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Subject: Clips – Saturday, October 29, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: Haley in Marion for event to help Hurricane Matthew victims

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=GYiBz793

SC State Wire

Gov. Nikki Haley is scheduled to host a special event to help Pee Dee residents affected by flooding and other destruction caused by Hurricane Matthew. Haley is slated to be in Marion on Friday for Team South Carolina Pee Dee Day. Her office says the event serves as a one-stop where people can find out about resources available to families and businesses to aid recovery. Representatives will be on-hand to help people register for financial assistance from FEMA, apply for disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration and learn about repairing their homes. The event runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Marion County Administrative Building. There will also be information about applying for unemployment benefits as well as help from the Department of Social Services.

Morning News: Gov. Haley visits Marion County for Team South Carolina

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_5e3746a8-9d3c-11e6-a99d-db62fbc99a7c.html

Naeem McFadden

Gov. Nikki Haley met a massive crowd gathered inside the Marion County Administration Building Friday for the first Team South Carolina Hurricane Matthew relief event. "This is something we had to do," Haley said. "We had complete devastation in the area and I don't want people searching to go for what they don't know to find. I want to bring all of the resources to them. This is our way of bringing Team South Carolina to them." The event serves as a one-stop where residents can find out about resources available to families and businesses to aid recovery and includes a list of representatives from more than a dozen state and federal agencies along with non-profit organizations to assist those in need in the wake flooding and other destruction caused by Hurricane Matthew. Haley the event covers a variety of needs from insurance claims, food, blankets and other supplies during the ongoing process of recovery. "What we're trying to do is give as much comfort as we can," Haley said. "I want them to know there is someone that can answer their questions."

WIS: Haley brings Team SC Day to help Marion Co. residents recover after Matthew

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33509029/haley-brings-team-sc-day-to-help-marion-co-residents-recover-after-matthew>

Ashleigh Holland

Hundreds packed Team South Carolina Day in Marion County on Friday, hoping state agencies can help them recover from the disastrous flooding after Hurricane Matthew. Gov. Nikki Haley was there to assure neighbors help is on the way. She encouraged people to apply for whatever help they can and to appeal if they aren't approved. Team SC day brought out many Marion County residents trying to rebuild their lives after the devastating flood over Nichols and other areas of Marion County. FEMA was there helping people apply, agencies were signing businesses up for loans, farmers getting help, people filing for unemployment and food stamps, even getting help with insurance claims. However, also came was a slow realization that the government won't help all recover from the ground up. "You know, I wish I had a miracle, and that's the painful part, is I don't and I wish I could tell them that we're going to make them whole and I can't," Haley said. "What I can tell them is, we're not going to leave them. What I can do is give them a hug. What I can do is tell them where the resources are that

we can help and I can try and explain the process.”

WMBF: Gov. Haley to attend Team SC Day in Marion

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33506429/gov-haley-to-attend-team-sc-day-in-marion>

Matt Corpening

Governor Nikki Haley will be at the Team South Carolina Day to take place Friday in Marion. According to Marion County Emergency Management's Facebook page, the resource and assistance event for recovery from Hurricane Matthew will be held at the Marion County Administration Building at 2523 East Highway 76 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. About 16 state agencies, five to 10 volunteer agencies, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Small Business Association and Red Cross will have tables to assist participants. FEMA's mobile disaster recovery center will be on hand as well to register for participants to register for assistance.

WPDE: Governor Nikki Haley hosts Team South Carolina Day in Marion

<http://wpde.com/news/local/governor-haley-hosts-team-south-carolina-day-in-marion>

Priscilla Thompson

Saturday makes three weeks since Hurricane Matthew slammed the Grand Strand and Pee Dee, dumping massive amounts of rain that created record flooding. But, families in those areas hit hardest are still wondering how to go on, and the recovery process is far from over. Friday, Governor Nikki Haley visited one of those areas. She hosted the Team South Carolina Pee Dee Day in Marion County. The event was designed to be a one-stop-shop event for flood victims like Margaret Etart to get help. Etart is one of many, whose homes were damaged by the flooding that ravaged Nichols. Sadly, not much has changed for her over the past few weeks. "I'm living at the National Guard Armory and this will be our third week there," she said. Now, she's hoping for a turnaround, as she recently found out she's getting a grant from FEMA. Friday, she came out to the Team South Carolina Pee Dee Day at the Marion County Administration Building to find more resources.

