington, and Jim Merrill, R-Berkeley – remain in play, the sources said. Neither Merrill nor his attorney, Scott Schools, could be reached for comment Wednesday. In an interview, Quinn told The State newspaper he has done nothing wrong and has heard nothing from any law agency. Quinn's name was mentioned in a State Law Enforcement Division report on questionable activity in the General Assembly. The report raised the possibility that Quinn, a political and marketing consultant, may have used his public office for private gain by sending House Republican Caucus mailing business his way. But Quinn said Wednesday the behavior described in the report was in no way improper or illegal.

Associated Press: Legislators nix request to fast-track repairs to 2 parks

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=voRBdk66

Seanna Adcox

South Carolina legislators have put the brakes on requests to "fast-track" repairs to two beach-front parks ravaged by Hurricane Matthew, saying the state's tourism agency needs a plan addressing all its parks. A legislative panel this week approved the engineering phase of rebuilding Edisto Beach and Hunting Island parks, located in Colleton and Beaufort counties, respectively. The Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism wanted permission for the entire construction process, estimated to cost \$3.5 million combined, with federal emergency aid covering 75 percent. But lawmakers want to make sure parks in their districts get attention, too. Rep. Murrell Smith, R-Sumter, noted Poinsett State Park near Wedgefield was also damaged. "While we do have to prioritize parks that attract the most people," he said, Poinsett brings tourists to Sumter County, and the agency should take

advantage of the 75 percent federal match to fix whatever parks are eligible.

The State: SC pet-care panel considers changes to animal-welfare laws

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article110823222.html>

Avery G. Wilks

David Miller was looking in a rural Warrenton trailer park for a murder-trial witness when he saw something sickening. A dog was chained to a thick tree. The chain allowed the animal to move just a few feet in every direction. Left on its own — for who knows how long — the dog had taken to running in circles. As the dog ran around the tree, the chain had cut several inches into its wood on all sides. “There’s absolutely nothing illegal about that in South Carolina,” Miller, a deputy solicitor in the 2nd Judicial Circuit, told a panel of S.C. officials on Thursday. “My investigator said we ought to call animal control about that. They can’t do anything about it.” Miller’s suggested Thursday that lawmakers should create a state tethering law, adding to a growing list of ideas pitched to the panel, tasked with studying how to improve pet care in the Palmetto State. State Rep. Steve Moss, R-Cherokee, who sits on the committee, said the need for solutions has been highlighted by the state’s unflattering position in recent rankings. In 2015, South Carolina ranked 44th in the country in the Humane Society of the United States’ annual survey of animal-welfare policies.

SC Agency News:

Associated Press: Senator: Fines could better protect vulnerable adults

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=OE1erOXs

Seanna Adcox

A leading state senator said Wednesday he's shocked the agency that serves South Carolinians with disabilities doesn't fine taxpayer-funded providers for not adequately protecting the vulnerable people in their care. The Department of Disabilities and Special Needs' contracts with private providers should threaten financial penalties. That's probably the best way to get for-profit companies to meet expectations in caring for "citizens who are very special to all of us," said Sen. Thomas Alexander, R-Walhalla. "That'll get people's attention," he said. "If you know what's expected, and there's accountability, then you'll meet those expectations rather than suffer the consequences." In March, the agency halted all referrals to South Carolina Mentor, a company that provides home care for roughly 200 of the state's most vulnerable adults, due to concerns about allegations of abuse. It was the third freeze against the company since 2010. Yet, the agency renewed the company's contract in July to care for adults with intellectual disabilities, autism, brain and spinal cord injuries. At \$20 million - about 70 percent funded by the federal government - the contract was 13 percent higher than the previous year's. Referrals remain frozen.

Greenville News: DDSN director tells senators changes in oversight coming

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/10/26/ddsn-director-tells-senators-changes-oversight-coming/92762396/>

Tim Smith

The chairman of a Senate finance panel on Wednesday asked the director of the state's disabilities agency to increase the agency's oversight actions with county disabilities agencies and private providers. Sen. Thomas Alexander's requests came during a hearing on the state Department of Disabilities and Special Needs and following stories this year in The Greenville News about problems with private provider SC Mentor and about findings in internal audits at county disabilities and special needs boards. DDSN cares for thousands of people with intellectual disabilities, autism, brain or spinal cord injuries through a network of state facilities, county providers and private providers offering multiple programs ranging from day services to group homes. Alexander, a Walhalla Republican, peppered the two-hour testimony of DDSN Director Beverly Buscemi with questions and suggestions concerning the agency's oversight role. He said afterward he thinks DDSN appears to be addressing some concerns that lawmakers have had for years as the result of Legislative Audit Council findings.

