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Subject: Clips – Saturday, November 12, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

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.

Associated Press: Richland rec board gets hearing before Haley fires them

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=otx50wtk

SC State Wire

Gov. Nikki Haley says she wants to remove all seven members of the Richland County Recreation Commission board because they allowed the commission's indicted former leader to abuse his power. In Thursday's executive order, Haley said she will hold a public hearing with a three-person panel Nov. 30 to let the commissioners make their case they shouldn't be fired before she makes her final decision. The board supported ex-director James Brown III, who resigned after he was indicted on a misconduct in office charge. Prosecutors say Brown tried to coerce female employees to have sex with him. The governor says the board did not properly review complaints of harassment and that Brown was hiring family members. She says the board also gave Brown raises he didn't earn.

The State: Gov. Haley seeks to fire 7 controversial Richland County Recreation board members

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article113983448.html>

John Monk

Gov. Nikki Haley is moving to fire all seven members of the Richland County Recreation Board. The rare action by Haley comes after months of lawsuits alleging sexual harassment by recreation director James Brown III, who retired last month after he was indicted for misconduct in office. It also follows allegations by a bipartisan majority of the 17-member Richland County Legislative Delegation that members of the appointed recreation board that oversaw Brown had grossly mismanaged the recreation commission's affairs for years. Lawmakers said board members allowed unwarranted pay raises and widespread nepotism and thus had neglected their duties. In a 10-page executive order announced Thursday afternoon by the governor's office, Haley affirmed the charges brought by the delegation majority and named the seven board members she seeks to remove.

WIS: Gov. Nikki Haley threatens to remove recreation commissioners in executive order

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33682072/gov-nikki-haley-threatens-to-remove-recreation-commissioners-in-executive-order>

Jeremy Turnage

Gov. Nikki Haley has signed an executive order beginning the process of potentially removing all seven members of the Richland County Recreation Commission. According to the order, Haley is convening a three-person panel to hold a public hearing on Nov. 30, 2016 for the purpose of letting the seven members of the recreation commission testify on charges that they have helped former executive director James Brown, III. Charges of nepotism, sexual harassment, and excessive spending have been filed against the former director. Brown was indicted on charges that he used his office to coerce sex. The Richland County Legislative Delegation has repeatedly asked Haley to step in and remove the commissioners. For her part, the governor asked for further information from the recreation commission on the matter. "This was just a snowballing effect of complaint after complaint after complaint," said State Representative Joe Lourie, a Democrat who represents Richland County.

WACH: Gov. Haley issues executive order to remove Richland County Recreation Commissioners
<http://wach.com/news/local/gov-haley-issues-executive-order-to-remove-richland-county-recreation-commissioners>

Tara Petitt

Governor Nikki Haley has issued an executive order calling for the removal of all seven Richland County Recreation Commission board members. Governor Haley's order states the commissioners neglected their duty by failing to investigate harassment and nepotism claims against former agency director James Brown, III. Last month, a Richland County grand jury indicted Brown on a misconduct in office charge. Just two days later, Brown was arrested and charged with intimidating a witness tied to that case. He subsequently retired. "We thank the Governor and her staff for their diligence in pursuit of all the facts dealing with this complicated matter. This has always been about what is fair and right for the employees of the Recreation Commission and about providing quality, fiscally responsible services to the citizens of Richland County," said Senator Joel Lourie.

WOLO: Governor Haley Issues Executive Order Seeking Removal of Richland Rec Commission Members

<http://live-abccolumbia.pantheonsite.io/2016/11/10/governor-haley-issues-executive-order-seeking-removal-richland-rec-commission-members/>

Thursday Governor Nikki Haley issued an Executive order in regards to the Richland County Recreation Commission Board Members. In the Executive Order from the Governor, it states, I hereby provide written notice to all members of the Richland County Rec Commission of the specific charges brought against them showing cause for removal from office. I hereby provide reasonable notice of an opportunity to be heard at a public hearing to be held on November 30, 2016 specific time and location to be determined. The Richland County Rec Commission has been under fire after allegations of sexual harassment and nepotism surfaced concerning the Commission's Director. Last month Governor Haley had requested the board turn over an internal report on the allegations against the former director James Brown the third.

WLTX: Governor to Hold Hearing to Decide If Board Should Be Fired

<http://www.wltx.com/news/local/governor-to-hold-hearing-to-decide-if-board-should-be-fired/350852391>

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley has charged all seven members of the Richland County Recreation Commission Board, and says they'll have to face a hearing to determine if they'll be fired. Haley sent a letter late Thursday to members, outlining three main charges against the group: Charge 1: The Board neglected its duty to review nepotism complaints involving the Executive Director James Brown III and had knowledge he had family members working at the RCRC. Charge 2: The Board neglected its duty in making compensation decisions regarding Executive Director James Brown III. Charge 3: The Board neglected its duty and was misfeasant and malfeasant by failing to investigate claims of harassment, retaliation, and intimidation and in improperly delegating to investigate Brown to Brown's subordinate. The charges against them will be heard by a three-person panel on November 30. Haley said those who don't come to the hearing will be removed from office on December 1.