WJCL: Haley in Marion for event to help Hurricane Matthew victims

<http://www.wjcl.com/article/haley-in-marion-for-event-to-help-hurricane-matthew-victims/7667750>

Nicole Baker

Gov. Nikki Haley is scheduled to host a special event to help Pee Dee residents affected by flooding and other destruction caused by Hurricane Matthew. Haley is slated to be in Marion on Friday for Team South Carolina Pee Dee Day. Her office says the event serves as a one-stop where people can find out about resources available to families and businesses to aid recovery. Representatives will be on-hand to help people register for financial assistance from FEMA, apply for disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration and learn about repairing their homes. The event runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Marion County Administrative Building. There will also be information about applying for unemployment benefits as well as help from the Department of Social Services.

WSPA: Hundreds of SC Hurricane Victims Seek Help at "Team SC Day"

<http://wspa.com/2016/10/28/hundreds-of-sc-hurricane-victims-seek-help-at-team-sc-day/>

Robert Kittle

Hundreds of South Carolina victims of Hurricane Matthew came to the Marion County Administration building Friday for "Team South Carolina Day," which brought federal and state agencies and volunteer groups together in one spot. "If everybody's like me, you're lost as to where to go next, and to have a central location that we can come to with everybody set up, it was more helpful than you could imagine," says Rhonda Barnhill, who lives in Nichols, one of the hardest-hit areas of the state. Her home had two-and-a-half feet of water in it. "My home is not livable. The mold is horrible, terrible, so I have to wait until people come in and can give the estimates before I can get started, so I had a lot of questions for FEMA and the guy was wonderful. He gave me tremendous information that I needed today," she says. She also got information from Baptist Disaster Relief, which works to clean-up and rebuild people's homes. Other denominations were also there and do the same volunteer work.

NOTE: Gov. Nikki Haley was there, first packing boxes of relief supplies and then talking to people and answering questions about the process of getting help. “You see people who’ve lost everything, and it’s hard to tell someone who’s lost everything that you’re going to fix it all tomorrow when I know I can’t. What I can do is give them a hug. What I can do is tell them where the resources are that we can help and I can try and explain the process, and that’s what we’re trying to do is just give them hope by knowing they’re not in this alone,” she says.

Washington Times: Nikki Haley: ‘This election has turned my stomach,’ still voting for Trump
http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/oct/28/nikki-haley-this-election-has-turned-my-stomach-st/?utm_source=RSS_Feedutm_medium=RSS

Jessica Chasmar

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley unenthusiastically reaffirmed her support for Donald Trump this week, admitting that the decision to back the Republican presidential nominee has not been an easy one. “This election has turned my stomach upside down,” she told reporters Wednesday while speaking about the state’s Hurricane Matthew recovery efforts. “It has been embarrassing for both parties. It’s not something that the country deserves, but it’s what we’ve got.” “This is no longer a choice for me on personalities, because I’m not a fan of either one,” she continued. “What it is about is policy. And as a governor, of this state, knowing what our state’s needs are and knowing the processes that are going to take place, there’s a few things that worry me.” Mrs. Haley cited regulations handed down by the Environmental Protection Agency, National Labor Relations Board, Health and Human Services and the Department of Education, which she said have caused “a lot of heartache” in South Carolina.

Associated Press: Permitting begins for massive joint Georgia-SC Port
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=omzsqrG4

Bruce Smith

Almost a decade after the project was first proposed, federal regulators are beginning the process of reviewing permits for a \$4.5 billion container ship terminal to be built by Georgia and South Carolina on the Savannah River. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has issued a public notice that it plans to prepare a draft environmental impact statement on the proposed terminal in Jasper County on the South Carolina side of the river. The Oct. 21 notice lists a number of issues, from air quality and noise to sea level rise and impacts on scenery and historic properties, that may be addressed in the study. A website has been set up - www.JasperOceanTerminalEIS.com - and a public meeting will be held early next year to discuss other issues that regulators should consider in reviewing the project. It was in March 2007 that the governors of both states, Mark Sanford of South Carolina and Sonny Perdue of Georgia, came together on the windy riverfront to announce the shared project.

