

**From:** Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>  
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**Subject:** Afternoon Clips – Wednesday, November 16, 2016

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## **Afternoon Clips – Wednesday, November 16, 2016**

### **Gov. Nikki Haley elected RGA Vice Chairwoman:**

#### **RGA:** RGA Announces 2017 Leadership

<https://www.rga.org/rga-announces-2017-leadership/>

The Republican Governors Association announced today that Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker was elected to serve as the RGA Chair for 2017. Additionally, South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley was elected to serve as Vice Chair. Both assume the positions immediately. "Governor Scott Walker never backed down from a challenge, and after he helped build a better tomorrow for Wisconsin, I'm confident that his tireless work ethic and strong leadership will greatly benefit the RGA," said outgoing RGA Chair Susana Martinez. "The record Governor Walker has established in Wisconsin is enormously impressive, and his experience of winning three gubernatorial elections amid turning his state from blue to red will be vital to ensuring our governors and candidates have the resources they need to win in 2017. It has been an honor to serve with him as my Vice Chair for this past year and I look forward to the success he will achieve as the RGA's Chairman for 2017."

#### **Associated Press:** Haley takes bigger leadership role in GOP governors' group

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=M7bA1TNB](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=M7bA1TNB)

#### **SC State Wire**

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is taking a bigger leadership role in the Republican Governors Association, further boosting her national profile. The association announced Wednesday that Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker was elected chairman for 2017, and Haley was elected vice chairwoman. The posts take effect immediately. The move means Haley will likely ascend to chairwoman in 2018, the last year of her tenure. The Republican Governors Association held its annual conference this week at in Orlando. The association's outgoing chairwoman, New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez, says Haley's "experience and insight will be integral to the success of our governors and candidates."

Haley's predecessor as South Carolina governor also led the association. Former Gov. Mark Sanford resigned that post as chairman in 2009 when he admitted an extramarital affair.

#### **Post and Courier:** S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley elected RGA vice chairwoman

[http://www.postandcourier.com/news/s-c-gov-nikki-haley-named-rga-vice-chairwoman/article\\_8658bcee-ac13-11e6-b107-478c3b47356d.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/news/s-c-gov-nikki-haley-named-rga-vice-chairwoman/article_8658bcee-ac13-11e6-b107-478c3b47356d.html)

#### **Gavin Jackson**

Gov. Nikki Haley was elected vice chairwoman of the Republican Governors Association by her counterparts Wednesday. Republican governors also elected Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker the group chairman as they ended their annual conference in Orlando, Fla. "Republican governors are making a difference, delivering results to the people of their states, and our record-breaking majority shows that the RGA knows what it takes to elect effective leaders," Haley said in a statement. "I look forward to working with Gov. Walker, a trusted friend and colleague, to recruit strong candidates and build on RGA's historic progress in the months ahead." Haley and Walker are two of the 33 Republican governors leading states in 2017, something that hasn't happened in 94 years.

#### **The State:** SC Gov. Haley elected vice chair of the Republican Governors Association

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article115176133.html>

Cassie Cope

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley was elected vice chairman of the Republican Governors Association on Wednesday. Typically, vice chairs become chair of the association the following year. For Haley, that means she would chair the GOP governors group in 2018, her final year as S.C. governor.

"Republican governors are making a difference, delivering results to the people of their states, and our record breaking majority shows that the RGA knows what it takes to elect effective leaders," said Gov. Haley in a news release. "I look forward to working with Governor Walker, a trusted friend and colleague, to recruit strong candidates and build on RGA's historic progress in the months ahead. "Political observers say that position will elevate Haley's national spotlight.

### **Gov. Haley Touted As Possible Secretary of State:**

**Twitter:** @JoeNBC: Sources tell me Donald Trump is now considering Governor Nikki Haley for Secretary of State.

<https://twitter.com/JoeNBC/status/798979865605210112>

**MSNBC:** VIDEO: Scarborough: Trump considering Haley for Sec. of State

<http://www.msnbc.com/kate-snow/watch/scarborough-trump-considering-haley-for-sec-of-state-810644035966>

MSNBC's Joe Scarborough says that President-elect Donald Trump is considering Gov. Nikki Haley (R-SC) for Secretary of State in his cabinet. Scarborough and MSNBC's Kate Snow discuss.

**MSNBC:** Will Trump's cabinet lack foreign policy experience?

<http://www.msnbc.com/kate-snow/watch/will-trump-s-cabinet-lack-foreign-policy-experience-810689603563>

"David Rothkopf, Foreign Policy CEO and Editor, tells MSNBC's Kate Snow that Gov. Nikki Haley (R-SC), along with other Trump cabinet hopefuls, lack foreign policy experience."

**Bloomberg:** Governor Nikki Haley Being Touted as Possible Secretary of State

<http://www.bloomberg.com/politics/videos/2016-11-16/nikki-haley-being-touted-as-possible-secretary-of-state>

On "With All Due Respect," Democratic strategist Lis Smith and Republican strategist Steve Schmidt discuss the possibility of South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley being named secretary of state and the politics of the transition.

**Politico:** Nikki Haley under consideration to lead State Department, her Lt. gov. says

<http://www.politico.com/blogs/donald-trump-administration/2016/11/haley-being-considered-for-secretary-of-state-her-lieutenant-governor-says-231509>

Matthew Nussbaum

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is under consideration to be President-elect Donald Trump's secretary of state, her lieutenant governor told the Post and Courier Wednesday. Lt. Gov Henry McMaster said he too is being considered for a position in Trump's cabinet — including possibly attorney general — and told the Post and Courier that he's in contact with the Trump transition team. Haley, considered a rising star in the Republican Party, backed Sen. Marco Rubio in the Republican primary. The daughter of Indian immigrants, she would bring both racial and gender diversity to Trump's cabinet. Former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani is also a strong contender for the position, per multiple reports and sources. Haley was elected governor of South Carolina in 2010 after three terms in Congress. McMaster was elected Lt. Gov. in 2014 after serving from 2003-2011 as the state's attorney general. As with all cabinet staffing rumors, it should be noted that both potential candidates and their allies (as well as the transition team itself) have incentives to float potential selections — even ones who are unlikely to be chosen.

**Washington Post:** Haley, McMaster reportedly being considered for posts in Trump administration

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/wp/2016/11/16/haley-mcmaster-reportedly-being-considered-for-posts-in-trump-administration/>

Sari Horwitz

South Carolina Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster said he is being considered for attorney general, according to the Charleston-based The Post and Courier. McMaster, a former U.S. attorney in South Carolina from 1981 to 1985, told the Post and Courier Wednesday that he has been talking to people on the Trump transition team. McMaster, an early Trump supporter, also said that South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley — who endorsed Marco Rubio in the GOP presidential primary — is being considered for several possible Cabinet position, including secretary of state. Haley once said that Trump represented “everything a governor doesn’t want in a president.” In her response this year to President Obama’s State of the Union address, she referred to “the siren call of the angriest voices.” But on Tuesday at the Republican Governor’s Association meeting in Orlando, Haley told reporters that she is “just giddy” about what lies ahead in a Trump administration.

**Business Insider:** Here's a quick rundown on each of the candidates Trump is considering for secretary of state

<http://www.businessinsider.com/trump-secretary-of-state-2016-11>

Pamela Engel

President-elect Donald Trump and his transition team are at work vetting individuals to serve in the incoming White House cabinet. And a few names have cropped up repeatedly for the secretary of state job — former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, Tennessee Sen. Bob Corker, former US ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, and South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley. Here's a rundown on each candidate.

**NOTE:** Haley's name was added to the list on Wednesday, according to MSNBC host Joe Scarborough. The South Carolina governor has become a rising star within the Republican party in recent years. She delivered a well-received rebuttal to President Barack Obama's State of the Union address this year, calling for unity seeming to negate Trump's campaign tactics by urging people to “resist the temptation” of following the “siren call of the angriest voices.” She also took a swipe at anti-immigrant rhetoric, saying that “no one who is willing to work hard, abide by our laws, and love our traditions should ever feel unwelcome in this country.”

**Newsmax:** Report: Trump Considering Nikki Haley for Secretary of State

<http://www.newsmax.com/Politics/nikki-haley-considered-secretary-of-state-cabinet/2016/11/16/id/759302/>

Todd Beamon

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is being considered for secretary of state and at least one other position, Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster said Wednesday. “Her name has been mentioned,” McMaster, 69, told McClatchy. “The depths of consideration for the various names that have been mentioned for various things, I couldn’t tell you.” In addition, McMaster said that he was approached about being U. S. attorney general. News of Haley's consideration was also disclosed on Twitter by “Morning Joe” co-host Joe Scarborough... Regarding his possibility of serving in a Trump White House, McMaster told McClatchy: “I’ve been asked if I would be interested.” He is a former South Carolina attorney general who was first to endorse Trump. Others being considered for secretary of state include former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani and former U.N. Ambassador John Bolton.

**Associated Press:** McMaster: Trump team considering him, Haley in Cabinet

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=qz0pmmKp](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=qz0pmmKp)

SC State Wire

South Carolina's lieutenant governor says a member of Donald Trump's transition team has asked if he's interested in being attorney general. Henry McMaster also says he's been told that South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is being considered for secretary of state. McMaster tells The Associated Press he was contacted Wednesday. The former U.S. attorney and two-term state attorney general declined to specify who on the team called him. In January, McMaster became the first statewide

officeholder to back Trump. His endorsement split with Haley, who endorsed and campaigned with Marco Rubio for South Carolina's first-in-the-South presidential primary. When Rubio dropped out, she backed Ted Cruz. Haley criticized Trump throughout the contest. Trump won South Carolina's primary by 10 percentage points. McMaster says that primary victory gave Trump a "stamp of approval" and was pivotal in getting him elected.