Veteran's Day:

Associated Press: South Carolina motorcycle riders honor Vietnam vets

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=5qXdtY91

SC State Wire

Motorcycle riders from across South Carolina are honoring the state's Vietnam veterans in a Yellow Ribbon Ride. Saturday's event begins with registration opening at 7 a.m. at Spirit Communications Park in downtown Columbia. Riders depart at 11 a.m. and will travel to the South Carolina Military Museum located across from William Brice Stadium on Bluff Road. There will be a ceremony there to honor the state's 980 veterans whose names are on the Vietnam Memorial. A cookout and a movie about the state's Vietnam veterans are also scheduled. Registration is available at www.welcometohometocarolina.com. Participants do not need to ride a motorcycle to participate.

The State: Saturday Yellow Ribbon ride honors fallen Vietnam War vets from South Carolina

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/military/article114272078.html>

Rachael Myers Lowe

Of the 170,000 South Carolinians deployed to Vietnam between 1956 and 1975, 982 did not come home. On Saturday, November 12, the South Carolina Military Museum honors the state's fallen Vietnam era veterans with a Yellow Ribbon motorcycle ride and BBQ. Riders will assemble at 10:00 a.m. at Spirit Communications Park in Columbia for the 11 a.m. parade. The parade will end up at the South Carolina Military Museum at 1 National Guard Road near Williams-Brice Stadium. The first 982 riders will be given a yellow ribbon with the name of one of the state's fallen to carry to the end of the parade. At the parade's end, the 982 ribbons will be placed in a locker and delivered to the SC Military Museum for display, the organizers said.

The State: USC to store, digitize 10,000 vintage Marine Corps films

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article114017928.html>

Roddie Burris

The rigorous military training that has taken place for decades at Parris Island in Beaufort County has made the basic training base synonymous with the U.S. Marine Corps. For most of the 20th Century, the Marine Corps archived film footage of that recruit training along with Marines fighting in wars, including World War II, the Korean and Vietnam wars and various public relations activities. Starting at the first of the year, that film collection – 10,000 Marine Corps film – will be permanently transferred to the University of South Carolina, where it will be digitized, stored and made available for public viewing. The footage covers Marine Corps activities from 1918 through the 1970s. On this Veterans Day, the university is launching a campaign to help raise funds to pay for digitizing the film and putting it on display, while also establishing an endowment to pay for its future preservation in cool storage.

The State: Honoring a Midlands war hero

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/military/article114320553.html>

Tracy Glantz

Jack Van Loan served as executive director of Columbia's Five Points Association for more than 20 years. Before that, he spent six years as a North Vietnamese prisoner of war, then more time in the military before retiring as director of operations for the 9th Air Force at Shaw Air Force Base. Friday, Five Points unveiled its Centennial Plaza and a tribute to Van Loan: a statue of him based on a photo taken moments after he was released as a POW.

Aiken Standard: Aiken's Veterans Day ceremony thanks those who served

http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/aiken-s-veterans-day-ceremony-thanks-those-who-served/article_dbab2fac-a852-11e6-893b-b72e4df0f4e6.html

Dede Biles

The number of World War II veterans is dwindling, and sometimes it gets lonely being among the last survivors. "I'm proud to be one of the remaining ones, but I think people have pretty much forgotten about us," a wistful Don Turno said Friday before the start of the Veterans Day Ceremony at Aiken County Veterans Memorial Park. "It's all about Vietnam and the Korean War now, along with Afghanistan and Iraq," he continued. "And they deserve every bit of that recognition. But you don't hear much about World War II anymore. I don't think kids today know anything about it." Turno, who will turn 90 soon, was in the Navy, and he spent time on a light cruiser, the USS Amsterdam. "I was in fire control, which meant I aimed and fired the guns," he said. "We were off the coast of Japan when the atomic bombs were dropped. I heard the rumble. I'm sure I did."

Aiken Standard: Veterans honored in North Augusta in downtown ceremony

http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/veterans-honored-in-north-augusta-in-downtown-ceremony/article_5f64495e-a84f-11e6-ae65-cf00d00a9653.html

Nick Terry

Veterans across the country were honored Friday morning in downtown North Augusta with the Jesse C. Lynch Memorial American Legion Post 71's Veterans Day ceremony. More than 100 residents turned out for the event, which featured performances from Fox Creek High School's band and chorus, as well as North Augusta High School's NJROTC drill team. "We had a lot of community involvement in it, and we had a big crowd," said Ralph Wainright, commander of Post 71. "All the services were represented in it by either active, retired or just a veteran, so I think it went very well. "Col. Dr. Michael A. Weber was the keynote speaker and delivered the Veterans Day address. During his address, he focused on the sacrifices each veteran has made for the betterment of their country.