Post and Courier: Rail yard traffic concerns back on track as proposed fix is nixed
http://www.postandcourier.com/business/rail-yard-traffic-concerns-back-on-track-as-proposed-fix/article_7841d964-9d19-11e6-a9bf-cf544dfb7281.html

David Wren and Diane Knich

Now that a proposal to ease traffic from a future rail yard at the former Navy Base is off the table, a long-simmering dispute over planning for the project has reignited between the city of North Charleston and the State Ports Authority. At the heart of the issue is whether three road overpasses that will help traffic avoid rail-related tie-ups must be built before the SPA opens its new container terminal on the old Navy base. The future port site is next to the proposed rail yard, which is to be built by the state Commerce Department's Palmetto Railways division. A plan to build the overpasses using \$150 million from a proposed half-cent sales tax increase was withdrawn this week, putting the traffic issue back at square one. That plan, which was tied to funding for Interstate 526 completion, has not been put before the State Infrastructure Bank. North Charleston officials say legal documents require the overpasses - or some other traffic fix that will keep drivers from being delayed by trains - to be in place before port operations can begin at the new terminal. And they worry the SPA isn't taking its legal obligation seriously.

NOTE: The lack of progress on a traffic solution, which has been in discussions for years, prompted Summey this month to ask Gov. Nikki Haley to intervene. Haley, in a letter Thursday, told Summey she has asked the SPA and the state Department of Transportation for an update.

Post and Courier: Offshore oil surveys to start as opposition grows

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/offshore-oil-surveys-to-start-as-opposition-grows/article_1c36e6fe-9d1a-11e6-ad19-cf17751201ba.html

Bo Petersen

Nearly a half million commercial fishing families have joined the opposition to seismic testing for oil and natural gas in the Atlantic Ocean, according to a South Carolina-based business chamber. Meanwhile, a first, non-seismic survey is set to start. The families, numbering more than 400,000, are part of a coastal residents and business movement that has coalesced into the tens of thousands in South Carolina alone. More than 100 Atlantic coastal communities, thousands of businesses and more than 1,000 elected officials also have called on President Barack Obama to stop the testing, according to South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce and Oceana, an environmental advocate. Meanwhile the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management continues to process permit applications from seven probe applicants, including six that want to search in waters off South Carolina.

NOTE: A coalition of governors, including Gov. Nikki Haley, have worked largely behind the scenes with industry lobbyists to urge federal officials in the Obama administration to open the Southeast coast to the work. It's also supported by a number of legislators in South Carolina.

Herald- Journal: Dr. Richard Hawkins awarded Order of the Palmetto

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161028/dr-richard-hawkins-awarded-order-of-palmetto>

Dr. Richard Hawkins, founder of the Steadman Hawkins Clinic of the Carolinas, was awarded the Order of the Palmetto Friday afternoon. Hawkins moved the clinic to Greenville after originally opening and operating it in Spartanburg. He was presented the award, the highest civilian honor in the state, by Gov. Nikki Haley as a surprise during his retirement celebration.

"Dr. Hawkins has been perhaps the most influential surgeon of our time," said J.T. Tokish, fellowship director at Steadman Hawkins Clinic of the Carolinas, in a statement. "He has shaped the lives of more than 200 fellows around the world with a passionate curiosity, a dedication to doing the right thing, the right way, and a fierce commitment to family. His legacy will be celebrated and retaught for generations by devoted students who were lucky enough to call him a teacher, friend and coach." The Clinic of the Carolinas started as a three-surgeon practice in 2004. It now has 27 surgeons operating on five campuses of the Greenville Health System. The Hawkins Foundation has invested \$14 million in orthopaedic research and education across the area.

