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To:
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Tuesday, November 22, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: The Latest: Haley asks for prayers amid 2 murder trials

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=zY3AdRoU

Gov. Nikki Haley says South Carolinians should continue to pray as two racially charged murder trials in Charleston force victims' families, survivors and everyone hurt by last year's tragedies to "relive everything all over again." Haley also asked people gathered Tuesday at "Mother Emanuel" AME Church in Charleston to pray for the jurors responsible for bringing justice. The site of the June 2015 massacre of nine black worshippers was among churches statewide holding prayer vigils at Haley's request. A judge is considering whether the white man accused of killing the parishioners is competent to stand trial. Also underway is the trial of a white, former North Charleston officer accused of fatally shooting a black motorist in the back as he fled. Haley said she called for prayers to remind South Carolinians the "goodness of people, the power of prayer and faith with action will always take you where you need to go." She also asks people to remember those "going into this Thanksgiving without so much" after Hurricane Matthew.

Post and Courier: Gov. Nikki Haley prays for healing at Emanuel AME Church

http://www.postandcourier.com/church_shooting/gov-nikki-haley-prays-for-healing-at-emanuel-ame-church/article_b4bd22ac-b0bc-11e6-9369-03fdf4b26a4f.html

Jennifer Berry Hawes

A brotherhood of church bells tolling around Emanuel AME Church ushered a procession of diverse clergy down the church's aisle on Tuesday as the faithful heeded Gov. Nikki Haley's call to pray for healing across the state. Haley, along with U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, joined dignitaries and several hundred others gathered to pray at Emanuel, where beneath their feet a self-avowed white supremacist gunned down nine black worshipers studying the Bible in June 2015. She pointed to that horrific night and a spate of other tragedies that have tested the state's residents. Anyone who has been in South Carolina for the past two years recognized the sad litany Haley recited. A videotaped police shooting shown around the globe. The massacre of Bible study participants. A 1,000-year flood. Hurricane Matthew. The death of a boy shot at his elementary school. And, now, the threat of wildfires. How has one relatively small, rural state endured so much? "The reminder is of the faith and the action that happened with every one of those tragedies," Haley said. "Faith alone is not good enough. Faith with action and kindness and love will always take us where we need to go."

The State: South Carolina prays through tough times

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article116442113.html>

Bristow Marchant

It's been a rough year for South Carolina. Last month, the state was struck by hurricane-induced flooding, forcing waters to rise across the Palmetto State for the second year in a row. The trials in two racially charged shootings also are underway in Charleston. In response to those tribulations, worshipers prayed across the state on Tuesday, at the request of Gov. Nikki Haley, including at Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Columbia. "There's so much going on, and now we can just relax and pray," said 12-year-old Abby Suber, a sixth-grader at Saint Joseph Catholic School. Dan Rogers lead an intercessory prayer at the noon service for the victims of the Emanuel Church shooting and the family of Walter Scott. "There's a need to come together," Rogers said, "No matter how bad things are, we're

bigger than that.”

Aiken Standard: Aiken group joins South Carolina in prayer

http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/aiken-group-joins-south-carolina-in-prayer/article_be1fa830-b0bf-11e6-84a6-f79dff6b0afb.html

Christina Cleveland

On noon Tuesday, church bells rang across South Carolina in observance of a day of prayer requested by Gov. Nikki Haley. Haley attended a prayer vigil at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, a place where a year ago nine black parishioners were shot and killed during a Bible study. A trial is underway for the man accused of the shooting and a competency hearing was also reportedly being held for him Tuesday. A separate case involving a former North Charleston police officer charged in the 2015 killing of an unarmed motorist is also underway in the Charleston area, prompting the governor to ask South Carolinians pray for both, as well as a region in the state still recovering from Hurricane Matthew. She also asked those praying for the state to give thanks for its blessings. Hours before in Aiken, a prayer group of roughly a dozen people that represented around eight or nine churches of all denominations met for its weekly prayer meeting at a local restaurant, where they prayed for government leaders, the community and nation.

Gov. Nikki Haley Top Contender for UN Ambassador:

Wall Street Journal: Mitt Romney Leads Donald Trump's Picks for Secretary of State

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/mitt-romney-leads-donald-trumps-picks-for-secretary-of-state-1479846765>

Michael C. Bender and Damian Paletta

President-elect Donald Trump is leaning toward asking former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney to be his secretary of state, according to people familiar with the deliberations. The next U.S. president is also likely to name retired Marine Gen. James Mattis to serve as secretary of defense in his administration, and South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is the leading candidate to be the next ambassador to the United Nations, the people said. Delaying Mr. Trump's decision about secretary of state is an internal tug of war between supporters of Mr. Romney, and those urging the selection of former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani. A third group is pressing the president-elect to keep searching for candidates. The New York businessman views Mr. Romney as the prototypical choice to be the nation's top diplomat, and a group of advisers inside the transition are pushing him to select the 2012 Republican presidential nominee. Two people said Mr. Trump is inclined to select Mr. Romney.