Aiken Standard: Father, son reunited at Jefferson Elementary Veterans Day program

http://www.aikenstandard.com/education/father-son-reunited-at-jefferson-elementary-veterans-day-program/article_27062086-a760-11e6-87cd-5708bc40a72e.html

Larry Wood

Jefferson Elementary's annual Veterans Day program Thursday morning turned into a family reunion for Caster James Anderson and his son, Caster Jeremie Anderson. Caster Jeremie Anderson, who is in the U.S. Army, had been in Kuwait for nine months, and his father thought he wouldn't be home until next week. "I passed by him and did a double-take," the older Anderson said. "I was surprised. Here he was." The younger Anderson, who has been in the service 19 years, surprised his sons, Exzavion Garner, Ezron Garner and Autreyu Bradshaw on Wednesday morning. "I knocked on the door yesterday morning as they were getting ready to go to school and got them," he said. Caster James Anderson called Jefferson's 22nd annual Veterans Day program, which featured patriotic music and recognized more than 50 military men and women in the audience for their service, just "fabulous."

Independent Mail: Residents at Anderson veterans home remember their service

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/11/11/residents-anderson-veterans-home-remember-their-service/93637812/>

Frances Parrish

On what is now Veterans Day 72 years ago, Gerald Morgan joined the Navy. Born in Williamston, he was a cook in World War II and the Korean War. "If I were able, I'd go back today," Morgan said. "I was proud to serve. I think it's an honor to help serve my nation, my country." Morgan followed his four older brothers into the war. When he wasn't serving in active duty on a Navy ship between World War II and the Korean War, he was a Navy reservist. Just like Morgan, injured veteran George Pressley says he would serve again without hesitation if he had the chance. He was a staff sergeant in the Marine Corps from 1980 to 2000. But in the last 10 years in the Marines, he was part of a special operations team. He was on a classified mission when he and his buddy Paul received bad intel that cost Paul his life and injured Presley.

Island Packet: On Veterans Day, an old warrior remembers a forgotten war

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/bg-military/article114212693.html>

Robert Warden, cane in hand, took his place at the podium as the American flag — and banners for each military branch — fluttered behind him. In addition to his country's flag, he'd served under two of those banners, retiring as a commander from the Coast Guard in 1981 after serving in the Army in the 1950s. In Korea. As a mortarman in the 7th Infantry Division, 17th Regiment. In a war that claimed more than 36,000 American lives. He reminded his Hilton Head Island audience, many of them fellow veterans, of those deaths as they sat in black chairs and listened to him speak, his movements as deliberate as his remarks. On this Veterans Day, he wanted us to remember the Korean War. And so, for Friday's ceremony at the Veterans Memorial at Shelter Cove Community Park, he wore his old Army uniform.

Morning News: Hundred turn out for Veterans Day at Florence park

http://www.scnw.com/news/local/article_d7c41024-a86c-11e6-90fc-cbcfe978ccf3.html

Jessica Imbimbo

More than 600 veterans, service members and Florence residents attended the eighth annual Veterans Day Ceremony on Friday morning at Florence Veterans Park. The event was both celebratory and emotional as people from across Florence County arrived to honor living veterans and remember those who have died. Retired Army Col. Barry Wingard led the Veterans Day proceedings and welcomed everyone to "one of the most beautiful settings anywhere around here."

The Herald: A tribute to veterans in Rock Hill

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article114309688.html>

Rock Hill paid tribute to its servicemen and women on Veterans Day with A Tribute to Veterans, a ceremony at Glencairn Garden. The event was organized by a committee of veterans, in cooperation with the Rock Hill Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department. The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2889 and the Rock Hill High School Air Force Jr. ROTC were among the participants. Scores turned out to pay their respects and honor those who have served the country.

Herald-Journal: Veterans share their pride in serving country

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161111/veterans-share-their-pride-in-serving-country?rssfeed=true>

Alyssa Mulliger

olchildren holding "We love our veterans" and "Thank you" posters gathered along South Church Street Friday to watch the annual Veterans Day Parade in downtown Spartanburg. This year's parade was led by nearly a dozen veterans from White Oak Manor and Windsor House nursing homes. The World War II, Vietnam and Korean War veterans smiled brightly at onlookers along the parade route. The parade also featured veterans of more recent wars and current service members, some of whom walked the parade route to shake hands with fellow servicemen and women, while others traveled in classic cars and vintage military vehicles. Many of the spectators were veterans themselves who came to watch with their friends and families. Here's what some of them had to say about serving their country...