Post and Courier: S.C. taxpayers in for bigger paychecks, smaller refunds starting next year
http://www.postandcourier.com/business/s-c-taxpayers-in-for-bigger-paychecks-smaller-refunds-starting/article_916bd1d4-9c6e-11e6-afd6-8b15b8a77eca.html

Thad Moore

South Carolinians will see a bump in their paychecks but smaller tax refunds under a policy change that kicks in next year. The S.C. Department of Revenue is revising the way it calculates how much employers should withhold for income taxes, an update that will wind up putting \$1 billion back into taxpayers' checks over the next decade. The goal is to reduce the amount of money the state returns in tax refunds each year by taking out less money in the first place. Agency director Rick Reames says the change is long-overdue. In essence, the state's tax withholding requirements didn't change year-to-year, so while South Carolinians' tax bills changed with inflation, the amount coming from their paychecks didn't. Over time, the two got out of sync, and the state started taking in more than it was owed - an amount that has grown larger each year. So for the first time in 25 years, the department is updating the tables that dictate how much employers need to withhold. They'll be phased in over the next 10 years, starting in January. The tables will be updated annually.

SC Political News:

Post and Courier: New poll shows Clinton and Trump in 'statistical tie' in S.C.

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/new-poll-shows-clinton-and-trump-in-statistical-tie-in/article_091db64e-9c41-11e6-97c7-f3156ea84808.html

Emma Dumain

Though most pollsters and veteran political observers are in agreement this is not the year South Carolina will go "blue," the state's Democratic stalwarts are holding out hope for an Election Day victory. SurveyMonkey, the online polling provider that's been tracking voter sentiments towards the presidential candidates on the state level, revealed on Wednesday that Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump are in a "statistical tie" in the Palmetto State. In South Carolina, SurveyMonkey shows voters favoring Trump over Clinton 45 percent to 43 percent. The poll's "state-level estimates are individually weighted and tabulated using state-level voter demographic parameters from the U.S. Census," according to the head of election polling, Mark Blumenthal, in a blog post on the website.

The State: South Carolina a 'toss-up' for presidential election?

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article110661522.html>

Cassie Cope

Whether South Carolina will elect Democrat Hillary Clinton or Republican Donald Trump is a "toss up," according to a SurveyMonkey poll updated Tuesday. Forty-five percent of likely S.C. voters say they will vote for Trump and 43 percent say they will vote for Clinton, according to the poll. Because the difference between the candidates is within three percentage points, SurveyMonkey labeled South Carolina a "toss-up." "All surveys are subject to random variability, so the three-point threshold best represents the potential for shifts to be random," the poll said. SurveyMonkey says it polls a random sample of its 3 million respondents, who take part in its user-generated surveys, for its Election Tracking poll. South Carolina last voted for a Democratic candidate for president in 1976.

The Herald: York County, state election officials ramp up security: 'Numbers will be accurate

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article110640692.html>

David Thackham

Less than two weeks before Election Day, state and county officials say they're doing everything they can to ensure a safe and fair voting process, despite some allegations of a "rigged" system. Campaign rhetoric has "taken on a life of its own," but the S.C. State Election Commission is committed to assuaging fears that the election might be compromised, said Marci Andino, the commission's executive director. "We're trying to get the word out," said Andino. "We're aware of the recent news

stories ... but we're hoping to reassure voters that security is not a new concern for the election commission."The election is organized on the county level, meaning a "rigged" election, which Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has said is a threat, would require the cooperation of all 46 different county elections officials.

