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Subject: Clips – Sunday, December 4, 2016

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Gov. Nikki Haley News:

The State: Political novice tosses hat into SC gubernatorial ring

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article118737423.html>

Avery G. Wilks

Inspired by Donald Trump's successful outsider run for president, a little-known advocate against gun violence plans to join the crowded field of candidates running for S.C. governor in 2018. Jack Logan, founder of the Greenville-based Put Down the Guns Now Young People organization, told The Buzz he formally will announce his candidacy next June. The political novice, who ran unsuccessfully for Cowpens Town Council years ago, has not decided whether to run as a Democrat or Republican.

NOTE: But he says he thinks term-limited GOP Gov. Nikki Haley has been South Carolina's best leader yet. "I want to make sure South Carolina is made to go to work," Logan said. "I want to stop so much of the handouts in this state. These men, these women should not have to get food stamps. Every father should be made to work and support that child."

Nikki Haley: UN Ambassador News:

Post and Courier: Haley gets high marks from Israeli media

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/palmetto-politics---sanford-to-trump-don-t-fumble/article_413ff62e-b814-11e6-9201-d35425ddab93.html

Press accounts from the U.S.'s closest ally in the Middle East have been generally favorable of Gov. Nikki Haley's nomination as United Nations ambassador. Opined The Jerusalem Post: "she possesses the kind of clarity on controversial issues that is required in an arena filled with people whose key purpose is to cloud the distinction between good and evil." The Times of Israel told readers to remember that Haley in her State of the Union response accused President Barack Obama of not sufficiently supporting Israel. If Republicans were in power, they "would make international agreements that were celebrated in Israel and protested in Iran, not the other way around," the paper said. The center-left Haaretz newspaper said Haley's collective record "seems to have a lot in common politically with Israel's right-wing leaders."

Post and Courier: Haley's job description at the U.N. is mostly known, but some questions linger

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/haley-s-job-description-at-the-u-n-is-mostly/article_6db1d278-b8cc-11e6-9d11-2bf40c133869.html

Emma Dumain

When Gov. Nikki Haley becomes U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, she'll wake up most mornings in a suite of rooms at New York City's lavish Waldorf Astoria Hotel, which visitors have described as "palatial." She'll travel with her security detail the mile's walk – or likelier, the 10-minute drive – to U.N. headquarters, where she'll meet with some of the nearly 150 members of her staff, most of whom will be holdovers from previous ambassadors. As the representative of a permanent member on the U.N. Security Council, Haley will be on standby to recommend solutions to international crises as they arise and veto proposals that don't pass muster with the president and secretary of state who give her directives but also solicit her advice. At other times during the day, she'll receive updates and confer with her associates in Washington, D.C. She'll participate in

speaking engagements to broadcast the administration's foreign policy platform.

Politico: Pence's power play

<http://www.politico.com/story/2016/12/mike-pence-power-play-trump-transition-232151>

Eliana Johnson and Andrew Restuccia

When Mike Pence made his first visit to Capitol Hill as Donald Trump's running mate this summer, several Republican senators made a request: They wanted a Vice President Pence in the GOP lunch gathering every week to discuss critical political and policy issues. Three months later, Pence is expanding his reach beyond setting the agendas for Senate lunches. He is helping pick Trump's Cabinet members, soothing conservatives' anxieties and perhaps most importantly for Trump, turning into the healer-in-chief for a fractured Republican Party. He may not have the power or mystique of Dick Cheney, but it's clear that Pence is already assuming a serious and workmanlike role as vice president-elect, shoring up Trump's weaknesses in governing and intra-party relationships.

NOTE: It was Pence who made the call on Trump's behalf to make it clear the president-elect wanted Paul Ryan to remain speaker. It was Pence whose fingerprints are on the selection of at least four of the eight nominees to Trump's administration so far — Kansas Rep. Mike Pompeo, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley and Georgia Rep. Tom Price, all of whom he quietly elevated behind the scenes. Seema Verma, Trump's pick to head the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, worked with Pence to design Indiana's Medicaid expansion.