**Post and Courier:** Henry McMaster says he, S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley being considered for Trump Cabinet positions

[http://www.postandcourier.com/news/henry-mcmaster-says-he-s-c-gov-nikki-haley-being/article\\_4f4f4182-ac40-11e6-b549-a3182d3bb377.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter&utm\\_campaign=user-share](http://www.postandcourier.com/news/henry-mcmaster-says-he-s-c-gov-nikki-haley-being/article_4f4f4182-ac40-11e6-b549-a3182d3bb377.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=user-share)

Andy Shain and Schuyler Kropf

South Carolina Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster told The Post and Courier on Wednesday that he and Gov. Nikki Haley are being considered for Cabinet positions in President-elect Donald Trump's administration. McMaster said Haley is being considered for several Cabinet posts including secretary of state. McMaster, one of Trump's earliest statewide political endorsers, said the daughter of Indian immigrants could provide a fresh set of eyes on foreign affairs. "It would be like how Mr. Trump is bringing fresh eyes to running our government," he said. McMaster said he has been speaking with the Trump transition team about becoming attorney general. McMaster was a U.S. attorney and the elected state attorney general before becoming lieutenant governor.

**The State:** Haley, McMaster reportedly being considered for Trump Administration

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article115191438.html>

Bristow Marchant and Cassie Cope

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley and Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster are contenders for positions in President-elect Donald Trump's cabinet. Trump's transition team approached McMaster, a former S.C. attorney general, about possibly being U.S. attorney general. "I've been asked if I would be interested," said McMaster, who was the first statewide elected official nationally to endorse Trump. In addition, members of Trump's presidential transition team have discussed Haley as a potential secretary of state and for at least one other position, McMaster said, declining to name the other position. "Her name has been mentioned," McMaster said, adding, "The depths of consideration for the various names that have been mentioned for various things, I couldn't tell you."

**Greenville News:** Greenville News: MSNBC host suggests Haley may be considered for Trump cabinet post

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/11/16/msnbc-host-suggests-haley-may-considered-trump-cabinet-post/93978316/>

Amanda Coyne

"Morning Joe" host Joe Scarborough tweeted Wednesday afternoon that Gov. Nikki Haley may be under consideration for a post in President-elect Donald Trump's cabinet. "Sources tell me Donald Trump is now considering Governor Nikki Haley for Secretary of State," Scarborough said. Spokespeople for Haley did not immediately return emails or phone calls seeking additional information. Haley has led trade missions to countries including India, Sweden and Germany, but her foreign policy experience is otherwise limited. The U.S. secretary of state is one of the highest-ranking foreign policy officials in the federal government. Haley would be an unlikely pick for a Trump administration cabinet, considering her past friction with the incoming president. Haley endorsed U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida in South Carolina's Republican primary, which Trump won. After Rubio withdrew from the race, Haley endorsed Sen. Ted Cruz over Trump. Once Trump became the nominee, Haley said she would vote for him based on "policy," but that she did not like his "personality."

**Aiken Standard:** Morning Joe host floats Gov. Haley's name around for Secretary of State

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/morning-joe-host-floats-gov-haley-s-name-around->



[for/article\\_92ed7cd2-ac3c-11e6-ad6b-338961ed94ff.html](http://www.wistv.com/story/33727509/report-gov-nikki-haley-being-considered-for-major-cabinet-position-in-trump-admin?clienttype=generic&utm_content=bufferde274&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer)

Maayan Schechter

Though South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley's office has made no indication she is considering a slot in President-elect Donald Trump's administration, MSNBC's "Morning Joe" host floated her name around on social media as a possible choice for U.S. Secretary of State. Joe Scarborough, a former Florida Congressman, tweeted on Wednesday afternoon, "Sources tell me Donald Trump is now considering Governor Nikki Haley for Secretary of State." Scarborough followed that tweet with, "Trump has spent the past several days reaching out to political figures who opposed him in the Republican primary to fill major positions." Haley's office was not immediately available for comment.

**WIS:** Reports: Haley, McMaster being considered for major cabinet positions in Trump admin  
[http://www.wistv.com/story/33727509/report-gov-nikki-haley-being-considered-for-major-cabinet-position-in-trump-admin?](http://www.wistv.com/story/33727509/report-gov-nikki-haley-being-considered-for-major-cabinet-position-in-trump-admin?clienttype=generic&utm_content=bufferde274&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer)  
[clienttype=generic&utm\\_content=bufferde274&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter.com&utm\\_campaign=buffer](http://www.wistv.com/story/33727509/report-gov-nikki-haley-being-considered-for-major-cabinet-position-in-trump-admin?clienttype=generic&utm_content=bufferde274&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer)

Could South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley or Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster be joining the newly-forming administration of President-elect Donald Trump? According to Joe Scarborough, former Florida congressman and host of MSNBC's Morning Joe, sources close to him say Haley is being considered for Secretary of State alongside former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani. According to Scarborough, Trump and his transition team have spent several days reaching out to former rivals to fill important cabinet positions. McMaster, on the other hand, has told the Charleston Post and Courier that he is being considered for attorney general. The lieutenant governor, one of the first mainstream Republicans to back Trump in the GOP primary, was South Carolina's attorney general for two terms and a U.S. Attorney under the Ronald Reagan administration. Haley was one of Trump's detractors on the campaign trail as the Republican presidential primary process came through South Carolina.

**WLTX:** Haley for Secretary of State, McMaster for Attorney General?  
<http://www.wltx.com/news/politics/gov-nikki-haley-being-considered-for-secretary-of-state/352900483>  
South Carolina's lieutenant governor says a member of Donald Trump's transition team has asked if he's interested in being attorney general. Henry McMaster also says he's been told that South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is being considered for secretary of state. McMaster tells The Associated Press he was contacted Wednesday. The former U.S. attorney and two-term state attorney general declined to specify who on the team called him. MSNBC host and anchor Joe Scarborough also ignited the talk Wednesday when he tweeted, "sources tell me Donald Trump is now considering Governor Nikki Haley for Secretary of State." In January, McMaster became the first statewide officeholder to back Trump. His endorsement split with Haley, who endorsed and campaigned with Marco Rubio for South Carolina's first-in-the-South presidential primary. When Rubio dropped out, she backed Ted Cruz.

**WACH:** Report: Haley, McMaster being considered for Trump's cabinet  
<http://wach.com/news/local/report-haley-being-considered-for-trumps-secretary-of-state>  
Matthew Stevens

Governor Nikki Haley and Lt. Governor Henry McMaster could be heading to Washington DC. According to Joe Scarborough with MSNBC, Donald Trump is considering Nikki Haley for Secretary of State. Scarborough added that Trump has reached out to politicians who opposed him in the Republican primary to fill cabinet positions. Haley and Trump have traded jabs leading up to the election over social media and the governor endorsed Florida Senator Marco Rubio over Trump prior to the First in the South Primary in February. Gov. Haley did note that she did vote for Trump over Hillary Clinton in the election, saying he was the best choice "based on policy." Earlier in the year, Haley was rumored as a potential vice presidential candidate after she gained national notoriety for her handling of the removal of the Confederate flag from State House grounds and the historic flooding. According to the Post and Courier, McMaster told the publication Trump is considering the Lt. Governor for Attorney General.

**WOLO:** Report: Haley Under Consideration for Secretary of State

<http://www.abccolumbia.com/2016/11/16/report-haley-consideration-secretary-state/>

Rob Dew

Governor Haley was never shy with her criticism of Donald Trump, now she may end up as part of his cabinet. Joe Scarborough, host of MSNBC's Morning Joe tweeted Wednesday afternoon sources are telling him Governor Haley is under consideration for secretary of state. ABC Columbia reached out to the governor's office for comment but have not yet received a reply.

### **Other Gov. Nikki Haley News:**

**Washington Post:** Republican governors jubilant about Trump presidency

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/republican-governors-jubilant-as-prospect-of-trump-presidency/2016/11/16/498d5b52-abf6-11e6-8b45-f8e493f06fcd\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/republican-governors-jubilant-as-prospect-of-trump-presidency/2016/11/16/498d5b52-abf6-11e6-8b45-f8e493f06fcd_story.html)

Karen Tumulty

Republican governors, including some who feuded with Donald Trump during the bitter presidential campaign, say they are bullish on his prospects to deliver what he has promised but warn that he must maintain his discipline and move quickly. Gathering for the first time since last week's upset election, members of the Republican Governors Association (RGA) said that Trump's win will be a boon for them as well. "We're headed in the right direction," Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey said Wednesday at the closing public session of the two-day conference. "I think there's a road map." Texas Gov. Greg Abbott recalled in an interview that, as his state's attorney general, he had filed 31 lawsuits against the current administration over policies including President Obama's signature health-care law, greenhouse-gas rules and the Dodd-Frank financial regulations.

**NOTE:** South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley once said that Trump represented "everything a governor doesn't want in a president" and jabbed at him in her response to Obama's State of the Union address this year as "the siren call of the angriest voices."

**NOTE:** Four years ago, former Mississippi governor Haley Barbour spoke to the RGA of the need to "give our political organization a very serious proctology exam."

**NOTE:** "I hope he can continue to be that same person, using that same tone," South Carolina's Haley said Tuesday.

**Florida Politics:** A happy group of Republican governors promises action and a bright future for America at conference

<http://floridapolitics.com/archives/227326-happy-group-republican-governors-promises-action-bright-future-america-conference>

Larry Griffin

The Republican Governors Association Annual Conference at the Hilton Orlando Resort had a very positive vibe Tuesday afternoon, with the party coming off the high of a Donald Trump win and the impending all-Republican government. Now, they think, they may actually get things done as a country. Their agenda at the conference, aside from a few opening jabs at the media's initial assumption that Trump couldn't get so far by host Bill Bennett of radio fame, was kept to a pretty straightforward Republican narrative — now they could return control of things to the states, end government overreach, create jobs, and build trust among the American people. Speakers Nikki Haley of South Carolina, Scott Walker of Wisconsin, Asa Hutchinson of Arkansas, and Doug Ducey of Arizona all sounded placated and elated at the recent news, saying it was now possible for a real road forward as a nation that would produce results to convince even the most skeptical of critics.

**NOTE:** Haley said the Trump win was proof working-class parents, who may not have time to watch TV, sure did have time to balance their budgets and saw that the current way of things wasn't working.

