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Subject: Morning Clips – Tuesday, October 25, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

The State: Haley pushes for hiring nonviolent S.C. prisoners upon release

<http://www.thestate.com/latest-news/article110192392.html>

Cynthia Roldan

Gov. Nikki Haley urged businesses Monday to hire nonviolent prisoners near release, a step she said would give them a good start toward a second chance. "My goal is not to just give them that bus ticket and go out there and try and find the job," she said. "I want us to find them a job before they leave the fence. I believe in these inmates that we're talking about." The heads of several state agencies joined Haley to pitch the effort to expand an effort under way since 2014. She is hoping to take the program a step further by having prisoners get hired before they are released so that they have a place to go immediately. The program teams up state corrections, employment and probation officials to prepare non-violent prisoners with a clean disciplinary record for work.

Post and Courier: State officials working to train and employ former inmates

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/state-officials-working-to-train-and-employ-former-inmates/article_5f28a4ce-99ec-11e6-a903-abfbda983883.html

Maya T. Prabhu

One of the first things recently released inmates search for when they leave prison is a job, but many have difficulty finding companies who will hire them. To combat the problem, state officials launched the "Second Chance" program that gives inmates training in various areas while working directly with companies willing to hire them. The program is in addition to the various apprenticeships, vocational programs and job training certificates offered in many of the state's prisons. "Our goal is, we are going to now start getting inmates jobs before they leave the fence, and we're going to do it with companies that were here today," Gov. Nikki Haley said Monday following a summit with potential business partners. "These inmates, they don't want to get in trouble, but when they do, they want to have a second chance," she said. About 10,000 people are released from South Carolina prisons each year. Many, if not all, are required to hold a job as part of their parole conditions. In a first-in-the-country initiative, the S.C. Department of Corrections partnered with the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW) to launch the program.

NOTE: Haley said it's important to have these types of programs in place to help all South Carolinians who are willing to work. "These are people that if we can lift them up, show them a skill, give them a job, not only are we changing a family, we're giving the company a loyal worker and we're changing this state of South Carolina," Haley said.

WOLO: Governor Haley attends Second Chance Summit

<http://www.abccolumbia.com/2016/10/24/governor-haley-attends-second-chance-summit/>

Governor Nikki Haley joined a number of SC State Agencies Monday for the Second Chance Summit. The focus, the work being done by agencies to help educate and train and employ ex-offenders. The Summit was also used to demonstrate to South Carolina businesses the benefits of

hiring ex offenders as they re-enter the workforce.

WSPA: SC Expands Jobs Program for Former Inmates

<http://wspa.com/2016/10/24/sc-expands-jobs-program-for-former-inmates/>

Robert Kittle

South Carolina is expanding a successful pilot program that helps former prison inmates get jobs once they're released. Monday, the state held a "Second Chance Summit" to tell potential employers about the program and urge them to hire former inmates who go through the program. Department of Corrections director Bryan Stirling says the state releases almost 10,000 inmates every year, since about 85 percent of the people in prison serve less than five years. 80 percent of them are in for non-violent crimes. He says the fact that almost everyone in prison will eventually get out means the state needs to do what it can to help them turn their lives around. "They're coming back to live with you, go to church, school, etcetera, etcetera, and we know that a job is one of the greatest preventers of them coming back," to prison, he told the business leaders. Gov. Nikki Haley says the program is the first in the nation. It starts with inmates who are serving time for non-violent crimes, and who have clean disciplinary records, getting job training while in prison. The programs include auto work, barbering, carpentry, construction, electrical, horticulture, HVAC, masonry, plumbing, and welding.

NOTE: Gov. Haley says, "These are people that, if we can lift them up, show them a skill, get them a job, not only are we changing a family, we're giving the company a loyal worker and we're changing the state of South Carolina."

The State: SC unemployment is at an all-time low

<http://www.thestate.com/news/business/article110096637.html>

Bristow Marchant

More South Carolinians are working today than ever before, helping to push the state's unemployment rate below 5 percent for the first time since April 2001, according to state employment figures released Friday. South Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 4.9 percent in September from 5.1 percent in August. The state's unemployment rate also dropped below the national rate for the first time since April 2014. "I am excited to see that a record number of people are working now than at any time in our state's history, and our unemployment rate has fallen to a level we have not experienced in the last 15 years," said Cheryl Stanton, the department's executive director. Gov. Nikki Haley said in a Facebook post the report provided "real reasons to celebrate" for South Carolina. "Thank you to our loyal workforce whose work ethic is second to none and to the many companies who have invested and expanded in our state!"

Post and Courier: Raptor center founder wins Order of the Palmetto

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/raptor-center-founder-wins-order-of-the-palmetto/article_f105083c-9a15-11e6-a30c-3b51a39091a8.html

Bo Petersen

More than 700 of the once-endangered bald eagles now nest in South Carolina. Jim Elliott has had a hand in treating and returning to the wild about half that many. Elliott, founder and director of the Center for Birds of Prey in Awendaw, has been awarded the Order of the Palmetto for a storied career researching and educating about often-misunderstood raptors, or birds of prey, as well as working with the sick and injured birds brought to the center to return them to the wild. The award, presented by Gov. Nikki Haley, is the highest civilian honor the governor can bestow. It's a once-in-a-lifetime recognition of a South Carolina resident for extraordinary lifetime service and achievements of national or statewide significance, according to the Governor's Office. Eagles, hawks, owls, vultures and other raptors are alpha predators vital to healthy ecosystems. But historically, hawks and others

have been shot out of the air as varmints by country landowners to keep them from their poultry, despite the small number actually lost to the birds. The practice still is carried on today despite federal penalties. The birds also are struck by cars, poisoned scavenging toxic foods and are losing habitat to development in the booming Lowcountry.

Hurricane Matthew:

Associated Press: Almost 20 percent of Hilton Head structures damaged by storm

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=rr7rMiRgSC

SC State Wire

Preliminary figures show that nearly one in five structures on Hilton Head Island suffered some damage when Hurricane Matthew struck the island earlier this month. The Island Packet of Hilton Head Island reported that (<http://bit.ly/2eFIhgZ>) about 3,700 structures suffered some damage. Almost 400 of them had substantial damage that amounts to more than half of the assessed value of the building. Town officials say the numbers are preliminary and a full assessment of every building isn't expected until the end of the week. There's no immediate breakdown as to how many of the damaged structures are homes and how many are businesses.

Associated Press : An upside to Hurricane Matthew: Bigger shrimp

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=fWt66Muh

SC State Wire

Hurricane Matthew flooded roads and homes and tore branches from trees, but there has been one upside to the storm: bigger shrimp. South Carolina Department of Natural Resources biologist Jeff Brunson tells The Post and Courier of Charleston (<http://bit.ly/2eFo4GL>) that in some places along the coast, larger shrimp have moved from estuaries to offshore waters where they are being caught by commercial shrimpers. He says the storm lowered the salt levels of water in the estuaries and high tides from the storm may have also have pushed shrimp seaward. Brunson says there was a similar improvement in the catch a year ago after what's been termed a 1,000-year storm inundated the state, swelling rivers and estuaries. In that storm as much as 2 feet of rain fell in some areas.

The State: Richland 1 hurricane make-up coming in January, March and April

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article110201477.html>

Cliff Leblanc

Richland 1 students will go to school Jan. 13, March 31 and April 17 to make up the three days missed because of Hurricane Matthew, officials said Monday. Schools closed Oct. 5, 6 and 7 after Gov. Nikki Haley ordered them shut down in anticipation of the storm. The make-up days would have been either student holidays or professional development days for teachers and staff.