General Assembly News:

Post and Courier: Senate power struggle surfaces ahead of session

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/senate-power-struggle-surfaces-ahead-of-session/article_c29fd096-b71e-11e6-bc04-2b4764cc0952.html

Gavin Jackson

Senate Republican leader Shane Massey won't back the state's most powerful politician, Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, Tuesday in his bid to retain the leadership role. The Edgefield Republican said he hopes to be joined by both newer and tenured members in a show of displeasure for Leatherman's power play to avoid ascending to the soon-to-be-vacant lieutenant governor spot. Leatherman, a 35-year incumbent, asked senators last week for their support of the leadership post shortly after releasing a public statement saying he would not serve as lieutenant governor. The issue comes as part of the succession of power after Gov. Nikki Haley became President-elect Donald Trump's nominee for U.N. ambassador. Her expected confirmation next month means Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster will become governor.

The State: SC colleges want \$1.1 billion more in state money

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article118737408.html>

Avery G. Wilks

South Carolina's colleges and universities want every penny of the extra money that state lawmakers will have to spend in next year's budget. And then some. Legislators expect to have an added \$446 million to spend statewide. But the state's 17 research schools, four-year universities and their branch campuses alone have asked for more than \$750.1 million for added academic funding and one-time money for buildings, equipment and technology. Throw in the \$355.5 million in added money requested by the state's 16 technical colleges, and added budget requests from higher education swell to more than \$1.1 billion. Only a fraction of that added spending is likely to be approved when the Legislature meets next year, starting in January. State spending on higher education has lagged since the Great Recession, and S.C. colleges are not the only state agencies looking for a slice of the larger budget pie.

Associated Press: Former lawmaker pleads guilty in inappropriate touching case

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=AJig1Cle

SC State Wire

A former South Carolina lawmaker has pleaded guilty to a charge related to accusations that he inappropriately touched a woman. Nelson Hardwick, who once represented Horry County in the state House, entered the guilty plea Nov. 18 to a charge of third-degree assault and battery, according to online court records. The State newspaper in Columbia (<http://bit.ly/2gNo1YN>) reports that the 65-year-old who lives in Surfside Beach was sentenced to a fine of \$300 in addition to more than \$400 in other court-related fees. An indictment had accused Hardwick of using his position to lure a young House employee to his office and inappropriately touch her. He resigned his seat in 2015. An attorney for Hardwick didn't immediately return a message seeking comment on Saturday.

SC Agency News:

Associated Press: SC recruits officers, locks down prisons to combat staffing
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=R7ahgPfi

Meg Kinnard

South Carolina's prisons chief is doing the best he can to make do with tight budgets and staffing shortfalls. Sometimes that means putting some of the state's institutions on 23-hour-a-day lockdown to keep both inmates and officers safe. Corrections director Bryan Stirling said in a recent interview that he's gotten creative in finding ways to hire new officers, like talking up benefits and aggressively recruiting at schools and job centers. However, until he can get his staffing numbers up to a comfortable level, he said he's forced to sequester many inmates at times - a process that causes additional headaches of its own. "We're just taking a multi-faceted approach," Stirling said during a recent interview with The Associated Press. "We have to lock institutions down, which is not good for anybody."

Greenville News: DDSN critical incidents on pace to surpass 2015-16 numbers

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/south-carolina/2016/12/04/ddsn-critical-incidents-pace-surpass-2015-16-numbers/94732538/>

Tim Smith

The number of critical incidents, abuse and neglect allegations and staff firings reported by the state's disabilities agency for recent months is on pace to surpass the numbers for the last fiscal year, according to data obtained by The Greenville News. The state Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, which cares for thousands of those with intellectual disabilities, autism, brain and spinal cord injuries, provided the figures as part of its quarterly reporting of critical incidents, abuse, neglect and exploitation allegations and disciplinary actions for the DDSN system, which includes its regional facilities, private providers and county disabilities agencies. The data show that from July through September, there were 186 allegations of abuse, neglect or exploitation in the system, but only one was substantiated. For the fiscal year ending in June, there were 625 such allegations, of which seven were substantiated, according to the records.