**NOTE:** At a press conference after the session, Haley and Walker joined Gov. Rick Scott and New Mexico's Gov. Susana Martinez. They answered questions from the media that mostly focused on the incoming Trump administration and all its uncertainties.

**NOTE:** Haley took a slightly more nuanced approach. “Communication matters, the power of words matters,” she said. “The second we get elected, our job is to lift up everyone. If people are sad about the election, what you’re going to see is action coming out of the administration.”

**McClatchy DC:** Haley ‘giddy’ about a GOP-dominated Washington

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/election/article114996718.html>

David Lightman

Gov. Nikki Haley of South Carolina is giddy over the prospect of having Republicans controlling Congress and the White House. And Donald Trump, who she tangled with earlier this year before saying this spring she’d back the nominee and then voting for him last week? She’s hopeful. “I’m just giddy, and if you talk to any of the governors here, we are so excited at the possibility and the opportunities that are going to be here,” Haley said during a meeting of the Republican Governors Association. The governors are meeting this week at the posh Waldorf Astoria Resort, in the shadow of Disney World. Haley appeared on a panel called “Leading the Charge” with three other governors, then participated in a news conference. In January, Haley gave the GOP response to President Barack Obama’s State of the Union address. She criticized those in her party, urging people to resist “the siren call of the angriest voices.” Trump fired back.

**McClatchy DC:** Trump’s biggest headache could be the 33 Republican governors

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/election/article115007548.html>

David Lightman

The nation’s Republican governors could be Donald Trump’s biggest headache. Politically, they are so much that Trump is not. They represent broad, diverse constituencies that demand results they can see in their daily lives. They have usually worked their way up, starting with local offices or running small local businesses. So as the GOP governors meet this week with each other, donors and corporate officials at the lush Waldorf Astoria resort in the shadow of Disney World, many are very careful when discussing the president-elect. They’re keeping enough distance so that if he proves to be a political liability, they’ll be fine. “Governors need the White House, but they’re pragmatic,” said Henry Barbour, Republican Party committeeman from Mississippi. Trump needs the governors. Republicans will occupy at least 33 state houses next year, their best showing since 1922, and they have vast political networks in their states.

**NOTE:** Gov. Nikki Haley of South Carolina tangled with Trump earlier this year. When she gave the GOP response to the State of the Union address in January, she criticized those in her party, urging people to resist “the siren call of the angriest voices.”

**NOTE:** Haley endorsed Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., for president, and after it became apparent Trump was the nominee, she said she would back him.

**NOTE:** Haley voted for Trump, but said last month, “The election has turned my stomach upside down.” Tuesday, Haley said, Trump is “talking about inclusion...so far he’s done well.” Haley hoped “he continues to be disciplined in his comments.”

**NOTE:** The governors were more circumspect when asked about Trump chief strategist Steve Bannon, who many civil rights groups are protesting because of his ties to white supremacists. Haley said she didn’t know Bannon. Burgum said, “I’m not close enough. I’m not a political insider.”

**NOTE:** Gov. Sam Brownback of Kansas found Pence’s remarks “exciting.” Brownback particularly appreciated how “he showed us how we could do some things in the short term.” Haley raved: “He stands by his word. He’s going to give good advice when needed.”

**Associated Press:** GOP governors hope to move fast on making promised changes

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=5VDecLP9](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=5VDecLP9)

Gary Fineout

Republicans are still celebrating their election victories, but the country’s GOP governors warned this week that they need to move fast on many of the changes that have been promised to voters. The Republican Governors Association held its annual conference at a resort near Disney World this week where several governors talked eagerly about how the election of Donald Trump could herald

sweeping changes on everything from health care to education. But many of them said those changes need to come soon before the nation and Republican leaders get caught up in the 2018 election cycle. "We cannot squander this opportunity," said Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey. Republicans now control the White House and Congress. And Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker pointed that this was the first time there has been this many GOP governors across the country since the 1920s.

**NOTE:** South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley called it a "new day" for statehouses across the country, but she added her own admonition. "We can't celebrate too long, we've got to get to work," Haley said. "And that means 30 days, 60 days, 90 days, 120 days, all of us have to get to work."

**Tampa Bay Times:** Scott, other Republican governors delight in dominance under Donald Trump  
<http://www.tampabay.com/news/politics/stateroundup/republican-governors-delight-in-dominance-under-donald-trump/2302983>

Adam C. Smith

There aren't many elected Republicans in America happier about Donald Trump's election than Florida Gov. Rick Scott, an early Trump supporter in a battleground state dominated by Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio loyalists. Not only is Scott a fellow super-rich businessman and political outsider who ran against the GOP establishment, he also ran a health care company, Columbia/HCA, that was targeted by the Clinton administration in the 1990s for Medicare fraud. So you can understand why Scott — a likely candidate for U.S. Senate in 2018 — is smiling big this week. "I now have a president I can talk to. I talk to Trump a lot. I have both a president and a vice president who are friends of mine," Scott, 63, said Tuesday in Orlando, where he is attending the annual conference of the Republican Governors Association.

**NOTE:** South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley nine months ago saw Trump as "everything a governor doesn't want in a president." Tuesday, one week after his election, she described herself as "giddy" and saw nothing but opportunity.

**NOTE:** Haley said it's inevitable governors will have disagreements here and there with Trump but, "We are in a far better situation than we were a month, two months, two years ago. The idea that Republican governors can now have a seat at the table and actually get some things done . . . is what we care about."

**Bloomberg:** Republican Governors are 'Giddy' as Trump Prepares Presidency

<http://www.bloomberg.com/politics/articles/2016-11-16/republican-governors-are-giddy-as-trump-prepares-presidency>

John McCormick

Republican governors meeting for the first time since Donald Trump won the White House are gearing up for Washington to begin passing a broad-ranging conservative agenda after years of gridlock, bolstered by their party's wide electoral success. South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley, who once quipped that Trump represented "everything a governor doesn't want in a president," said during a panel discussion at an annual meeting of the Republican Governors Association in Florida that she was "just giddy" about the possibilities that lay ahead for Republicans, who now control the majority of states and the nation's capital. "We can now start to really govern," she told reporters. "I've never known what it's like to have a Republican president. I can tell you, the last six years, Washington was the hardest part of my job." Republicans now hold 33 governorships, the highest for the party since 1922. They also have majorities in roughly two-thirds of state House and Senate chambers. Still, observers say that ultimately the governors could find it difficult to see eye-to-eye with Trump when it comes to governing and policy matters that could dramatically affect their state budgets, access to federal funding and job growth.

**NOTE:** Haley and other chief executives repeatedly brought up Mike Pence, the vice president-elect and a fellow governor from Indiana, as they reassured themselves that they'll have a good relationship with Trump's White House.

**NOTE:** "I don't know Bannon, so I don't have much to say about that," Haley told reporters.

**NOTE:** Just nine months earlier, Haley had been much less accepting about a potential Trump presidency. Asked about her changed tune, Haley said her previous remark was something said



during a primary campaign, she's always believed in supporting the eventual nominee and Trump has shown greater self-control since his victory.

**NPR: Republican Governors Thrilled With Increased Influence In Washington**

<http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2016/11/15/502241080/republican-governors-thrilled-with-increased-influence-in-washington>

Greg Allen

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said Tuesday the fact that Republicans now control the White House, Congress and so many governors' mansions has left her "giddy." Haley and the rest of the Republican Governors Association are meeting this week in Orlando, Fla., to discuss their party's victories last week and how they hope to work with President-elect Donald Trump. On election night, Republicans picked up three states now governed by Democrats: Missouri, New Hampshire and Vermont. North Carolina's governor's race is still being contested. But even if Democrat Roy Cooper's lead holds and he defeats incumbent Pat McCrory, the GOP will hold governorships in 33 states, the most in nearly a century. That's lent almost a party atmosphere to the conference proceedings, even for governors who had expressed reservations about Trump, like Haley and New Mexico's Susannah Martinez. During the campaign, Martinez said Trump's "offensive rhetoric" raised questions about his fitness to be president. Now she says she's confident Trump will deliver on campaign promises and "his commitment to make sure that America is great again."

**NOTE:** Haley said she always supported him, despite concerns about his rhetoric. In Orlando, she said "words matter" and she was still watching Trump's statements. "President-elect Trump has done well," Haley said. "I hope he continues to do that. I hope he continues to be disciplined in his comments."

**Palmetto Daily Business: Thorne Research to build new complex in Summerville**

<http://palmettobusinessdaily.com/stories/511043681-thorne-research-to-build-new-complex-in-summerville>

Thorne Research will begin construction on a new manufacturing facility and corporate office complex in Summerville. "Given the dramatic impact and planned growth arising from our collaboration with the Mayo Clinic, the U.S. Olympic Committee, the Colorado Hospital Association and others, combined with dramatic increases in new professional customers, particularly medical doctors and our international businesses, our new Summerville facility will meet our need to increase capacity and productivity to meet our anticipated future growth," Thorne CEO Paul Jacobson said. The project will cost an estimated \$35 million and create 330 jobs.

**NOTE:** "The fact that Thorne Research has decided to move its headquarters to Summerville is a real reason to celebrate, and it shows that the Team South Carolina approach to creating a competitive business environment and developing one of the most skilled workforces in the world is working for the state as a whole," Gov. Nikki Haley said. "We're excited to welcome Thorne to the South Carolina family and thank its leadership for the commitment that this investment, and the 330 new jobs it will create, shows they have toward the people of our great state."

**Palmetto Daily Business: OneMain to expand operations in York County**

<http://palmettobusinessdaily.com/stories/511043680-onemain-to-expand-operations-in-york-county>

OneMain Holdings will expand its operations in York County, creating approximately \$279,000 in capital investment and 175 jobs. "OneMain is proud of our growth and accomplishments in the great state of South Carolina, and we remain committed to building our business here for many years ahead," OneMain President and CEO Jay Levine said. "I would like to thank the team at the New York Grant Co., an economic incentives consulting firm, for their diligence in helping us navigate the process and obtain the benefits under the South Carolina Enterprise Program." OneMain plans to lease about 58,000 square feet across from its existing facility on 605 Munn Road East in Fort Mill. Hiring will begin in the fourth quarter of this year.