General Assembly News:

The State: Pension costs rising as SC lawmakers look for a fix

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article114020063.html>

Cassie Cope

As S.C. lawmakers grapple with how to fix the state's ailing pension system, the cost of having roughly \$20 billion in unfunded liabilities is ticking up. That cost is rising by about \$150,000 an hour, said state Rep. Jeff Bradley, R-Beaufort, a member of the joint House-Senate panel tasked with addressing the underfunded pension system. That sum is interest on the money owed to pay for the benefits promised to S.C. state retirees. That debt is increasing as pension investments fail to earn as much — 7.5 percent — as assumed by state law. To address that gap, lawmakers could increase the

amount of taxpayer money that government employers — state and local governments plus school districts — pay into the pension system. State workers also could pay more from their paychecks for their pensions. Retirees now get an annual 1 percent cost-of-living increase, capped at \$500, to their pensions. That benefit accounts for \$3.3 billion of the pension debt, said Public Employee Benefit Authority director Peggy Boykin.

The State: SC lawmakers will have \$446 million more to spend next year

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article114003493.html>

Cassie Cope

S.C. lawmakers will have an added \$446 million to spend next year, bringing the state's general fund budget to \$7.9 billion, the Board of Economic Advisors forecast Thursday. That total includes \$139 million reserved for one-time costs — like building projects — if the state closes its books with a surplus. The state's next budget will take effect July 1. On top of the \$446 million, another \$16 million will be freed up because fewer general fund dollars will be needed to make up for a shortfall in sales tax revenues used to reduce property taxes. Lawmakers will decide whether the added money should go to shore up the state's underfunded pension system, address crumbling roads and rural schools, or pay for Hurricane Matthew recovery costs.

Associated Press: State officials expect additional \$446 million next year

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ZiUz7lp6

SC State Wire

The State Board of Economic Advisors say South Carolina budget-writers can expect to have an additional \$446 million next year. The State newspaper reported (<http://bit.ly/2eYJhcM>) the forecast Thursday includes nearly \$140 million reserved for one-time expenditures, if the state ends up with a surplus. Another \$16 million will be available because less money will be needed to make up for a shortfall in sales tax revenue that is used to reduce property taxes. Lawmakers returning to Columbia in January will decide how to use the money. Possibilities include the state's roads, rural schools, recovery from Hurricane Matthew and the underfunded pension system. The state's next budget will take effect July 1."

SC Agency News:

Associated Press: SC prisons open up program for veterans behind bars

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

SC State Wire

South Carolina prisons are starting a new program to help veterans behind bars prepare for life outside of prison. The Department of Corrections announced in a news release that on veterans with an honorable discharge will be allowed into the 96 spots at the MacDougall Correctional Institution. Prisons director Bryan Stirling says about 10 percent of South Carolina's 20,000 prisoners are veterans and the state wants to provide them as much support as they can. Veterans within two years of their prison release date are eligible for the program, which will be led by Michael Cole. He is the retired commander of the Navy Consolidated Brig in Charleston.

The State: Owners reluctant to fix shaky dams could cost taxpayers

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article114050533.html>

Sammy Fretwell

About 20 percent of the people told by the state to repair dams battered by last year's historic flood have failed to respond — and South Carolina's top environmental regulator says that could cost taxpayers. Catherine Heigel, director at the Department of Health and Environmental Control, said Thursday that non-compliance problems, as well as issues with dams hammered by Hurricane Matthew last month, have the agency in need of more money for dam safety. DHEC is developing a one-time, supplemental budget request on dams that will be submitted to the Legislature. Heigel did not say how much the agency would ask for. She made her remarks at Thursday's DHEC board

meeting. "At some point the state has to step in and take action," Heigel said, referring to work that must be done on dams. "That action could be fairly minor. Even minor vegetation removal is still costly. Or it could be to the extent of engineering a permanent breach."

Greenville News: County DSN agencies say .00 med error rate doesn't mean 0 errors

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/11/10/county-dsn-agencies-say-00-med-error-rate-doesnt-mean-0-errors/93287436/>

Tim Smith

So far this year, county disability agencies have reported 13 critical incidents involving medication errors, the state Department of Disabilities and Special Needs has told The Greenville News. Such reports are required, according to DDSN's directive on medication error reporting, when "serious adverse reactions" such as harm to the client occur. DDSN spokeswoman Lois Park Mole noted that during the time the 13 incidents were reported, DDSN providers cared for 5,316 people in residential settings. The agency did not detail the incidents, which it released to The News in response to follow-up questions by the newspaper as a result of last week's listing by DDSN of 41 providers in the DDSN system and their medication error rates.

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.

Associated Press: Rep. Gowdy to speak at service remembering fallen officers

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

SC State Wire

U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy is the special guest speaker at an annual remembrance of fallen South Carolina law enforcement officers. The South Carolina chapter of the Fraternal Order of Police has scheduled a service on Friday at the Law Enforcement Monument on the Statehouse grounds in Columbia. The monument was dedicated in 2005.