SC Delegation News:

WPDE: S.C. Congressman Tom Rice, local farmers receive S.C. Farm Bureau award

<http://wpde.com/news/local/sc-congressman-tom-rice-local-farmers-receive-sc-farm-bureau-award>

Mikayla Mercer

South Carolina Congressman Tom Rice and a few local farmers from the Pee Dee area will receive awards from the South Carolina Farm Bureau Friday night. According to a news release from the U.S. House of Representatives, the awards will be presented as part of an event honoring Rice and the local farmers. Rice will be the first member of Congress to receive the South Carolina Farm Bureau award, the release said. The event will be held Friday at 7:30 p.m. at the Embassy Suites Conference Center in the Kensington DEFG Ballroom in Myrtle Beach.

SC Political News:

Post and Courier: Harrison busy trying to lead Democrats

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/palmetto-politics---sanford-to-trump-don-t-fumble/article_413ff62e-b814-11e6-9201-d35425ddab93.html

It was a big week for Jaime Harrison, the S.C. Democratic Party chairman who is vying to lead the party nationally. On Wednesday, U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn — Harrison's former boss, mentor and surrogate father — sent a letter of endorsement to fellow voting members of the Democratic National Committee. "He has the experience, vision, and commitment to rebuild our party and to return us to victory on national, state, and local levels," said Clyburn, D-S.C. That endorsement comes as Harrison has faced an abundance of travel. On Friday, he participated in the first public forum for all declared DNC candidates, touting his vision alongside his competitors for the post: Minnesota Rep. Keith Ellison, New Hampshire Democratic Party Chairman Raymond Buckley and former DNC chairman Howard Dean. Since announcing his bid just a few weeks ago, Harrison has been to New York and Washington, D.C., meeting with potential supporters. He was in Louisiana appearing at a fundraiser with Foster Campbell, the Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate competing in a looming runoff election against a Republican challenger. Soon he'll be heading to speak at an Ohio forum on the Democratic Party's future.

Post and Courier: Palmetto Politics - Sanford to Trump: Don't fumble on Cuba

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/palmetto-politics---sanford-to-trump-don-t-fumble/article_413ff62e-b814-11e6-9201-d35425ddab93.html

U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford doesn't sit on the foreign relations committee, but the South Carolina Republican has a theory about what might happen if President-elect Donald Trump reverses the Obama administration's inroads to normalize relations with Cuba. "Nature abhors a vacuum," Sanford told Palmetto Politics. "It's physics. If you create an open space, something inevitably fills it." Post-Fidel Castro, that means Russia and/or China. "Russia no longer has the economic clout it once had, but China is a growing presence," he said. "You're looking for a discussion about purchasing certain assets around the Panama Canal, the economies in Central America and Africa, and around the world. They view themselves as global competitors to the United States, and it's not inconceivable that if we're not there (in Cuba), they will be." Sanford traveled with President Barack Obama and other members of Congress to the island communist nation earlier this year.

Post and Courier: In wake of election, undocumented students face uncertainty

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/in-wake-of-election-undocumented-students-face-uncertainty/article_9624f44c-b714-11e6-832d-5392541b24a4.html

Deanna Pan

All year, Diana Pliego made excuses. When her high school friends asked about her post-grad plans, Pliego said she wasn't sure, she was still looking at colleges, she couldn't afford tuition. Her last excuse was true. Her father painted houses. Her mother sold natural products for a multilevel marketing company. And Pliego wasn't eligible for public scholarships, grants or financial aid. What her friends didn't know is that Pliego is undocumented. She was 3 years old when her family crossed the border into the United States illegally from Mexico in the midst of one of the worst financial crises in the country's history. But for Pliego, South Carolina is home. She was an A/B student at her Greenville-area high school, enrolled in Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses. Her teachers would read her papers out loud to her class. When a guidance counselor confronted Pliego about why she wasn't applying to college, Pliego broke down in tears.

Michael Slagger Case:

Associated Press: Jury going into next week in ex-officer's murder trial

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=MGt8sM6N

Bruce Smith and Meg Kinnard

The jury in the murder trial of a former South Carolina police officer charged with gunning down a black motorist will continue deliberating next week, despite at one point Friday appearing deadlocked

by a juror who told the judge he could not "with good conscience approve a guilty verdict."The panel of one black and 11 white jurors has now deliberated for more than 16 hours over three days on whether to convict former North Charleston police Officer Michael Slager in the death of 50-year-old Walter Scott. They will return to the jury room Monday. Twice on Friday the jurors told Judge Clifton Newman they had reached a stalemate. One juror sent a letter directly to the judge saying he could not "with good conscience approve a guilty verdict." The juror added he was not about to change his mind.