**NOTE:** "The 175 jobs that this investment from OneMain Holdings means for York County should be celebrated throughout the state," Gov. Nikki Haley said. "Each time one of our companies decides to

expand its operations here, it shows that Team South Carolina's hard work toward creating the most competitive business environment and most skilled workforce possible is paying off for South Carolinians."

**Palmetto Daily Business:** SC Chamber launches local business issues survey in support of Gov. Haley's competitiveness council

<http://palmettobusinessdaily.com/stories/511045339-sc-chamber-launches-local-business-issues-survey-in-support-of-gov-haley-s-competitiveness-council>

The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce has launched a statewide survey seeking input from businesses about the "business friendliness of the counties" in which they do business. The survey can be found here and is part of Governor Nikki Haley's "Local Government Competitiveness Council," which is chaired by South Carolina Department of Revenue Director Rick Reames. "What we really hope our end goal is that once we come out with this report and we talk to the counties about it, when they go to decide something for that county, they will know whether they need to vote for that extra fee and whether they should be increasing taxes or decreasing taxes," said Governor Nikki Haley in launching the competitiveness council in March 2016. "They will have a toolkit to let them know how to improve in their county, and not only that, the people will have that toolkit on whether they're making decisions to move that county forward or backward." The council's mission is to evaluate local governments based on three categories: Public Infrastructure, Taxes, Business and Industry, and Regulation; and, Workforce Readiness.

## **SC Supreme Court News:**

**Associated Press:** Comments on settlement in teen's death gets judge suspended

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=OCS1gJJI](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=OCS1gJJI)

Seanna Adcox

The South Carolina Supreme Court has suspended a judge who wrote on his Facebook page that a family's \$2 million settlement after an officer fatally shot their son was "all about the money." Justices unanimously accepted a six-month suspension for Oconee County Probate Judge Kenneth Johns. But Wednesday's filing is retroactive to Johns' interim suspension, meaning his disciplinary period ended last month. Attorney Eric Bland called Johns' actions a "stain on the justice system." Bland represents the family of 19-year-old Zachary Hammond, who was shot to death in July 2015 as he tried to drive away during a drug sting in a fast-food restaurant parking lot in Seneca. Bland said the light discipline surprised him. "This goes to the very fabric of our justice system, which has to be unbiased, free from personal opinions," Bland said. "You should never know what a judge's beliefs are."

## **SC Agency News:**

**Berkley Independent:** DEW helping veterans find jobs

[http://www.berkeleyind.com/news/dew-helping-veterans-find-jobs/article\\_2654969a-a779-11e6-aa12-6b3ba7152995.html](http://www.berkeleyind.com/news/dew-helping-veterans-find-jobs/article_2654969a-a779-11e6-aa12-6b3ba7152995.html)

Olin Booker was out of a job, out of money and out of time. In January 2016, he was packing to move back to Georgia when he was advised by his VA administrator to visit the Greenville SC Works Center and talk with them about finding a job. He decided to give it a try, and there he met Frank Mattox, an SC Works veteran's representative, who within hours had lined up an interview with Michelin Prime. Two days later Booker had an interview with the company and was hired on the spot. Booker, who served eight years in the U.S. Army Reserves, is one of the 8,000 veterans who were placed in jobs by the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW) last year. South Carolina also has one of the lowest veterans' unemployment rates in the country at 4.4 percent. "(SC Works) turned my life around. I was in the process of packing, getting ready to move," he said. "I hadn't worked since 2012. My savings were depleted; I had just enough money to pay my rent. I was two weeks from being homeless."

**NOTE:** At the urging of Gov. Nikki Haley, DEW has made finding jobs for veterans a top priority. In the past year, DEW has refined how it delivers employment services to veterans including:

**NOTE:** "Making sure our veterans, like Mr. Booker, have opportunities is one of Gov. Haley's priorities," said Cheryl Stanton, executive director of the Department of Employment and Workforce. "I am proud of the work our team of veteran representatives provides to ensure her goals are realized. They work closely with veterans to find the right fit and with businesses to determine their workforce needs and inform them about the advantages of hiring veterans."

### **SC Political News:**

**McClatchy DC:** Graham wants the past to be past with Trump. There are huge deals to be done

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/national/article115019603.html>

Matt Schofield

After spending the better part of a year questioning the character and quality of candidate Donald Trump, South Carolina's senior senator Tuesday said it was time to focus on the positives the president-elect brings to the office. The Republican Lindsey Graham on election day very publicly announced that he was voting for independent Evan McMullin because he didn't believe in the vision of his party's candidate. During the campaign he voiced concerns about what he perceived to be Trump's lack of understanding of foreign policy, and he questioned the now president-elect's conspiracy theories, such as the notion that the election was rigged in favor of democrat Hillary Clinton (who lost). But Tuesday afternoon in a small press gallery in the Capitol, Sen. Graham said that as the votes are now in, it's time for him to focus on helping Trump become a successful president. Graham is an influential member of the Senate, with a particularly strong reputation on military matters and foreign affairs. On the latter, he hoped the incoming president would learn a bit more about the realities of foreign policy and that his positions would evolve.

**Post and Courier:** Graham is ready to work, and 'ready to talk,' to President-Elect Trump

[http://www.postandcourier.com/news/graham-is-ready-to-work-and-ready-to-talk-to/article\\_86981c78-ab77-11e6-ab5b-230a082f61cf.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/news/graham-is-ready-to-work-and-ready-to-talk-to/article_86981c78-ab77-11e6-ab5b-230a082f61cf.html)

Emma Dumain

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham spent the better part of a year ridiculing Donald Trump, never expecting the GOP nominee for president to actually win the race for the White House. Now, the South Carolina Republican is rumored to be on a literal or figurative "enemies" list circulating among Trump allies — a warning he could be shut out of negotiating rooms by the new administration. However, if Graham is worried about retribution, he isn't showing it. In a meeting Tuesday with members of the Capitol Hill press corps that he convened, Graham made it clear he is still a senior legislator with plans, connections, clout and a willingness to be helpful. "Clearly, me and 'the Donald' have issues," Graham said. "And I will do everything I can to help him because he will be commander-in-chief in dangerous times." Graham said he could be a partner of Trump's in efforts to pass major infrastructure legislation, citing his many years of work in support of deepening the Port of Charleston, and other ports as well. He said he was gratified by Trump's stated commitment to boosting defense spending, recalling that his own short-lived bid for president was centered on strengthening the military.

### **President-elect Trump News:**

**Associated Press:** Trump: No transition turmoil, efforts going 'so smoothly'

<http://bigstory.ap.org/da0982414a3e445f82c8d3bf37646967>

President-elect Donald Trump and his team on Wednesday vigorously rejected charges of turmoil and infighting roiling efforts to set up his White House, national security and economic teams. A week after his upset victory, Trump said the enormous endeavor was proceeding "so smoothly." Trump dished out his rebuttal on Twitter, spending yet another day ensconced in his New York skyscraper, beyond the public eye. Aides and allies vouched for the transition efforts on his behalf, suggesting some commotion was to be expected. "The beginning of any transition like this has turmoil because

it's just the nature of the process," former House Speaker Newt Gingrich said as he left Trump's transition headquarters in Washington. He said the picture of Trump's administration would become clearer over the next two or three weeks.

**Associated Press:** 'Tangled web': Trump's businesses could create conflicts

<http://bigstory.ap.org/ce1a68288a7943cfa2db060056e78309>

Asked on TV earlier this year whether a President Donald Trump would ever mix politics with business, his eldest son, Donald Jr., said there was no risk of that. The son, an executive in his father's company, insisted the two wouldn't discuss the business if Dad ever got to the White House. Then Donald Jr. added two words: "Trust me." The American people may have little choice. The tradition stretching back to Jimmy Carter in the late 1970s is for presidents to put personal holdings such as stocks into a "blind trust" run by an independent trustee with no ties to the occupant of the Oval Office. But as with so many other areas of politics, Trump looks ready to upend this time-honored practice. Trump's plans to hand control of his Trump Organization to three of his adult children and not a trustee cannot be considered a blind trust, said Kenneth Gross, head of political law at the firm Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom.

**Associated Press:** Giuliani's foreign work complicates candidacy for top post

<http://bigstory.ap.org/132a184164d74db9ac86ebae84f29f50>

Rudy Giuliani, the leading candidate to be Donald Trump's secretary of state, has advised foreign political figures and worked for lobbying and security firms whose clients had complicated relationships with the U.S. government. Giuliani angered former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton when he went to Belgrade in 2012 to advise a Serbian political party once allied with a nationalist faction. At the time, Clinton described Giuliani's Serbian role "outrageous" in an email to an aide. Giuliani's work for foreign and corporate clients shows he could face the same ethics criticisms he raised about Clinton's ties to foreign government and corporate donors through the Clinton Foundation. Giuliani has defended his work abroad and said he never lobbied for any interests, foreign or otherwise.

**Associated Press:** College students protest Donald Trump's deportation plans

<http://bigstory.ap.org/671a56f645d94bf2aa9a6c563b24c81a>

College students at campuses around the United States marched and rallied Wednesday, urging administrators to protect students and employees against immigration action under a Donald Trump presidency. Rallying supporters on social media with the hashtag #SanctuaryCampus, organizers said actions were planned at more than 80 schools, including Vermont's Middlebury College, where about 400 people gathered, and Yale University, where demonstrators numbered about 600. Students sought assurances that their schools would not share their personal information with immigration officials or allow Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents on campus. "Can you imagine the fear that it would inflict on college campuses if having ICE agents walk into a campus becomes the status quo?" organizer Carlos Rojas of the group Movimiento Cosecha, said by phone from New Jersey. "It would be terrifying."