Greenville News: Clinic founder awarded Order of the Palmetto

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/10/28/clinic-founder-awarded-order-palmetto/92824576/>

Angelia Davis

Dr. Richard J. Hawkins got a feel for how significant the Order of the Palmetto was when one of his dearest friends received it decades ago. Hawkins has a new perspective on that significance after being honored with the Order himself. The Order is the highest civilian honor presented by the Governor of South Carolina. It is awarded in recognition of a person's lifetime achievements and contributions to the state. Hawkins is a renowned orthopedic surgeon who founded the Steadman Hawkins Clinic of the Carolinas in 2004, bringing the successful Steadman Hawkins Clinic in Vail, Colorado to the Upstate. It started as a three-surgeon practice and has since grown to a clinic of 27 surgeons operating on five campuses of the Greenville Health System.

Hurricane Matthew:

Associated Press: Aftermath: Removing Florence debris could take rest of year

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

SC State Wire

City officials in Florence say it could take until the end of the year before the piles of broken tree trunks, limbs and other debris left by Hurricane Matthew are cleaned from city streets. Local news outlets report the city announced a plan Thursday to remove an estimated 150,000 cubic yards of material. The plan is to have the work done by the start of 2017. It's going to take two weeks to get bids from contractors. The bulk of the cleanup should be underway by mid-November. The total cleanup cost is pegged at about \$2 million with the federal government expected to pick up about 75 percent of that. Because of the piles of debris, the city is urging children to only go trick-or-treating during daylight hours.

McClatchy DC: Frequency of coastal floods increasing in South Carolina because of sea level rise

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/national/article111068917.html>

Most of the coastal floods in South Carolina during the past 66 years caused problems for residents only because of sea level rise, a new study indicates. The report, titled "Unnatural Coastal Flooding," puts the blame on human activity, the same notion behind the debate in the United States over climate change. The report isn't referring to major storms, such as Hurricane Matthew, which produced sea surges and storm tides that would have washed over large areas of land with or without the recorded 8 inches of rise in the Atlantic waters. Instead, it looks at what is called "nuisance flooding." The report says: "Just as sea levels have been rising, so too has the frequency of coastal floods, in particular recurrent minor or 'nuisance' floods, often tidal in nature. Nuisance floods do not cause major damage, but do cause material harm, inconvenience and economic drag." One of the study's authors said it would be a mistake to dismiss sea level rise from any coastal-flooding conversation.

Post and Courier: Forestry Commission pegs Matthew's damage at \$205 million

http://www.postandcourier.com/business/forestry-commission-pegs-matthew-s-damage-at-million/article_8098fcc4-9d45-11e6-bd11-cbbe8c75a41e.html

David Wren

Hurricane Matthew caused more damage to South Carolina's forestry industry than initially thought, with the final tally coming in at \$205 million, according to the state Forestry Commission. That's about double the figure Gene Kodama, South Carolina's state forester, estimated in the days after Matthew swept through the state early this month. Even so, Kodama said the damage was minimal -- less than 1 percent of the state's total timber value and a small percentage of forestry's \$18.6 billion annual contribution to the state's economy. "However, for those individuals and mills who were impacted, the damage is very real," Kodama said Friday. "Therefore, our focus right now is providing technical expertise to individual landowners and helping them access any federal financial assistance that will be available."

Sun News: Grand Strand left hoping for emergency beach funds

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article111169017.html>

Chloe Johnson

Grand Strand leaders are hoping for an emergency bill from Congress to accelerate beach renourishment after Hurricane Matthew. The next round of beach renourishment for the Myrtle Beach and North Myrtle Beach areas are scheduled for 2018, though federal money to support that effort has not been appropriated. Steve Chapman, president of the Grand Strand Business Alliance and head of that group's statewide political action committee, said an emergency bill could work faster, since Congress' larger spending package likely wouldn't come through until after the inauguration. "There's hopes, based on what's happened in the past, that there might be some kind of package," Chapman said. "When there's a disaster recovery deal, there seems to be pretty broad consensus."