The State: Congressman Trey Gowdy among those honoring fallen officers at SC State House

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article114317533.html>

Cynthia Roldan

As fireworks rattled off in the background, a somber group of more than 100 family members and officers gathered Friday at the State House to honor South Carolina's fallen officers. Forest Acres police officer Greg Alia, 32, and Columbia police officer Stacy L. Case, 37, were among 17 fallen officers added to the S.C. Law Enforcement Memorial memorial that dates back to 1891. Greenville police officer Allen Lee Jacobs, who was shot and killed in March while chasing a gang member, was named during a roll call, but will be added to the memorial by the 2017 service. The night's featured speaker was Congressman Trey Gowdy, who has represented U.S. House District 4 since 2010, and easily defeated his challengers on Tuesday in his re-election bid. In light of the election, Gowdy highlighted how unique the United States is because of the respect and adherence its citizens have to the rule of law. Gowdy said the law is what makes the rich and the poor drive the same speed limit and pay their taxes on the same date.

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.

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: South Carolinians could land jobs in Donald Trump administration

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/south-carolinians-could-land-jobs-in-donald-trump-administration/article_08c9442e-a781-11e6-a306-9b00de851265.html

Emma Dumain

Three South Carolinians who put their political fortunes on the line backing Donald Trump early in his campaign could be rewarded with jobs in the president-elect's administration. Those working closely with the Trump transition team say Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, state Rep. Jim Merrill and Columbia real estate developer Bill Stern are in the best position among Trump's many Palmetto State backers to be offered to work for him in Washington, D.C. "One thing I learned is, Mr. Trump is extremely loyal," said Ed McMullen, Trump's South Carolina campaign chairman. "Every one of the people who worked on the campaign from start to finish will be in a position to be a part of this administration because Mr. Trump directed that to be the case." McMullen said McMaster, Merrill and Stern "were absolutely critical to the (S.C.) primary win, and they will play major roles in the future of how the administration develops." He added "opportunities will present themselves."

The State: Trump's SC supporters not rushing to join his administration

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article114006258.html>

Cassie Cope

S.C. Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster says he is not seeking a cabinet position or ambassador's job in a Trump Administration. McMaster, who delivered one of the speeches nominating Donald Trump for the presidency at the GOP convention, said he is "not too interested in doing anything in Washington." Instead, McMaster, 69, said he hopes to run for S.C. governor in 2018. "I'm much more excited about South Carolina." Still, McMaster, a former S.C. attorney general and state GOP chairman, did not totally swear off an administrative gig. "In politics, you never say never." Columbia real estate developer Bill Stern, chairman of the Southeast Business Coalition for Trump, also said he was not seeking a Trump Administration post. "I'm very happy with my day job," said Stern. But, he added, if Trump asked for his help "certainly I would consider."

Post and Courier: Veterans consider how this week's elections will affect them and the country they served

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/veterans-consider-how-this-week-s-elections-will-affect-them/article_addcf1ae-a75e-11e6-a106-1337a83891fb.html

Prentiss Findlay

Retired Marine Maj. Gen. James Livingston of Mount Pleasant, a Medal of Honor recipient, hopes Tuesday's election of Donald Trump will be a catalyst for more military funding. Livingston said defense funding cuts and downsizing are top concerns. "Young Americans have to go overseas so many times because we don't have enough forces," he said. "And I think they just need to put their money where their mouth is in terms of making this country great again." Ed Burns, Dorchester County Veterans Affairs officer, said Trump's election could prove to be a positive for the military and veterans. "He's pro-military and pro-veteran, so I would hope that once he gets in and gets settled that we'll see an increase in funding," Burns said. "I think the majority of veterans, they would all sort of feel that way. I was 28 years in the Air Force and we always needed money."

Island Packet: CNN's Bakari Sellers calls for unity, rebukes Trump in speech on Hilton Head Island
<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article113859528.html>

Lucas High

In the wake of an election that saw Beaufort County vote overwhelmingly in favor of Donald Trump, CNN political analyst and former Democratic South Carolina lawmaker Bakari Sellers walked a thin line during a speech Thursday between calling for unity and critiquing the new president-elect's conservative policy positions. Sellers gave the keynote address before about 800 local government officials and members of the business community at the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce's annual State of the Region luncheon on Hilton Head Island. He noted Democratic Party presidential nominee Hillary Clinton's lead in the popular vote and said Trump will not be governing with a mandate from the nation's voters. Because of the slim margin of victory and relatively low voter turnout, Tuesday's election "wasn't a revolution or anything like that," Sellers said.

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."