Associated Press: Anderson County says it needs more poll workers

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=aaPk5Ekt

SC State Wire

Anderson County is still looking for poll workers with the election less than two weeks away. The Anderson Independent-Mail reported (<http://bit.ly/2ecsnHk>) that election director Katy Smith said in a news release late Tuesday that she needs more workers. Smith there's a particular shortage of poll workers in Piedmont, Williamston, Powdersville and Easley. She did not say how many more workers are needed. The county was also short-handed during the Republican presidential primary in February. Smith implemented two efforts to find more workers after the primary. State Elections Commission spokesman Chris Whitmire said he had not heard about specific poll worker shortages in other counties. But Whitmire says that's always a concern. Election workers in South Carolina are paid \$75 for working on Election Day and \$60 for attending training.

Savannah River Site/MOX News:

Aiken Standard: Stakeholders share input with DOE

http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/energy-department-takes-input-from-community-stakeholders/article_6c4b57ae-9c5e-11e6-9408-ebbe1b9657a5.html

Thomas Gardiner

With less than two years until the beginning of the next management and operations contract at Savannah River Site, the U.S. Department of Energy is taking a new approach to preparing for proposals. The DOE met with community stakeholders at Augusta's Double Tree Inn on Thursday to discuss the future management and operations contract at the Savannah River Site. The current contract is held by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions and ends July 31, 2018. During public presentations, the Energy Department's Jeffrey Allison said, "As we take input from the community, you might notice some changes as we move to the request for proposals (RFP) and acquisition phase." Allison and SRS Deputy Manager Terry Spears presented information about the current scope of work under the current contract and highlighted some of the recent progress.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Charleston makes list of most livable cities

http://www.postandcourier.com/business/charleston-makes-list-of-most-livable-cities/article_58be6762-9c54-11e6-b93e-e320f6c48dc8.html

Dave Munday

Charleston is one of "America's Best Cities To Live," based in part on its diverse economy and high population growth, according to a Northeastern financial news website. Charleston was No. 33 on the ranking released this week by 24/7 Wall St. It was the only South Carolina representative on the list. Last year, Mount Pleasant was the only Palmetto State city to make the cut. The website said it analyzed data for 550 U.S. cities with populations of 65,000 or more. The comparisons included crime rates, employment growth, access to restaurants and attractions, educational attainment and housing affordability. "Americans who prefer inexpensive housing and warm climates often relocate to the Southeast," the website said. "Charleston's population has increased by 13.1 percent over the past five years, more than three times the national five-year growth rate.

Herald-Journal: Drought status upgraded in Spartanburg, Union, Cherokee

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161026/drought-status-upgraded-in-spartanburg-union-cherokee?rssfeed=true>

Bob Montgomery

Spartanburg Water officials are keeping a close eye on water supplies as drought conditions in the Upstate worsen. On Wednesday, the S.C. Drought Response Committee raised the severity of drought levels from incipient to moderate in Spartanburg, Cherokee, Union and Greenville counties. The drought status in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties was raised from moderate to severe. There are five levels of drought severity, ranging from normal to extreme. Moderate is the third level and severe the fourth. No county in the state is ranked as extreme, the highest level. Before changing a county's status, the committee takes into account agriculture, forest fire risk, water supply and water quality. The Drought Response Committee is part of the S.C. Department of Natural Resources.

Greenville News: Drought conditions more severe as storms provide no relief

<https://www.google.com/url?hl=en&q=http://grnol.co/2ewRyXQ&source=gmail&ust=1477689113721000&usg=AFQjCNGSRj9VJ5RXIJECKRwa16qmCmpBbg>

The odd tale of two South Carolinas when it comes to rainfall was confirmed Wednesday as the state's group that assesses drought conditions upgraded the Upstate's dire condition just as the lower half of the state was lifted from drought status in the wake of Hurricane Matthew. The new drought map, voted on Wednesday by the state's drought response committee made up of multiple local and state agencies, shows a dividing line that virtually splits the state in two between the dry Upstate and the wet Midlands and Lowcountry. The Upstate's three westernmost counties — Anderson, Pickens and Oconee — were upgraded to severe drought status, a step below the highest designation of extreme drought. The rest of the Upstate was placed into moderate drought status.