Aiken Standard: Donations for flood-ravaged Nichols being collected in Aiken

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/donations-for-flood-ravaged-nichols-being-collected-in->

[aiken/article_b4ef97b4-9d2f-11e6-b4f8-ffc419661847.html](http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33510426/family-moves-back-into-storm-damaged-home-on-team-sc-day)

Christina Cleveland

Southeastern Tool Co. in Aiken is collecting donations for Nichols, a small, rural South Carolina town that was covered by flood waters after Hurricane Matthew pounded the coastal areas of the state earlier this month. A truck is located in front of Southeastern Tool at 3231 Wagener Road in Aiken for donations and household goods. Donations can be dropped off between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 7 a.m. to noon on Fridays. Those who need a pick up or someone to assist after those hours are asked to call Don Cheeks at 803-507-7602. Many of the homes in Nichols, which are located in the state's Pee Dee region in Marion County, experienced "catastrophic or major damage," according to FEMA, said S.C. Rep. Bill Taylor, R-Aiken.

WMBF: Family moves back into storm-damaged home on 'Team SC Day'

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33510426/family-moves-back-into-storm-damaged-home-on-team-sc-day>

Audrey Biesk

It's been three weeks since Hurricane Matthew and some families in Marion County are just now able to go back home. The Marion County Administration Building was filled with many people still in need on Friday afternoon who were attending the Team South Carolina Pee Dee Day organized by Gov. Nikki Haley. There were numerous non-profits and state agencies there, along with Haley to ensure people that help is there for them. One mother and her seven kids have been living out of shelters the past three weeks because of tree damage to their Mullins home. Tyesha Davis said she was encouraged, along with many other Nichols families who are still in shelters, to go to the event and talk with people who can offer the help that so many need. Davis said she is taking it one day at a time, but Friday was a special day because she and her seven kids could finally walk through their front door and sleep at home for the first time since the hurricane.

WMBF: FEMA: Over \$15M disbursed to those impacted by Hurricane Matthew

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33507617/fema-over-15m-disbursed-to-those-impacted-by-hurricane-matthew>

Matt Corpening

More than 30,000 people have registered for individual assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency so far, and over \$15 million has been disbursed. According to a FEMA news release, 282 inspectors have completed 15,664 inspections of the 20,771 issued. The Small Business Administration has approved 59 loan applications worth \$2,464,100 of the 545 received.

WMBF: SCDOT: 39 roads, 7 bridges remain closed due to Hurricane Matthew

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33507360/scdot-39-roads-7-bridges-remain-closed-due-to-hurricane-matthew>

Matt Corpening

The South Carolina Department of Transportation's Hurricane Matthew status of operations report released Friday morning said 39 roads and seven bridges remain closed statewide. According to the release, SCDOT crews are focused on repairing infrastructure as well as removing debris. Crews have removed 224,462 cubic yards of storm-related debris. Areas with known damage have been assessed, with the exception of areas where water must recede before they can be assessed.

WMBF: United Methodist Church helps rebuild Nichols

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33510805/united-methodist-church-helps-rebuild-nichols>

Eric Traphagen

Nichols is in a state of disrepair since it was inundated by flood waters following Hurricane Matthew and the United Methodist Church led a group of volunteers to gut out several homes. "So, what we're finding is the houses have some degree of water," said George Olive, the church's reverend who led the disaster response team. "Therefore flooring, carpeting, walls, cabinetry, appliances, a lot of the furniture all needs to be taken out and be disposed. And so we're in that clean out and tear out mode

right now."Nichols was flooded for several days. In fact, people who live there said there are still puddles left from the flood waters. Many homes have mold growing up the walls, with it reaching five feet high on one house."Clearly there are people here that need significant help," Olive said. "United Methodist will be here until we finish. If that takes two years that's what we're going to do."

WPDE: Harvest Hope opens up disaster food pantry for Hurricane Matthew victims

<http://wpde.com/news/local/harvest-hope-opens-up-disaster-food-pantry-for-hurricane-matthew-victims>

Mikayla Mercer

Harvest Hope Food Bank in Florence opened up a disaster food pantry for Hurricane Matthew victims this week. While Harvest Hope is usually run as a standard food pantry, the organization decided to open up to hurricane victims after seeing how many people are in need after the storm. Organization leaders opened the disaster food pantry on Wednesday. Since then, they said they have seen more than 200 people come through. Since the beginning of the month, Harvest Hope leaders said they have given out 698,000 meals. The food pantry said they are fortunate to be able to offer all different kinds of food, from fruit to cookies, to those in need. That food pantry will run until Nov. 18.