Post and Courier: Shrimp size on the rise after Hurricane Matthew

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/shrimp-size-picks-up-after-hurricane/article_15e993ea-9a00-11e6-8f6b-b70a18dea2b5.html

Bo Petersen

In the midst of fallen trees and other debris, Hurricane Matthew left a sweet little calling card: shrimp, big ones. The storm's rain and river flooding evidently washed large white shrimp out to the commercial grounds offshore, at least in spots, and some commercial boats are reporting some of the biggest shrimp of the season, hoisting their optimism in a year that's had its ups and downs. The current cold snap evidently slowed down the catch somewhat. But shrimpers expect it to come back and are looking forward to another big run before frigid winter weather sets in. Shem Creek shrimper

Tommy Edwards didn't net much offshore on Monday, after pulling in hundreds of pounds per day on recent trips. But he expected that to change mid-week, and "the big white shrimp are looking beautiful right now," he said. "Oh yeah, they're gorgeous," Tina Toomer of the Bluffton Oyster Co., said about the catch her husband, Larry Toomer, has been bringing in.

Island Packet: Thousands of Hilton Head buildings likely damaged by Hurricane Matthew

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article110207757.html>

Teresa Moss

More than 3,700 homes and businesses on Hilton Head Island, or about 19 percent of the total number of structures, likely sustained damage from Hurricane Matthew, town officials are saying preliminary estimates show. Of the estimated 3,724 damaged buildings, about 392 — 2 percent of the island's total 19,600 structures and 10.5 percent of the damaged buildings — likely had substantial damage, Shawn Colin, town deputy director of community development, said Monday. Substantial damage is considered repair costs that equal 50 percent or more of the assessed valuation of a home, Colin said. For example, a home with an assessed valuation of \$200,000 would have 50 percent damage if estimated repair costs were \$100,000. Town officials said they had evaluated 12,477 of the island's 19,600 structures as of midday Monday. They said the goal is to complete the process by Friday. A breakdown of the number of damaged homes compared to the number of damaged businesses was not immediately available Monday.

Island Packet: Will Beaufort County get FEMA money to help clear private roads after Matthew?

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article110093237.html>

Beaufort County is still awaiting word from the Federal Emergency Management Agency on whether the federal government will assist with debris removal in private and gated communities. In the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, Beaufort County sent a letter to FEMA requesting help with debris removal from gated communities and private roads under the agency's Public Assistance Program. In general, the cost of debris removal on private property is ineligible for FEMA assistance, according to a Beaufort County news release. The county received a response from FEMA requesting additional information to process the county's application for assistance. The county then reached out to Gov. Nikki Haley and a host of state agencies requesting support and is awaiting a response, according to the release.

Sun News: Cleanup uneven as Myrtle Beach suggests nonprofits for downed trees

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article110186487.html>

Chloe Johnson

After proposing using federal funds to help low-income residents clean up downed trees, Myrtle Beach has instead turned to nonprofits to help with Matthew's mess. In the Oct. 11 meeting, multiple Myrtle Beach City Council members voiced support of attempting to help some residents, especially those whose homes were threatened by fallen or leaning trees, with federal grant money. However, using that money would have proven difficult, City Manager John Pedersen said. He added that creating a system to disburse money from the city's general fund would have been overcomplicated. "There are all sorts of issues there," Pedersen said. "So our position has been to try to rely on the volunteer sector, where we can." Mayor John Rhodes, who had urged direct funding for cleanup in city council's Oct. 11 meeting, was out of the country Monday and could not be reached by phone. Councilwoman Mary Jeffcoat said she was not disappointed that the city had changed its method of outreach, and said offering money or free services to clean up after the storm could have created a precedent of the city doing work that might have been achieved either by private means or by nonprofits.

Sun News: Horry County Schools announces makeup days for Hurricane Matthew

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article110274822.html>

Christian Boschult

Horry County Schools has announced the three makeup days for time lost during Hurricane Matthew. Those days are Nov. 23, Jan. 2 and Jan. 13. State law mandates the district make up the first three days lost from bad weather. "After those three days are made up, it is possible for local board of trustees to waive the next three days with a majority vote of the board," Superintendent Rick Maxey said after the school board meeting Monday night. The district has missed seven days of school, except in Green Sea Floyds, where students missed eight days. After the first three days are made up and the school board waives the next three, the district can petition the state board of education to waive the remaining makeup days.

Morning News: Nichols: The town that lost everything

http://www.scnw.com/news/article_0e65d420-9a47-11e6-9024-07ee0fd8cbbd.html

Joshua Lloyd

Some parts of Nichols are still under water, and no businesses are open after massive flooding, spurred by Hurricane Matthew, devastated the small, rural Pee Dee town this month. South Carolina House Speaker Jay Lucas toured the town Monday with Mayor Lawson Battle to see the destruction first-hand. Of the town's 260 homes, 236 either were completely destroyed or severely damaged in addition to nearly 300 vehicles and more than 20 businesses. "It's shocking," Lucas said. "It's not every day that you see a town that's been laid to waste. I've never seen anything like this. It's been 16 days, and some homes still have water in them." Nichols has no water, no sewer, no police or fire protection right now. As of Monday, Battle said the town is seeking aid from any agency that can offer it, and he primarily is working to keep citizens from losing hope – especially the hundreds of people who remain in shelters and churches with no home to return to.

Morning News: Duke Energy rises to meet its challenge

http://www.scnw.com/news/local/article_e889b81a-9a42-11e6-b167-0f0ab702fab9.html

Jessica Imbimbo

Mindy Taylor, district manager of government and community relations at Duke Energy, addressed members of the Rotary Club of Florence during their meeting on Monday to discuss their restoration processes both during and after Hurricane Matthew. Two weeks ago, the vicious storm left more than 90 percent of Duke Energy customers in South Carolina without power. According to Taylor, five of their substations were completely flooded and had to be rebuilt, more than 55 transmission lines were out and more approximately 1,100 utility poles, 3,000 spans of wire and 400 transformers needed to be replaced. Those numbers have yet to be finalized as storm damages are still be calculated, but nearly all of their customers have seen their power return, Taylor said. "Within a week's time of the devastating impact to our system, we had almost everybody back up and restored with power," Taylor said.

NOTE: To further aid storm victims, Taylor said Duke Energy donated \$100,000 to help three different organizations in their relief efforts. The One SC Fund, which was established by Gov. Nikki Haley in Nov. 2015 after the historic flooding, received \$50,000, while the Red Cross of South Carolina and Harvest Hope Food Bank received \$25,000 each.

Savannah Morning News: Chatham dodged a bullet during Matthew confusion

<http://savannahnow.com/editorial-opinion/2016-10-24/chatham-dodged-bullet-during-matthew-confusion>

Opinion-Editorial

State and local leaders must be on the same page when it comes to informing the public about major, life-threatening emergencies, such as hurricanes and hurricane evacuations, to reduce confusion and anxiety and too boost public safety and cooperation. Unfortunately, as more information come out in drip and drabs out about what really happened behind the scenes during Matthew it appears that top leaders weren't even in the same book, let alone on the same page, in terms of a coordinated response. First off, the order to evacuate must be based on information from the paid experts, including those with the two top emergency management agencies charged with protecting citizens: the Georgia Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency and the Chatham Emergency Management Agency. While Georgia's governor, Nathan Deal and Chatham County Commission Chairman Al Scott have the final word on evacuation orders, the decision to evacuate must not be based on politics. Instead it must be based on public safety. And once a decision has been made, it must be communicated quickly, clearly and professionally — and certainly supported by all officials. NOTE: While our neighbors in South Carolina appeared to be completely plugged in to the emergency loop, thanks to the superior performance of S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley, Georgians by comparison were floundering, and starved for accurate, credible information about Matthew and whether they should flee their homes. Gov. Deal, finally got around to issuing an order for a mandatory evacuation of areas east of I-95 on Thursday morning, Oct. 6. Mr. Scott said he told the governor that he didn't have a problem with that order, although the chairman had given a much less comprehensive evacuation order earlier.