Associated Press: UPS orders 14 Boeing 747 jumbo jets to carry air freight

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

SC State Wire

The Boeing 747 revolutionized air travel and ushered in the era of jumbo jets back in the 1970s, but these days it is often used to carry packages, not people, and its future is uncertain. The hump-backed behemoth got a boost Thursday, however, when UPS announced it has ordered 14 Boeing 747-8 cargo freighters and took an option for another 14. It's the biggest order for the 747 since Lufthansa ordered 20 back in December 2006. Neither Boeing nor UPS disclosed terms of the sale. At list price, 14 747 freighters would cost \$5.3 billion, although big customers routinely get discounts on planes. Boeing has delivered more than 1,500 747s since the first one went to Pan Am in 1970, but the number of 747s rolling off the assembly line has slowed to a crawl in recent years. It's not just the 747; orders for a much newer four-engine plane, the Airbus A380, have also stalled.

Sun News: Myrtle Beach airport has lowest in airfare in South Carolina

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article110650012.html>

The U.S. Department of Transportation ranked Myrtle Beach International Airport as having the lowest average domestic airfares in South Carolina. In the second quarter of 2016 the average domestic round trip airfare to and from the Myrtle Beach airport was \$242.93, down from \$255.90 in the same quarter of 2015, according to a press statement released by the airport. In comparison, the average domestic round trip airfare at a national level was \$351.57, or \$108.64 more than the Myrtle Beach airport. The average airfare to/from Myrtle Beach International Airport is the lowest in South Carolina.

Morning News: Scores show steep learning curve for new test in SC schools

http://www.scnow.com/news/education/article_c634b596-9bda-11e6-b0aa-6771fa231c40.html

Melissa Rollins

A large number of students who took the S.C. Ready Assessment, administered for the first time during the 2015-16 school year, did not meet the standards. The South Carolina Department of Education recently released scores for the statewide S.C. Ready Assessment. For the S.C. Ready test, third- through eighth-graders tested in mathematics and English language arts. Scores are given

as "Meets Expectations," "Exceeds Expectations," "Does Not Meet Expectations" and "Approaches Expectations." State Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman said in a media advisory that the newest test scores would be used for evaluations in the future. "In order to achieve success we must have high expectations for ALL students regardless of demographics or location," Spearman said. "Every student has the ability to learn and be successful if they have the proper supports in place. We will be using the results of these assessments to better prepare educators and in turn, students for the goal of being college and career ready upon graduation."

Post and Courier: S.C. students outperform nation on science assessment

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/s-c-students-outperform-nation-on-science-assessment/article_bea0636a-9ba9-11e6-a7ec-83070d581353.html

Deanna Pan

South Carolina's fourth- and eighth-graders outperformed the national average on a federal science assessment administered last spring, according to their scores released Thursday. The National Assessment of Educational Progress, also known as the nation's report card, is the largest nationally representative assessment of student performance in core subjects. Among educators and policy-makers, the NAEP is widely considered the "gold standard" of standardized assessments. The test, administered every two years to a subset of fourth- and eighth-graders across the country, is one of the few that enables state-to-state comparisons for elementary and middle school students over time. Their scores are calculated on a 300-point scale. South Carolina was one of 14 states where scores in both grades rose. The state's 2016 results mirrored nationwide improvements among fourth- and eighth-grade students on the 2015 science assessment. About 4,600 fourth- and eighth-graders statewide took the assessment in the spring of 2015.

Associated Press: Health law consumers face least choice in program's history

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=bSRCP61d

SC State Wire

Americans in the health insurance markets created by President Barack Obama's law will have less choice next year than any time since the program started, a new county-level analysis for The Associated Press has found. The analysis by AP and consulting firm Avalere Health found that about one-third of U.S. counties will have only one health marketplace insurer next year. That's more than 1,000 counties in 26 states - roughly double the number of counties in 2014, the first year of coverage through the program. With insurance notices for 2017 in the mail, families are already facing difficult choices, even weighing whether to stay covered. "At this point we are at a loss," said Ryan Robinson of Phoenix. "We don't know what the next step is." He and his wife, Nicole, only have plans from one insurer available next year, and the company doesn't appear to cover an expensive immune-system medication for their 11-year-old daughter.

NOTE: Five states - Alaska, Alabama, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Wyoming - have one participating insurer across their entire jurisdictions. Only Wyoming had faced that predicament this year.

