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To:
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Monday, October 24, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

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

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

Cynthia Roldan

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

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

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

Maya T. Prabhu

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

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

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

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

Bristow Marchant

More South Carolinians are working today than ever before, helping to push the state's unemployment rate below 5 percent for the first time since April 2001, according to state employment

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

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

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

Bo Petersen

More than 700 of the once-endangered bald eagles now nest in South Carolina. Jim Elliott has had a hand in treating and returning to the wild about half that many. Elliott, founder and director of the Center for Birds of Prey in Awendaw, has been awarded the Order of the Palmetto for a storied career researching and educating about often-misunderstood raptors, or birds of prey, as well as working with the sick and injured birds brought to the center to return them to the wild. The award, presented by Gov. Nikki Haley, is the highest civilian honor the governor can bestow. It's a once-in-a-lifetime recognition of a South Carolina resident for extraordinary lifetime service and achievements of national or statewide significance, according to the Governor's Office. Eagles, hawks, owls, vultures and other raptors are alpha predators vital to healthy ecosystems. But historically, hawks and others have been shot out of the air as varmints by country landowners to keep them from their poultry, despite the small number actually lost to the birds. The practice still is carried on today despite federal penalties. The birds also are struck by cars, poisoned scavenging toxic foods and are losing habitat to development in the booming Lowcountry.

Hurricane Matthew:

Associated Press : More than 60 state roads, bridges still closed after Matthew

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

SC State Wire

More than two weeks after Hurricane Matthew hit South Carolina there are still more than 60 state roads and bridges closed because of storm damage and flooding. The state Department of Transportation reports that 55 roads and 6 bridges remained closed Sunday. The department expects about 20 of them to reopen to traffic before Thanksgiving. Most of the closed roads and bridges are in Dillon and Horry counties. The department reports that the Socastee swing bridge over the Intracoastal Waterway in Horry County is again operating and boat traffic can pass. Almost 100,000 cubic yards of storm debris has been removed from state roads and highways since Matthew hit.

Post and Courier: Hurricane phishing scams don't appear to have emerged as feared

http://www.postandcourier.com/business/hurricane-phishing-scams-don-t-appear-to-have-emerged-as/article_34dd73a6-96d2-11e6-828f-1fc411941edc.html

Thad Moore

In the days after Hurricane Matthew struck the Lowcountry, officials warned residents to beware the risk of online scams preying on the storm's victims. The concern was that criminals would take aim at South Carolinians desperate to get help or information after the storm. The day after it made landfall, Gov. Nikki Haley warned people to look out for spoof emails saying they had updates about power

outages that many evacuees were eager to get. Utilities like South Carolina Electric & Gas raised the same caution. Two weeks later, those threats don't appear to have materialized to the extent they had feared. The state Department of Consumer Affairs, which is tasked with tracking identify theft, hasn't received any reports of storm-related phishing scams, according to spokeswoman Juliana Harris. Neither has SCE&G, spokesman Eric Boomhower said. And for its part, the Charleston-based cybersecurity firm PhishLabs, which was monitoring hurricane phishing attacks, says it hasn't seen anything out of the ordinary. But that's not to say criminals aren't trying to seize the opportunity. After the storm passed and people got home, some attacks looked to take advantage of their urge to give back.

Post and Courier: The search for sand, beaches face rising costs, depleting supply
http://www.postandcourier.com/news/the-search-for-sand-beaches-face-rising-costs-depleting-supply/article_287049ae-953d-11e6-ae18-2f13b43f8287.html

Bo Petersen

The beach might be running out of sand, money and time. Nearly every developed strand on the East Coast has been renourished, many of them repeatedly. And each time a storm such as Hurricane Matthew wracks one, the need increases. Nearshore sand that is fine enough and clean enough for renourishment is found only in shallow pockets that don't replenish quickly. Costs also are soaring and federal legislators have begun pulling back the funding they have provided, largely because of the cost. Local voters soon could be left to decide whether they want to pick up the tab for millions of dollars in recurring costs for their beaches. "There are going to be winners and losers," said Rob Young, a coastal geology professor at Western Carolina University. "Some communities won't be able to afford it." But coastal engineering groups say beach towns are such a tourism revenue generator that the money will continue to be there to pay for renourishments.

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

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

Bo Petersen

In the midst of fallen trees and other debris, Hurricane Matthew left a sweet little calling card: shrimp, big ones. The storm's rain and river flooding evidently washed large white shrimp out to the commercial grounds offshore, at least in spots, and some commercial boats are reporting some of the biggest shrimp of the season, hoisting their optimism in a year that's had its ups and downs. The current cold snap evidently slowed down the catch somewhat. But shrimpers expect it to come back and are looking forward to another big run before frigid winter weather sets in. Shem Creek shrimper Tommy Edwards didn't net much offshore on Monday, after pulling in hundreds of pounds per day on recent trips. But he expected that to change mid-week, and "the big white shrimp are looking beautiful right now," he said. "Oh yeah, they're gorgeous," Tina Toomer of the Bluffton Oyster Co., said about the catch her husband, Larry Toomer, has been bringing in.

Island Packet: Beaufort County fishermen on closed shellfish beds: 'We're taking a beating'

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article110110617.html>

Stephen Fastenau

Your regularly scheduled oyster-roast season should resume soon, but for now the shellfish still can't be harvested locally. Some local boats returned to the water to resume picking oysters Sunday. But they launched in Charleston County, the only area of the state currently open to shellfish harvesting after Hurricane Matthew. "I'm hoping our local beds will be open by the end of the week," said Sea Eagle Market's Craig Reaves, who will resume selling oysters this week. That might be too optimistic. All of South Carolina's oyster and clam harvesting areas closed Oct. 5 ahead of the storm as a

precaution due to concerns about how heavy rain and storm runoff would affect the water quality. Some of Charleston County opened to harvesting last week, but no other areas have been reopened, including Beaufort County. State environmental officials are testing water quality and the local beds will open as soon as possible, Department of Health and Environmental Control spokesman Robert Yanity said Monday.