NOTE: Ms. Haley would be the first woman—and first minority—to join Mr. Trump's administration. “It was a good meeting. We talked about a multiple group of topics and it was nice meeting,” Ms. Haley told reporters.

NOTE: Rob Godfrey, her deputy chief of staff, said Ms. Haley “is very encouraged about the coming administration and the new direction it will bring to Washington.” While Mr. Trump's initial picks for his next administration have focused exclusively on loyalists, Ms. Haley—like Mr. Romney—was a vocal opponent of the incoming president during the Republican primary.

NOTE: She implicitly criticized his candidacy during her Republican response to President Barack Obama's State of the Union speech and, ahead of the South Carolina primary, said Mr. Trump was “everything a governor doesn't want in a president.”

NOTE: After he won the nomination, she said she would back him in the November election against Democrat Hillary Clinton. Ms. Haley met with Mr. Trump on Thursday in New York and told reporters on Monday in South Carolina that “when the president-elect calls and asks for a meeting, I would absolutely not turn that down.”

NOTE: Ms. Haley, 44, is the second Asian-American of Indian descent to serve as governor in the U. S. Before winning her first election in 2004 to the South Carolina Statehouse, she worked at FCR Corp., a North Carolina waste management and recycling company, and later joined Exotica International, her family's clothing business.

The Hill: Trump leaning toward Romney for secretary of State: report

<http://thehill.com/homenews/administration/307259-report-trump-leaning-toward-romney-for-secretary-of-state>

Jessie Hellmann

President-elect Donald Trump is leaning toward nominating 2012 GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney to be his secretary of State, The Wall Street Journal reports. Two sources told the Journal that Trump is inclined to pick Romney for the position. The president-elect considers Romney to be the prototypical choice for the job, according to the report. Trump and Romney met over the weekend at Trump's golf course in New Jersey to discuss foreign policy, a meeting that Vice President-elect Mike Pence described as "warm" and "substantive." Still, Romney and Trump feuded during the campaign, with Romney once calling Trump a "con man," a "phony" and a "fraud" while Trump frequently criticized the former Massachusetts governor for "choking" in his loss to President Obama. Trump aide Kellyanne Conway has insisted the two will be able to leave the past behind them to work together.

NOTE: Trump is also likely to name South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley (R) as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, according to the Journal. If selected, she would be the first woman and first minority to join Trump's administration.

Post and Courier: Gov. Nikki Haley as the next UN ambassador?

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/gov-nikki-haley-as-the-next-un-ambassador/article_9ac96c4c-b0f4-11e6-a820-37c362f415b7.html

Gavin Jackson

Gov. Nikki Haley is reportedly the leading candidate to be the next ambassador to the United Nations, according to The Wall Street Journal. The revelation is the latest speculation to come from the President-elect Donald Trump's transition team involving Haley since she met with him last Thursday in New York. She was previously said to be considered for secretary of state, a top Cabinet position that could be going to another Trump critic—former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney. Despite a heated 2016 campaign that saw her and Trump butting heads for much of the year, Haley said Monday that they remain friends, as they have for years. "I don't even think we took it as personal," Haley said about their often heated exchanges. At an unrelated Statehouse press conference Monday, Haley gave no details about her meeting with Trump other than to say it was a private meeting.

The State: SC Gov. Nikki Haley 'leading candidate' for UN ambassador, report says

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article116490878.html>

Cassie Cope

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley is President-Elect Donald Trump's "leading candidate" for the next ambassador to the United Nations, according to the Wall Street Journal. Haley was rumored last week to be a contender for Secretary of State. However, the Wall Street Journal article said Trump is leaning toward Mitt Romney. Haley met last week with Trump in New York, but details of the meeting were scarce. Haley also was elected vice chair of the Republican Governors Association last week.

Greenville News: Report: Haley top contender for UN ambassador

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/11/22/report-haley-top-contender-un-ambassador/94294674/>

Amanda Coyne

Gov. Nikki Haley is the "leading candidate" to become U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, the Wall Street Journal reports. Haley met with President-elect Donald Trump last week amid reports she was under consideration for multiple cabinet positions in the coming Trump Administration. One of those positions is believed to be secretary of state. Both secretary of state and U.N. ambassador are positions concerning diplomacy and foreign policy, areas in which Haley has limited experience. The two-term South Carolina governor has led trade missions to countries including India, Sweden and

Germany during her tenure, and the S.C. Department of Commerce has offices in India, Germany, Japan and China. Haley and her staff have been tight-lipped about what Haley and Trump discussed during their meeting in the president-elect's Manhattan office. When asked about the meeting at a Monday press conference, Haley said she would not discuss details because it was a private meeting. Haley's deputy chief of staff Rob Godfrey characterized the meeting as a "good discussion" in a statement released after the meeting.