Local News:

Associated Press: Woman behind bars for child neglect charged in 2012 killings

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Bj0mwAqo

SC State Wire

Authorities say a 36-year-old woman already behind bars for child neglect has been charged with murder for killing two people near Spartanburg four years ago. Spartanburg County sheriff's deputies said in a news release that a tip given to investigators earlier this month led them to enough evidence to charge Crystal Johnson. They did not give any more information about the tip. Authorities say Johnson helped shoot 45-year-old Randy Cochran and 24-year-old Anna Huckeba. Their bodies were found dead in a car in June 2012. Sheriff Chuck Wright says investigators think Johnson had help in the killing. Johnson started a 10-year state prison sentence for child neglect in July 2015. It

wasn't known if Johnson had a lawyer.

The Herald: SC court throws out York Co. burn barrel killer's attempt to back out of guilty plea

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/crime/article110850457.html>

Andrew Dys

The last-ditch attempt by an admitted York County killer, who beat his girlfriend to death, then burned her body in a barrel, who changed his mind about his guilty plea has been thrown out by the S.C. Court of Appeals. John Coddington, 23, who told police "a demon came out in me" and "the devil made me do it" after he beat Tiffany Williams to death in late 2015 at his Fort Mill condo, pleaded guilty to murder Aug. 31. He was sentenced to 45 years in prison in a negotiated deal that saved him a potential trip to the electric chair. Coddington carried Williams' body to Chester County where he burned her remains in a plot to try and cover up the crime. Coddington claimed that Williams, whom he met through a prostitution Web site, cuckolded him in his home, and then while drunk and on drugs, he beat and kicked her to death.

0457.html#storylink=cpy

Associated Press: 7 Anderson County shootings leave 6 wounded, 1 critically

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=LE1GZJ7v

SC State Wire

Law officers in Anderson County are investigating a rash of shootings that have left six people wounded, one of them critically. Investigators tell local news outlets there were seven shooting incidents in the county between Tuesday night and Wednesday morning. In one incident more than 50 shots were fired at a home in the city. Three people inside were wounded, including a 13-year-old who is listed in critical condition at a hospital. In another shooting, again from outside a home, a woman was shot in the foot but two small children inside were unharmed. Later two men were shot and wounded on a street in the city. There were no injuries in the other shootings. Authorities say no arrests have been made.

The State: 40,000 pills, plus guns and cash seized in Columbia drug bust

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article110673772.html>

Rachael Myers Lowe

Columbia narcotics agents raiding a storage facility located at 1000 Whaley St. found a huge cache of pills, illegal drugs, high-powered guns and cash, police chief Skip Holbrook said Tuesday afternoon. Matthew Ryan Garnett, 23, was charged Friday with numerous drug violations. Police, acting on a tip, had been looking for him since this spring, Holbrook said. When agents raided the location, they found narcotics worth an estimated \$200,000 in drugs, including 100 grams of hash and tens of thousands of green and white pills. Tests at the Richland County Sheriff Department's drug lab determined the green pills tested positive for AB-Fubinaca (or THC, the active ingredient in marijuana) while the white pills tested positive for alprozolam (also known as Xanax.) Also found in the storage facility were \$10,000 in cash, and an AR-15 rifle, two Tec-9 sub machine guns and handguns.

Post and Courier: Police find \$200,000 in drugs, cash, machine guns at Columbia storage facility near USC

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/police-find-in-drugs-cash-machine-guns-at-columbia-storage/article_5d0d6352-9c83-11e6-8e07-13cf28f65d5d.html

Andy Shain

Columbia police spent three months looking for the son of a bank president after discovering one of the largest caches of illegal pills in city history near the University of South Carolina campus. The seizure in May worked, police said. Incidents involving mood-altering drugs like Xanax have dropped at USC since discovery of nearly 40,000 pills at a storage unit inside the Aspyre at Assembly Station apartments at Assembly and Whaley streets. And Matthew Ryan Garnett, 23, was arrested on drug possession charges after he was nabbed in a Five Points-area scuffle last week, Columbia Police

Narcotics Investigator Anthony Branham told Free Times. The son of NBSC President Chuck Garnett was released on \$15,000 bail, Branham said. After receiving a tip in May, police found 29,139 alprazolam (commonly known as Xanax) pills, 10,421 marijuana pills and 100 grams of hashish at a storage unit. The pills and narcotics had an estimated street value of \$200,000, police said.