Michael Slager Case:

Post and Courier: In high-stakes murder trial of Michael Slager, 'tense' community has a lot on the line

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/in-high-stakes-murder-trial-of-michael-slager-tense-community/article_86f94ca0-9ac9-11e6-8cef-e70299138768.html

Andrew Knapp

Andy Savage saw the video for the first time in his bedroom. It showed Walter Scott running away, and North Charleston police officer Michael Slager shooting him in the back. His reaction was like many. Turning from the TV to his wife, he said, "Oh my God." "I had very negative thoughts of law enforcement conduct from the video I saw," said Savage, a criminal defense lawyer in Charleston. "That video of the eight shots is a very, very powerful, emotional, evoking video." But with a phone call the next day — from the officer's wife — the way he viewed the footage would start to change. The more he learned, he said, the more he thought Slager had been made a pariah by officials in a city long troubled by allegations of unfair policing and an easy target of criticism for the national inspection of officers' use of force against black people. The more evidence he gathered, he said, the more he believed that the officer had made a reasonable decision in a stressful situation.

Post and Courier: Citing double jeopardy, Michael Slager's defense team seeks dismissal of murder charge

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/citing-double-jeopardy-michael-slager-s-defense-team-seeks-dismissal/article_60d319f6-9bb5-11e6-a754-bf084b1b1878.html

Andrew Knapp

When Michael Slager's murder trial starts next week, the presiding judge will have a fresh proposal to consider: a plea to dismiss the case entirely. That's what attorneys for the former North Charleston policeman said should happen because state and federal authorities have been "double-teaming" Slager to prosecute him in Walter Scott's shooting death. Their argument is based on a bid to upend the "dual sovereignty" doctrine, a precedent that has allowed both governments to prosecute someone if the alleged misconduct falls under their jurisdiction. Slager's defense team on multiple occasions leading up to the trial have alleged that the authorities have been colluding on joint interviews of witnesses rather than investigating on their own.

General Assembly News:

The State: What \$9 million gets you at the SC State House

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article111147582.html>

Bristow Marchant

The billionaire Koch brothers spent more than \$80,000 to lobby the S.C. legislature this year, trying to kill a proposal to increase the state's gas tax. They succeeded. Others paid even more to keep a tab on S.C. legislators, sometimes without an easily visible goal. The amount of money and manpower spent to lobby legislators makes one thing clear: Trying to influence the S.C. Legislature is a full-time job. Dozens of lobbyists, registered with the state, made \$9.3 million this year lobbying the state's lawmakers on behalf of companies, interest groups and public entities. Those groups were hoping to get their preferred legislation passed or prevent legislation, which they viewed as harmful, from getting legislators' stamp of approval.

The Herald: NAACP, others outraged over York Tech hosting event for pro-Confederate flag group
<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/andrew-dys/article111052567.html>

Andrew Dys

Opposition is growing to an agreement by York Technical College to host a March 2017 convention for the Sons of Confederate Veterans, a pro-Confederate flag group. The incoming leader of the S.C. legislative black caucus, the Rock Hill NAACP and others say they will meet Monday with York Tech President Greg Rutherford to voice their displeasure. The Rock Hill and Western York County branches of the NAACP released a statement on the SCV event at York Tech late Thursday. In the statement, the groups called it "an underestimation of the current racial tensions in America," adding that it "seems like a blatant disregard for the historic decision" by South Carolina last year to remove the Confederate flag from its Statehouse. Those opposed to the flag, and to the Rock Hill campus hosting a convention by a group that supports the Confederate flag, say they have been holding strategy sessions. They plan to voice outrage to elected leaders, including the Rock Hill City Council, York County Council and others.

SC Agency News:

Post and Courier: DHEC: Infant mortality back up in S.C.