Sun News: 138 rescues. Hurricane Matthew left animal advocates 'very busy'

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article110164457.html>

Emily Weaver

The Horry County Animal Care Center rescued 138 animals during Hurricane Matthew and the floods that followed. Dogs, cats, horses, a goat, a pig and a lot of chickens and guineas were saved from flood waters as rescuers and veterinarians worked around the clock for more than a week. But even with water levels receding Monday, calls for help were still coming in. The Animal Care Center "was very busy during the flood," said Gary Gause, director of the center. "And we're still taking calls every day." As of Monday, the center had transported 176 animals to shelters in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Tennessee and Arkansas to make room for flood rescues. Thirty animals have been reunited with their owners so far, Gause said. "We did have staff that stayed at the shelter throughout the whole storm to ensure that the animals would be safe," said Kelly Bonome, manager at the Animal Care Center. The rank of rescuers, bolstered by volunteers from the Humane Society of the United States and a veterinarian from the Charleston Animal Society, camped out on cots and in tents at the center. But a lack of showers at the shelter became an issue when rising flood waters limited their access to the county's Emergency Operations Center.

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

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

Chloe Johnson

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

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

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

Jeremy Turnage

People are slowly returning to their homes in Nichols, mostly to clean out their damaged houses condemned from the floods after Hurricane Matthew. But now the question remains: How much will the State pay to get the town back on its feet? Speaker of the House Jay Lucas visited and toured the path of destruction and said the town was laid to waste. Even now water keeps some from

accessing their homes. Lucas said the priority is to stabilize the local government. Right now, a team of three local employees head-up the recovery and day-to-day business: the mayor, town clerk, and police chief. Lucas said they will need businesses back operating so the town can regain its tax base and make payroll. He's pledging to do what he can to offer state relief but is unsure of what kind of money is available for that. "You know, again, I told them to write down a list, you know, anything they can think of and whether or not it's possible," Lucas said. "We don't know, but we can certainly ask. We want to do anything and everything legally the State of South Carolina can do for an area like this."

WOLO: Hurricane Matthew Aftermath

<http://www.abccolumbia.com/2016/10/24/hurricane-matthew-aftermath/>

Rochelle Dean

Officials continue keeping a close eye on the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew and what it's left behind. Many still working to pick up the pieces. In fact, State officials say they're specifically focused on the Waccamaw River. It's currently at flood stage because of Hurricane Matthew. Experts say the river may crest sometime later this week which could cause more flooding concerns in the area already impacted. Many residents remain in shelters as crews work to clear debris. 60 roads and 16 bridges remain closed after that storm ripped through the area.

WOLO: ONE SC Fund Continues Aid to SC Hurricane Victims

<http://www.abccolumbia.com/2016/10/23/one-sc-fund-continues-aid-sc-hurricane-victims/>

Crysty Vaughan

One SC Fund continues to help South Carolinians recover from natural disasters, it's first project was to aid Flood Victims in the Historic Floods last October. Now you can help the victims of Hurricane Matthew and the Flooding victims in Marion County and other counties impacted by Matthew. If you would like to help you can do so in two ways...

WMBF: Some types of fraud more common after natural disasters

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33460229/some-types-of-fraud-more-common-after-natural-disasters>

Meredith Helline

A problem common after disasters could lead to less money in your pocket. With a lot of damage to homes and businesses in our area, people might be coming this way to take advantage of you. Contractor fraud is common in general, but you're especially at risk after a natural disaster. Some insurance companies call people who come in to commit contractor fraud storm chasers. They come in soon after a storm hits, and one of the first things you can do so you don't fall victim to a storm chaser is make sure they're licensed. Horry County spokeswoman Lisa Bourcier said to make sure the contractor has a state license, and a license for whatever city or county they're doing the work in.

Michael Slager Case:

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

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

Bruce Smith

Attorneys for a white former South Carolina police officer charged in the shooting death of an unarmed black motorist want the jury to visit the scene of the shooting and not be sequestered during the trial. The requests are among a flurry of motions attorneys for Michael Slager have filed in recent days. Jury selection begins next Monday in Slager's murder trial. Slager, who turns 35 next month,

faces 30 years to life in prison if convicted in the April 2015 death of 50-year-old Walter Scott. Scott was shot in North Charleston as he ran from a traffic stop in an incident captured on a dramatic cellphone video. Other motions ask that Scott and Slager be referred to only by their names, not by words such as "victim" or "defendant," and that there be no mention of a \$6.5 million civil settlement between the Scott family and the city. One motion said the jurors should be allowed to visit the scene "in order to fully appreciate what happened on the date of the alleged crime.

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

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

Andrew Knapp

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

General Assembly News:

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

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

Seanna Adcox

Retiring state Republican Sen. Ray Cleary of Murrells Inlet is apologizing for "sloppy bookkeeping" over the last few years but says he never used campaign donations for personal expenses. The Senate Ethics Committee went behind closed doors Monday to determine how much to fine their colleague. Cleary had already agreed to the findings of an attorney and accountant hired by the committee. It says Cleary violated six categories of ethics law, including not reporting contributions, not correctly reimbursing his campaign for a planned trip he ultimately didn't take, and lacking proper documentation for expenses. Accountant Tracy Amos says receipts were often illegible or insufficient. Cleary, a fulltime dentist, says he delegated the filing of quarterly online reports amid his busy schedule, but says it was his responsibility.