Dylann Roof Case:

Post and Courier: Hicks column: One man's right to inflict more damage on Charleston
http://www.postandcourier.com/columnists/hicks-column-one-man-s-right-to-inflict-more-damage/article_166207e0-b89a-11e6-a8a8-53ccdaadf088.html

Brian Hicks

It's possible Dylann Roof never heard the old saying that a man who is his own lawyer has a fool for a client. After all, the attorneys he fired last week called him a 9th-grade dropout completely unqualified to represent himself in a death penalty case. No kidding, Sherlock. But even accused mass murderers have constitutional rights, and Roof exercised his when he told U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel that he wanted to represent himself. Now, the theory – as outlined in a story by Post and Courier reporter Jennifer Berry Hawes – is that Roof doesn't want these top-flight, anti-death penalty attorneys to argue that he's mentally ill in their bid to keep him out of the electric chair. So, to recap: In Roof's mind, killing a church full of people because of their skin color is OK but being called delusional is too embarrassing to live. There's Exhibit A in the defense attorneys' argument...

Post and Courier: Conference of National Black Churches seeks root causes of racial issues
http://www.postandcourier.com/features/conference-of-national-black-churches-seeks-root-causes-of-racial/article_0b40d602-b73c-11e6-8f7b-3be50949916b.html

Adam Parker

Last year, in the wake of two shootings that brought issues of race to the fore, the Conference of National Black Churches decided to convene its first "National Consultation" in Charleston. The event, called "The Healing of Our Nation," was meant as a grassroots, faith-based response to racism and violence, an effort "to move beyond cheap grace toward true reconciliation." The multidenominational, interracial event brought many together to confront the issues, "but we left feeling that it was not complete," said Conference Chairman W. Franklyn Richardson. And in the intervening year, things got worse in America. "There's a new tension in the air caused by the election." The Trump administration and the president-elect's rhetoric and recent appointments "suggest hostility toward the area of race," he said. So the Conference of National Black Churches, a national alliance of eight denominations and 30,000 congregations representing about 70 percent of black churchgoers, is coming back to the Holy City this month.

Wildfires Across Southeast:

Associated Press: Experts warn of mental health woes as wildfires ravage South
<http://bigstory.ap.org/98a40a494ba941569a1ccb9d4a0c6227>

Mental health experts say that escaping a fire-filled forest, as thousands did Nov. 28 in the Great Smoky Mountains, can be more traumatic than disasters such as hurricanes, floods or earthquakes. One reason: Flames that scorched neighborhoods in the Gatlinburg, Tennessee area spread so rapidly that people had no time to brace for it. Experts say that survivors of the wildfires now face many dangers, including suicide, post-traumatic stress and substance abuse. Valerie Cole of the American Red Cross, who helped victims of a devastating wildfire in Canada, says that depression, anxiety and other problems might not show up for some people until months after the disaster. Cole says the images of flames draped across homes could haunt residents of the Gatlinburg area for a very long time.

Associated Press: South Carolina drought map worsens, even after rain

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=aWHh6kn2

SC State Wire

South Carolina's Upstate region remains in drought conditions despite rain in recent days. A new drought map issued by the state on Thursday finds Oconee, Pickens and Anderson counties still in severe drought conditions. More than a dozen other counties to the South and East are in moderate drought conditions. About 10 counties in the southern part of the state were also added to the first stage of drought after being labeled normal in late October. The drought conditions have fed wildfires around the Southeast. One of them is the Pinnacle Mountain Fire that burned more than 10,000 acres near Pickens. Authorities say the fire is more than 90 percent contained as of Saturday.

Hurricane Matthew Recovery:

Associated Press: 200 volunteers work on storm damage in Nichols

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=7DGtKpkJ

SC State Wire

More than two hundred volunteers are working in storm-ravaged Nichols this weekend. The Morning News of Florence reports (<http://bit.ly/2gNzK9I>) that the volunteers from across the state arrived Friday for a two-day project to clean out homes damaged by Hurricane Matthew. The small town was devastated by the Hurricane and the flooding in its aftermath. Disaster response coordinator George Olive says the work includes tearing out walls and floors damaged by mildew so that people can rebuild and move back in. Harriet Clark is from Myrtle Beach First United Methodist Church. She said that seeing the damage first-hand is eye-opening and that she's happy to help other people.