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/dhec-infant-mortality-back-up-in-s-c/article_64b0b522-9d47-11e6-ab8f-6bdca1fc380d.html

Lauren Sausser

South Carolina's infant mortality rate inched up last year, according to a new report published by the state health department. In 2015, an average seven babies per 1,000 died before their first birthday. The new rate is slightly higher than it was in 2014, when an average 6.5 infants per 1,000 did not survive their first 12 months. The mortality rate was also significantly higher for black infants in 2015 compared to the previous year. The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control blamed the overall increase, in part, on "a high number of sleep-related accidents and an increase in deaths due to birth defects." The agency is urging pregnant women to take a multivitamin that includes folic acid and for new parents to practice "safe sleep habits" with their babies.

The State: Corrections czar says SC prisoners not participating in nationwide protests

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article111126607.html>

Cynthia Roldan

South Carolina's prison chief says state prisoners have not participated in protests held in more than a dozen states despite repeated reports by several news organizations that strikes have taken place. Perry Correctional Institution in Anderson County was named in a Los Angeles Times article that published Friday, as one of South Carolina's prisons where inmates participated in a strike during the past month. Several outlets have reported the strikes are inspired by the 45th anniversary of the Attica Prison riot in New York in 1971. Prisoners took staffers hostage and demanded better living conditions during that riot that ended with more than three dozen dead. But Department of Corrections Chief Bryan Stirling stressed Friday no strike or protest has taken place. "There have been no strikes at the Perry furniture plant, and we have had no reports of strikes in the South Carolina correctional system," Stirling said. Perry is a high-security facility in Pelzer touted as a "working prison" by its

warden, Larry Cartledge.

WLTX: DJJ Music Class Helps Students Compose A Better Life

<http://www.wltx.com/news/local/djj-music-class-helps-students-compose-a-better-life/343887304>

Mary Sturgill

Kids who have broken the law and find themselves in the South Carolinal Department of Juvenile Justice are getting an opportunity to turn their life around through their education on the DJJ campus. One of the classes they choose from is a music class, that teachers and students say is helping them turn their lives around. Malik is 17-years-old and is in DJJ because he was part of a fight that occurred at his school. He says before 8th grade he had his sights set on football and hopefully an NFL Career. He says when he was injured and told he couldn't play any more, that's when he started getting into trouble and hanging out with the wrong crowd. He tells News 19, "I felt lost in my own state of mind you know, I felt like nobody cares, like my father wasn't there I felt like nobody had loved me so I went out into the streets and I tried to find that love I found that love you know and I tried to impress them and when I try to impress them this is what predicament I end up in."

Post and Courier: DOT chairman calls out "irresponsible" meddling in 526, sales tax vote

http://www.postandcourier.com/columnists/dot-chairman-calls-out-irresponsible-meddling-in-sales-tax-vote/article_47bfd2b6-9d5d-11e6-9f36-2303c47bf8a4.html

Brian Hicks

Two of the state's top transportation officials are at war over Charleston County's upcoming sales tax referendum. The real issue, however, is 526. Mike Wooten, chairman of the state Department of Transportation Commission, says State Infrastructure Bank Board Chairman Vince Graham's efforts to stall the completion of Interstate 526 across James and Johns islands could cost the state billions in road improvements if the local referendum fails. Wooten, a member of the Infrastructure Bank board, on Thursday urged Graham to schedule a meeting – something he has avoided since the board unilaterally cancelled a three-party 526 deal between the county, the SIB and the DOT in May. "For our group to continually postpone a critical meeting ... is, in my opinion, irresponsible," Wooten wrote.

Island Packet: Zika cases continue to tick upward in South Carolina. Here's where

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article111151597.html>

Rebecca Lurye

While the state has seen 11 new Zika cases since August, no instances of the virus have been reported in Beaufort, Jasper or surrounding counties, according to the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. That's despite all the bug bites most Beaufort County residents are sporting this time of year. There were 54 Zika cases in South Carolina as of Thursday, all of them related to travel to an area with active Zika transmission. There is still only one reported case of the virus being sexually transmitted in the state. As of Oct. 21, the most recent data available, there were 11 cases in Charleston County and four each in Dorchester and Berkeley counties. The rest of the reported infections are in other regions of the state, including nine in Greenville, seven in Lexington and six in Richland counties.