WIS: Report: Gov. Nikki Haley now eyed for UN Ambassador in Trump admin

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33775145/reports-gov-nikki-haley-now-being-eyed-for-un-ambassador-in-trump-admin>

Jeremy Turnage

The Wall Street Journal is reporting South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is now the leading candidate for United Nations Ambassador in President-elect Donald Trump's administration. The report cites sources close to Trump's transition team that Haley, who met with Trump last week in New York, is now being eyed for a diplomatic role in the administration. "Governor Haley was pleased to meet with President-elect Trump," Haley's Deputy Chief of Staff Rob Godfrey said. "They had a good discussion, and she is very encouraged about the coming administration and the new direction it will bring to Washington." Last week, reports indicated Haley was being floated as a candidate for Secretary of State. However, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney appears to be the leading choice for the nation's top diplomat, the Wall Street Journal said. Haley spoke on Monday for the first time following the speculation.

WACH: Wall Street Journal: Haley frontrunner to become ambassador to UN

<http://wach.com/news/local/wall-street-journal-haley-frontrunner-to-become-ambassador-to-un>

Matthew Stevens

Though previously thought as perhaps the next Secretary of State, The Wall Street Journal is reporting that Governor Nikki Haley is the front-runner to become the ambassador to the United Nations. Donald Trump posted on Instagram Tuesday morning that great meetings were taking place today concerning the formation of the government for the next 8 years. Haley met with Trump last week in a private meeting in New York and said she was encouraged by that meeting. Rumors started last week that Haley was being considered for the president-elect's Secretary of State, but The Wall Street Journal is reporting that Mitt Romney is emerging as the favorite. Lt. Governor Henry McMaster was rumored as a possible Attorney General after he became the first elected official to endorse Donald Trump for the presidency, however, that position has gone to Jeff Session.

WLTX: Report: Gov. Haley Leading Candidate for U.N. Ambassador

<http://www.wltx.com/news/politics/report-nikki-haley-leading-candidate-for-un-ambassador/355033448>

Another day, another report about a top job possibility for South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley in the new Trump Administration. The Wall Street Journal reported Tuesday that Haley is the "leading candidate" for U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. That is the nation's leader of the U.S. delegation to the U.N., and represents the U.S. on the United Nations Security Council. Previous U.N. Ambassadors to the United Nations include former President George H.W. Bush and former Secretary of State Madeline Albright. Haley had previously been mentioned as a candidate for Secretary of State, but the Journal quotes sources who say President-Elect Trump appears to be leaning toward former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney for that job. He also is still mulling picking former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani for that post. As for Haley, she met face-to-face with Donald Trump last Thursday, and said she had a "good conversation." When asked by reporters for further details this week, she declined to add more, saying that their talk was private.

SC Agency News:

The State: Department of Corrections officer arrested on bribery, conspiracy charges

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article116483978.html>

Cynthia Roldan

An S.C. Department of Corrections officer is facing charges of bribery and conspiracy after she was allegedly caught attempting to bring tobacco into one of the state's prisons. Revella Marquita Rodriguez, of Rock Hill, was arrested on charges of misconduct in office, conspiracy and public official bribes. Andrei Rodriguez, also of Rock Hill, is named as a co-defendant in the arrest warrant and faces conspiracy charges. Revella Rodriguez is accused of meeting on Monday with an undercover officer of the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office and with Andrei Rodriguez "to receive items deemed as contraband with the intent to introduce the contraband into Kershaw Correctional Institution," the warrant said. She also allegedly agreed to receive money in exchange for bringing in the contraband, according to the warrant. Revella Rodriguez had been working with the state corrections department since January and was assigned to Kershaw Correctional. She was fired Tuesday from agency.

Post and Courier: Undercover operation leads to warrants for arrest of corrections officer
http://www.postandcourier.com/news/undercover-operation-leads-to-warrants-for-arrest-of-corrections-officer/article_06ccb690-b0f7-11e6-8cc1-fbda846bf90b.html

Maya T. Prabhu

An undercover operation led to warrants being issued Tuesday for a Kershaw Correctional Institution officer and another person accused of attempting to provide tobacco to inmates, law enforcement officials said. Revella Marquita Rodriguez, 45, of Rock Hill is charged with bribery of a public official, criminal conspiracy and misconduct in office. Andrei Rodriguez, 55, also of Rock Hill, is charged with criminal conspiracy. Revella Rodriguez began working for the S.C. Department of Corrections in January. According to arrest warrants, Revella and Andrei Rodriguez met with an undercover officer with the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office on Monday to obtain tobacco. Documents allege Revella Rodriguez agreed to take the tobacco to Kershaw Correctional and receive money in exchange for the contraband.

SC Delegation News:

Associated Press: Drill, baby, drill? Election reignites offshore-oil debate
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=9lu2yecY

SC State Wire

The controversy over drilling for oil in the Atlantic Ocean has been reignited by the election of Donald Trump, and environmentalists and coastal businesses say it could be the first major fault line that divides them from the new president. The Obama administration has moved to restrict access to offshore oil drilling leases in the Atlantic, as well as off Alaska. Commercial oil production has never happened off the East Coast - and environmentalists consider that a major victory during Obama's tenure. But President-elect Trump has said that he intends to use all available fuel reserves for energy self-sufficiency - and that it's time to be opening up offshore drilling.