The Herald: Billboards in Chester County to deter drunken driving, promote safety

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article110642837.html>

Teddy Kulmala

State and local law enforcement officials Wednesday unveiled a new effort to help put the brakes on a growing number of deaths on Chester County roads. As the Thanksgiving holiday nears, three billboards will go up around Chester County and will remain up through the holiday travel season. Officers from every law enforcement agency in Chester County and the S.C. Highway Patrol participated in a photo shoot Wednesday at the "Welcome to Chester County" sign on Interstate 77. The advertising blitz is spearheaded by Empowering Communities for Healthy Outcomes, or ECHO – a DUI task force made possible through a state grant. Officials haven't said what the message on the billboards will be, but they say it will be geared toward DUI prevention, according to Shelly Copeland, ECHO program coordinator.

Morning News: Sheriff's office criminal enforcement unit earns national recognition

http://www.scnw.com/news/article_04866654-9c59-11e6-9732-e39887df582a.html

Three K-9 handlers assigned to the Florence County Sheriff's Office Criminal Enforcement Unit were acknowledged as some of the best in the nation at the American Police Canine Association (APCA) national conference last month. The team was awarded the United States Large Level Department Narcotics Interdiction Team of the Year for 2016 at the conference held Sept. 25 - 29 in Bloomington, Indiana. The award is given based on the agency's size, seizures of narcotics, illegal currency, apprehension and article finds such as weapons over the past year. The awards were presented to Corporal Shane Keith, Corporal Jamie Renfroe and Sergeant Austin T. Spell along with their respective canines Ruger, Roby and Una. From Sept. 2015 to Sept. 2016, the sheriff's office Criminal Enforcement Unit had combined seizures of 111 pounds of cocaine, 1655 grams of heroin, 109 grams of methamphetamine, 34 pounds of marijuana, and 319 doses of other controlled substances. The combined street value of the seizures totals upwards of \$5.8 million.

Sun News: Surfside council conducting investigation into possible missing money

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article110793652.html>

Chloe Johnson

The Town of Surfside Beach is currently conducting an audit to see if money has disappeared from its finance department, Mayor Bob Childs confirmed. Childs said the town is not yet sure if any money has disappeared, and the town's own staff are conducting the audit. "At this time I don't think there [are] any attorneys involved, that I know of," Childs said. He said the investigation has been going on for about three weeks, but did not specify when he was told about the potential issue. "Council is kept up to speed on things that are going on," Childs said. "There's not anything I can really say. It's a legal issue and still under investigation." Diana King, the finance director for Surfside Beach, could not be reached by phone Thursday.

The State: Lexington 4 seeks voter OK for arts center, other renovations at Swansea High

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article110837612.html>

Tim Flach

manda Gunter favors Lexington 4's bid to add an auditorium for performing arts and other gatherings at Swansea High School even though her children are graduated. "When we went to something, it was an overcrowded room every time," the Gaston area resident said of attending band concerts at the school. "It (the proposed auditorium) is way overdue," School officials are banking on that sentiment to propel voter approval of a \$25.4 million package of improvements on the Nov. 8 ballot. The auditorium is the centerpiece of a package that includes renovations for sports facilities and

vocational training classrooms, projects expected to be completed by 2020. It's the first set of upgrades sought for classrooms in the largely rural southern edge of the county since the go-ahead in 2007 for a \$19.8 million center for early childhood education. The 1,200-seat auditorium proposed is larger than the enrollment of 875 students at Swansea High.

Post and Courier: Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg backs off latest I-526 plan but vows to keep trying

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/charleston-mayor-john-tecklenburg-backs-off-latest-i--plan/article_04ce1dde-9c57-11e6-bff7-6f34ca0c0676.html

Diane Knich

Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg has withdrawn a request to use \$150 million from the county's proposed half-cent sales tax referendum to pay for improvements near the new port terminal in North Charleston in exchange for moving forward with the extension of Interstate 526. But he has decided to support the \$2.1 billion spending plan for roads, public transit and green space anyway. In a Thursday letter to Vince Graham, chairman of the S.C. Transportation Infrastructure Bank board, Tecklenburg said he is rescinding the request that he and Charleston County Council Chairman Elliott Summey proposed in a Sept. 15 letter. That plan involved getting the \$150 million from a half-cent sales tax referendum that county voters will weigh in on Nov. 8. Tecklenburg said he is withdrawing the request because Graham indicated the Infrastructure Bank board won't meet before voters go to the polls.

Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press: AP-GfK poll: Most Trump supporters doubt election legitimacy

<http://bigstory.ap.org/944f062ef82e4c23b9a7666d26ab6cc7>

Donald Trump's dubious claims the presidential election is "rigged" have taken root among most of his supporters, who say they will have serious doubts about the legitimacy of the election's outcome if Hillary Clinton wins, according to a new Associated Press-GfK poll. Just 35 percent of Trump's supporters say they will most likely accept the results of the election as legitimate if Clinton wins, while 64 percent say they're more likely to have serious doubts about the accuracy of the vote count if the Republican nominee is not the victor. "Of course I believe it's rigged, and of course I won't accept the results," said Mike Cannilla, 53, a Trump supporter from the New York borough of Staten Island. "It's from the top: Obama is trying to take over the country, he's covering up all of Hillary's crimes and he's controlling the media trying to make Trump lose." "Our only chance on Nov. 9 is if the military develops a conscience and takes matters into its own hands," Cannilla said.

Associated Press: Trump U staff included drug trafficker, child molester

<http://bigstory.ap.org/1566b9e1ca44464db34de22e09aa5ea9>

Donald Trump says he hand-picked only the best to teach success at Trump University. But dozens of those hired by the company had checkered pasts — including serious financial problems and even convictions for cocaine trafficking or child molestation, an Associated Press investigation has found. The AP identified 107 people listed as speakers and staff on more than 21,000 pages of customer-satisfaction surveys the Republican presidential nominee has released as part of his defense against three lawsuits. Trump and his attorneys have said repeatedly that the surveys show the overwhelming majority of participants were satisfied. However, the suits allege his namesake real-estate seminars were a massive fraud designed to "upsell" students into buying course packages costing as much as \$35,000. As a candidate, Trump has said he will run the U.S. government like he runs his businesses. So his past hiring practices could offer insight into how a President Trump might fill scores of key federal positions.

Associated Press: The Latest: First lady says Clinton is her friend

<http://bigstory.ap.org/f335ddc243bf483189f30279d452c658>

Donald Trump says the media are biased against him and most voters agree with him. A new

Associated Press-GfK poll found that even voters who aren't backing the Republican presidential nominee see media bias against Trump. Overall, 56 percent of likely voters say the media are biased against Trump. Just 5 percent say the bias is in his favor. Another 37 percent say coverage is mostly balanced. Eighty-seven percent of Trump's supporters see the media as biased against him. Even Hillary Clinton's supporters are more likely to see bias against Trump than bias in his favor, 30 percent to 8 percent. Sixty percent of Clinton's supporters see no bias in either direction.

Associated Press: Voting for Trump? GOP lawmakers get into rhetorical knots

<http://bigstory.ap.org/ebd52401672c42ca976f67a3a622e874>

Some Republicans who were for Donald Trump before they were against him are now promising to vote for the GOP presidential nominee. Dozens of Republicans repudiated Trump after he was caught on videotape making crude, predatory comments about grabbing women. Endorsements were withdrawn and many lawmakers called for the nominee to drop out of the presidential race. Weeks later, several Republicans are back on the Trump train, while others in tough races won't say whether they're voting for their party's standard-bearer. Several Republicans have tied themselves into rhetorical knots in trying to support the White House candidate — or back away from him. Consider Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah. He was one of the first to denounce Trump, saying hours after the 2005 "Access Hollywood" videotape was made public on Oct. 7 that the Republican candidate's "abhorrent" comments meant Chaffetz could "no longer in good conscience endorse" him.