**Wildfires Across Southeast:**

**Associated Press:** Relentless smoke spreads fear at edge of southern wildfires

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=GKOR1KLU](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=GKOR1KLU)

Jeff Martin

Thick smoke has settled over a wide area of the southern Appalachians, where dozens of uncontrolled wildfires are burning through decades of leaf litter, and people breathe in tiny bits of the forest with every gulp of air. It's a constant reminder of the threat to many small mountain communities, where relentless drought and now persistent fires and smoke have people under siege. "A lot of the ladies just went to tears and said this happens in other places, it doesn't happen here," pastor Scott Cates said as townspeople donated water, cough drops and other supplies for the



firefighters at the Liberty Baptist Church in Tiger, Georgia. Here, these fires don't sleep. They burn through the night, through the now-desiccated tinder of deciduous forests accustomed to wet, humid summers and autumns.

**Associated Press:** Officials warn wildfire smoke to cause bad air quality in SC

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=64ZBXkcj](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=64ZBXkcj)

SC State Wire

Smoke from wildfires in the Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina mountains will make air quality unhealthy throughout South Carolina. The Department of Health and Environmental Control issued a code red alert for 25 counties along and west of Interstate 77 through to Orangeburg County. DHEC says everyone should limit their time outdoors if possible, especially people with respiratory issues. A code orange alert has been issued for much of the rest of the state. Smoke from the fires spread over the state Tuesday, settling into Columbia before daybreak and later making it hundreds of miles away to Charleston. Forecasters expect the smoke to stay around until the wind shifts Thursday.

**Greenville News:** Evacuations planned as health issues rise from 'historic fire'

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/south-carolina/2016/11/16/evacuations-planned-health-issues-rise-historic-fire/93979670/>

Liv Osby

Firefighters will take aggressive measures on Thursday to bring the Pinnacle Mountain wildfire under control by burning more than 2,000 acres ahead of the fire, officials said Wednesday. Local fire departments are going door-to-door to evacuate about 70 families who live in the affected area close to the burnout operation. The evacuation affects the area north of State 11 from Back Park Road to South Saluda Road and north to Table Rock Reservoir, according to Russell Hubright, spokesman for the SC Forestry Commission. Fire officials are concerned about a cold front moving into the Upstate that will bring high winds and lower humidity, he said. The burnout affects both sides of Table Rock and will extend north to the Table Rock Reservoir, south to the Pinnacle Lake area, and east to the Table Rock State Park boundary near High Low Gap. The burnout also will significantly increase the amount of smoke in the air, Hubright said. The smoke on Wednesday forced state health officials to declare another air quality alert, while the prospect for rain to ease the situation remained grim.

**Independent Mail:** Pickens emergency declaration will help pay fire-fighting costs

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/2016/11/16/state-emergency-likely-pickens/93954456/>

Mike Eads

The Pickens County Council declared a state of emergency today, one week after a major forest fire broke out on Pinnacle Mountain. County Attorney Ken Roper said the council members met after the Twelve Mile Recreation Park groundbreaking ceremony at Cateechee Beach this morning. The declaration is necessary to qualify the county for state and federal disaster relief funds. It will also give County Administrator Gerald Wilson wide leeway in managing the county's fire response and cleanup. "That's the big motivation for it," said Roper. "It will give the administrator some authority to free up money" from other county funds to cover fire-related expenses. County Emergency Management Director Denise Kwiatak said after the council vote that the declaration would allow Pickens County to bring in more local, state and federal agencies for help. The state of emergency would also allow Wilson to mandate an evacuation, unlike the voluntary one issued Saturday.

**Herald-Journal:** Pinnacle fire in Pickens County now 35 percent contained

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161116/pinnacle-fire-in-pickens-county-now-35-percent-contained?rssfeed=true>

Fire crews in Pickens County made progress on the Pinnacle Mountain Fire Tuesday, and the blaze is now 35 percent contained. S.C. Forestry Commission spokesman Russell Hubright said in a statement Wednesday morning that firelines built by crews earlier this week lessened the chance of the fire spreading northwest. National Guard helicopters dropped water on hot spots, including at

areas between Pinnacle Mountain and Table Rock, Hubright said. At 35 percent contained, an approximated 3,283 acres are still burning, he said. Hubright said Wednesday, crews would patrol several areas and work to improve firelines, designated spots crew build so the flames cannot spread beyond it. Fire department personnel will continue going door-to-door, informing area residents of the status of the fire, Hubright said. Nearly 170 personnel assigned to this incident. This mission is being coordinated under a unified command between the SC Forestry Commission and the Holly Springs Fire Department.

**The State:** Air quality in the Midlands remains in question through Friday

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article115239118.html>

Cynthia Roldan

The air quality of more than half of South Carolina's counties was declared unhealthy on Wednesday by the state's health agency. Just six days after the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control warned of possible side effects related to the wildfires burning throughout several Southeastern states, the agency issued a "Code Red" air quality alert for 25 counties, including Richland and Lexington counties. Melissa Overman, assistant state epidemiologist, warned against children spending too much time outdoors, since they take in more air than adults. Kids who are suffering from the air's pollutants might complain of tightness in their chests or irritated eyes and throats. Overman said healthy athletes should consider limiting their time outside as well. She also suggested not taking pets for a jog. Plus, those with respiratory illnesses, such as asthma and bronchitis, who live in the areas that will remain under code red on Thursday should remain indoors as much as possible, she said.

**The State:** Smoke wafts across state, part of Midlands under 'code red' air alert

<http://www.thestate.com/news/weather/article115088543.html>

Jane Moon Dial

Air quality in parts of the Midlands has worsened since Tuesday, and everyone is encouraged to stay indoors as wild fires in the mountains continue to burn. The National Weather Service issued a code red air quality alert Wednesday morning for several areas of the Midlands, which was under a code orange Tuesday. The alert is in effect until midnight. This includes several areas of the Midlands, though some cities and towns east of Columbia – including Bishopville, Camden, Elgin, Lugoff and Sumter, are under a code orange. The Lowcountry is also under a code orange. During a code red alert, children and adults, especially those with respiratory diseases, should limit outdoor exertion and exposure, according to the NWS.

**Post and Courier:** Code orange air quality alert issued for Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester counties as smoke persists

[http://www.postandcourier.com/news/smoke-hanging-in-the-air-in-the-lowcountry-expected-to/article\\_6d736a6c-ab50-11e6-ba46-a71ddf91cbe4.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/news/smoke-hanging-in-the-air-in-the-lowcountry-expected-to/article_6d736a6c-ab50-11e6-ba46-a71ddf91cbe4.html)

Bo Petersen

A code orange air quality alert was issued for the Lowcountry until midnight Wednesday as smoke from wildfires in the mountains again fumes the region. The air quality alert indicates that fine particles from smoke could approach dangerous levels for sensitive adults, according to the National Weather Service. Individuals with respiratory conditions should limit their time outdoors through the alert's duration. "We're seeing it now," said meteorologist Bob Bright, National Weather Service, Charleston on Tuesday. Forecasters say northwest winds pushing the air through the area are expected to move more northward by Thursday, bringing some relief, but "there's really no way to predict" how thick the wildfire smoke will remain, Bright said.

**Aiken Standard:** Aiken County back under code orange air quality alert

[http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/aiken-county-back-under-code-orange-air-quality-alert/article\\_0a4d1a00-ac40-11e6-882a-2b0bf4f9af25.html](http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/aiken-county-back-under-code-orange-air-quality-alert/article_0a4d1a00-ac40-11e6-882a-2b0bf4f9af25.html)

Maayan Schechter

Aiken County is back under a code orange air quality alert as of Wednesday afternoon, according to the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. The alert is for Aiken, Abbeville, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun and Charleston counties. The smoke seen lingering in Aiken County is due to a nearby wildfire in Pickens County that continued to grow. The South Carolina Fire Commission reported the Pinnacle Mountain Fire at Table Rock State Park grew from 2,312 acres on Sunday to 2,765 acres by late Monday.

### **Hurricane Matthew Recovery:**

**Island Packet:** FEMA approves debris removal for more Hilton Head private roads

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article115205338.html>

Teresa Moss

The Town of Hilton Head Island so far has hauled 636,038 cubic yards of Hurricane Matthew debris — enough to fill Madison Square Garden two times, town official Charles Cousins said Wednesday. And the debris piles keep growing. On Wednesday, the town was preparing to add another 16 private communities to its debris-removal list. The Federal Emergency Management Agency late last week approved the town's request for reimbursement of the removal in those areas. According to a letter sent Thursday to the town by FEMA, the approved neighborhoods include...

**Island Packet:** Hurricane Matthew debris clogs Beaufort County waterways. Who will clean it up?

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article115147438.html>

Lucas High

More than a month after Hurricane Matthew's winds and waves sunk boats and destroyed docks and marinas, questions remain as to who is responsible for cleaning up debris in local waterways and marshland areas. While Beaufort County is partnering with local municipalities and state agencies on efforts to remove storm debris from roadways, that's not yet the case for debris in the water. "For marine debris, we are not as far along in the removal process as we are with debris along the roads," county stormwater manager Eric Larson said earlier this week. "We are working with state agencies trying to determine who is going to take the lead on this." In the days following Hurricane Matthew, crews with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources "removed debris from the navigable channel (of local waterways) and set it aside in the marsh."

**Island Packet:** A week after reopening, replacement trees are going up at Harbour Town

<http://www.islandpacket.com/sports/golf/rbc-heritage-tournament/article114998333.html>

Jeff Shain

What Hurricane Matthew ripped out, Harbour Town is hastening to put back in. A small fraction of it, anyway. Though it would be near impossible to replace all the trees downed on the home of the RBC Heritage Presented by Boeing, crews already are on site this week to plant more than a dozen large oaks and palms in key areas of the course, which reopened for play just last week. The oak trees are all at least 55 feet tall, with trunks some 18 inches in diameter. Sabal palms are in the 30-foot range. One magnolia tree will be put back at Harbour Town's third hole. And next month, seven tall pines arrive. "Replacement trees of significance," said Cary Corbitt, vice president of sports and operations at Sea Pines Resort. Though it represents maybe a little more than 5 percent of the 400 or so Harbour Town trees knocked down by Hurricane Matthew, those spots were deemed critical either to maintain shot strategy or to fill in areas where too much tree canopy had been lost.