NOTE: Among those opposed to Atlantic drilling is Rep. Mark Sanford, a South Carolina Republican, who says his opposition dovetails with the conservative value of local control, including of natural resources. He said he is waiting for Trump to settle in before engaging him on the issue.

NOTE: Many coastal business owners and residents have taken stands against Atlantic drilling, saying it would endanger key industries, such as commercial fishing and tourism. Frank Knapp, a South Carolina businessman who is the co-founder of the 12,000-member Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast, said they'll fight any attempts to drill once Trump takes over.

Wildfires Across Southeast:

Associated Press: Southern wildfires continue spread as arson probes launched
<http://bigstory.ap.org/d1d661add1084369b0d7df460c3f3cde>

Firefighters have made progress in battling many of the large wildfires burning in the Southeast, but several blazes continue to creep into new areas — and investigators say more fires are being lit each

day by suspected arsonists. There are 44 uncontained large fires in the South, covering a total of more than 120,000 acres, national fire officials said Tuesday. Arson investigations are underway in Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina and Kentucky. In Tennessee, firefighters have responded to 27 new fires since Friday, and 19 of them are suspected arsons, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture reported. Most of those recent blazes are relatively small, the largest being a 452-acre wildfire northwest of Knoxville. The Southern forests have caught fire amid a relentless drought. More than 47 million people are now living in drought areas, which stretch from Oklahoma and Texas all the way east to the Carolinas and parts of Virginia, according to the latest information from the National Drought Mitigation Center.

Herald-Journal: Wildfire spreads beyond Pickens County

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161121/wildfire-spreads-beyond-pickens-county?rssfeed=true>

Chris Lavender

The Pinnacle Mountain fire has spread beyond Pickens County, growing by about 500 acres on Monday, and officials worried that dry conditions overnight would hurt efforts to contain the blaze. The wildfire has burned about 6,000 acres and has spread into Greenville County and is approaching Transylvania County, N.C. Doug Wood, a spokesman with the S.C. Forestry Commission, said the fire spread into Greenville County late Sunday and early Monday. Sunday morning, Transylvania County Emergency Management was notified by the N.C. Forest Service that the fire had crossed over the state line. However, after a meeting Monday morning between the S.C. Forest Commission and N.C. Forest Service, it was determined that the fire was still about one mile away from the border. The fire remained at 35 percent containment Monday, according to the S.C. Forestry Commission.

Hurricane Matthew Recovery:

Morning News: Help remains after Lake City disaster recovery center closes

http://www.scnow.com/news/hurricane_matthew/article_d022bd02-b0cd-11e6-8da4-671202c86245.html

The Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) in Lake City, Florence County, will close permanently Wednesday, Nov. 23 at 7 p.m. DRCs open and close based on community need and visitor demand. Survivors of Hurricane Matthew can still get help with just a phone call. To apply for disaster assistance, call the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at 800-621-3362 (voice, 711 or video relay services) or 800-462-7585 (TTY). Lines are open every day from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. until further notice. Multilingual operators are available. If survivors who previously registered with FEMA have questions, they may call FEMA and choose the helpline option. Callers may ask representatives about how to...

Michael Slagger Case:

Associated Press: The Latest: Police chief: Slager never reprimanded for force

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

A North Charleston police chief is on the stand in the murder trial of one of his former patrolmen charged with murder in the shooting death of an unarmed black motorist in South Carolina. Chief Eddie Driggers was called by the defense in the trial of Michael Slager who is charged in the April 2015 shooting death of 50 year-old Walter Scott. The motorist was shot five times in the back as he fled from a traffic stop. The shooting was captured by a bystander on cellphone video that stunned the nation. Driggers testified that he is not aware of Slager ever being reprimanded by the department for misuse of force, misuse of his stun gun or misuse of his service revolver. The defense in the case contends that Slager and Scott wrestled on the ground and Scott stunned Slager with the officer's Taser.

Associated Press: Cop's former supervisor: Slager "a very good officer"

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

Bruce Smith

Michael Slager was a good officer who did what was expected, got good department reviews and seldom prompted complaints, Slager's old supervisor at the North Charleston Police Department testified during the fired patrolman's murder trial on Tuesday. "He was a very good officer," testified Sgt. Ronald Webb who was Slager's immediate supervisor on the day last year when Slager shot and killed an unarmed black motorist fleeing from a traffic stop. Slager faces 30 years to life if convicted of murder in the April 2015 shooting death of 50-year-old Walter Scott. The shooting of Scott five times in the back was captured on cellphone video by a bystander. Once the video was made public, Slager, 35, was charged with murder and fired by the department where he had been an officer for five years. The shooting rekindled a national debate about the treatment of black suspects at the hands of white officers.