The State: Trump's climate policies highlight USC conference

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article114269963.html>

Sammy Fretwell

Splashed across a large screen Friday at the University of South Carolina were slides showing how one expert believes president-elect Donald Trump will deal with climate change, the phenomenon tied to rising sea levels, drought and soaring temperatures. "Climate policy is dead, at the federal level," said Washington lawyer Avi Zevin, who spoke during a climate conference at USC's law school. Zevin, who works with one of the country's top energy law firms, said he expects Trump to dismantle many efforts under the Obama administration to curb greenhouse gas pollution that contributes heavily to global warming. That includes walking away from international climate accords the U.S. signed and dropping proposed rules that would for the first time limit carbon pollution from power plants, he said. At the same time, Trump will likely increase a push to bolster U.S. oil and gas production and seek to approve new oil pipelines, such as the controversial Keystone pipeline in the Midwest, he said. Critics say ramping up an emphasis on fossil fuels could worsen climate change.

President-elect Trump News:

Associated Press: Trump takes on enormous task of building an administration

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

President-elect Donald Trump is shaking up his transition team as he plunges into setting up his administration, an enormous undertaking that likely requires him to alter his hands-on management style and consider going outside his small, insular group of loyalists. Vice President-elect Mike Pence is now heading the operations, a demotion for New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who had been running the Republican's transition planning for months. The scramble is on to identify people for top White House jobs and Cabinet posts, a herculean task that must be well in hand by the time Trump is inaugurated on Jan. 20. For Trump, who ran on a pledge to "drain the swamp" of Washington insiders, the team is strikingly heavy on those with long political resumes. Another apparent contradiction

emerged Friday as Trump, who repeatedly vowed to repeal the Affordable Care Act "on Day One," said he would be open to maintaining portions of President Barack Obama's signature legislative achievement.

Associated Press: Trump, McConnell and Ryan: an unlikely new power trio for DC

<http://bigstory.ap.org/d5803bcc8ef64c159c54305e5eb4984c>

Washington's new power trio consists of a bombastic billionaire, a telegenic policy wonk, and a taciturn political tactician. How well they can get along will help determine what gets done over the next four years, and whether the new president's agenda flounders or succeeds. President-elect Donald Trump, House Speaker Paul Ryan, and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell make up an unlikely alliance, one defined in advance mostly by Trump's opposition to the Washington establishment that Ryan and McConnell exemplify. Trump and Ryan clashed throughout the campaign, with Trump taking offense when Ryan initially refused to endorse him and later distanced himself over the audio of Trump talking about groping women. "Paul Ryan, a man who doesn't know how to win (including failed run four years ago), must start focusing on the budget, military, vets etc.," Trump groused over Twitter last month.

Associated Press: What Trump might really do with health care

<http://bigstory.ap.org/01acebcac8134e50b1a8507334a5e9b8>

President-elect Donald Trump has said he may keep some parts of his predecessor's signature health care overhaul. No final decisions have been made. Based on interviews with congressional Republicans, here's a general idea of what goes, what may stay, and what's in doubt...

Associated Press: Campaign's disdain for civility could leave lasting damage

<http://bigstory.ap.org/46cab92e074a4a7f96c3f8bcd2a01767>

When a South Carolina congressman shouted "You lie!" during a speech by President Barack Obama in 2009, House members rebuked him for violating norms of civility. After this year's presidential campaign, the idea that people were once troubled by the outburst seems almost quaint. Civility in politics has been declining for years, both a cause and symptom of a changing culture where anonymous verbal assaults are fired freely across the internet, and cable TV routinely broadcasts words once banned from the airwaves. But Donald Trump's presidential run took name-calling and mockery — things that voters long said they detested in their candidates — and normalized them into a winning political strategy. Now Trump, the president-elect, is calling for unity in words that draw attention precisely because they sound so unlike Trump, the candidate. But many question whether it is possible to reverse the campaign's damage to political discourse and its ripples out to the way Americans speak to and about each other.

Associated Press: Amid anti-Trump protests, 1 injured in Oregon shooting

<http://bigstory.ap.org/1554285a8de0436fa326aa6e22fca58a>

As protests of President-elect Donald Trump entered another day, police in Portland, Oregon, say one person was shot and injured by a man who had gotten into a confrontation with a protester then opened fire. Portland police said the victim was taken to a hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries and they were looking for a male suspect, who apparently fled in his vehicle after the shooting early Saturday morning on a Willamette River bridge. The shooting followed rowdy Friday night protests, when police used tear gas in response to "burning projectiles" thrown at officers, police said on Twitter. Hundreds of people marched through the city, disrupting traffic and spray-painting graffiti. Authorities reported instances of vandalism and assault during a rally that organizers had billed as peaceful earlier in the day. In other parts of the country, spirited demonstrations on college campuses and peaceful marches along downtown streets have taken place since Wednesday.