Associated Press : Lawmakers say closing pension to new hires an option

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=G0LOW6Bn

Seanna Adcox

Some lawmakers looking to shore up South Carolina's pension system for public workers say transitioning to a 401k-like plan is a possibility. But experts caution such a move won't erase existing debt. Legislative leaders aren't advocating the idea - at least not yet. But several want to explore it. "Every single solution is on the table and will be debated and considered," said Sen. Kevin Bryant, R-Anderson, co-chairman of a legislative panel studying possible solutions. GOP Rep. Bill Herbkersman,

the other co-chairman, said the panel will "definitely look" at a hybrid plan that maintains pensions for existing employees but puts new hires into a "defined contribution" system, such as 401k retirement accounts. Currently, public employees in South Carolina can choose that path over a pension, but few do so. Republican state Treasurer Curtis Loftis says such a hybrid is inevitable, as he believes the existing system is beyond repair.

The Herald: SC House District 26: Thompspon challenges Felder

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

Andrew Stark

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

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

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

Andrew Stark

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

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

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

Avery G. Wilks

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

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

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

Cassie Cope

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

SC Agency News:

Greenville News: Audits: some county DSN boards failed consumers

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/south-carolina/2016/10/22/audits-some-county-dsn-boards-failed-consumers/92505390/>

Tim Smith

County agencies responsible for caring for thousands of intellectually disabled state residents have failed to adequately protect the money and property of those they are caring for, according to audits of the agencies. In more than half of audits conducted during the past three years, dozens of county disabilities and special needs boards were cited for failing to properly manage the funds and property of consumers, the term used to describe the disabled who receive services from the agencies. The internal audits by the state Department of Disabilities and Special Needs also cited many boards for sloppy financial management, including personal use of board credit cards, inadequate cash and inventory controls and spending issues. DDSN Commissioner Vicki Thompson of Seneca said commissioners are aware of county audits as they are done but she has not seen a compilation of issues found by auditors to spot systemic issues.

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

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

Cassie Cope

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

Breitbart News: Planned Parenthood: Requiring Husband's Consent For Abortion 'Extreme' and 'Unconstitutional'

<http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2016/10/24/wikileaks-hillary-clinton-felt-strongly-avoiding->

defense-planned-parenthood-campaign-speeches-video-scandal-2/

Dr. Susan Berry

South Carolina's public health agency is walking back a proposal suggesting that women obtain their husband's permission prior to having an abortion.

The state's Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) says it erred in making the proposal among other suggested changes to abortion clinic regulations that were released for public comment in September. Planned Parenthood South Atlantic spokeswoman Vicki Ringer said DHEC's proposals are "extreme," "medically unnecessary," and "unconstitutional." "We stand with South Carolina women and will fight these burdensome, unconstitutional and medically-unnecessary regulations," Ringer concluded. As CBS News reports, other changes suggested by DHEC include denying minors the ability to bypass parental consent for abortion through use of the judiciary; a requirement that abortionists be board certified in obstetrics and gynecology; and a mandate that abortion clinics meet higher health and safety standards. DHEC is also shelving a proposal to require – rather than offer – pap smears and tests to detect sexually transmitted diseases to women, regardless of their circumstances.

NOTE: In May, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley (R) signed legislation that prohibits abortion in the state past 20 weeks of pregnancy.

The State: 'It just gets me in the gut,' mental health director says of suicide rate

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article110031267.html>

Glen Luke Flanagan

The 12th annual Walk Out of the Darkness in Columbia drew a crowd to the State House on Sunday to honor those who have died from suicide and those who have survived it. The crowd marched from Boyd Plaza on Main Street to the State House, then back again. Among the speakers was Emily Torchiana, a 22-year-old student at the College of Charleston. Torchiana said that due to experiences while she was in high school, she tried to overdose on pain medication after her senior year, while starting college. "When I was struggling back in high school, I thought I was the only one that was feeling that way," Torchiana said. "So events like these and organizations like these let you know that you're not alone and that there are people that feel the same way you do – and that there's support for you." Also among the speakers was S.C. Department of Mental Health State Director John Magill.

Aiken Standard : Registered sex offenders have Halloween curfew; Aiken offenders must report to central location

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20161023/161029831/registered-sex-offenders-have-halloween-curfew-aiken-offenders-must-report-to-central-location>

Tripp Girardeau

The S.C. Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services will again supervise a statewide curfew for sex offenders on Halloween, and those offenders monitored in Aiken County will not be allowed in the streets during curfew. Agency spokesman Peter O'Boyle said the department is currently monitoring about 50 offenders in Aiken County. Those offenders will be under a curfew from 5:30 to 9 p.m. on Oct. 31. "Parents in Aiken County can breathe a little easier when their children are trick-or-treating on Halloween, because all the registered sex offenders in Aiken County monitored by the (S.C. Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services) will be required to report to a designated location during the curfew hours," O'Boyle said. During that time in other counties in South Carolina, offenders have been notified that they cannot host parties, attend carnivals, distribute candy or even have their outdoor lights on, O'Boyle said. Department agents will call and drop by some of those offenders' homes to check in during the curfew hours.

SC Political News:

The State: After the debates, trouble ahead for Trump

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article109765852.html>

Bristow Marchant

There has been very little change in polling results since the third and last presidential debate between Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump. The initial reaction from voters seemed to favor Clinton – especially after Trump's refusal to say he would accept the election results and referred to Clinton as a "nasty woman." As polls continue to move away from the Republican, Trump is at risk of losing even solidly red Utah to a conservative challenger, further eroding his chances of an Electoral College majority. Meanwhile, Clinton's campaign continues to be hit with new email leaks released by WikiLeaks, but so far those revelations haven't moved the needle in the election polls.

The State: Vice President Biden to campaign in South Carolina

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

Avery G. Wilks

Vice President Joe Biden plans to campaign in the Palmetto State next week. The Democrat will headline "Get Out the Vote" events in Sumter and Rock Hill on Nov. 1. Biden will be joined by U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn of Columbia, 5th District candidate Fran Person, and other Democratic leaders and candidates. Biden's visit — in the final days of the 2016 campaign — is a sign that Democrats think the vote in South Carolina, long a GOP stronghold, could be closer than anticipated. Recent polls have shown Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump leading in South Carolina by from 2 to 15 percentage points. "South Carolina Democrats are so excited that Vice President Biden has chosen to visit our state in this important stretch of this campaign to highlight the importance of our elections this fall, including Fran Person's very competitive race in the 5th Congressional District," state party chairman Jaime Harrison said in a news release. Biden visited York County last month to fundraise for Person. Person, a former aide to the vice president, is trying to upset incumbent U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney, R-Indian Land.