WIS: In flood-devastated Nichols, Speaker Jay Lucas pledges to be town's voice

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33463203/in-flood-devastated-nichols-speaker-jay-lucas-pledges-to-be-towns-voice>

Jeremy Turnage

People are slowly returning to their homes in Nichols, mostly to clean out their damaged houses condemned from the floods after Hurricane Matthew. But now the question remains: How much will the State pay to get the town back on its feet? Speaker of the House Jay Lucas visited and toured the path of destruction and said the town was laid to waste. Even now water keeps some from accessing their homes. Lucas said the priority is to stabilize the local government. Right now, a team of three local employees head-up the recovery and day-to-day business: the mayor, town clerk, and police chief. Lucas said they will need businesses back operating so the town can regain its tax base and make payroll. He's pledging to do what he can to offer state relief but is unsure of what kind of money is available for that. "You know, again, I told them to write down a list, you know, anything they can think of and whether or not it's possible," Lucas said. "We don't know, but we can certainly ask. We want to do anything and everything legally the State of South Carolina can do for an area like this."

WMBF: An exclusive interview with Gov. Haley's 'rock star' interpreter

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33463762/an-exclusive-interview-with-gov-haleys-rock-star-interpreter>

If you watched any of Governor Haley's news conferences providing updates on Hurricane Matthew, you probably recognize sign language interpreter Jason Hurdich. "People think I am animated or dramatic," says Hurdich, who became an internet sensation and was called a "rock star" by Gov. Haley for his live interpretation of vital information before, during and after Hurricane Matthew. To the 65,000 residents in South Carolina's deaf community, he's a life-saver. "I stayed in Columbia for a week and a half," Hurdich says. "I was not aware of damage to my home." Wednesday at 11 p.m., we're airing an exclusive interview with Hurdich, where he talks about his experience interpreting for

the governor in a time of crisis, and his efforts to help a local family who lost everything in the flood.

WMBF: RJ Corman repairing damage to Carolina Southern Railroad once again

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33465046/rj-corman-repairing-damage-to-carolina-southern-railroad-once-again>

Kaitlin Stansell

RJ Corman is once again repairing damage to its Carolina Southern Railroad tracks that run through Horry and Marion counties in South Carolina. The rail line was damaged by Hurricane Matthew and the severe flooding the storm brought to the area. SCDOT reports 20 washouts, 12 miles of track flooded and one locomotive stuck in the hard hit town of Nichols. Officials say the rebuilding process could take up to four weeks to complete. However, they are optimistic that the rail line will come out of this stronger and better than before. "We have a great vision for this rail line, but it's not going to happen overnight. Things like this are going to happen," RJ Corman's Bill Henderson said. "We are going to rebuild, rebuild stronger."

WMBF: Debris pick-up continues following Hurricane Matthew

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33465797/debris-pick-up-continues-following-hurricane-matthew>

Lisa Gresci

Despite it being more than two weeks since Hurricane Matthew impacted the Grand Strand, crews still have a lot of cleanup ahead of them. Currently, Myrtle Beach officials are working with a disaster response and recovery contractor to remove all the debris leftover from the storm. "Well, what we are looking at, at this site is about 37,000 cubic yards," said Sonny Armond, the vice president of TAG Grinding Services Inc., while looking at a pile of debris. That's not counting the other mounds of trees limbs picked up by city crews and dropped off by residents. Armond said there is at least another 30,000 to 40,000 cubic yards to go. It is a process, he said, that breaks down the city into eight debris management zones and two passes. "The first pass, the crews go out and pick up the bulk of the debris and what's out there," Armond said. "Then we send tree crews in behind them to cut down all the leaning trees that are hazardous, over the right of way, hanging limbs that might be capable of falling on cars or people or whatever. And then we will do a second pass, where we will go in and clean up the rest of the There are still neighborhoods waiting.

WMBF: WMBF teams up with Salvation Army to raise hope, funds for Matthew victims

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33465561/wmbf-teams-up-with-salvation-army-to-raise-hope-funds-for-matthew-victims>

Christel Bell

WMBF will host a telethon with the Salvation Army to raise money for hurricane and flood victims across the region on Wednesday, Oct. 26, from 4 to 7:30 p.m. Major Angela Repass, director of the Horry County Salvation Army, said many flood victims have come to their offices for the first time in need of assistance. She added she has heard first-hand how the devastation has hurt many families. "They have lost absolutely everything, all of their clothing, all of their furniture, their walls, their floors," Repass said. "So every donation that is received is going to allow us to offer a little bit of hope." Volunteers with the Salvation Army will be set to answer calls at a phone bank that will be set up in the WMBF News studios. The number to call will be announced throughout the Wednesday evening broadcasts. "We can then turn around and use the resources to buy the things that people need and we'll be able to make that impact," said Repass.

WPDE: Cross-state recovery group visits Sellers to offer help, compassion after hurricane

<http://wpde.com/news/local/an-out-of-state-recovery-group-is-in-sellers-to-help>

Rosalia Fodera

Some residents of Sellers say they've felt neglected after disasters in the past, but one cross-state recovery group is bringing them new hope. Deloris Patterson Abrahams has lived in Sellers her whole life. After the historic flood last year and Hurricane Matthew this year, she said she feels like her town is forgotten. "To the beach, everything to the beach--the beach can get anything they want. They get it. Over and over they get it, and we're just nobody, and I'm pretty sure I'm not the only one that feels that way," Abrahams said. But, now, she said the work of the recovery group Believers in Christ Outreach Ministries Worldwide has made her feel like the town will change. "I feel optimistic, because we didn't get that when we had the flood. I feel like they're gonna do all they can to help but we gotta help ourselves," Abrahams said.

WPDE: Residents hope Hurricane Matthew will help in fight against proposed FEMA flood maps

<http://wpde.com/news/local/residents-hope-hurricane-matthew-will-help-in-fight-against-proposed-fema-flood-maps>

Sydney Glenn

Thousands of people across Horry County could be impacted if newly proposed FEMA flood maps are approved. People who aren't currently required to have flood insurance, could have to get it and other's flood insurance rates could skyrocket. Some residents say they would have to walk away from their homes if that happens. Becky Warren is the HOA president of Harbour Towne in Myrtle Beach. She has been fighting the proposed maps since she first found out about them. She said her home did not flood during last years historic October flooding or during Hurricane Matthew. "I wanted to yell so loud that 'We told you so' that Harbour Towne subdivision does not flood," she said. Now, she hopes that the new information on who did and did not flood during the hurricane will be used in the fight against the proposed maps, she said.

Michael Slager Case:

Associated Press: Lawyers: Jury should visit site where cop shot black man

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

Bruce Smith

Attorneys for a white former South Carolina police officer charged in the shooting death of an unarmed black motorist want the jury to visit the scene of the shooting and not be sequestered during the trial. The requests are among a flurry of motions attorneys for Michael Slager have filed in recent days. Jury selection begins next Monday in Slager's murder trial. Slager, who turns 35 next month, faces 30 years to life in prison if convicted in the April 2015 death of 50-year-old Walter Scott. Scott was shot in North Charleston as he ran from a traffic stop in an incident captured on a dramatic cellphone video. Other motions ask that Scott and Slager be referred to only by their names, not by words such as "victim" or "defendant," and that there be no mention of a \$6.5 million civil settlement between the Scott family and the city. One motion said the jurors should be allowed to visit the scene "in order to fully appreciate what happened on the date of the alleged crime.