Associated Press: Stressed post-election New Yorkers vent on subway notes

<http://bigstory.ap.org/c01b714ce75c43a9aa4ee148344afd3e>

New Yorkers struggling with post-election stress have found an outlet for the blues — by pouring their

political souls onto sticky notes that fill walls of a Manhattan subway station. In the days after Republican Donald Trump won the White House, Democrat Hillary Clinton's loss brought many of her New York supporters to tears — even in public. Enter 28-year-old Brooklyn artist Matthew Chavez, known as Levee. He set up a table in a long tunnel of the Union Square station where he hands out the blank pastel notes on which straphangers scribble. He calls this "Subway Therapy." It's free. More than 1,500 people have shared their grief and anxiety since Wednesday, posting thoughts on the white subway tiles, according to Subway Therapy's Instagram. One reads, "You will not divide us. Love is everything." Another says, "It doesn't end today." One says "If they go low, we go high," echoing first lady Michelle Obama. The uplifting art installation counterbalances what Clinton supporters say is Trump's racism, bigotry and ignorance.

Hurricane Matthew Recovery:

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..

Post and Courier: Hurricane curtailed home-buying in Charleston region

http://www.postandcourier.com/business/hurricane-curtailed-home-buying-in-charleston-region/article_9d06db30-a752-11e6-a5e6-6f8a704daacd.html

Warren L. Wise

Hurricane Matthew didn't wash away Charleston-area home sales in October, but the storm dampened the pace from previous months. Transactions in the region rose 0.6 percent over October 2015, according to preliminary data Thursday from the Charleston Trident Association of Realtors. Last month, 1,272 homes changed hands at a median price of \$240,000, up about \$15,000, or 6.7 percent, from a year earlier. So far this year, 14,963 homes have been sold in the Charleston region at a median price of \$240,000. At the current pace, sales for the year could surpass the 2015 total of 16,202. Volume is up 9 percent through Oct. 31, and the median price is 6 percent higher. "October's home sales remained strong and steady, particularly considering we had to contend with Hurricane Matthew that evacuated much of the Lowcountry for multiple days," said Michael Sally, president of the association. "We expect that sales volume will quiet some as we head into the holiday season, but price growth will likely remain steady as we are still working with a very limited inventory of homes."

Serial Killer Todd 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.

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.

Herald-Journal: Prayer vigil to promote healing amid ongoing serial killer investigation
<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161110/prayer-vigil-to-promote-healing-amid-ongoing-serial-killer-investigation?rssfeed=true>

Daniel J. Gross

Amid an ongoing probe into suspected serial killer Todd Kohlhepp, a group of Spartanburg County residents is seeking to bring people together in prayer Monday. "The purpose of the prayer vigil is to unite all people in our county and beyond who want to come together and pray. This is a grassroots effort of several friends who felt led to give their time with planning and to bring the start of healing during this time of tragedy," said Kimberly Shell, a Spartanburg County resident and one of the organizers. Kohlhepp is charged with four counts of murder after authorities say he confessed to the 13-year-old Superbike Motorsports quadruple homicide in Spartanburg County. He has also been charged with kidnapping after detectives found a missing Anderson woman chained up inside a locked container on his 96-acre Woodruff property, and has been linked to three other deaths — missing Anderson man Charlie Carver and married couple Johnny Coxie and Meagan McGraw-Coxie. All three bodies were found on the property owned by Kohlhepp, but Kohlhepp has not been charged in those cases.

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.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: The Latest: Bentley offers \$5K reward for wildfire arsonist
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=AX41TDH9

SC State Wire

Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley has announced a \$5,000 reward for anyone who provides information leading to the arrest and conviction of whoever's responsible for setting wildfires. Bentley, in a news release Friday, said the reward is being offered to try to identify anyone who is deliberately setting the blazes. Because of drought, all 67 counties in Alabama are under an emergency order banning all outside fires, including campfires, bonfires and trash fires. The "no burn" order will remain in effect until rescinded by the state forester. According to the Alabama Forestry Commission there have been more than 1,400 wildfires in Alabama since Oct. 1, destroying more than 15,000 acres.

Associated Press: Police: Wannabe weatherman set fire to gain Facebook views
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=bl2CRQwN

SC State Wire

A wannabe weatherman was jailed for arson after admitting he started a wildfire to draw attention to his selfie videos on Facebook, his town's police chief said Friday. Meanwhile, a Georgia sheriff appealed for help identifying the driver of a dark blue SUV last seen where other wildfires began. And in North Carolina, authorities suspect arson in more than 20 wildfires burning in a national forest. "It's really too bad because he's not a bad kid - he's just misguided," said James Stephens, the police chief in Jenkins, Kentucky, where Johnny Mullins, 21, was arrested this week on a second-degree arson charge. "He likes to do Facebook videos and have people follow him on his 'weather forecast,' so that's pretty much why he did what he did," the chief said. "He enjoyed the attention he got from the Facebook stuff."

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.

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, leaves 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.