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

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

Maya T. Prabhu

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

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Nearly 465,000 attend South Carolina State Fair

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

SC State Wire

Nearly 465,000 people attended this year's South Carolina State Fair in Columbia. The fair closed at 10 p.m. Sunday. Officials credit an expanded ride promotion, ideal weather and a record attendance for a Saturday that included a home football game for this year's attendance. Officials told local media that the 2016 attendance was up nearly 35,000 from the 2015 fair. Last year's fair came as the state struggled to recover from historic flooding. General manager Gary Goodman says people were clearly glad to be back at the fair under more normal conditions. He says the expansion of the pay-one-price for rides to every day helped attendance. Previously that had only been offered on weekdays. The nearly 61,000 who attended Saturday set a record for the best Saturday ever.

The State: SC State Fair closes with banner attendance

<http://www.thestate.com/entertainment/state-fair/article110069162.html>

Noah Feit

An expanded ride promotion, record football Saturday attendance and ideal weather lead to a banner year for the 147th South Carolina State Fair, which welcomed 464,878 visitors before the gates closed for the year Sunday night. The 2016 attendance figures marked an increase of 34,931 over last year's fair, which followed the historic floods. "We were thrilled to see so many returning faces and lots of new ones and we couldn't be happier with this year's results," said general manager Gary Goodman. "It was clear that folks were looking for a good time and were eager to rebound after last year's challenges." Goodman credits the increase in large part to the expansion of the fair's pay-one-price promotion to all 12 days this year. Previously that promotion has only been offered on weekdays. "I think the pay-one-price days had a significant influence," Goodman said, noting many families are only able to come to the fair on weekends.

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

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

Deanna Pan

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

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

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

For the second straight year, Winthrop University has seen an increase in student enrollment, officials said. The university added 78 additional students to its enrollment for fall 2016, a 1.3 percent increase over fall 2015. The growth brings Winthrop's undergraduate population to 5,091 and graduate students to 1,018 for the fall. "This is great news for us, and I'm proud of the fact that we have, for the

second straight year, continued to grow our enrollment within a very competitive higher education environment," said President Dan Mahony. "The first goal in our recently announced strategic plan addresses both enrollment and retention," Mahony said. "While we definitely want to bring in more students, increasing our already solid retention rates in order to further improve on-time graduation rates for our students is equally important, as that will help students and their families save money and decrease debt," he said.

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

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

Jane Moon Dial

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

The State: South Carolina oil spill prompts legal threat

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article11011637.html>

Sammy Fretwell

Dissatisfied with the progress of an oil spill cleanup in South Carolina, environmentalists are laying the groundwork for a lawsuit against a national energy company over the 2014 petroleum leak near Belton. The Savannah Riverkeeper and Upstate Forever said Monday they have filed a notice that they will sue under the federal Clean Water Act within 60 days if Kinder Morgan Energy Partners Inc. and a subsidiary don't halt ongoing petroleum pollution in waterways near the spill site. Petroleum is still polluting the environment more than 18 months after the spill – and stream banks "reek of gasoline," said Frank Holleman, an attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center, which is representing the groups. Monday's legal notice, provided to the energy company and government regulators, is part of a federal process that must be followed before a lawsuit can be filed. Such notices are not common, but are sometimes filed by citizens who claim the government is not enforcing the clean water law. The notice letter comes at a time of criticism by green groups and property rights advocates over Kinder Morgan expansion plans in the Savannah River basin in western South Carolina.

Independent Mail: Watchdogs put Kinder Morgan on notice

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

Mike Eads

A trio of environmental watchdogs wants Kinder Morgan to finish cleaning up its huge gasoline spill near Belton, or else. Upstate Forever, Savannah Riverkeeper and the Southern Environmental Law Center announced Monday that they gave Kinder Morgan 60 days notice to clean up over 300,000 gallons of fuel that reportedly spilled from its Plantation Pipe Line in December 2014. The notice is a required precursor to using the federal Clean Water Act to sue the Houston-based pipeline operator

over ecological damage from the spill, which happened a few miles northwest of Belton near the Cheddar community. "Kinder Morgan is responsible for one of the largest pipeline spills in South Carolina history, yet thousands of gallons of gasoline have not been cleaned up," said Frank Holleman, a senior attorney at SELC. "A year and a half after the spill, petroleum is polluting this waterway that flows through Anderson County, and the stream banks reek of gasoline. This pollution must stop, and Kinder Morgan must take responsibility for its pollution of South Carolina."

Associated Press: Harvest of horseshoe crabs for medical use up for discussion

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=RM2FPOSK

SC State Wire

Interstate fishing regulators who want to get a firmer handle on how many horseshoe crabs die as part of their harvest for biomedical use are meeting this week to discuss the issue. The crabs are harvested for their blue blood, which is used to make sure medical products aren't contaminated. Their blood contains a chemical that can be used to detect bacteria. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission voted this summer to propose taking into account the death toll associated with medical harvesting when determining how many horseshoe crabs can be harvested from the Delaware Bay. The commission is meeting on Wednesday to discuss next steps. The medical harvest is about 500,000 crabs per year. They have also been harvested commercially from Maine to Florida over the years.

Local News:

The Herald: Rock Hill mom mourns death of son, 14, in 'choking game': 'It's in my mind forever.'