### **Serial Killer Todd Kohlhepp:**

**Independent Mail:** Charles David Carver's family talks forgiveness as they plan memorial

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/11/15/charles-david-carvers-family-talks-forgiveness-they-plan-memorial/93882116/>

Nikie Mayo

The mother and stepfather of Charles David Carver say they plan to forgive whomever is responsible

for their son's death."It's hard, but I know I am going to have to forgive," said Jaye Shiflet, Carver's stepfather. "Being a Christian, you've got to. It's what the Bible says."Carver's mother, Joanne Shiflet, agrees with her husband. The Shiflets believe in forgiveness.But they aren't yet ready to give it.Since they have learned the fate of the young man they call David, the Shiflets have their feet in two worlds. In one, they remember the boy they lost. In the other, they relive the agonizing weeks of waiting and the moment when they learned the awful truth.Jaye Shiflet smiles immediately when he thinks of how he met David on a trip that a Crescent High School singing group took to Walt Disney World in Orlando.

**Herald-Journal:** Families of Superbike victims plan to sue Kohlhepp

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161115/families-of-superbike-victims-plan-to-sue-kohlhepp?rssfeed=true>

Alyssa Mulliger

The families of some of the four people killed at Superbike Motorsports in Chesnee 13 years ago are filing a lawsuit against accused killer Todd Kohlhepp.Melissa Brackman — the widow of Scott Ponder, one of the Superbike victims — confirmed to the Herald-Journal Tuesday afternoon that she is among the family members planning to file a wrongful death suit against the Moore real estate agent who investigators say confessed to the quadruple homicide.When someone dies due to the fault of another person or entity, the survivors may be able to bring a wrongful death suit. This kind of lawsuit seeks compensation for the survivors' loss, including lost companionship, funeral expenses and lost wages from the deceased.Scott Ponder, 30, built Superbike Motorsports from the ground up. He, along with his 52-year-old mother and part-time employee Beverly Guy, and employees Brian Lucas, 29, and Chris Sherbert, 26, were killed at the store Nov. 6, 2003."I'm not too sure of any details at this point," Brackman said of the lawsuit.

**Michael Slagger Case:**

**Associated Press:** The Latest: Defense begins case in black motorist death

<http://bigstory.ap.org/1aec34a731874819afd2155a7f982f42>

The defense has called its first witness in the trial of Michael Slager, the white former South Carolina patrolman charged with murder in the shooting death of an unarmed black motorist.Slager faces 30 years to life if convicted of the charge in the death of 50-year-old Walter Scott, who was shot while fleeing from a traffic stop in North Charleston in April of 2015. The shooting was captured on dramatic cellphone video.Court adjourned for the day Wednesday after jurors heard from the first defense witness. David Hallimore, an audio expert, played enhanced audio from Slager's uniform microphone taken at the time of the shooting. Slager can be heard shouting "Taser! Taser! Taser!" as he ran after Scott.The defense contends that Scott was shot after getting control of Slager's stun gun.

**Associated Press:** Prosecution rests case in black motorist's shooting death

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=H14xCGid](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=H14xCGid)

Bruce Smith

The prosecution rested its case Wednesday in the murder trial of a white former South Carolina patrolman after showing jurors an animation of the shooting of a black motorist and a 3-D computerized scan of the scene.Fired North Charleston patrolman Michael Slager is charged in the April 2015 shooting of 50-year-old Walter Scott, who ran unarmed from a traffic stop.Cellphone video of the shooting recorded by a bystander shows Scott being shot five times in the back by Slager from yards away. It stunned the nation and was seen worldwide on the internet.The animation of the shooting was compiled by government witness Bill Williams, who recreates crime scenes. The animation was created by melding cellphone and dashcam video, police radio chatter and drone footage of the scene. Williams testified that he spent 500 hours putting it together and was paid \$15,000 by the state.

**Dylann Roof Case:**



**Associated Press:** Judge closes Dylann Roof competency hearing to the public

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=3ppiMErW](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=3ppiMErW)

Jeffrey Collins

The public won't get to hear the evidence of whether Dylann Roof is competent to face a death penalty trial in the killings of nine black people in a Charleston church, according to an order Wednesday from a judge. There will be interviews with Roof and evidence presented at the hearing that may not end up being allowed before the jury and that could keep Roof from getting a fair trial, judge Richard Gergel wrote. Gergel is giving media organizations a chance to argue against his ruling Thursday afternoon. The Associated Press, The Post and Courier of Charleston, The State of Columbia, NPR and WCSC-TV have all asked the hearing be kept open along with prosecutors. Roof's closed competency hearing is scheduled for Monday, with Gergel scheduling jury selection to tentatively begin Nov. 28 in Roof's federal death penalty trial if he is found competent. Gergel said he will issue a public order on Roof's competency, blacking out material he doesn't think should be public.

**The State:** Judge again rules Dylann Roof's mental competency hearing is closed

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article115188193.html>

John Monk

A federal judge has ruled that a hearing to assess the mental competence of accused Charleston church killer Dylann Roof will be closed to the public. Gergel moved the hearing from Thursday to Monday, but set aside time Thursday for media lawyers and others can weigh in if they object to the closure of the Monday hearing. This delay all but ensures Roof's upcoming death penalty trial will spill over into January. If, after Monday's hearing, Gergel finds Roof competent to stand trial, the judge will likely not be able to start jury selection until the first part of December. Since jury selection will take an estimated three to four weeks, and Gergel has already indicated court will recess during the Christmas holiday period, that would push the start of trial testimony to January.

**Post and Courier:** Judge rules Dylann Roof competency hearing closed to the public

[http://www.postandcourier.com/church\\_shooting/judge-rules-dylann-roof-competency-hearing-closed-to-the-public/article\\_5d9cc1ea-ac01-11e6-86fb-6706dd09ccfb.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/church_shooting/judge-rules-dylann-roof-competency-hearing-closed-to-the-public/article_5d9cc1ea-ac01-11e6-86fb-6706dd09ccfb.html)

Jennifer Berry Hawes

A federal judge on Wednesday ruled that a hearing to determine if Dylann Roof is competent to stand trial won't be open to the public, disappointing victims' loved ones who wanted to observe the proceedings. At the competency hearing, now scheduled for Monday, attorneys will discuss a new psychiatric examination of the Emanuel AME Church shooter. That evaluation relied heavily on extensive interviews with Roof, which attorneys likely will discuss at the hearing. "Under these circumstances, the Court finds it wholly impractical to conduct a proper competency hearing in this matter without running the substantial risk of disclosing information that would prejudice Defendant's right to a fair trial and an impartial jury," U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel ruled after an in-chambers conference with attorneys. He also filed three other orders in the case Wednesday, all sealed to the public.

**Greenville News:** Judge orders Roof competency hearing closed, changes date

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/11/16/judge-orders-roof-competency-hearing-closed-changes-date/93974040/>

Tim Smith

U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel on Wednesday ordered that a competency hearing for Dylann Roof be closed to the public, finding that leaving it open would threaten Roof's right to a fair trial. But Gergel also said that he would hear objections to his order at a hearing Thursday at 1 p.m. He ordered the competency hearing to be moved to Monday, saying the defense needed more time to prepare. "In reaching the decision to close the competency hearing in this case, the court remains mindful of the strong interest of the press, the public and the victims' families in open and transparent

court proceedings," Gergel wrote. "The court shares that commitment to an open courthouse and open court proceedings. But no one's interest is served by a violation (of a) defendant's fair trial rights, and the court will continue to weigh carefully and respectfully that delicate balance between two of the most sacred rights enshrined in the United States Constitution — the right to open court proceedings and an accused's right to a fair trial."

## **LGBT Laws:**

**Greenville News:** Transgender student faces assault, disturbing schools charges

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/pickens-county/2016/11/16/pickens-county-transgender-student-faces-assault-disturbing-schools-charges/92718682/>

Ron Barnett

A transgender student at the Pickens County Career & Technology Center was charged with third-degree assault and disturbing schools after an alleged altercation with a deputy over which bathroom the student was allowed to use, according to an incident report and tickets issued in the case. Kinsey Lynn Evans, 18, was arrested after using the boys' bathroom and being told to use the faculty/staff men's bathroom, the incident report says. The school district said the arrest was based on a confrontation the next day between the student and the school resource officer, not the student's use of the boys' bathroom.

## **Opinion/Editorial:**

**The State:** An awful win-loss record, but reasons for optimism <http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scope/article115200908.html>

Cindi Ross Scope

LET'S JUST GO straight to the ugly numbers: Two-thirds of the candidates our editorial board endorsed in last week's election lost. We have never seen numbers like that since I joined the board in 1997 — and as far as I can tell for decades before that. Normally, it's more like 25 percent. Of course, "normally" normally covers a lot more endorsements — at least a dozen, sometimes 20 or more. This time there were just three, because we didn't have the time to do all the races we normally would, and three — the president and the two local state Senate races — was the only logical cutoff that gave us a manageable number. We could have run up the numbers by making endorsements without holding lengthy meetings with the candidates. If we had done that, I have little doubt that we would have endorsed Rep. Kirkman Finlay and newcomer Micah Caskey for the House, and likely newcomer Ivory Thigpen for the House. That would have brought us up to a respectable 4-2. But we feel like those meetings are important, even when we're confident we know enough about the candidates to make a decision

## **South Carolina News:**

**Post and Courier:** Zucker family donates \$6M to Trident Tech's aerospace training center

[http://www.postandcourier.com/business/zucker-family-donates-m-to-trident-tech-s-aerospace-training/article\\_22bb6992-ab7e-11e6-a800-9fd97a4b6e29.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/business/zucker-family-donates-m-to-trident-tech-s-aerospace-training/article_22bb6992-ab7e-11e6-a800-9fd97a4b6e29.html)

David Wren

The Zucker family's landmark \$6 million gift to Trident Technical College isn't simply a continuation of the Charleston family's long history of education-based philanthropy, it's a good investment. With an aerospace-based manufacturing division among the family's varied business interests, Wednesday's gift to enhance the two-year college's S.C. Aeronautical Training Center could help produce the next generation of engineers and other professionals working at Zucker-owned companies. "This is a great investment for our family in so many ways," Anita Zucker, CEO of The InterTech Group Inc., said during an event to announce the donation. "We're in the business so it's very meaningful to our workforce. But it's also extremely meaningful to the community's workforce. This is an opportunity for all of our children to see what is possible. And I like seeing young people get good jobs, because

then they become successful citizens"

**Post and Courier:** South Carolina graduation rate jumps up

[http://www.postandcourier.com/news/south-carolina-graduation-rate-jumps-up/article\\_83b42392-ab47-11e6-a5fe-c3a7a409547f.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/news/south-carolina-graduation-rate-jumps-up/article_83b42392-ab47-11e6-a5fe-c3a7a409547f.html)

Paul Bowers

South Carolina's high school graduation jumped by more than two percentage points in 2016, according to new data released by the S.C. Department of Education. In a press release trumpeting the new four-year cohort graduation rate of 82.6 percent, State Education Superintendent Molly Spearman called the new graduation rate "a true testament to the collaborative effort of students, parents and educators to ensure that all graduates are prepared for success and meeting the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate." The state's graduation rate, like most nationwide, has been climbing steadily in the past decade. Meanwhile, scores on standardized tests for college and career readiness have flatlined or dropped in some cases.