Dylann Roof Case:

Associated Press: Church suspect competency hearing goes into second day

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=QEYjYM6Y

SC State Wire

A closed hearing on the competency of Dylann Roof to stand trial in the killing of nine black worshippers at a South Carolina church is in its second day. The hearing before U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel is continuing Tuesday in Charleston. Gergel ruled the hearing that began Monday would remain closed amid concern its contents could taint potential jurors' view of Roof. Gergel says he'll rule later this week on whether the trial can continue. Also Tuesday, Gov. Nikki Haley attends a prayer vigil blocks away at Emanuel AME Church, site of the 2015 shootings. The vigil is among those happening statewide at Haley's request to encourage prayer for South Carolina during the trials of Roof and former North Charleston officer Michael Slager, as well recovery from Hurricane Matthew.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Study: Recovery from 2015 floods created 20,000 jobs in S.C.

http://www.postandcourier.com/business/study-recovery-from-floods-created-jobs-in-s-c/article_1a94103e-b0ec-11e6-800c-637233858a7c.html

Thad Moore

The recovery from last year's devastating floods may have helped South Carolina stave off a slowdown in job growth, according to a new study by University of South Carolina researchers. USC economists Doug Woodward and Joey Von Nessen estimate that the state added more than 20,000 jobs once insurance checks and federal aid arrived, as contractors and retailers saw a surge of business. In all, the influx of spending created a surplus worth some \$2.2 billion once that money circulated through the economy. Their research, presented last week at a conference focused on the October 2015 floods, suggests that the flurry of activity helped to maintain the rate of the state's job growth, which has hovered around 2.5 percent for most of the year - faster than the nation as a whole. They estimate that the recovery efforts contributed 0.2 percent to that total. The gains were concentrated in the construction and retail industries, the researchers said. Earlier this year, federal data show that construction jobs boomed across much of the state, leading the state's employment growth.

The Item: Clarendon County chosen for largest solar energy project in central South Carolina

<http://www.theitem.com/stories/clarendon-county-chosen-for-largest-solar-energy-project-in-central-south-carolina,280012>

A new industry will invest \$200 million in two separate solar farm projects in Clarendon County in the next few years, making it the largest solar energy project to date in central South Carolina. South Carolina Department of Commerce made the announcement today that Adger Solar, a clean-energy development company, is projected to make the multi-million dollar investment and create at least

five jobs in the process in the county. Together, these projects will generate enough electricity to supply approximately 25,000 homes on an annual average basis, including customers of the two major local utility providers, according to a news release. The first of these two 72-megawatts solar farms is expected to be operational by the end of 2018. Adger Solar is a clean-energy development company focused on creating lower-cost, utility-scale solar-electric generating facilities, with developments underway in six different counties, according to the release.

NOTE: Gov. Nikki Haley said the corporation's investment in Clarendon is "a real reason to celebrate. "It shows that South Carolina is a place where companies in every industry can thrive," Haley said. "This \$200 million investment shows that Adger Solar is serious about its commitment to our state and our people, and we look forward to continuing this partnership for many years to come."

Local News:

Associated Press: Man charged with killing estranged wife in abandoned home

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=MY5mM6x1

SC State Wire

Investigators say they have issued a murder warrant for the estranged husband of a 22-year-old woman found stabbed to death in an abandoned home in Simpsonville last month. Police told media outlets that 28-year-old John Blauvelt was last seen in Las Cruces, New Mexico, a week ago. Authorities say Blauvelt and a second man, 31-year-old Charles Scott Jr., stabbed Catherine Blauvelt to death Oct. 24. Friends who were searching for her found her body two days later. Scott was already in jail on unrelated charges when he was charged with murder. Police have not given a motive for the killing.

Associated Press: 70-year-old woman charged with murder in shooting of husband

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=0ep1hoVz

SC State Wire

Authorities say a 70-year-old Georgia woman is charged with murder for killing her pastor husband in Bamberg County. An arrest warrant from the State Law Enforcement Division says Annie McNair shot her husband, Frank, in the chest Oct. 1 and he died at the hospital. Authorities say Annie McNair also was wounded and taken to a Columbia hospital. Investigators now say she killed her husband and tried to kill herself. It wasn't known if the Garden City, Georgia, woman had an attorney. Frank McNair was the former pastor at Holy Temple Church of God in Christ in Bamberg and was currently serving as an elder at St. Noah Church of God in Christ in Aiken. He also was a math teacher and vice principal at Denmark-Olar High School.

Associated Press: 17-month-old boy drowns in bucket in Richland County

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=YsE8kdUw

SC State Wire

Authorities say a 17-month-old boy has drowned in a 5-gallon bucket of water in Richland County. Coroner Gary Watts said in a news release that Daniel Rodriguez was taken to the hospital after someone found him in the bucket Monday, but he died a short time later. Watts says an autopsy determined the boy drowned. The coroner's office and sheriff's deputies are investigating how the toddler got into the bucket and how long his head was under the water before he was found.