Morning News: Work blitz helps Nichols flood victims

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_e3e6d3d8-b9be-11e6-b8d2-ab4e96a70307.html

Megan May

Seventeen families are one step closer to moving back to homes damaged by flooding from Hurricane Matthew in October. On Saturday, 200 volunteers wrapped up a two-day work blitz clearing homes severely damaged by the hurricane. The relief effort was organized by the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. Nichols resident Ann Taylor was more than happy to see the work groups arrive this weekend. Her family has lived in the same home for the past 63 years. Taylor grew up in the house; her father built it with his brothers. For Taylor, the relief effort is bittersweet. "You have mixed emotions," said Taylor, "You feel glad that people are caring and helpful and wonderful, but then you think about your home and you're sad because it will never be the same again. You can't come home again. You know that saying? You can come home again but it won't be the same."

Post and Courier: Hurricane Matthew flattens half of beach dunes

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/hurricane-matthew-flattens-half-of-beach-dunes/article_027955ee-b728-11e6-87f1-dba2e3258ba3.html

Bo Petersen

The berm of dunes was swept away across the entire five miles of Folly Beach during Hurricane Matthew. At Edisto Beach the sand was pushed across Palmetto Boulevard. More than half the dunes bolstering the South Carolina coast were overwashed during Hurricane Matthew, a U.S. Geological Survey aerial study has concluded. Overall, waves swept across 177 miles of dunes from Florida to North Carolina as the storm surge rose as high as 9 feet in spots. "The beach erosion certainly was prevalent," said Joseph Long, research oceanographer. But the damage in South Carolina wasn't as bad as expected. The survey predicted 70 percent of the dunes would be overrun, he said. The damage here contrasted sharply with Florida, where stretches of beach were left no more than a hard edge of scarp and the erosion was characterized as extensive, or Georgia, where beaches were lost to the marsh behind.

Island Packet: After Hurricane Matthew, price of private living on the rise

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article118669853.html>

Kelly Meyerhoffer

Some private homeowners' associations on Hilton Head are raising residents' fees to recover costs from Hurricane Matthew, while other off-island, gated communities aren't planning to do so – at least for now. In the aftermath of the Oct. 8 hurricane, The Island Packet and The Beaufort Gazette surveyed managers of private communities north and south of the Broad River. The newspapers found that the storm severely depleted reserve funds in some private communities, and the responsibility to replenish those reserves will likely fall primarily on residents if little insurance or governmental aid is available. "(It's) fine when the sun is shining, but when there's a major expense that's not covered by insurance, the thing never told to the (private) unit owners is every single owner is responsible for the debts and liabilities of the (private) association," said Evan McKenzie, a housing law expert and political science professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Opinion/Editorial:

The State: No passport? No military ID? You could soon be grounded

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scoppe/article118312588.html>

Cindi Ross Scoppe

AFTER 9/11, FEDERAL officials realized that one of our nation's biggest security gaps was in our driver's licenses, which are frequently used to board planes, are issued by the states and weren't particularly secure. These are, after all, the documents that 18-year-olds manage to forge in order to buy beer. The federal government wasn't about to do what a security expert might recommend — take over the license-issuing process itself — for a lot of reasons, both reasonable and not. So in 2004, the Congress passed and then-President George W. Bush signed the Real ID Act, which told states that they had to make their driver's licenses more tamper-resistant. It's hard to imagine how anyone who's worried about terrorism — or even illegal immigrants who are not terrorists — could object to the idea that it ought to take more ingenuity than that of a college fraternity to counterfeit the IDs we use to board planes and enter military bases and nuclear facilities. And yet, South Carolina objected.

Horry News: A Different Drum: Maybe something will get done

http://www.myhorrynews.com/opinion/columnists/herald/tom_odare/article_55d3b042-b8bb-11e6-8670-f3eab466a5cb.html

Tom O'Dare

It's always interesting to listen to our state legislators in the month or so leading up to a new General Assembly session in Columbia. If you believe everything that you hear, all the problems in South Carolina are finally going to be addressed and cleared up this time. And I'm sure that's the mantra that's being spread by delegations throughout the state. But then January comes around and something happens. The big issues get debated to death and everybody wants their version of the quick fix or nothing. Then hundreds if not thousands of other local, self-serving laws and regulations are passed leaving the big issues in the dust. And this year, our men and women in the State House will have even less time to get things accomplished since the session that used to run until mid-June is being cut back until mid-May.