**The State:** Local schools get passing marks on SC report cards

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/education/article114880413.html>

Bristow Marchant

S.C. education leaders are touting improvements in the state's graduation rate in the latest school report cards, released Tuesday. The state's graduation rate rose to 82.6 percent in 2016, a new record, state education Superintendent Molly Spearman said, unveiling the new report cards. The graduation rate was 80 percent in 2015 and 72 percent during the 2009-10 school year, just after the end of the Great Recession. "This is over a 2-point increase from last year and a true testament to the collaborative effort of students, parents and educators to ensure that all graduates are prepared for success," Spearman said. In the Midlands, graduation rates ranged from a high of 90.3 percent in Lexington-Richland 5 to a low 75 percent in Lexington 4. Other Midlands graduation rates were: Lexington 3, 89.7 percent; Lexington 1, 88.6 percent; Richland 2, 88.5 percent; Lexington 2, 87.9 percent; Kershaw, 83.1 percent; and Richland 1, 77.6 percent.

**Aiken Standard:** Superintendent: S.C. graduation rate reaches 'unprecedented' high

[http://www.aikenstandard.com/education/superintendent-s-c-graduation-rate-reaches-unprecedented-high/article\\_d1609088-ab58-11e6-86ca-37643a39e158.html](http://www.aikenstandard.com/education/superintendent-s-c-graduation-rate-reaches-unprecedented-high/article_d1609088-ab58-11e6-86ca-37643a39e158.html)

Larry Wood

The state's graduation rate has climbed to an "unprecedented 82.6 percent," State Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman announced Tuesday when the 2015-16 state report cards were released. "This is over a 2 percent increase from last year and a true testament to the collaborative effort of students, parents and educators to ensure that all graduates are prepared for success and meeting the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate," Spearman said. The profile of a South Carolina graduate was developed to ensure that state's students are receiving world-class knowledge, including rigorous standards in language arts and math for career and college readiness, multiple languages and courses in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, arts and social sciences.

**Aiken Standard:** Aiken County's graduation rate near 90 percent

[http://www.aikenstandard.com/education/aiken-county-s-graduation-rate-near-percent/article\\_c46389da-aba8-11e6-9ea0-935ffb0c8703.html](http://www.aikenstandard.com/education/aiken-county-s-graduation-rate-near-percent/article_c46389da-aba8-11e6-9ea0-935ffb0c8703.html)

Aiken County's students are graduating on time at an all-time, unprecedented percentage rate of 88.6 percent, according to report card data released by the State Department of Education on Tuesday. Aiken's percentage of students successfully completing their high school coursework and earning a diploma tops the state average of 82.6 percent. "Aiken County's focus on positive individual student outcomes is evident," Superintendent Dr. Sean Alford said of the report. Only three years ago, 80 percent of high school students earned their diplomas in four years. Since then, the District Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate has climbed steadily, with 82.7 percent graduating on time in 2014 and 85.2 percent in 2015. "This year's increase, 3.4 points over last year, is especially impressive," Executive

Director of High Schools Dr. Tim Yarborough said. "We're tracking, supporting and accounting for the individual success of each and every student in a more comprehensive way than ever before."

**Island Packet:** School district has some good news about high schools' graduation rates

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article114916803.html>

Liz Farrell

The Beaufort County School District's on-time high school graduation rate improved for a sixth consecutive year in 2016 to an all-time high, according to data released today by the South Carolina Department of Education. The district's graduation rate — the percentage of students who complete high school "on time" and get a diploma in four years — improved to 83.4 percent, up from 78.7 percent in 2015 and up from 75.1 in 2012. The new graduation rate report included several highlights for Beaufort County...

**Morning News:** Darlington County, Florence One graduation rates show gains

[http://www.scnow.com/news/education/article\\_a3d7b260-abab-11e6-9668-9b748b95ea54.html](http://www.scnow.com/news/education/article_a3d7b260-abab-11e6-9668-9b748b95ea54.html)

Melissa Rollins

For the second year in a row, South Carolina school districts received a report card from the state department of education with no grade. In accordance with Act 200, signed into law in 2014, school districts and their schools will not receive a graded report card again until 2017. The report card made public Tuesday focused instead on areas such as graduation rates, discipline and student scores on SCPASS, SAT and end-of-course exams.

**Independent Mail:** State, Anderson County graduation rates continue to rise

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/education/2016/11/16/state-anderson-county-graduation-rates-continue-rise/93814128/>

Frances Parish

High school graduate rates in every Anderson County school district except District 5 exceed the state average, some by a large amount. The state released graduation rates for the 2015-16 school year Tuesday. Statewide, the average was 82.6 percent. In District 1, the graduation rate increased from 91.6 percent in 2014-15 to 93.1 percent in 2015-16. "For 2016, a record number of students from Palmetto High, Powdersville High and Wren High graduated with a diploma ready for college and/or the workforce," said District 1 Assistant Superintendent Jane Harrison in a news release. "We credit our teachers and staff that realize the necessary components to helping students have a successful end to their educational journey: relationship, rigorous curriculum and high expectations."

## Local News:

**Associated Press:** Man fatally shot by brother on South Carolina hunting trip

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=vEDEpXML](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=vEDEpXML)

SC State Wire

Authorities say a man mistook his brother for a small animal and fatally shot him while they were on a family hunting trip in South Carolina. Union County Sheriff David Taylor tells news outlets 30-year-old Brian G. Pickle of Atlanta was shot Saturday evening by his brother, Scott L. Pickle, after his brother thought he was a coyote or small doe. Taylor says the shooter was in a rush to take the shot because nightfall was coming. Brian Pickle was found dead in the wooded area with a gunshot wound to the head. Their father, who lives in Arlington Heights, Illinois, was also in the hunting party. The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources is investigating the incident. No charges were immediately filed.

**Associated Press:** Police: S. Carolina man jailed; claimed bomb in White House

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=EYqcTC8P](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=EYqcTC8P)

SC State Wire

A South Carolina man has been jailed after allegedly calling police to say there was a bomb in the



White House. A North Myrtle Beach police news release says authorities spoke with 25-year-old Justin McCoy of Little River on the phone and in person late Tuesday, and he confirmed making the threat. The release says no bombs were located at the White House. Police say McCoy was previously convicted of making a bomb threat and also threatening the life of a public official. Now he's charged with making a bomb threat or conveying false information about a bomb threat. The sheriff's website says McCoy is being held without bail. A city spokesman said the Secret Service is interviewing McCoy. The spokesman didn't answer whether McCoy has an attorney.

**Sun News:** Horry County man arrested for threat to White House, Charleston

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article115092333.html>

North Myrtle Beach Police arrested Justin M. McCoy, 25, of Horry County on Tuesday, after officers say he called in reports of bombs in the White House and somewhere in Charleston. McCoy called the North Myrtle Beach Department of Public Safety Communications office at 11:25 p.m. on Tuesday, telling dispatchers to call the FBI because "there is a bomb planted in the White House," according to a police report. McCoy then hung up the phone, police said. Ten minutes later, dispatchers say the same caller called again, this time saying there was a bomb planted in Charleston, the report stated. "Dispatch called the caller back and the caller identified himself as Justin McCoy." Officers met with McCoy at a gas station on 33rd Avenue South in North Myrtle Beach and police say he confessed to the calls, but would not say whether or not the threats were legit.

**Associated Press:** Man who wrote on Facebook after escape gets 10-year sentence

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=o3KA5sqv](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=o3KA5sqv)

SC State Wire

A Lancaster man who escaped from police and posted on Facebook while on the run has been sentenced to 10 years in prison after he was accused of committing sex crimes against a minor. The Herald of Rock Hill (<http://bit.ly/2fWNEsJ>) reports that 25-year-old Deqwon Blackmon pleaded guilty to assault and battery Tuesday in connection with a June 2014 charge of criminal sexual conduct toward a minor. While free on bond two years ago, police say Blackmon shot and injured three people during an August 2014 shooting near a Lancaster Waffle House. He was arrested, but escaped from loose handcuffs and posted to Facebook that he had to kiss his children. Blackmon was caught in his mother's home in September 2014 following a three-week manhunt. The shooting charges are still pending.

**Associated Press:** Black chamber building fire in S. Carolina ruled an accident

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=n2iUBFmT](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=n2iUBFmT)

SC State Wire

Authorities have ruled out arson in a fire that destroyed the almost-completed new headquarters of the Beaufort County Black Chamber of Commerce. Local Fire Chief Reece Bertholf said Wednesday investigators determined the fire was accidental. According to a joint announcement from city, state and federal agencies, preliminary findings are that the fire started between the first and second floors in a sealed-off space that allowed no access. Bertholf told reporters Wednesday the investigation continues, but the findings shouldn't change. Construction of the three-story structure was nearly complete when it burned early Saturday, causing at least \$2 million in damages. There were no reported injuries. A grand opening was planned for Jan. 12. Federal agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms took over the investigation Sunday.