The State: Richland County baby dead after found in 5-gallon bucket of water

<http://www.thestate.com/news/state/south-carolina/article116405638.html>

Jane Moon Dial

A baby is dead after it was found in a bucket of water at an Elgin-area home in what the coroner is calling a "tragic accident." Richland County Coroner Gary Watts said 1-year-old Daniel Rodriguez was found in a five-gallon bucket of water Monday at his home on Sandy Oaks Road. Richland County EMS transported Daniel to Palmetto Health Richland hospital where he was pronounced dead at 8:41

p.m. in the pediatric emergency department, according to a news release from the coroner's office. Watts said all indications point to the death being accidental. An autopsy performed Tuesday morning indicated the baby died of asphyxiation due to drowning in the bucket of water. Watts said it is not uncommon for babies to drown in small containers of water. "They'll see reflections, they'll see something in there and learn forward," he said. "Because the head is so heavy in infants... they can flip into it and they have no way of getting out. It can be a very dangerous situation." The coroner's office and the Richland County Sheriff's Department continue to investigate this case.

Associated Press: Deputies: Officer fired after sex act on 8-year-old girl

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

SC State Wire

Lexington County sheriff's deputies say a Columbia police officer has been arrested after being charged with forcing an 8-year-old girl to commit a sex act. Columbia Police Chief Skip Holbrook said in a statement Tuesday he fired 35-year-old Jamie Rogers Sr. as soon as deputies told him about the arrest. An arrest warrant says Rogers committed sexual battery with the girl between May 2013 and August 2013. He is charged with first-degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor. Rogers had worked for Columbia Police since 2012 and patrolled the northern part of the city. Rogers faces 25 years to life in prison if convicted. It wasn't known if he had a lawyer.

The State: Columbia police officer charged with sexual assault on child

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article116380123.html>

Jane Moon Dial

Columbia Police Department fired one of its officers after he was charged by another agency with sexual assault on a child. Jamie Lee Rogers Sr., 35, was arrested and charged with first degree sexual assault on a minor victim under 11 years of age by the Lexington County Sheriff's Department, according to a news release from the Columbia Police Department. The arrest warrant stated between May and August of 2013, the suspect had the female victim perform a sex act on him. The release stated Chief Skip Holbrook learned of the charge Monday and immediately terminated Rogers. Rogers had been with the department since March of 2012 and was most recently assigned to the north region and patrolled North Columbia. "We must be prepared to act swiftly anytime we learn of an officer violating the public's trust," Holbrook stated. "Although the Lexington County Sheriff's Department has and continues to conduct a thorough investigation, it is this agency's responsibility to hold officers accountable for criminal misconduct and any abuse of authority."

Post and Courier: Justice Ministry to call for outside review of police tonight at press conference

http://www.postandcourier.com/charleston_sc/justice-ministry-to-call-for-outside-review-of-police-tonight/article_6735ad72-b0d7-11e6-9560-e7d10206c668.html

Abigail Darlington

A day after Charleston officials touted the progress their police department has made in building trust with the community, the Charleston Area Justice Ministry has announced it will give a press conference tonight to call for an outside review of the department. The conference will be held at 4:45 p.m. in Washington Square, 15 minutes before City Council's meeting next door at City Hall. In a statement released this morning, the ministry said it is calling on the city to hire "a qualified, independent, external police auditor" to conduct a review of policing tactics and policies that could be rooted in racial biases. The police department on Monday announced that several of the recommendations that came out of the Illumination Project – an initiative to strengthen its relationship with minority communities – have recently been put in place. Also, the city already plans to hire an auditing firm by year's end to conduct a performance review of all city departments, including the police department. The auditor ultimately will make recommendations on how those departments can improve efficiency, financial planning and responsiveness to the community, among other things.

Island Packet: Insurance investigation of Black Chamber fire could finish this week

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article116471253.html>

Stephen Fastenau

Insurance investigators could finish their work this week at the scene of a fire that burned the new Beaufort County Black Chamber of Commerce building earlier this month. A team of federal, state and local investigators announced last week that the Nov. 12 fire wasn't arson. The fire started between the first and second floor in an enclosed area where the electrical system was the only possible source of heat, Beaufort-Port Royal Fire Chief Reece Bertholf said. Chamber president and CEO Larry Holman said this week the insurance investigation could finish by Wednesday or Thursday, and that there were no new details yet as to how the fire started. "I just want it done and over with so we know where to start," Holman said. "Are we going to start from the ground, or are we going to start from the foundation and go up? We're hoping we can go up from the foundation, which would save us like two-and-a-half months." Holman said the electrical work had been inspected but referred other questions to Neal's Construction, the project's general contractor. A phone message and email left for company president Gerald Neal had not been returned Wednesday afternoon.

Independent Mail: Higher speed limit proposed for stretch of S.C. 24

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/11/22/higher-speed-limit-proposed-stretch-sc-24/94286518/>

Kirk Brown

A state lawmaker wants to allow drivers to go faster along a 3-mile stretch of S.C. 24 that passes by Anderson Regional Airport. Rep. Jonathon Hill intends to introduce legislation next month that would increase the speed limit from 45 mph to 55 mph on S.C. 24 between New Hope Road and Michelin Boulevard. Hill, a Republican from Townville, said he started looking into the issue after receiving complaints from a couple of constituents. He said he learned that the existing 45 mph speed limit "doesn't make any sense and no one follows it." A pair of traffic studies were conducted on S.C. 24 earlier this year by the South Carolina Department of Transportation. The studies found that 85 percent of 200 drivers were going between 53 and 54 mph on the section of the highway where Hill wants to increase the speed limit.