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article110045047.html>

David Thackham

Jennifer Steele doesn't feel very strong. She doesn't feel brave for speaking out about her 14-year-old son's death from the "choking game" earlier this summer. What she feels is grief and pain and heartache, four months later. Halloween and Christmas and the holidays are coming soon, and the Steele family can only brace themselves for an emotional few months. "Memories of him dressing up in Halloween costumes flood my mind," said Steele, who found her son, Carson, lying in his room after playing the game. "We're gearing up for a hard couple of months." Just a week before Carson's death on June 18, he and his twin brother Alex had celebrated their 14th birthday. In the "choking game," youths cut off their airwaves, using a belt, rope or some other form of pressure on the neck, in an attempt to get a sense of euphoria. The game claimed the life of another York County child earlier this year. Officials say the game can be played with scarves, belts, neckties or a variety of other objects that can be tied to bedroom furniture or doorknobs.

Associated Press: Girlfriend wanted in Tenn. killing found in South Carolina

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=uwpSg2ws

SC State Wire

Authorities say a 39-year-old woman wanted in the killing of her boyfriend in a Brentwood, Tennessee, hotel room has been arrested in South Carolina. Spartanburg County sheriff's deputies said in a news release that Shannon Richardson was arrested early Monday. An arrest warrant says Richardson called her father and told him she stabbed Reuben Dunigan several times. Hotel employees found the body Friday morning. Authorities did not give a reason for the stabbing. Richardson signed a document agreeing to go back to Tennessee and face charges. It wasn't known if she had a lawyer.

Associated Press: Prosecutors drop murder, gun charges from 2014 shooting

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=XeNW99Rr

SC State Wire

Prosecutors have dismissed a murder charge against a 25-year-old North Charleston man after determining witness statements weren't credible. The Post and Courier of Charleston reports Sunday (<http://bit.ly/2eHMqww>) the state's case against Travis Sellers for a 2014 shooting death relied almost entirely on two witnesses. A court filing by Assistant Solicitor Alexander Ziegler says the two told inconsistent stories and lied repeatedly to investigators. His filing also dropped a weapon possession charge. There is no forensic evidence linking Sellers to the May 2014 death of 36-year-old Ricardo Smith of Ladson. Ziegler says detectives learned Smith used the home for drug dealing, and he and another person were trying to manufacture drugs when the shooting occurred. That person got rid of the drugs and left with another witness before police arrived.

Associated Press : Coroner: 32-year-old man fatally shot in North Charleston

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=HpM85Url

SC State Wire

North Charleston police are investigating the shooting death of a 32-year-old man. Dorchester County Coroner Alice Durr says Curtis Jerome Franks of North Charleston was fatally shot about 10 p.m. Saturday. Durr says Franks was with several other people when he was shot in a parking lot of a townhome complex. Franks was pronounced dead at a nearby hospital.

Associated Press: Man shot to death at Columbia-area apartment

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=PhkrfOb2

SC State Wire

Richland County sheriff's deputies are investigating the shooting death of a man at a Columbia-area apartment complex. The sheriff's department told local media outlets that the man was found unresponsive by a female acquaintance around 8:30 p.m. Saturday at an apartment complex southeast of Columbia. Lt. Curtis Wilson says the man had been shot in the upper body and was pronounced dead at the scene. His name has not been released. No arrests have been made.

Associated Press: Inmate sentenced to life for ordering shooting of witness

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

SC State Wire

A Summerville drug dealer has been given a life sentence for ordering the shooting of a federal witness who was set to testify against him. The Post and Courier (<http://bit.ly/2dBqho0>) reports that Ivory Brothers survived being shot between seven and 11 times in 2014 prior to testifying against 34-year-old Martin Ballard. Brothers followed through with his testimony and Ballard was convicted last year of nine charges, including drug violations and murder for hire. On Thursday, Ballard was given a life sentence in a Charleston courtroom for ordering the hit. Because there is no parole in the federal system, Ballard will be imprisoned until his death. Acting U.S. Attorney Beth Drake said the penalty delivers a "strong message" that people who harm witnesses will not receive any leniency.

Associated Press: SC woman fatally shot as family gathered before funeral

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=F9B257wP

SC State Wire

Police say a South Carolina woman was fatally shot by a stray bullet as she gathered with family inside a Gastonia home before her sister-in-law's funeral. Media outlets report 37-year-old Jacobia Lane of Sumter, South Carolina, was sitting on a couch in her brother's home about 12:30 a.m.

Saturday when someone outside fired about 30 bullets. Lane was hit in the back of her head. Family spokesman Christopher Dennis tells The Charlotte Observer (<http://bit.ly/2eux3vx>) about 30 people had gathered at the home before attending a funeral Saturday of a family member who died of cancer. Lane made the trip with her husband and their two children. One bullet struck a pillow where Lane's husband was sleeping, but he wasn't hurt. A teenager in the home was hit in the arm.

Associated Press: Man charged with stabbing person during church service

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

SC State Wire

A 65-year-old South Carolina man is charged with stabbing the person sitting in front of him in church. Local media outlets report Billy Lewis of Wedgefield, about 35 miles east of Columbia, is charged with attempted murder for stabbing a man during services Sunday at St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church. Authorities have not identified the victim. He was airlifted to a hospital in Columbia with severe injuries. Witnesses told Sumter County Sheriff's deputies that Lewis stood about 9:30 a.m. and began stabbing the man in front of him in the back and head for no apparent reason. A nurse attending the service helped the victim until emergency responders arrived. Deputies say Lewis has a history of mental health issues, but that hasn't included violence.

Associated Press : Authorities release name of 9-year-old victim of 6-car crash

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Evm7Zfhl

SC State Wire

The Charleston County coroner has released the name of a 9-year-old child killed in a six-vehicle crash in North Charleston over the weekend. The coroner tells local news outlets that the crash killed Da'Vieona Hamilton of Charleston. She died Saturday evening of injuries suffered in the accident which occurred at an exit ramp on Interstate 26. Five other people were also taken to the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. Authorities say 56-year-old Dale Edward Yarborough of Hanahan is charged with reckless homicide, of felony DUI resulting in death and three counts of felony DUI resulting in great bodily injury. Yarborough is in jail and it was not immediately known if he had an attorney.