Post and Courier: Post and Courier attorney asks judge to keep filings, hearings public in Michael Slager case

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/post-and-courier-attorney-asks-judge-to-keep-filings-hearings/article_deecaea6-9a16-11e6-9f74-d750606dfdee.html

Andrew Knapp

Hoping to preserve the public's right to access in the trial of the former policeman who shot Walter Scott, an attorney for The Post and Courier on Monday asked a judge to vacate two orders that

closed part of a hearing and sealed future motions. Circuit Judge Clifton Newman on Friday ejected most members of the public from a courtroom where prosecutors, including an elected solicitor, were set to testify about whether state agents used deception to obtain an interview with the officer, Michael Slager. A newspaper representative objected, but the judge refused to hear any argument or to give reasons for his order. "Vacate the courtroom," he said. After 9th Circuit Solicitor Scarlett Wilson testified and the public portion of the hearing resumed, Newman also did not explain why he ordered attorneys to file all motions under seal. Jay Bender of Columbia, the newspaper's lawyer, said both rulings violated established legal precedent and procedural rules for South Carolina courts. In a motion and an accompanying memorandum sent to Newman on Monday afternoon, Bender said the judge should vacate the orders and make a transcript of the closed-door testimony available.

Townville Shooting:

Independent Mail: Support continues in wake of Townville shooting

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/south-carolina/2016/10/24/support-continues-wake-townville-shooting/92681446/>

Mike Ellis

In 2010, a grass fire came within a few feet of Dwayne Johnson's house in Townville, and he saw a firefighter emerge from the smoke as his house was kept safe. "We got home and we were in shock — there in the smoke stood Billy McAdams," Johnson said of the Townville Fire Department chief. In the wake of Townville's biggest tragedy, a shooting at an elementary school and at a home that claimed two lives and injured three others in September, Johnson said he and others are stepping up efforts this year to raise money to keep the fire trucks running for another year and bring crowds to show appreciation. "I kind of have a vested interest," he said. "We all do. In Townville there aren't a lot of jobs, so a lot of us work in Greenville, Anderson, Spartanburg and all over. We're at businesses everywhere, that's one of the reasons people are supporting Townville."

General Assembly News:

The State: Activist challenges SC's new state roads plan

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article110231987.html>

John Monk

A citizen activist with a long record of successful legal challenges asked the S.C. Supreme Court Monday to strike down a \$2.2 billion road spending plan adopted by the Legislature. The plan violated a constitutional requirement that requires bills to have only one subject, the lawsuit filed by Ned Sloan of Greenville and his S.C. Public Interest Foundation says. But the measure in question is deficient legally because it involved financing proposed road and bridge improvements and made changes in the operation of the state Department of Transportation. Sloan's lawyers asked the high court to decide the issue rather than sending the challenge to lower courts, a route that often takes years to resolve. The \$2.2 billion in road improvements includes repairing the intersection of I-20, I-26 and I-126 in the Columbia area, a congested area that motorists nickname "Malfunction Junction."

Associated Press : Cleary apologizes for 'sloppy bookkeeping' of Senate account

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

Seanna Adcox

Retiring state Republican Sen. Ray Cleary of Murrells Inlet is apologizing for "sloppy bookkeeping" over the last few years but says he never used campaign donations for personal expenses. The Senate Ethics Committee went behind closed doors Monday to determine how much to fine their

colleague. Cleary had already agreed to the findings of an attorney and accountant hired by the committee. It says Cleary violated six categories of ethics law, including not reporting contributions, not correctly reimbursing his campaign for a planned trip he ultimately didn't take, and lacking proper documentation for expenses. Accountant Tracy Amos says receipts were often illegible or insufficient. Cleary, a fulltime dentist, says he delegated the filing of quarterly online reports amid his busy schedule, but says it was his responsibility.

Post and Courier: Senate ethics panel to decide fate of Sen. Cleary's campaign finance woes

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/senate-ethics-panel-to-decide-fate-of-sen-cleary-s/article_197e2bfc-9a0e-11e6-8212-4f3f4a9f3f70.html

Gavin Jackson

Retiring state Sen. Ray Cleary of Murrells Inlet admits that campaign finance reports filed on his behalf contained insufficient details but contends they were not deceitful. Cleary on Monday accepted the 32 reporting inaccuracies related to multiple disclosure violations listed by the Senate Ethics Committee. "In hindsight, it was my responsibility to make sure those reports were being done, were being checked and they were being double checked," Cleary said. "I gave it to somebody I had full confidence in," Cleary added. "I believed my ethics reports had been accurate." The committee will decide later what action and fines might be rendered. Audits found \$13,000 in campaign contributions were unreported from 2013 through 2015. In other cases, there was insufficient documentation of where \$21,000 in reimbursements went.

The State: Cost of running for SC Senate going up

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article110243527.html>

Cassie Cope

The price of running in a contentious S.C. state Senate race is going up and easily can run into the six figures. Both candidates for a Northeast Richland state Senate seat, for example, have raised more than \$100,000, according to state ethics filings. That sum — in excess of \$250,000 in total for both candidates — does not include additional money spent on behalf of the candidates by the state Democratic and Republican parties. An embattled incumbent, trying to retain his or her Senate seat, can spend even more. Earlier this year, state Senate President Pro Tempore High Leatherman, R-Florence, waged the state's most expensive Senate campaign. Leatherman reported spending almost \$2 million, including a \$750,000 loan that he repaid, to fight off two GOP primary challengers and the political machine of Republican Gov. Nikki Haley. Where does the money go?

NOTE: State Senate leader Leatherman, who chairs the Senate's budget committee and sits on many other state boards, spent nearly \$2 million fending off two GOP primary challengers and a political committee with ties to Gov. Haley, who frequently has clashed with her fellow Republican.

The Herald: SC House District 26: Thompspon challenges Felder

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/community/fort-mill-times/article110043667.html>

Andrew Stark

Raye Felder, the Republican incumbent for the state's District 26, has served two terms in the S.C. House of Representatives seat. The 54-year-old Felder owns a small insurance sales business and lives in Fort Mill with her husband, J. Wayne Felder. She attended Winthrop University and York Technical College before earning a bachelor's degree from Limestone College. Thompson, 56, was born and raised in Boston where he attended high school and college, but has been in Fort Mill for 13 years. Thompson, who is the Democratic challenger for the District 26 seat, works in document management and is running for elected office for the first time after previously serving as a Democratic county chair and as a delegate for two national conventions.

The Herald: 20-somethings vie for SC House District 45 seat

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/community/fort-mill-times/article110069297.html>

Andrew Stark

When Fort Mill Township voters go to the polls Nov. 8, they will have the opportunity to elect S.C. House representatives. Residents in Dist. 45 will choose between Democrat Tyler Mitchell and Republican Brandon Newton. Both are first-time candidates vying to succeed incumbent Republican Deborah Long, who declined to seek re-election. We asked all the candidates to share their views on several issues important to voters across the state: Act. 388, which shifted public education funding from residential property tax to sales tax and left many schools, including in Fort Mill Township, underfunded; The possibility of raising the state's fuel tax to help pay for needed road and bridge projects; Their thoughts on following the lead of other states and legalizing cannabis for medical and/or recreational use. Here's what they had to say...