**Island Packet:** Investigators: Black Chamber fire not arson, tied to electrical issue

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article115168133.html>

A fire that burned the Beaufort County Black Chamber of Commerce on Saturday wasn't arson, investigators said Wednesday. The fire started in an enclosed space between the first and second floors in an area sealed off after initial framing and utilities were in place, Beaufort-Port Royal Fire Chief Reece Bertholf said. Electrical wiring was the only possible source of the heat that started the fire, he said. In response to any remaining public concern about the cause, Bertholf said some of the

country's top investigators worked the scene and there was no way anything else could have gotten into the space where the fire began. Nothing in surveillance footage of the fire changed investigators' determination, he added. "This fire was accidental," he said.

**Associated Press:** Restaurant owner opposed in bid to lower Confederate flag

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=cziFHQ9V](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=cziFHQ9V)

Jeffrey Collins

Tommy Daras had planned on a small ceremony Wednesday to remove the Confederate flag flying from the edge of the parking lot at his South Carolina restaurant. Then he encountered a hitch. Two members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans showed up at the flagpole and advised Daras the group owns a small tract of land where the flag flies, deeded to them in 2005 by a former restaurant operator who kept literature supporting slavery in his barbecue joints. Warned they could have him arrested for trespassing, Daras is now rethinking his options in his bid to replace the Confederate flag with an American flag outside his restaurant. "I wanted to compromise. I tried to work with them," Daras said of months of negotiations. "But I realized today they are racists and they are bringing down my business with them."

**Morning News:** Pastors of 'Helping Florence Flourish' move forward with unity initiative

[http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article\\_f77caf2e-abab-11e6-964b-cfc780186795.html](http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_f77caf2e-abab-11e6-964b-cfc780186795.html)

Joshua Lloyd

Several pastors involved in the "Helping Florence Flourish" initiative met Tuesday morning and settled on a plan to help bridge racial gaps. Throughout the remainder of 2016 and into early 2017 the group will be organizing small groups to discuss the problems and study how to remedy them.

**The State:** Civil rights leader Bryan Stevenson to receive Columbia's Key to the City

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article115142203.html>

Sarah Ellis

Modern civil rights leader Bryan Stevenson will receive the honorary Key to the City from Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin. Stevenson, a lawyer and the founder of the Equal Justice Initiative in Alabama, has dedicated his career to helping the poor, the incarcerated and the condemned. He and his staff have won court battles to limit excessive and unfair sentencing, exonerate death row prisoners, stand against abuse of the imprisoned and the mentally ill and to help children who are prosecuted as adults. Stevenson will speak about his experience with the justice system Thursday at The Township Auditorium. Benjamin will give the opening remarks at a program that also will include music by DJ Liv, a historical photography exhibit and a question-and-answer session with Stevenson.

**The State:** Columbia Police honored for its excellence in law enforcement

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article115135578.html>

Cynthia Roldan

The Columbia Police Department is celebrating an excellence award the agency received by the state's law enforcement association on Tuesday. The South Carolina Law Enforcement Association honored the Columbia Police Department with the Santee Cooper Excellence in Law Enforcement Award. Previous winners include the Charleston Police Department in 2015 and the Aiken Department of Public Safety in 2014, according to reports. The award aims to recognize the overall activities and achievements of an entire law enforcement agency or department, according to the association's awards information page. Qualifications that are taken into consideration for the award include the agency's effort, innovative service to the community, efficiency and results, the page said.

**Independent Mail:** Anderson County moves ahead with ban on drug U-47700

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/11/15/anderson-county-moves-ahead-ban-drug-u-47700/93939112/>

Nikie Mayo

Anderson County officials moved ahead Tuesday night with a regulation to ban U-47700 and other

synthetic opioids, drugs that have contributed to dozens of deaths nationwide in the span of about a year. The move came the day after the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration put U-47700 on its most restrictive list of controlled substances, calling it a drug that serves no medical purpose and one that poses an imminent threat to public health. Michael Miller, director of the Anderson-Oconee Regional Forensics Lab, confirmed to the Independent Mail on Tuesday that there has been at least one case in Anderson County involving U-47700 in the last three months. Miller declined to discuss specifics, except to say that a person was trying to buy the drug online and that the case remains under investigation.

**Associated Press:** Greenville psychiatric services expanding with new hospital

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=frf11GX8](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=frf11GX8)

SC State Wire

Greenville Health System has announced a partnership with Acadia Healthcare to increase their mental health service offerings in the Upstate by building a new psychiatric hospital. The health system said in a news release that the \$64 million, 80,000-square-foot facility is slated to open in March 2018 on GHS' Greenville Memorial Medical Campus, replacing the aging Marshall I. Pickens Hospital. The new hospital will provide expanded services as well as additional beds for a region that has struggled with a lack of mental health care. GHS Chairman of Psychiatry Dr. Kenneth Rogers says the 120-bed hospital will provide 52 more beds than are currently available at the Marshall I. Pickens Hospital. It will also provide services such as substance abuse and geriatric mental health programs.

**The State:** Mercury, other toxins drained into Columbia-area creeks as sewage systems failed

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article115158578.html>

Sammy Fretwell

Mercury and other toxic metals have poured into major creeks in the Saluda, Congaree and Broad river basins after sewage systems failed during the past year, researchers at the University of South Carolina have found. From November 2015 to this past March, USC researchers discovered elevated amounts of metals in wastewater spilling at Stoops Creek and Crane Creek, both of which are large tributaries of Columbia rivers. The findings, to be presented Friday at a USC conference in Columbia, suggest that metals from sewage spills may be having more of an impact on rivers than previously thought, said USC scientist Sarah Rothenberg, who co-authored the study with other university researchers and Congaree Riverkeeper Bill Stangler. "You have metals going into the environment that would otherwise have been treated and removed at a wastewater treatment plant," said Rothenberg, an assistant professor in Carolina's public health school. "The fact that this is just going right into the environment .... suggests that it may be a more significant source than previously believed."

**Herald-Journal:** BMW supplier Magna Seating to open Spartanburg facility

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161115/bmw-supplier-magna-seating-to-open-spartanburg-facility?rssfeed=true>

Bob Montgomery

A Canadian company and BMW supplier is planning to invest \$29 million and create 480 new jobs over four years at a new 230,000-square-foot manufacturing facility at Pacolet Milliken's Tyger Industrial Park North, according to sources. Magna Seating of Aurora, Ontario, filed site plans with the county showing a facility with 199 parking spaces will be built on a 20-acre lot at Highway 290 and Anderson Mill Road. Spartanburg County Council on Monday approved the first reading of a tax incentives package for a company dubbed "Project Lockdown." The project will invest \$29 million and create 480 jobs, according to the fee-in-lieu-of-taxes agreement. Spartanburg County Councilman David Britt said Tuesday he could not reveal the name behind Project Lockdown until the third and final reading is approved. "It's a quality company making an investment in Spartanburg and employing a significant number of employees," he said. "On all our projects we never discuss (the name) until the company is ready to say who they are."

## National News:

**Associated Press:** Officer charged in shooting that was streamed on Facebook

<http://bigstory.ap.org/a6dd3a0a30e34d3c996bdd02ba6439a1>

When Philando Castile was pulled over in July, he calmly told the officer he had a gun and was licensed to carry it, according to prosecutors. Moments later, the officer fired on the motorist, and a bleeding Castile uttered his last words: "I wasn't reaching for it." On Wednesday, that officer was charged with second-degree manslaughter following an investigation by prosecutors, who concluded that Jeronimo Yanez was wrong to use his weapon in the traffic stop, which was seen by millions after Castile's girlfriend streamed his final gruesome moments live on Facebook. "No reasonable officer, knowing, seeing and hearing what officer Yanez did at the time, would've used deadly force under these circumstances," Ramsey County Attorney John Choi said. Prosecutors believe Castile never tried to pull his handgun from his pocket, and Yanez's unreasonable fear did not justify the shooting, Choi said. If convicted, the officer could face up to 10 years in prison.

**Associated Press:** McConnell to lead Senate GOP, Schumer new Democratic leader

<http://bigstory.ap.org/bb4c20778b9e4e0aab4870fcd48b92e9>

Senate Republicans re-elected Mitch McConnell on Wednesday to be majority leader next year while Democrats picked Chuck Schumer to lead them, setting the chief actors as the chamber prepares for an agenda that will be dominated by Donald Trump and the GOP. McConnell, 74, is a discreet but deadly master of the Senate's legislative chess game. His role will be to steer GOP bills to the desk of a president whose name he barely spoke during a tumultuous campaign in which many Republicans viewed Trump and his incendiary comments on Muslims, veterans and others as political poison. "It's time to accept the results of the election, to lower the tone and to see what we can do together to make progress for the country," McConnell, from Kentucky, told reporters Wednesday. As Senate minority leader, Schumer will assume his weakened party's most powerful remaining post as it struggles to define its role in a Republican-dominated government.

## World News:

**Associated Press:** Obama urges nations not to give in to isolationist impulses

<http://bigstory.ap.org/4b60228b03db44b8863e86667687415a>

Standing in democracy's birthplace, President Barack Obama on Wednesday issued a parting plea to world leaders not to let the fear of globalization tugging at Europe and the U.S. pull them away from their core democratic values. He argued it wasn't too late for a course correction. On his last foreign trip as president, Obama has repeatedly tried to draw lessons from Donald Trump's victory in the U.S. presidential election, hoping it can serve as wake-up call in the U.S. and abroad. Conceding that many feel left behind by globalization, Obama said there was an understandable impulse toward isolationism and that if people feel their futures are at risk, "they'll push back." "People have to know that they're being heard," Obama said in a speech to the Greek people in Athens. But, he added, "We can't look backward for answers. We have to look forward."

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Camlin Moore

Cell: 803-206-8236

Office: 803-734-8044