Associated Press: Teen dies after crashing into pole in Spartanburg County

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

SC State Wire

Spartanburg County authorities say a 16-year-old driver died after crashing into a power pole. Coroner Rusty Clevenger says Haven Olivia Blackwell of Greenville died in the single-vehicle crash. Highway Patrol troopers report Blackwell's vehicle ran off the right side of the road about 4 a.m. Sunday, hit the pole and overturned. She was not wearing a seat belt and was ejected from the car.

Associated Press: Police: South Carolina guard Felder kicked officers

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=3clrO7Ox

SC State Wire

Police say South Carolina freshman guard Rakym Felder kicked and hit officers trying to arrest him after he landed a surprise punch on a bystander in Columbia's bar district. A Columbia Police report says officers also had to use a Taser on the 18-year-old 6-foot-1 shooting guard from New York early Sunday morning. The report says the person Felder punched was knocked out and Felder ran from the officer trying to arrest him until he ended up in a fenced in parking lot. A team spokeswoman said coach Frank Martin was aware of Felder's arrest and was gathering more information. Per South Carolina athletic department policy, Felder is suspended indefinitely. Felder was faces simple assault

and battery, resisting arrest and several other charges.

The State: USC freshman Felder assaulted victim and police officer, incident report says

<http://www.thestate.com/sports/college/university-of-south-carolina/usc-mens-basketball/article110120277.html>

David Cloninger

South Carolina men's basketball freshman Rakym Felder was out of jail on Monday, but the details of his Sunday arrest leave his future with the Gamecocks extremely murky. Felder knocked one victim unconscious and assaulted a Columbia police officer Sunday morning after being tased, according to an incident report from CPD. Felder was charged with disorderly/public disorderly conduct; simple assault and battery; pedestrian unlawfully in roadway; unlawful alteration of driver's license; failure to stop on police command; and resisting arrest/interfering with a police officer. Felder, as per USC athletic department policy, is suspended from all team activities until the matter is resolved. A team spokesperson said Sunday night that coach Frank Martin was aware of the arrest and was gathering information. The incident report says that Felder was arrested at 1:26 a.m. Sunday at 800 Harden Street, which is the address of the Carolina Pour House bar in Five Points. Felder "engaged an unknown person in physical combat, using personal weapons" when he sucker-punched a bystander before entering the roadway. The victim lost consciousness.

Associated Press: Signing bonus: Incentives bring officers to Horry County

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=vvQLHT9v

SC State Wire

Horry County has a shortage of law enforcement officers like other places around the country. But a new incentive program seems to be helping fill the ranks. Local news outlets report that the county started the incentive program in August to attract experienced officers from other areas. Under the program, current officers earn \$1,000 if they recruit an officer from other parts of the state. Once hired, the new officer gets a \$1,000 signing bonus, and if they live outside the county, receive an additional \$1,000 to help them relocate. County police had 23 vacancies in August with only 11 future officers in training. On Wednesday, the county will swear in 10 new officers, nine of whom were brought to the county through the incentive program.

The State: Short-staffed 911 dispatchers deal with emergencies and the bizarre

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article110021137.html>

Audrey Hudson

The Horry County 911 dispatch center fields nearly 1,000 calls on a busy day, most for actual emergencies, but the overworked and understaffed dispatchers also get a fair share of callers who think the trained operators are a hub for information. Like one recent caller who wanted to know the best way to trap a cat. Or the late night tourists making their way to Myrtle Beach, who are lost in the dark, and call 9-1-1 for directions to their hotel. "People sometimes use 911 just because it's convenient and someone will answer the phone," says Lori Woods, 911 communications supervisor. But in order for that someone to answer the phone, the 911 dispatchers have been working extra shifts to make up for a shortage of manpower this year — 10 vacancies in August that had been reduced to five by October.

Associated Press: Florence teen does work for new Smithsonian museum

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=P8iEVIwr

Melissa Rollins

Books are often referred to as a voice from the past. One Florence teen has now become the actual

voice for history at the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. "There is an app that came out," Jada Hunt said. "It is a storytelling app. Instead of pushing buttons for the exhibits, nowadays you download the app and listen to it. I did the kids' section. There were nine stories." Hunt said that the concept of providing a voice for the app was something new to her. "I had never heard of voice-over before," Hunt said. "My voice coach, Lisa Biggs, was working for my agency and she did the voice-over portion. She had me record a demo last year, in January, and she submitted it for this. I happened to get chosen out of the dozens of kids that submitted." Though it was different, Hunt said she liked it. "It was a new opportunity for me," Hunt said. "I really enjoy acting, and this is part of that." Though it was an interest in acting that led her to voice-over work, it was yet another pursuit that brought her to acting: beauty pageants.

Herald-Journal: City preservation efforts focus on repurposing historic buildings

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161022/city-preservation-efforts-focus-on-repurposing-historic-buildings?rssfeed=true>

Alyssa Mulliger

Spartanburg has no shortage of historic buildings representing past strides in industry, education, religion and residential growth. But over time, some of the most prominent buildings in and around the city have fallen into disrepair after years of vacancy. A few have faced the auction block, while others been demolished. Suzanne Brooks, executive director of the Spartanburg County Historical Association, said preservation has benefits beyond protecting the city's history. "People tend to flock to areas that have some longstanding cultural heritage, rather than ones that are tearing down and rebuilding every 10-20 years," Brooks said. "Preservation fits into so much that is happening in Spartanburg right now." Motivated by a desire to safeguard endangered pieces of history, civic leaders, concerned residents and visionary developers are spearheading efforts to restore and repurpose old buildings so they may again serve the community.