Associated Press: Trump targets Bill Clinton ; Michelle Obama boosts Hillary

<http://bigstory.ap.org/59914c196c4843d7acce474305c05a69>

Seeking to lash Hillary Clinton to her husband's sprawling post-presidential empire, Donald Trump accused the couple of turning to corruption to enrich themselves while in public service. Michelle Obama boosted Clinton at a North Carolina rally, meanwhile, as the candidate cheered her on. On Thursday, the GOP nominee cited newly released emails from her campaign chairman's personal account showing Doug Band, a former Bill Clinton aide, describing overlapping relationships between the Clinton Foundation and the family's private gains. "Mr. Band called the arrangement 'unorthodox.' The rest of us call it outright corrupt," said Trump at the first of three campaign rallies in Ohio. "If the Clintons were willing to play this fast and loose with their enterprise when they weren't in the White House, just imagine what they'll do in the Oval Office." Band wrote the 2011 memo to defend his firm, Teneo, describing how he encouraged his clients to contribute to the foundation and get consulting and speaking gigs for Bill Clinton. Some of his work included obtaining "in-kind services for the president and his family — for personal travel, hospitality, vacation and the like."

National News:

Associated Press: Mom says noose leaves life-changing emotional scar on son

<http://bigstory.ap.org/25ee976590f14250b1ac765faac1fecf>

A black 15-year-old in Mississippi shook in fear as he described how white schoolmates put a noose around his neck and pulled it tight, leaving no physical scars but perhaps a life-changing emotional wound, his mother said Thursday. Stacey Payton, a 47-year-old college instructor, said her son met her in her office and told her about the Oct. 13 incident a few hours after it happened in a high school locker room. "His first words were, 'Mom ... please stay calm. Don't panic. I don't want you to call the school because it's already been handled,'" Payton told The Associated Press. "When I was looking at him, he was shaking and the expression on his face — he was horrified. He was very fearful." She expected him to say he had received a bad grade or had gotten in trouble for talking in class.

Associated Press: Police begin arresting pipeline protesters in North Dakota

<http://bigstory.ap.org/af42ac75441849d596dd726b24b7b0e8>

Armed soldiers and law enforcement officers dressed in riot gear on Thursday began arresting protesters who had set up a camp on private land to block construction of the Dakota Access oil pipeline. Several protesters were led away and put in trucks, including at least one handcuffed, as

authorities converged on the camp in North Dakota. Law enforcement officers and soldiers driving trucks, military Humvees and buses began to advance at midday and formed a horseshoe-like loop once they reached the camp, where about 200 protesters were awaiting them — some defiant and other praying. Officials used a loudspeaker to warn protesters to move out. Two helicopters and an airplane monitored the operation from the air.

Associated Press: US charges 61 defendants in call center scam based in India

<http://bigstory.ap.org/5b6511c5e77b4607a31a0a7587e7f3e7>

It can be a frightening call to get — and it's a familiar one for many thousands of Americans. Callers posing as tax and immigration agents are threatening arrest, deportation or other punishment unless money is sent to help clear up what they say is a deportation warrant or to cover supposedly unpaid income taxes. The government says it's a scam that's tricked at least 15,000 people into shelling out more than \$300 million. The callers primarily targeted immigrants and the elderly and preyed on people's worst fears — that they could be locked up in prison or forced to leave the country, officials said. In a first-of-its kind nationwide takedown, the Justice Department announced charges Thursday against 61 defendants in the United States and abroad in connection with call center operations based in India. As agents fanned out across the country to make arrests, officials in Washington said they wanted to alert the public that the calls are all part of a criminal fraud.

World News:

Associated Press: Iraqis find bomb factory, tunnels on long road to Mosul

<http://bigstory.ap.org/faeb69a4e54e41269c46615b6feb9451>

Iraqi forces explored a network of tunnels and uncovered a bomb-making facility on Thursday in a village near Mosul that was recently retaken from the Islamic State group, offering a glimpse of the challenge they will face as they move closer to the city. Ten days into the offensive, the special forces are still at least 4 miles (6 kilometers) east of the city and have faced stiff resistance, with IS firing mortars and machine guns, and sending armored suicide truck bombs trundling across the arid plains. Once inside the small, sparsely populated villages that ring Mosul, Iraqi forces must contend with explosive booby-traps and hidden snipers. The fortifications are expected to grow even more lethally daunting once they enter Iraq's second-largest city. The extremists captured Mosul in a matter of days in 2014, and have had more than two years to build up its defenses and brutally root out any internal opposition. The operation to retake the northern city is expected to take weeks, if not months.

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