Aiken Standard: Residents may see more smoke as a new wildfire flares up in S.C.

http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/residents-may-see-more-smoke-as-a-new-wildfire-flares/article_9e56413e-a774-11e6-a445-6b01a2638197.html

Tripp Girardeau

Local residents may have noticed smoke around the area Wednesday in Aiken, and there may be more smoke to come as a new fire has started up in South Carolina. Fire Chief Darryl Jones, with the South Carolina Forestry Commission, said a blaze has broken out in Pickens County in the Table Rock State Park area. He said smoke from this fire mixing with smoke from several dozen wildfires in western North Carolina, northeastern Georgia and southeastern Tennessee will likely cause Aiken residents to see more smoke in the air. "Basically, as wind directions change, we'll see more and less of the smoke," Jones said. The smoke likely will not dissipate until either the Appalachian wildfires are controlled or the state receives significant rainfall.

Independent Mail: Crews battle Pinnacle Mountain fire

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/2016/11/10/crews-battle-pinnacle-mountain-fire/93589640/>

Mike Eads

The forest fire atop Pinnacle Mountain has grown to over 250 acres, fueled by the dry air and drier conditions on the ground. Doug Wood, director of communications for the South Carolina Forestry Commission, said early Thursday night that firefighters had been ordered off the mountain until daybreak Friday, due to the steep terrain and worsening conditions. He said extra firefighters would be deployed to help the 50 or so already sent to the scene. The commission has extended its outdoor fire ban across the northern half of the state, due to "... extremely low relative humidities, which, combined with dry fuels on the ground, create the potential for outdoor fires escaping easily and spreading rapidly," according to statement from Wood.

Associated Press: Duke Energy to keep dry coal ash in place at 10 power plants

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=eU5UqXCu

SC State Wire

Duke Energy plans to cap unlined and potentially leaking coal ash pits at 10 generating plants in North Carolina and Indiana while excavating its sites in Kentucky and South Carolina, the country's largest electricity company said Friday. The company announced its plans ahead of a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency deadline next week for utilities to declare their plans for storing decades of waste left after burning coal for power. The ash is buried in hundreds of basins across the country. Duke Energy plans to store in place almost 70 percent of its ash by dehydrating the storage pools and covering the area with a waterproof liner and dirt to encase the waste. The basin bottoms usually aren't lined, and environmentalists contend heavy metals and other toxic materials filter into underground water supplies. Duke Energy denies that its pits contaminate groundwater.

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: 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.

Associated Press: Man awarded \$150K in malicious prosecution case
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=jkmLJLR7
SC State Wire

A jury has awarded a Rock Hill-area man \$150,000 in damages after deputies with the York County Sheriff's Office arrested him after injuring an assailant who had trespassed and attacked him on his property. The Herald of Rock Hill (<http://bit.ly/2fCBvq1>) reports that a York County jury found deputies had maliciously prosecuted Russell Shane Carter in the stand-your-ground case. In 2012, Carter told deputies someone had punched him on his property, prompting Carter to hit the assailant with a bat to subdue him before police arrived. Police charged Carter with assault after the other man needed medical treatment, but investigators dropped criminal charges seven weeks later. Carter filed a lawsuit in 2014, arguing that he was defending himself in his home under South Carolina's Castle Doctrine.

The Herald: He stood his ground and got arrested. A York County jury gave him \$150,000
<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/crime/article113974048.html>
A York County jury awarded \$150,000 in damages against the York County Sheriff's Office for malicious prosecution of a Rock Hill-area man arrested in a 2012 stand-your-ground case in which he

argued he should not have been charged. A sheriff's office spokesman said Thursday the office respects the jury's decision but stands by its officers. Russell Shane Carter, arrested for assault in a case in which prosecutors later dropped criminal charges, claimed in a lawsuit he was attacked first by another man trespassing on his property. In a statement to police, Carter told deputies the other man "blindsided" him with a "right hook" punch before he was able to fend off the other man. Then he hit the man with a bat to subdue him before police arrived.

Post and Courier: Uber settles sexual assault lawsuit with Charleston ties

http://www.postandcourier.com/business/uber-settles-sexual-assault-lawsuit-with-charleston-ties/article_d381231e-a81f-11e6-aa3a-277c00c73475.html

Thad Moore

Uber has settled a lawsuit filed by two women - including one with Charleston ties - who said they were sexually assaulted by drivers on the ride-hailing service and that the company didn't do enough to protect them. The settlement, which was reached last week, ends one of the biggest legal challenges yet to the transportation company's safety practices. The lawsuit sought to connect San Francisco-based Uber to its drivers' misconduct, even as the company says they are independent contractors, not employees. The lawsuit pointed to two incidents in which Uber drivers were accused of sexually assaulting passengers, including a Florida woman who was studying in Charleston when she said a driver attacked her in August 2015. After he dropped off the friend she was riding with, the driver allegedly drove away from her house, pulled into a parking lot and "proceeded to viciously rape her," the lawsuit says.

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.

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