The State: New faces have opportunity to shape schools in Richland 1 and Richland 2

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article110040757.html>

Sarah Ellis

Four or five new school board members will emerge from a crowded field of 18 candidates between the two Richland County school districts. Longtime board members in both Richland 1 and Richland 2 are transitioning out of their positions, making way for hopeful newcomers and a few who have run or held board seats in the past. For the first time in 24 years, Vince Ford won't return to his post on the Richland 1 school board. His at-large seat, along with that of Pamela Adams, opens up at a time when the district has come under fire for flubbing an application for reimbursement of federal funds for low-income students. Some parents publicly asked Superintendent Craig Witherspoon to resign over the loss of \$3.1 million. The six candidates for the two Richland 1 at-large seats are Darrell Black, a former professor and chief information officer; Otha Dillihay, a retired human resources officer for the district; Avni Gupta-Kagan, an education consultant; Donna Mack; Germon "Mama G" Miller, a nonprofit executive; and Lila Anna Sauls, director of the St. Lawrence Place transitional housing community and the Homeless No More nonprofit.

The State: Lexington 2 school board race seen as verdict on pace of renovations

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article110178487.html>

Tim Flach

The contest for Lexington 2 School Board posts this fall will signal satisfaction or disenchantment with progress on the classroom improvements promised. The pace of carrying out a \$225 million package of renovations at all 16 schools as well as adding new facilities is a major topic in the contest. Anxiety about some of the projects in the Cayce-West Columbia district makes the race the most-watched

among political insiders of five separate school board contests on the Nov. 8 ballot in Lexington County. In Lexington 2, four incumbents face two challengers who helped design the referendum's plan for classroom upgrades that voters approved in 2014. November's vote is a verdict on the pace of renovations and property tax hikes required to pay for the projects, some community leaders say. "People are questioning if Lexington 2 is managing it in a competent manner," Lexington County Councilman Ned Tolar of West Columbia said. "And, generally, everybody is upset with the taxes – they didn't realize it would increase to the extent it has."

The State: Lexington coroner's race stormy as Barron goes up against Fisher – again
<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article110041512.html>

Tim Flach

A low-profile contest for Lexington County coroner is erupting into an exchange of insults as it nears the end. Republican incumbent Margaret Fisher and challenger Frank Barron are calling each other unfit for the job of overseeing investigations of nearly 2,000 violent and unexpected deaths that occur in the 758-square-mile county each year. Their volleys over style come in the only countywide match on the Nov. 8 ballot. Barron, who's running as a Constitution Party candidate, insists Fisher often is "crude and disrespectful" in dealing with relatives of those who died, claims she says are "ginned up for political purposes" that ignore a bulletin board full of thank-you notes in her office. So far, no one who has dealt with Fisher has stepped forward to back up Barron. But he insists that families are spreading the word quietly in his favor. In some respects, the name-calling is a continuation of an unsuccessful challenge to Fisher in the June 14 Republican Party primary election.

Post and Courier: Council members vying to become next Kiawah Island mayor
http://www.postandcourier.com/news/johnson-weaver-vying-to-become-next-kiawah-island-mayor/article_1da428c6-97cf-11e6-b3ce-e34d80b6103c.html

Prentiss Findlay

This beachfront municipality will have a new leader in six weeks. Current Mayor Charles Lipuma is not seeking a new term, and Kiawah Island Council members Mary Q. Johnson and Craig Weaver will vie for the mayor's job in the town's Dec. 6 election. She has served on Council for four years. He has held office for two years. If elected, Johnson said she will work to restore public trust and government transparency. Weaver's priorities include preservation of property values and effective growth management. The winner will succeed Lipuma, who has served two terms. Under Lipuma, Kiawah hired a new administrator and treasurer, and the town began work on a \$9.25 million municipal center that will open next summer on Betsy Kerrison Parkway. "If I have a legacy, I would say the legacy is moving the town forward from the original Town Hall to the new one," he said.

Sun News: Tourism officials support sales tax ballot initiative to build roads
<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article110133307.html>

Audrey Hudson

With many voters' attention focused on the presidential race, Grand Strand business and tourism officials say they are concerned that residents will forget about a local ballot question to raise the sales tax to fund major road improvements across the county. "The national election has consumed so much attention with Trump versus Clinton, that nobody is thinking about important local issues like RIDE III," said Brad Dean, chairman of the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce. "So we felt it was very important to educate and inform voters, and hopefully, the voters will agree that RIDE III is necessary for Horry County to continue to grow," Dean said. He and numerous other officials held a press conference Monday morning to bring attention to the road-building initiative called RIDE III, that will appear on the ballot Nov. 8. The referendum will raise the sales tax one percent for an eight-year period to fund nearly \$600 million for 15 road projects and to pave and resurface 200 miles of roads.

Independent Mail: Anderson County courting manufacturer, at least 60 jobs

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/10/23/anderson-county-courting-manufacturer-least-60-jobs/92647616/>

Nikie Mayo

Anderson County is courting a manufacturer that could bring 60 new jobs to the Pendleton area. Officials have not made public the identity of the company, which is code-named "Project Smokey" in county documents. County Administrator Rusty Burns said the company is considering making a \$19.5 million investment in this part of the Upstate. "This would be a big win because this company is looking at a building right outside the Pendleton town limits that has been sitting idle for a while," Burns said. "And the jobs it would bring have an average salary over \$20 an hour, so it would be wonderful to land that." He declined to give other identifying details about the company, including what kinds of goods it manufactures. County officials are considering incentives for the company. The Anderson County Council gave preliminary approval this month indicating that it would support incentives, but those inducements would need to be approved twice more to become final.