Independent Mail: KM plan for Belton spill criticized

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/2016/11/21/km-spill-site-gets-worse-allegedly/94225524/>

Mike Eads

The environmental groups that put Kinder Morgan on notice in October regarding its 300,000-gallon-plus gasoline leak near Belton want a quicker pace to the cleanup work. Upstate Forever, Savannah Riverkeeper and the Southern Environmental Law Center issued a public statement Monday claiming the amounts of fuel and other toxins leeching into Brown's Creek in Anderson County are getting worse, not better. Frank Holleman, senior attorney for the SELC, said recent reports submitted to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control show that levels of pollutants from the December 2014 leak of Kinder Morgan's Plantation Pipe Line are higher now than they were earlier this year, now that the company has begun testing around the spot on the creek where the pollution is flowing into the water.

Gov. Pat McCrory News:

Associated Press: Recount request, lawsuit add uncertainty in governor's race

<http://bigstory.ap.org/c0502d99fad748ae91ac7c6f8a33ffd4>

North Carolina's still-undecided governor's race could be drawn out further by a lawsuit that contends the state can't finish counting votes until it verifies the residency of thousands who used same-day registration. A lawsuit filed Monday by the conservative-leaning Civitas Institute asks a federal court to require that the state Board of Elections refrain from certifying election results until it has finished verifying same-day registrants. It argues verification can't properly be finished until December. The lawsuit revives a key argument from previous litigation over voter-access measures. A federal appeals court restored same-day registration earlier this year when it struck down parts of a wide-

ranging elections law passed by the state's GOP-controlled legislature. Also on Tuesday, Republican Gov. Pat McCrory began the process of asking for a recount even though votes are still being counted statewide. The lawsuit and recount requests add to the uncertainty over the close race between McCrory and Democrat Roy Cooper, the state's outgoing attorney general. Cooper led Tuesday by about 6,300 votes, a tiny sliver of the 4.7 million total ballots, according to unofficial results.

President-elect Trump News:

Associated Press: Trump signals end to Clinton investigations

<http://bigstory.ap.org/b6808638a69c4d4e91642f35ded51620>

After a campaign filled with Donald Trump's denunciations of "Crooked Hillary" Clinton, the president-elect declared Tuesday that "I don't want to hurt the Clintons; I really don't," and a top adviser said he had no interest in pursuing further investigations. Trump also said he saw no potential conflicts of interest between his new job and his worldwide businesses, and he disavowed praise and support from extremist "alt-right" groups. The president-elect's remarks in an interview with The New York Times were tweeted out by Times reporters. Trump reversed his campaign trail vow to put Clinton "in jail" and seek a special prosecutor, saying he wanted to move on to his agenda of creating jobs, repealing President Barack Obama's health care law and cracking down on people entering the country illegally. His comments were a firm suggestion to Republicans who control both houses of Congress to do the same and abandon years of probes into the former secretary of state. "She went through a lot and suffered greatly in many ways," Trump said, according to the Times. Going after her, he added, is "just not something that I feel very strongly about." He predicted his supporters would not be disappointed because the Trump administration would "save our country" in other ways.

Associated Press: Trump faces hurdles to reinstating waterboarding

<http://bigstory.ap.org/6d0960651f75419da558e17817807b1a>

President-elect Donald Trump backs waterboarding and his pick for CIA director has called those who have done it "patriots" not "torturers." Yet a Trump administration faces steep legal and legislative hurdles to reinstate the interrogation practice that simulates drowning. Under a law approved last year, all government employees, including intelligence agents, must abide by Army guidelines for interrogating prisoners — guidelines that don't permit waterboarding. Those rules are subject to review, but it's not clear if they can be revised to allow the practice. If the Trump administration were to try to change the law or the guidelines, the effort would run into bipartisan opposition in Congress. The most formidable obstacle there would be a fellow Republican, John McCain. The Arizona senator, who was beaten as a prisoner of war in Vietnam in the 1960s, adamantly opposes waterboarding. As chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, he would be well-positioned to block any attempt to revive it. McCain has clashed before with Trump, who during the campaign claimed the former Navy pilot wasn't a war hero because he had been captured. At a security conference in Canada last weekend, McCain indicated he was ready to take on Trump again as begins another six-year term after winning re-election.

Associated Press: Trump's charity admits to violating IRS self-dealing ban

<http://bigstory.ap.org/a35ff7e062d8449b8817e47504d568bf>

President-elect Donald Trump's charity has admitted that it violated IRS regulations barring it from using its money or assets to benefit Trump, his family, his companies or substantial contributors to the foundation. According to a 2015 tax return posted on the nonprofit monitoring website GuideStar, the Donald J. Trump Foundation acknowledged that it used money or assets in violation of the regulations not only during 2015, but in prior years. The tax filing, first reported Tuesday by The Washington Post, doesn't provide details on the violations. The filing's release comes as the New York attorney general's office investigates whether Trump personally benefited from the foundation's spending, including several purchases detailed in reports by The Post. Questions sent via email to Trump's transition team weren't immediately answered Tuesday. The foundation's admission in the

tax filing isn't the first time it has run afoul of laws and regulations governing charitable organizations. In October, the office of New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, a Democrat, ordered the foundation to stop soliciting donations after it was discovered that the charity had been accepting outside contributions without the proper New York state registration.