The State: McLeod, Brill point fingers as Senate District 22 race gets heated

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article110100817.html>

Avery G. Wilks

The heat has been turned up another notch in the state Senate District 22 race with a video and mailers targeting Democratic state Rep. Mia McLeod's consulting contracts with the city of Columbia. The S.C. Senate Republican Caucus, which backs Republican Susan Brill for the Northeast Richland district seat, released a Facebook video on Oct. 10 slamming McLeod for accepting up-to-\$49,500 from the city of Columbia for consulting work while she was a state legislator. "And getting rich off taxpayer dollars doesn't just smell bad," the video reads while showing stacks of money and ominous music plays in the background. "IT STINKS." The caucus also sent mailers to District 22 residents saying, in all-caps, that McLeod is "turning your tax dollars into her profit." And it set up a website, miamcleodforsenate.com, to host the message on yet another medium.

The State: Greenville write-in candidate hopes to block SC's first openly gay legislator

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article110111597.html>

Cassie Cope

An Upstate engineer has announced a write-in campaign to block Jason Elliott from becoming the state's first openly gay legislator. With two weeks to go until the Nov. 8 election, Brett Brocato said Monday he is challenging Greenville attorney Jason Elliott for the S.C. House District 22 seat. Elliott won the GOP nomination for that seat in June. He does not face a Democratic or third-party challenger on the Nov. 8 ballot. In the June primary, Elliott unseated incumbent Republican state Rep. Wendy Nanney, best known as the author of the state's new law restricting abortions at 20 weeks of pregnancy. Elliott beat Nanney by a 16-percentage-point landslide. Elliott has said voters in the Greenville House district, which includes conservative Bob Jones University, knew he is gay. But, he added, his sexual orientation did not play a role in the race. Brocato said he decided to run as a write-in candidate after hearing constituents react to news reports about Elliott's sexual orientation.

SC Agency News:

The State: Former state inmates allege excessive imprisonment

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article110238342.html>

Cynthia Roldan

Four former inmates are suing the Department of Corrections for unspecified damages, accusing the agency of keeping them in prison longer than it should have. The lawsuit alleges correction officials misinterpreted sentencing changes adopted by the Legislature in 2010 to relieve prison overcrowding. State corrections officials had no immediate comment on the complaint brought by former inmates Christopher McDowell, David Payton, Michael Smoak and Larry Hampton in federal court. All live in separate Upstate communities. Corrections officials have released prisoners in two waves after an appellate court ruled that the sentencing changes superseded earlier standards. The first group released in March included 222 prisoners who had been sentenced since 2010. On June 1, corrections officials released another 197, a group that included McDowell, Payton, Smoak and Hampton, all sentenced for non-violent drug offenses.

The State: SC tax agency urges employers to prepare for withholding changes

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article110185582.html>

Cassie Cope

The state's tax agency is urging S.C. businesses and employers to prepare for changes coming in January to state tax withholding tables. The S.C. Department of Revenue is changing the amount withheld for state taxes in a move that will put \$100 million in S.C. workers' paychecks throughout the year and cut the amount in tax refunds the state pays out. Nearly all S.C. taxpayers now get a state tax refund each spring. In part, that is because the state has not changed its tax withholding tables in 25 years, said Revenue director Rick Reames. The Revenue Department plans to make once-a-year changes to the withholding tables over the next decade. When fully phased-in, the changes will put \$1 billion back in S.C. workers' paychecks, Reames said. But, in order for the changes to take place, companies and businesses need to change their withholding to the new amount. Some S.C. employers use the Automatic Data Processing company to manage their payrolls. The company's system will tell employers how much money to withhold from an employee's paycheck under the new state withholding tables, said spokesman Charles Collins. The state's payroll also will be affected.

SC Delegation News:

Associated Press: Sens. John McCain, Lindsey Graham campaigning with Rep. Heck

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=36Jw3V6i

SC State Wire

Arizona Sen. John McCain and South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham are coming to Nevada to help Republican Rep. Joe Heck campaign. The two are joining Heck at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno on Tuesday for a national security round table discussion. Heck is also giving a keynote speech to the Latin American Chamber of Business on Tuesday morning. He's in a highly competitive race for Senate with Catherine Cortez Masto, who's also visiting the strategically important Reno area on Tuesday. She'll attend an early vote brunch and canvass kickoff event at the Washoe County Democratic Party headquarters, then return to Las Vegas for an evening phone banking event with vice presidential candidate Tim Kaine's wife, Anne Holton. Nevadans are already casting their votes during the ongoing early voting period.

Herald- Journal: Congressional candidates talk trade, criminal justice reform

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161024/congressional-candidates-talk-trade-criminal-justice-reform?rssfeed=true>

Chris Lavender

U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., talked a wide range of issues with his Democratic challenger, attorney Chris Fedalei, in a 40-minute forum Monday night that touched on gridlock, trade and

immigration and criminal justice reform. The two met on stage at Furman University in what could be the only forum to feature the two before the November election. "A Conversation with South Carolina Congressional Candidates: An Experiment in Civility and Substance" was moderated by Furman political science professor Danielle Vinson. Fedalei throughout the forum questioned Gowdy's record and said better leadership was needed in the 4th Congressional District, which includes Spartanburg and Greenville counties. "People are sick of the partisanship in Congress right now and rightfully so," Fedalei said. Gowdy, who is finishing his third term representing the heavily Republican 4th Congressional District, said, "I get that Congress is not popular," but he added that he didn't believe Congress should be blamed for everything wrong with government.

SC Political News:

Herald-Journal: Election officials working under 'heightened security'

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161024/election-officials-working-under-heightened-security?rssfeed=true>

Zach Fox

State and local election officials say they are working under "heightened security" ahead of the presidential election in an attempt to put fears to rest of a "rigged" contest or one that is disrupted by a foreign country. Officials are working with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, the National Guard and technology agencies to make sure the process of voting and tabulating those votes goes unimpeded on Nov. 8, State Election Commission Executive Director Marci Andino said during an interview with the Herald-Journal on Monday. She said the attention to security in 2016 is unprecedented. "It's like no other election, it really is a different environment," she said. "Security is a hot topic this year." While the election commission isn't aware of any specific threats to voting in South Carolina, it's better to be safe than sorry, she said. More than 30 states across the country are working with Homeland Security in an effort to protect the integrity of this year's vote, Andino said.

Associated Press: Vice president to campaign in red state South Carolina

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Rc0NndM6

SC State Wire

Vice President Joe Biden is coming to strongly Republican South Carolina next week to campaign for a congressional candidate and to get out the vote for the Democratic ticket. News outlets report that Biden will attend events in Sumter and in Rock Hill on Nov. 1. He will be joined by Democratic U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn and Democratic congressional candidate Fran Person. Pearson is a former Biden aide who is challenging incumbent Republican U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney in the 5th District that reaches from the North Carolina border into the Midlands.

The State: Vice President Biden to campaign in South Carolina

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article110185147.html>

Avery G. Wilks

Vice President Joe Biden plans to campaign in the Palmetto State next week. The Democrat will headline "Get Out the Vote" events in Sumter and Rock Hill on Nov. 1. Biden will be joined by U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn of Columbia, 5th District candidate Fran Person, and other Democratic leaders and candidates. Biden's visit — in the final days of the 2016 campaign — is a sign that Democrats think the vote in South Carolina, long a GOP stronghold, could be closer than anticipated. Recent polls have shown Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump leading in South Carolina by from 2 to 15 percentage points. "South Carolina Democrats are so excited that Vice President Biden has chosen to visit our state in this important stretch of this campaign to highlight the importance of our

elections this fall, including Fran Person's very competitive race in the 5th Congressional District," state party chairman Jaime Harrison said in a news release. Biden visited York County last month to fundraise for Person. Person, a former aide to the vice president, is trying to upset incumbent U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney, R-Indian Land.