Herald-Journal : Denny's expands into Philippines

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161022/dennys-expands-into-philippines?rssfeed=true>

Spartanburg-based Denny's Corp. has opened its first Denny's restaurant in the Philippines, the company recently announced. The Bistro Group plans to open 10 Denny's restaurants over the next 10 years across the Philippines. The first location is the Uptown Parade in Bonifacio, Global City, in Manila. A second location is set to open in November in Santa Rosa, Laguna. The new Denny's features a welcoming atmosphere with American comfort food served for breakfast, lunch and dinner, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the company stated. "With over 1,700 locations throughout the world, Denny's is excited to open in the Philippines, an important gateway to Asia," stated John Miller, Denny's president and CEO. "We're delighted with the performance of our America's Diner concept with the increasing global acceptance and demand for our brand."

Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press: Trump took \$17 million in insurance for damage few remember

<http://bigstory.ap.org/1feef4a4e84fa4af6441f4b6d221f0>

Donald Trump said he received a \$17 million insurance payment in 2005 for hurricane damage to Mar-a-Lago, his private club in Palm Beach, but The Associated Press found little evidence of such large-scale damage. Two years after a series of storms, the real estate tycoon said he didn't know how much had been spent on repairs but acknowledged he pocketed some of the money. Trump transferred funds into his personal accounts, saying that under the terms of his policy, "you didn't have to reinvest it." In a deposition in an unrelated civil lawsuit, Trump said he got the cash from a "very good insurance policy" and cited ongoing work to the historic home. "Landscaping, roofing, walls, painting, leaks, artwork in the — you know, the great tapestries, tiles, Spanish tiles, the beach, the erosion," he said of the storm damage. "It's still not what it was."

Associated Press : Don't believe the polls, Trump says, 'we are winning'

<http://bigstory.ap.org/c0093cfff38c4ba2b2aad741f15149f7>

Election Day just 15 days off, Donald Trump fought to preserve his narrow path to the presidency in must-win Florida on Monday. Hillary Clinton worked to slam the door on her Republican opponent in New Hampshire. Trump's team concedes both publicly and privately that his electoral map is becoming bleak. And GOP leaders are growing increasingly worried that his weak standing jeopardizes vulnerable Republican Senate candidates in battlegrounds like Florida, New Hampshire

and Pennsylvania. In public, the New York billionaire is having none of that talk. He lashed out at the media Monday for promoting "phony polls" during a round table discussion with Florida farmers gathered next to a local pumpkin patch. "We're winning this race. I really believe we are winning," Trump told the farmers, baskets of gourds, bales of hay and corn stalks behind him. The day before, Trump told a Florida television station that the First Amendment to the Constitution may give the press too much freedom. He suggested that America adopt a system like England's, which makes it easier to sue the media.

Associated Press: The Latest: Aide says Christie talked to Cuomo about bridge

<http://bigstory.ap.org/8368c2e8d1b2471aa9ca1ac3c1ad0186>

A former aide to Republican New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie says the governor said he told New York's Democratic governor to have the head of a bistate agency that controls the George Washington Bridge back off after testifying to lawmakers investigating lane closures on the bridge. Prosecutors say the lanes were closed to create traffic headaches for a Democratic mayor who didn't support Christie. Port Authority Executive Director Patrick Foye testified in December 2013 the lane closures were ordered by self-described plot mastermind David Wildstein, who has pleaded guilty. Foye testified he was unaware of any traffic study at the time. Ex-Christie aide Bridget Kelly testified Monday in her criminal trial Christie said days later he had told New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (KWOH'-moh) to tell Foye to back off. A Cuomo spokesman hasn't commented.

Associated Press: The Latest: Trump pledges to stand with law enforcement

<http://bigstory.ap.org/215b3cc5dbd8498a9fb0d72b106f2087>

Donald Trump is pledging to "stand with" the men and women of law enforcement, saying they "have not been appreciated" by the current administration. Trump addressed about two dozen law enforcement and rescue officers Monday at the sheriff's office in St. Johns County, Florida. The Republican nominee said that while "every profession has a bad person," too much was made of isolated incidents of police misconduct. Trump suggested that "you could have 100,000 wonderful events" but the press "would only write" about mistakes. Trump vowed to empower the law enforcement officers with whatever support they needed.

World News:

Associated Press: Iraqis on edge of Mosul face a deadly dilemma: Stay or flee

<http://bigstory.ap.org/22d4f62bc7a8404d8b10c4543a1972e5>

Bayda Muhammad Khalaf followed the government's advice to stay in her home with her husband and seven children as Iraqi troops advanced near their remote village outside militant-held Mosul. But after the Islamic State fighters fled and Iraqi troops didn't appear, their tiny supply of food quickly ran out, and the family had to flee to search for territory firmly under government control. When the Mosul offensive began a week ago, departing IS fighters warned villagers to stay off the roads and surrounding fields, which the militants had mined. So Khalaf waited until she saw a passing shepherd, and then she and her family made the eight-hour walk out of no man's land behind a herd of sheep. "We were starving," she said. They had watched the start of the offensive on TV and thought Iraqi forces were on the way, but the troops' progress has been slow, and Mosul's southern approach is littered with dozens of villages, some with no more than 20 homes. Eventually, Khalaf couldn't produce enough breast milk for her infant daughter. "I started giving her goat's milk, but then the goat died," she said.

Associated Press: France moving more than 6,000 migrants from makeshift camp

<http://bigstory.ap.org/39ce2064b70e42498417e5d6badad5d9>

Carrying their belongings in bags and suitcases, long lines of migrants waited calmly in chilly temperatures Monday to board buses in the French port city of Calais, as authorities began evacuating the squalid camp they call home. French authorities were beginning a complex operation to shut down the makeshift camp known as "the jungle," uprooting thousands who made treacherous journeys to escape wars, dictators or grinding poverty and dreamed of building new lives in Britain. Closely watched by more than 1,200 police, the first of hundreds of buses began transferring migrants to reception centers around France where they can apply for asylum. The camp will then be leveled in a weeklong operation. Hotels and even castles are among the hundreds of buildings officials have been converting to migrant housing. "This is an operation we want to be peaceful and under control. So far it is," French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said in Paris.

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