Associated Press: Trump's big agenda could put GOP's budget goals out of reach

<http://bigstory.ap.org/d6ba7cc6cf0b42e5b095003035b48f93>

President-elect Donald Trump promises big tax cuts, a border wall and massive spending on infrastructure. That's a recipe for bigger deficits that fiscally minded conservative Republicans have railed against during President Barack Obama's tenure. Trump's agenda runs counter to years of promises by congressional Republicans to try to balance the federal budget. It's a marriage of conflicting priorities — on the budget at least — and that means that neither partner will get everything their own way. Trump's tax cut, estimated to cost almost \$5 trillion over 10 years, looks sure to be pared way back. Top lawmakers like House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady, R-Texas, and No. 3 Senate Republican John Thune of South Dakota say the GOP's tax plans shouldn't add to the deficit. That would mean tax rates couldn't be cut nearly as sharply as Trump wants. "We know we're going to have to pay for this," said Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, the No. 2 Senate Republican. "The question is whether we do it now or whether we send it to our kids and grandkids and make them pay for it. So that's an important point that we need to achieve some consensus on."

National News:

Associated Press: School bus driver charged in deadly Chattanooga crash

<http://bigstory.ap.org/89500cbe67ab48ec8e6bbe3b265859d0>

A school bus driver who authorities say was speeding along a narrow, winding road when he wrapped his vehicle around a tree was arrested and charged with vehicular homicide in the deaths of five children. The wreck Monday afternoon plunged the city of Chattanooga into mourning, with parents stricken by the news and people lining up to donate blood. "The most unnatural thing in the world is for a parent to mourn the loss of a child," Mayor Andy Berke said. "There are no words that can bring comfort to a mother or a father. So today, the city is praying for these families." Police said Johnthony Walker, 24, was driving well over the posted 30 mph limit when he lost control of the bus. He was jailed on \$107,500 bail for a court appearance Nov. 29 on charges that also included reckless driving and reckless endangerment. Thirty-five Woodmore Elementary School students from kindergarten through fifth grade were aboard when the bus flipped onto its side and hit a tree. No other vehicle was involved. Emergency crews needed almost two hours to get all the youngsters off the bus. Bloodied children lay on stretchers, while others walked away dazed with their parents. More than 20 children were taken to the hospital, police said.

Associated Press: Pipeline protester seriously injured; conflicting accounts

<http://bigstory.ap.org/7fe0b7af0704467eac22b76244ac1982>

A New York woman seriously hurt protesting the Dakota Access oil pipeline faces multiple surgeries and could lose an arm, her father said Tuesday, and protesters and law enforcement gave conflicting accounts about what might have caused the explosion that injured her. Sophia Wilansky, 21, was listed in serious condition and was undergoing surgery at a Minneapolis hospital. Wilansky's father, Wayne Wilansky, said his daughter was hurt when law enforcement threw a grenade. The Morton County Sheriff's Office maintains authorities did not use concussion grenades during a clash late Sunday and early Monday near the camp along the pipeline route in southern North Dakota where protesters have gathered for months. The sheriff's office suggested in a statement Monday that an explosion heard during the skirmish might have been caused by small propane tanks that authorities said protesters had rigged to explode. Dallas Goldtooth, a protest organizer with the Indigenous Environmental Network, did not immediately respond to a request for comment Tuesday. Wayne Wilansky disputed the claim by authorities, saying "there's multiple witnesses and my daughter, who

was completely conscious, said they threw a grenade right at her."

World News:

Associated Press: Zika-caused birth defect may become clear only after birth

<http://bigstory.ap.org/ab71c9dd93374cd589303a5c80e42f5a>

Researchers say a severe birth defect caused by Zika infection may not be apparent at birth but develop months afterward, further confirmation that the virus can cause unseen damage to developing babies. The findings come from a study of 13 Brazilian babies whose heads all appeared normal at birth but then grew much more slowly than normal. Most people infected with Zika never develop symptoms, but infection during pregnancy can cause devastating birth defects, including microcephaly, in which a baby's skull is much smaller than expected because the brain hasn't developed properly. Microcephaly is diagnosed based on a measurement of the baby's head circumference. It can be done during pregnancy using ultrasound, or after the baby is born. Doctors then compare the measurement to standard sizes of other kids, based on gender and age. The study focused on 13 babies born in Brazil late last year and earlier this year. All had heads that were a little small at birth, but within the normal range. Over the next five to 12 months, doctors noted their heads weren't growing at normal rates. Eleven were eventually diagnosed with microcephaly. Many of the children also developed other problems that have been linked to Zika, including epilepsy, problems swallowing, muscle weakness and inflexible joints.

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