NOTE: Probably the most honest, and funniest, part of the whole thing was listening to state Sen. Luke Rankin get in his parting shots to Gov. Nikki Haley. During the June primary, Haley did everything she could to help Rankin's opponent win. She made personal appearances and got lots of money poured in to the other side, trying to get Rankin out of the Senate.

NOTE: She did the same thing in a number of races throughout the state, hoping to stack the legislature in her favor. But in most cases, her efforts were in vain.

NOTE: So Tuesday, Rankin took great delight in saying the one thing he looks forward to the most in January is having a different governor in the Capitol. For those not keeping up with the latest national news, President-elect Trump has tabbed Haley to be the next ambassador to the United Nations.

NOTE: So to echo Sen. Rankin's heart-felt sentiments, good luck in New York Mrs. Haley.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Watson, Clemson claim ACC title and await playoff berth

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

Fred Goodall

Deshaun Watson's mission is not over. The Heisman Trophy hopeful and third-ranked Clemson Tigers are ready to return to the College Football Playoff and try to resolve some unfinished business from last season. Watson bolstered his candidacy for the sport's biggest individual award by passing for three touchdowns and running for two more to lead the Tigers (12-1, No. 3 CFP) a 42-35 victory over No. 19 Virginia Tech in the Atlantic Coast Conference championship game Saturday night. Winning consecutive league titles for the first time in 28 years likely will send coach Dabo Swinney and his players back to the four-team College Football Playoff for the second straight year, providing Watson with an opportunity to resolve unfinished business from last January, when the Tigers lost to Alabama in the national championship game.

Local News:

The Herald: An unsolved murder, two men paroled after what appears to be a wrong conviction.

Where's the justice?

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/andrew-dys/article118709643.html>

Andrew Dys

His nickname was Pop. And after working all his life, sometimes two jobs, he died for a roll of quarters. Forty-three years later, it appears uncertain who robbed and killed Claude "Pop" Killian. That long-ago crime is again front and center for people who thought it was over. "Pop Killian was loved," said Margaret Rudder, who still works at the Highlander laundry on Columbia Street in Chester where the crime happened, and worked there in 1973. "Everybody loved him." In 1977 James McClurkin and Ray Degraffenreid were convicted of the crime. Each is now on parole, and law enforcement officials say neither committed the crime. They had served 39 years in prison. "Pop was working that day and he was attacked," Rudder said. "He was robbed and killed. ... Prison for (39) years is a long time and it is not right if they did not do it. But they were convicted."

Herald-Journal: Wright orders safety checks of cells in wake of hanging

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161202/wright-orders-safety-checks-of-cells-in-wake-of-hanging?rssfeed=true>

Daniel J. Gross

Deputies are conducting safety checks at the Spartanburg County Detention Center after an inmate was found dead inside a cell last week. Sheriff Chuck Wright said Kelvin Thomas Taylor, 48, used a jail-issued jumpsuit to hang himself in a cell in the medical area of the California Avenue facility. Taylor had knotted his suit up and wedged it into the crack of a panel inside the cell, Wright said. "He was able to get enough into the crack of a panel and wedge a knot in there," Wright said. Wright said Taylor was left alone for about 18 minutes in the cell. There was no indication Taylor was suicidal and he was not placed under any special watch, Wright said. "They performed CPR. They did everything they could," Wright said, adding that jail staff was "very upset" by the incident.

The State: USC fraternity violations at 5-year high despite warnings

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/education/article118724218.html>

Avery G. Wilks

Despite pointed warnings about bad behavior, University of South Carolina fraternities are setting records for misconduct this fall. However, fraternities are not alone in acting out. Compared with last year, twice as many USC students campus wide have been hospitalized this fall for drinking too much. The school attributes that increase, in part, to changes in policy to emphasize student health

and also the easy availability of alcohol, including in the nearby Five Points entertainment district. An analysis by The State newspaper found USC fraternities were charged with more misconduct this fall than in any semester since the school began keeping track of violations online five years ago. Fraternities racked up 22 misconduct violations this fall, eight more than the 14 incidents in fall 2011 and a dozen more than the 10 in fall 2014, according to USC's online conduct report.