Post and Courier: VP Joe Biden will campaign for Democrats in South Carolina

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/vp-joe-biden-will-campaign-for-democrats-in-south-carolina/article_40eef9e8-9a25-11e6-87da-37e9dd317f8a.html

Maya T. Prabhu

Vice President Joe Biden will be in South Carolina next week, working to get out the vote for the state's Democrats running for office. Biden will be at campaign events in Sumter and Rock Hill next Tuesday. Joining the vice president will be U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., and congressional candidate Fran Person, who worked as an aide for Biden and is running against U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney, R-S.C. "South Carolina Democrats are so excited that Vice President Biden has chosen to visit our state in this important stretch of this campaign to highlight the importance of our elections this fall, including Fran Person's very competitive race in the 5th Congressional District," S.C. Democratic Party Chairman Jaime Harrison said in a statement. "We are very excited to welcome the vice president back to South Carolina and move our state and country forward on Nov. 8."

Associated Press: Ethics in 2016 election topic of Cardinal Bernardin lecture

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=8Pc512ab

SC State Wire

The president of DePaul University is discussing ethical challenges voters and candidates face as Election Day 2016 draws near. The Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider is delivering the annual Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Lecture Tuesday at 6 p.m. in Capstone House at the University of South Carolina. The lecture is free and open to the public. Holtschneider's talk deals with Bernardin's philosophy of a consistent ethic in life. Holtschneider is an ordained priest and has served as president of the nation's largest Catholic university in the nation since 2004. The Bernardin lectures series was established in 1999 to honor the Columbia native who attended Carolina and became a leader in the Roman Catholic Church. It is sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences and its department of religious studies.

Savannah River Site/MOX News:

Aiken Standard: Future of MOX facility uncertain but optimistic, officials say

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20161024/161029781/future-of-mox-facility-uncertain-but-optimistic-officials-say>

Thomas Gardiner

Last month, Russia's decision to suspend the Plutonium Management and Disposition Agreement with the U.S. left the future of South Carolina's Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility hanging in the balance. But experts say the future of the beleaguered facility at the Savannah River Site remains cautiously optimistic. U.S. Nuclear Infrastructure Council's David Blee said it's important to look at several factors surrounding the PMDA suspension. "It's important to recognize that Russia suspended the PMDA and did not terminate the agreement, that's an important distinction," he said. Blee said the Russian decision puts the ball in the U.S. court, leaving the future of the nonproliferation agreement, and the MOX facility, in the hands of Department of Energy decision makers. According to Russian media sources, President Vladimir Putin opted to suspend the agreement because of a departure from the agreement by the Americans.

NOTE: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley considers the MOX program a primary pathway out of the state for nuclear material and a commitment made by the U.S. government. In a statement from Haley's office, her press secretary said, "As the governor has said time and again, South Carolina will not be a dumping ground for nuclear waste – it's both a quality of life and economic development issue. The federal government owes it to South Carolinians to live up to its promises, and that includes removing waste from our state."

Opinion/Editorial:

The State: Our legislators' special pension perk

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scope/article110155022.html>

Cindi Ross Scope

FOR EVERY dollar state legislators paid into their special pension system last year, we taxpayers kicked in \$11.56. Yes, you read that correctly: \$1 from your legislator, \$11.56 from you. Even worse — and I realize it's hard to believe there could be an "even worse" — we paid that same \$11.56:\$1 match for former legislators. Even the ones we kicked out of office. As a result of our great generosity, former legislators can receive pensions worth three times their annual salary. (Full-time career state employees can hope to get a pension worth about half their salaries.) The annual pensions for people who build up 30 years credit in the General Assembly Retirement System are so heavily subsidized that legislators recoup every penny they paid in — all 30 years worth of contributions — in barely more than two years. (Annual contributions of \$2,300, after 30 years, yield an annual pension of \$33,000.)

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Singapore Airlines reportedly in line for delivery of Boeing's 1st North Charleston-made 787-10

http://www.postandcourier.com/business/singapore-airlines-reportedly-in-line-for-delivery-of-boeing-s/article_71ec633c-9a02-11e6-b3b7-8f28d465ebf7.html

David Wren

As the first 787-10 moves toward final production at Boeing Co.'s North Charleston campus, carriers set to get the first deliveries of the new Dreamliner wide-body are being named in unofficial reports. Boeing, which will build the 787-10 exclusively in North Charleston, would not confirm the reports. "We will discuss that at the appropriate time," said company spokeswoman Elizabeth Merida. However, "All Things 787," a website that tracks Dreamliner production, reported over the weekend that Singapore Airlines will get the first 787-10 delivery in May 2018. Uresh Sheth, an investment banker and the website's author, said Boeing plans to deliver up to 17 of the Dash 10s in the first year after testing is complete. Saj Ahmad, chief analyst at London-based Strategic Aero Research, said the first delivery could come a lot sooner - before the end of next year.

The State: South Carolina oil spill prompts legal threat

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article110111637.html>

Sammy Fretwell

Dissatisfied with the progress of an oil spill cleanup in South Carolina, environmentalists are laying the groundwork for a lawsuit against a national energy company over the 2014 petroleum leak near Belton. The Savannah Riverkeeper and Upstate Forever said Monday they have filed a notice that they will sue under the federal Clean Water Act within 60 days if Kinder Morgan Energy Partners Inc. and a subsidiary don't halt ongoing petroleum pollution in waterways near the spill site. Petroleum is

still polluting the environment more than 18 months after the spill – and stream banks “reek of gasoline,” said Frank Holleman, an attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center, which is representing the groups. Monday's legal notice, provided to the energy company and government regulators, is part of a federal process that must be followed before a lawsuit can be filed. Such notices are not common, but are sometimes filed by citizens who claim the government is not enforcing the clean water law. The notice letter comes at a time of criticism by green groups and property rights advocates over Kinder Morgan expansion plans in the Savannah River basin in western South Carolina.

Independent Mail: Watchdogs put Kinder Morgan on notice

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/2016/10/24/watchdogs-put-kinder-morgan-notice/92657566/>

Mike Eads

A trio of environmental watchdogs wants Kinder Morgan to finish cleaning up its huge gasoline spill near Belton, or else. Upstate Forever, Savannah Riverkeeper and the Southern Environmental Law Center announced Monday that they gave Kinder Morgan 60 days notice to clean up over 300,000 gallons of fuel that reportedly spilled from its Plantation Pipe Line in December 2014. The notice is a required precursor to using the federal Clean Water Act to sue the Houston-based pipeline operator over ecological damage from the spill, which happened a few miles northwest of Belton near the Cheddar community. “Kinder Morgan is responsible for one of the largest pipeline spills in South Carolina history, yet thousands of gallons of gasoline have not been cleaned up,” said Frank Holleman, a senior attorney at SELC. “A year and a half after the spill, petroleum is polluting this waterway that flows through Anderson County, and the stream banks reek of gasoline. This pollution must stop, and Kinder Morgan must take responsibility for its pollution of South Carolina.”

The State: Wrecks on South Carolina roads kill 12 during weekend

<http://www.thestate.com/news/state/south-carolina/article110174997.html>

Jane Moon Dial

South Carolina Department of Public Safety officials said there were 12 road deaths reported during this past weekend. Officials said nine of the deaths occurred on U.S. routes, S.C. roads and secondary roads and three occurred on interstates. In three of the deaths, officials said a seat belt was not used. Four people who died were wearing seat belts, while seat belt use was unknown for two others. Two people who died were unhelmeted motorcyclists, while helmet use was unknown for another person. As of Monday, 803 people have died on state highways, compared to 792 highway deaths during the same time period in 2015. Of the 513 motor-vehicle occupants who have died in 2016, 246 were not wearing seat belts. According to DPS, 115 pedestrians have been killed compared to 97 during the same time period in 2015. So far 117 motorcyclists have been killed compared to 123 this time in 2015. Twenty bicyclists have died in 2016 compared to 15 this time last year.

Independent Mail: Anderson County traffic deaths spike in 2016

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/10/25/anderson-county-traffic-deaths-spike-2016/92694374/>

Nikie Mayo

The number of people who have died on Anderson County roads in 2016 is nearly double what it was this time last year. Data released Monday by the South Carolina Department of Public Safety show there have been 50 traffic fatalities in the county this year. By comparison, 27 people had died on Anderson County roads in the same period last year. Included in those statistics is a spike in deaths of

motorcyclists and moped riders, according to Anderson County Coroner's Office records. The recent spike in traffic deaths is that it is not just a change from 2015 to 2016, but is a break in a general pattern. Between 2013 and 2015, Anderson County averaged 29 traffic deaths annually. The 2016 numbers, gathered this week, reflect all traffic fatalities in the county through midnight Sunday.

WPDE: Florence County 911 center named best in the state

<http://wpde.com/news/local/florence-county-911-center-named-best-in-the-state>

Florence County's 911/Central Dispatch center has been named South Carolina's 911 Center of the Year, according to a news release. Specifically the center was recognized for several technological advancements and innovations, as well as training enhancements for staff members and the 911 community as a whole, the release said. The center recently made improvements to its training system which gives new officers a chance to train on a simulated CAD, or Computer Aided Dispatch, without having to interfere with the live CAD system being used in dispatch. This system not only enhances the quality of training but also reduces the time needed to train new employees, the release said. It was also recognized as an inventor in training by assisting other 911 centers with their training issues, officials said.

Post and Courier: Education spending up in S.C. but still below prerecession level

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/education-spending-up-in-s-c-but-still-below-prerecession/article_f63e0c90-96e6-11e6-9213-9ba27e0af557.html

Deanna Pan

School districts in South Carolina still haven't recovered from deep cuts of the Great Recession. Despite recent state investments in public education, a new report finds K-12 per-pupil funding remains below 2008 levels. South Carolina was one of 35 states spending less per student in the 2014 than in 2008, slashing K-12 education funding by 14.2 percent, one of the largest cuts in the nation, according to a new report from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. As the economy rebounded, the state Legislature began reinvesting in K-12 schools, but nearly a decade after the recession began, general funding per pupil is still down half a percent this fiscal year from 2008. "South Carolina has been moving in the right direction after making very deep cuts after the recession hit," said Michael Leachman, director of state fiscal research at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a left-leaning think tank based in Washington, D.C., and one of the report's authors. His calculations are adjusted for inflation and based on the U.S. Census Bureau's latest available data and state budgets. "It's an encouraging sign."

The Herald: Winthrop reports 1.3 percent annual enrollment growth this fall

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article110156197.html>

For the second straight year, Winthrop University has seen an increase in student enrollment, officials said. The university added 78 additional students to its enrollment for fall 2016, a 1.3 percent increase over fall 2015. The growth brings Winthrop's undergraduate population to 5,091 and graduate students to 1,018 for the fall. "This is great news for us, and I'm proud of the fact that we have, for the second straight year, continued to grow our enrollment within a very competitive higher education environment," said President Dan Mahony. "The first goal in our recently announced strategic plan addresses both enrollment and retention," Mahony said. "While we definitely want to bring in more students, increasing our already solid retention rates in order to further improve on-time graduation rates for our students is equally important, as that will help students and their families save money and decrease debt," he said.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Charleston County School Board nixes part of sex education curriculum
http://www.postandcourier.com/news/charleston-county-school-board-nixes-part-of-sex-education-curriculum/article_7e6f1846-9a09-11e6-b4df-e32fc56b9b8d.html

Deanna Pan

The Charleston County School Board shot down a proposal Monday night that would have allowed seventh and eighth graders to learn pregnancy prevention techniques, including various birth control methods and effective condom use, as long they had their parents' permission. Board members unanimously approved middle schools' use of a revised edition of "Making a Difference!," an abstinence-based sex education program that district schools have been using for years. But they nixed an appendix from the curriculum that includes role-playing games on AIDS, HIV and abstinence; describes several types of contraceptives; and mentions bisexuality and a lesbian relationship. Board member Tom Ducker called the material in the appendix "offensive."

The State: Spring Valley 'flipping' a year later: Changes in police rules as ex-deputy keeps low profile
<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article110221422.html>

John Monk

Former Richland County deputy Ben Fields is keeping a low profile as state and local officials work on new rules for in-school law enforcement officers a year after he flipped an unruly Spring Valley High student in her chair and dragged her across the room. "He's doing his best to move forward," said Scott Hayes, Fields' lawyer. Although 5th Circuit Solicitor Dan Johnson determined last month that no criminal charges would be brought against Fields, the U.S. Department of Justice is reviewing the case for possible federal civil rights violations but has made no decision yet. Fields' "reputation has been immeasurably impacted as a result of the fallout and until that cloud has lifted and the DOJ has completed its investigation and made the results public, I don't know what kind of options Ben will have," Hayes said. Fields is not giving interviews, Hayes said.

Associated Press: Police: Man stabbed cousin in S. Carolina church over curse
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=XAI0jE50

SC State Wire

Authorities say a man stabbed his cousin during a church service in South Carolina because he thought the victim had put a curse on him. Sumter County deputies released the new details as a judge held a hearing and denied bond Monday for 65-year-old Billy Lewis. Investigators say Lewis began stabbing his cousin, who was seated in front of him Sunday morning at St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church. Authorities say the victim was wounded in the back and head, but is recovering. The Rev. Eric Dent says his wife is a nurse and helped treat the man until paramedics arrived. Dent says both men were loyal church members. Lewis' sister, Edith Lewis, says he is schizophrenic and wasn't taking his medicine. Lewis didn't have a lawyer at Monday's hearing.

The State: Man accused of church stabbing has schizophrenia, family says
<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article110224862.html>

Glen Luke Flanagan

A man accused of stabbing a relative during Sunday school this weekend hadn't been taking his medicine for schizophrenia, his sister said Monday. Billy Lewis, 65, of Wedgefield is charged with attempted murder after deputies say he stabbed a man sitting in front of him at St. Paul AME Church Shaw. Edith Lewis, the suspect's sister, said Lewis didn't know what he was doing at the time. "I think he probably wasn't taking his medicine and that's what caused it," she said. Billy Lewis and the unidentified victim are cousins by marriage, she said. Sumter County law enforcement officials agree

Billy Lewis has mental health issues but did nothing violent previously.

Associated Press: Coast Guard helicopter flies distressed boater to Charleston

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=s9mrcfek

SC State Wire

A boater in distress off the coast of South Carolina has been brought to a hospital in Charleston by a Coast Guard helicopter. The Coast Guard says a passenger aboard a 60-foot sailboat reported a medical emergency shortly after noon Monday about 20 miles off the coast. A helicopter from Air Station Savannah responded and brought the 55-year-old man to shore and he was taken to the Medical University of South Carolina. The man's name and condition were not released. The sailboat the man was on was being towed at the time.

Post and Courier: Coast Guard medevacs sick man to MUSC

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/coast-guard-medevacs-sick-man-to-musc/article_ad8a71bc-9a3a-11e6-90e7-7f8b03ac9c32.html

Derek Asberry

A 55-year-old sick man aboard a disabled boat 20 miles east of Charleston was rescued just after noon on Monday and was medevaced to the hospital, according to a press release. The Coast Guard says a helicopter crew from Savannah rescued the man, who was a passenger on a 60-foot sailboat that was being towed. The command center in Charleston was told that the man had become ill and was unable to take medication. The man was transferred to a tow boat and taken to Medical University Hospital for treatment.