The State: China-based company expected to be 'backbone' of Richland County's new industrial park

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article118684898.html>

Jeff Wilkinson

In Chinese, Jushi means "giant stone," which in Chinese culture forms the backbone of heaven and Earth. For Richland County, Jushi means a giant boost for the economy, and could serve as the backbone for future industrial recruitment to the county's new 900-acre industrial park. Jushi USA will break ground Thursday for a \$300 million fiberglass manufacturing plant in the Pineview Industrial Park at the foot of Shop Road near Interstate 77. The company will hire 400 workers for the facility, and by 2021, according to plant president Drew Walker, the firm plans to build an identical plant next door that would employ another 400. But unlike more heralded economic development announcements such as Volvo in Berkeley County or Continental in Sumter County, the Jushi deal, despite its size, is flying a bit under the radar.

President-elect Trump News:

Associated Press: Was Trump's Taiwan contact a policy shift or a misstep?

<http://bigstory.ap.org/bbce3adbba6a44549fe64b4bd3fbd247>

Was President-elect Donald Trump signaling a shift in U.S.-China relations when he referred to Taiwan's leader as "president" following a phone call this past week or was it an unintentional misstep? His phone conversation with Tsai Ing-wen was a breach of long-standing tradition that risks enmity from China, but a longtime China watcher says he can't yet be sure of the meaning. Douglas Paal, a former director of the American Institute in Taiwan, which unofficially represents U.S. interests in Taipei, said it was too soon to judge whether Trump was going to lead that shift, or if the incident was just a "complicated accident." "Beijing will watch closely to see which it is," said Paal, now vice president for studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "But until someone from Trump Tower explains further, it is unknowable."

Associated Press: Trump's call inspires hope in Taiwan, concern in Beijing

<http://bigstory.ap.org/af2fdbebf8a4479786e4ae052fb953d5>

With a 10-minute phone call and two tweets, Donald Trump inspired banner headlines and renewed hopes across Taiwan for a stronger partnership with the United States, while also inflaming the complex relationships between the U.S., mainland China, and the self-governing island China regards as a renegade province. Whether the U.S. president-elect meant to jump into the generational fight between China and Taiwan remains an open question. But by speaking to Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, Trump upended four decades of American foreign policy and engaged China directly on the issue of Taiwan, which Beijing has threatened to reclaim by force if necessary. No American president or president-elect has publicly spoken to Taiwan's leader since the U.S. ended their formal diplomatic relationship in 1979. Four of his words drew particular attention in Taiwanese newspapers: Trump's reference, in a follow-up tweet, to Tsai being "the President of Taiwan."

Associated Press: Trump faces pushback from base, allies over Romney musings

<http://bigstory.ap.org/5a92f5b9692447ea915998324519bfa0>

President-elect Donald Trump stood onstage during the debut night of his "Thank you" tour and teased that he was about announce a surprise Cabinet pick. But shouts could be heard from several sections of the Ohio crowd: "No Romney! No Romney!" Trump's administration selections have largely been cheered by close allies and supporters, even though many have deep ties to Washington and

Wall Street that would seem contradictory to the populist, outsider campaign he ran. But the possible selection of Romney, who is on Trump's shortlist for secretary of state despite being a forceful critic throughout the campaign, has been met with trepidation from many of the working-class voters that propelled the Republican to his astonishing victory.

Associated Press: Inauguration to draw those ready to celebrate, commiserate

<http://bigstory.ap.org/c157508e9c4a4000843ea145416c20a8>

One thing you can count on during inauguration season in Washington: People of all stripes will find a reason to show up — whether it's to celebrate or commiserate. There are parties and protests to attend, stars to gawk at, receptions to be worked, deals to be done, drinks to be consumed. Less than two months out from Inauguration Day, there's a different dynamic surrounding the planning for Donald Trump's swearing-in than the unbridled enthusiasm that swirled around the installation of the first black president in 2008. Crowd expectations are down. Fewer A-list celebrities are likely to descend. Hotels still have rooms to be rented. But congressional offices are maxing out on ticket requests for the Jan. 20 swearing-in. Trump's inaugural committee is wooing big donors with candlelight dinners, exclusive luncheons and premier access to balls. Interest groups are lining up sideline events. And among those still mourning Hillary Clinton's loss, there is plenty of counter-programming afoot, including plans for a giant women's march aimed at sending a defiant message to the incoming president.