Herald-Journal: Spartanburg police officers, firefighters get pay raise

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161024/spartanburg-police-officers-firefighters-get-pay-raise?rssfeed=true>

Alyssa Mulliger

Several police officers and firefighters are getting a salary bump after Spartanburg City Council on Monday gave final approval to pay increases. Council approved an ordinance setting aside \$235,000 from last year's budget surplus to cover the increases, which will be retroactive to July 1. "This brings us back in line with other agencies, other cities and other police/sheriff's departments and makes us more competitive to take care of our people who are here," Council member Sterling Anderson said. "It is a thing that needed to be done, and we're all proud that we can do it." The pay increases will mostly affect patrol officers with seven to 14 years of service. Firefighters, police and fire sergeants, police and fire lieutenants and fire captains will also see a modest pay increase. The affected personnel — 64 in the Police Department and 20 in the Fire Department — will begin to see the salary bump around the middle of November. The raises will be worked into future city budgets, City Manager Ed Memmott said.

Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press: AP FACT CHECK: Voter roll problems do not equate to fraud

<http://bigstory.ap.org/dc933d2883414b65a1c44ecf9db32904>

Donald Trump has warned for weeks of a "rigged" election, telling his supporters to watch out for large-scale voter fraud — despite a lack of evidence that it exists. In the past few days, Trump has specifically raised concerns about people fraudulently voting using the names of dead people and cited research showing 1.8 million deceased people are still listed on state voter rolls. Here's a look at Trump's latest claim and what the facts show...

Associated Press : The Latest: Jay Z to perform at Clinton rally in Cleveland

<http://bigstory.ap.org/72807f4fa1e84e3795fae1cffad91754>

Jay Z will hold a concert for Hillary Clinton in Cleveland just days before Election Day. The Democratic presidential candidate's campaign says the hip-hop artist will perform on Nov. 4. He'll also be joined onstage by special guests. Jay Z campaigned for President Barack Obama in 2008 and 2012. Jennifer Lopez, Jon Bon Jovi and Katy Perry are also among the stars staging shows for Clinton in the next two weeks. Lopez will appear in Miami on Saturday to encourage Florida voters to back Clinton. Bon Jovi will headline concerts in Pittsburgh on Thursday and in Tampa, Florida, on Nov. 5. And Perry will perform in Philadelphia on Nov. 5.

Associated Press: Trump brand loses luster with affluent

<http://bigstory.ap.org/1a8711a0e879443bac190cf069975e89>

Event planner Beth Bernstein decided she had had enough with Donald Trump after his 2005 hot-mic boasts about groping women came to light earlier this month. She removed photos of weddings she had thrown at a Trump hotel in Chicago from her website, wrote to hotel staff to remove her from the list of "preferred vendors" and posted a sort of call to arms on her blog. "I simply cannot bring myself to walk in the door there any longer," wrote the owner of SQN Events. Bernstein is not alone. Rates for rooms at Trump's new D.C. hotel are being slashed as travelers weigh their options, and smartphone data suggest fewer people are visiting his properties compared to rival venues nearby. The Republican nominee for president is in danger of losing not just the election, but something dear to a man who claims the marketing value of his name alone is worth \$3 billion: the many customers, mostly wealthy, who have stayed at his hotels, played a round at his golf courses or held galas at his oceanside resorts.

Associated Press: Poll: Clinton gaining ground with young voters

<http://bigstory.ap.org/868195b2294748eaaa49d11fba76564>

Liane Golightly has finally decided who she'll vote for on Election Day. Hillary Clinton is not a choice the 30-year-old Republican would have predicted, nor one that excites her. But the former supporter of Ohio Gov. John Kasich says it's the only choice she can make. "I kind of wish it were somebody else, somebody that I could really get behind 100 percent," said Golightly, an educator from Monroe, Michigan. She's voting for Clinton, she said, only because she can't stomach "childish" Donald Trump. Like Golightly, many young voters are coming over to Clinton in the closing stretch of the 2016 campaign, according to a new GenForward poll of Americans 18 to 30. Driving the shift are white voters, who were divided between the two candidates just a month ago and were more likely to support GOP nominee Mitt Romney than President Barack Obama in 2012.

National News:

Associated Press: DIVIDED AMERICA: Yearning for unity, enduring divisiveness

<http://bigstory.ap.org/36978c71277848a2b1988311fc20d930>

Though they live about 1,730 miles apart, though they've never met, though they are of different races and backgrounds, Lauren Boebert and Dorothy Johnson-Speight speak almost in unison when they lament the fracturing of America. Americans must "come together, be non-judgmental about people and their opinions," says Johnson-Speight. Americans must "come together as one," says Boebert. And yet these two women stand squarely at the epicenter of American acrimony — territory explored by The Associated Press in "Divided America," a series of stories that surveyed a United States that is far from united.

World News:

Associated Press: Militants attack Pakistan police academy, killing 59

<http://bigstory.ap.org/71474b43baae40f4a31dce32ad903385>

Militants wearing suicide vests stormed a Pakistani police academy in the southwestern city of Quetta overnight, killing at least 59 people, mostly police cadets and recruits, and waging a ferocious gunbattle with troops that lasted into early hours Tuesday. Pakistani officials feared the death toll could rise further, as the four-hours-long siege — one of the deadliest attacks on Pakistan's security forces in recent years — left 117 wounded, some of them in critical condition. The assault caught many of the recruits asleep in their dorms and forced cadets and trainers to jump off rooftops and run for their lives to escape the attackers. By mid-day Tuesday, conflicting claims of responsibility emerged. The Islamic State group, which is waging war in Syria and Iraq where it has declared a self-styled caliphate, posted a claim on the group's media arm, the Arabic-language Aamaq news agency. It said three IS fighters killed 60 police recruits in Quetta but the claim was not confirmed by Pakistani officials and IS did not offer any previously unknown details about the assault.

Associated Press: Major militant attacks in Pakistan over the past 3 years

<http://bigstory.ap.org/f7c0b82f7b6e4b79b9ac39145932e5fb>

Militant attacks in Pakistan have killed hundreds of people over the past three years, including many schoolchildren. On Tuesday, authorities were investigating a brazen attack overnight in the Baluchistan provincial capital of Quetta where gunmen stormed a police academy, killing at least 59 people, mostly police cadets and recruits. Conflicting claims of responsibility have emerged, including by a Taliban splinter group and an Islamic State affiliate. Here are some of the deadliest attacks in Pakistan in the last three years..

Associated Press: Threatened in Mosul, Islamic State uses alternative tactics

<http://bigstory.ap.org/f5affd314f89409aa44dd5ec97788db9>

Dozens of Islamic State fighters struck at dawn, storming government and security compounds in and around the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk last week, in a coordinated assault more than 100 miles (160 kilometers) from the front lines of the Mosul offensive. Over the last two years, the extremists have adopted innovative tactics and launched diversionary attacks along the amoeba-like frontiers of their self-styled caliphate, and many now fear they have more surprises in store as Iraqi forces close in on Mosul, the militants' last urban bastion in the country. The Kirkuk assault was carried out by more than 50 militants who may have been part of so-called sleeper cells. They struck targets in and around the city, pinning down Kurdish security forces for two days and killing at least 80 people. A similar attack was launched on the western town of Rutba, hundreds of miles from Mosul, over the weekend. Here is a look at some of the other tactics the group may employ.

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