Associated Press: Democrats' task: Rebuild the blue political wall in Midwest

<http://bigstory.ap.org/92dd939c339b46aab9da84c558e21a80>

Democrats need to rebuild the political "blue wall" of traditionally Democratic upper Midwest and Great Lakes states that Republican Donald Trump captured with an appeal to white, working-class voters. Hillary Clinton's failure to hold key blocs of these voters helped seal Trump's stunning electoral victory and leaves Democrats with a gaping, perhaps long-term, hole in the party's national battle front. Trump boasted of his accomplishment at a post-election rally in Ohio. The president-elect crowed: "We didn't break it, we shattered that sucker. We shattered it, man. That poor wall is busted up." Trump carried Michigan and Pennsylvania, where Democratic nominees had won the previous six presidential elections. Trump also won Wisconsin, carried by Democrats in seven straight tries, and Iowa, carried just once by a Republican over the same period.

National News:

Associated Press: Site of deadly Oakland warehouse fire an artist space, maze

<http://bigstory.ap.org/5ed34c77513b4e3b9521d6ae62d48b2f>

The converted warehouse known as the "Ghost Ship" where a deadly fire ripped through a late-night dance party was an artist workspace and illegal home for a rotating cast of a dozen or more residents, those who lived there or visited often said. Former residents said it was also a death trap with few exits, a rickety makeshift staircase, piles of driftwood and a labyrinth of electrical cords. The ground floor had five recreational vehicles and other nooks used as living spaces that were rented out to tenants, while the upstairs had space for concerts like the deadly party that drew up to 100 people Friday night. With few lights, the place could be pitch black. One staircase led to a boarded up door. The water and electricity were stolen from neighbors and often didn't work. "If you were not familiar with the building and the way that it was, if you were going there for a party, you wouldn't be aware of the maze that you have to go through to get out," said Danielle Boudreaux, a former friend of the couple who ran the warehouse.

World News:

Associated Press: Fidel Castro's ashes interred in private ceremony in Cuba

<http://bigstory.ap.org/6f94a7c3ac3c4e69b53d289b3452c95f>

Fidel Castro's ashes were being interred in a private ceremony Sunday morning, ending nine days of

mourning for the man who ruled Cuba for nearly half a century. The military caravan bearing his remains in a flag-draped cedar coffin left the Plaza of the Revolution in the eastern city of Santiago at 6:39 a.m. Thousands of people lined the two-mile route to Santa Ifigenia cemetery, waving Cuban flags and shouting "Long live Fidel!" The Cuban military fired a 21-gun salute and crowds at the entrance to the cemetery sang the national anthem as the ashes entered about 40 minutes later. The ceremony lasted more than an hour and took place out of the public eye after Cuban officials made a last-minute cancellation of plans to broadcast the events live on national and international television. International media were also barred from the ceremony. Martial music could be heard outside the cemetery, where Ines de la Rosa was among the mourners gathered. She said she would have liked to watch the ceremony on television, but "we understand how they as a family also need a bit of privacy."

Associated Press: Syrian army tells rebels in Aleppo to leave or die

<http://bigstory.ap.org/73a3c3bc3afc42ecb279de05e20c03ba>

The Syrian army on Sunday ordered rebels in Aleppo to leave the city or face "inevitable death," as a series of airstrikes on an opposition-held town elsewhere in the country killed 21 people, including three children. Pro-government forces have been pushing deeper into besieged eastern Aleppo, taking back neighborhoods the rebels have held since 2012. The opposition has buckled after months of siege and waves of devastating airstrikes, and could soon be driven from Syria's largest city. It would mark their biggest defeat since the conflict began in 2011. Army spokesman Brig. Gen. Samir Suleiman told The Associated Press in Aleppo that government forces would "continue fighting until they restore stability and security to all neighborhoods." He said the army has already retaken more than half the neighborhoods in eastern Aleppo, and that special forces would lead the battle in the narrow streets of the city's historic district.

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