SC Delegation News:

Post and Courier: S.C. Republicans react to FBI decision to revisit Clinton email scandal

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/s-c-republicans-react-to-fbi-decision-to-revisit-clinton/article_5cba62a0-9d47-11e6-bb3e-47a8ea4e162d.html

Emma Dumain

South Carolina members of Congress are suggesting the investigation into Hillary Clinton's emails should go to a special prosecutor. Hours after the FBI said Friday it is revisiting its inquiry into whether Clinton mishandled classified information in private emails, some lawmakers said an outside probe would best clear the public's mind. "This case has always met the criteria for the appointment of a

special prosecutor and one should have long ago been appointed," Republican U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham in a statement. "There have been people in the military who have been prosecuted for doing far less than the Clinton team when it comes to the mishandling of classified information," he added.

Independent Mail: Duncan calls for special prosecutor over Clinton emails

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/2016/10/28/duncan-calls-special-prosecutor-over-clinton-emails/92901074/>

U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan is calling for an independent special prosecutor to look into Hillary Clinton's handling of emails while she was secretary of state. "Secretary Clinton's gross negligence has once again forced the FBI to reopen an investigation into her conduct," Duncan said in a statement issued by his office Friday afternoon. "The American people are appalled and shocked" at Clinton's conduct and "equally upset with the mishandling of this crucial investigation," Duncan said. The Republican from Laurens is seeking a fourth term in a district that includes Anderson, Greenville, Oconee and Pickens counties.

McClatchy DC: Gowdy on new Clinton emails: May Justice be done

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/congress/article111176667.html>

Matthew Schofield

Congressman Trey Gowdy's statement on the reopening of an FBI investigation into Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton's emails didn't feature a call to arms. But it might as well have. The South Carolina Republican established an adversarial position with the former secretary of state through his Benghazi Committee, which was investigating the events that resulted in the deaths of an American ambassador to Libya and three others on Sept. 11, 2012, in Libya's second largest city. His committee's final report on Benghazi stopped short of finding fault with Clinton, though it was highly critical. Their relationship had reached a point where Gowdy had been featured in more than 200 emails of the recently released cache through WikiLeaks called "The Podesta Emails," involving the Clintons' inner circle. Friday, Gowdy issued a statement that stopped just short of jubilation regarding the FBI's announcement that a new set of Clinton's emails had been found and would be investigated.

SC Political News:

The State: Democrats release details of Vice President Biden's SC stops

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article111071047.html>

Avery G. Wilks

Vice President Joe Biden will appear next Tuesday at "Get Out the Vote" events at Morris College in Sumter and at the AME Zion Transformation Center in Rock Hill. The Democrat will headline the events with U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn of Columbia, 5th District candidate Fran Person, and other Democratic leaders and candidates. The Sumter event starts at 8 a.m. at Morris College on 100 West College St. Biden will appear at the Rock Hill event at 1:30 p.m. at the center on 745 Saluda St. The timing of Biden's visit – a week before the Nov. 8 election – indicates Democrats think the S.C. vote could be closer than expected. Recent polls have shown GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump leading in South Carolina by anywhere from 2 to 15 percentage points.

The State: Vice President Biden to be at Morris College, Rock Hill center

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article111071047.html>

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Post and Courier: Joe Biden to stump in S.C. one week out from Election Day

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/joe-biden-to-stump-in-s-c-one-week-out/article_2a80285c-9d32-11e6-822f-4fbce2b4a7af.html

Emma Dumain

South Carolina Democrats will host Vice President Joe Biden on their home turf Tuesday, exactly one week from Election Day. In the morning, he'll visit Morris College in Sumter, and from there he'll travel to AME Zion Transformation Center in Rock Hill. It's being billed as a "get out the vote" event in a state where polls show it is unlikely Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton will take its nine electoral votes over Republican Donald Trump. But the margin could be close. Biden's scheduled appearance Tuesday is in keeping with a couple of promises. First, he will be in the 5th Congressional District, where his former aide, Democrat Fran Person, is challenging incumbent Republican U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney. The duel may be South Carolina's only truly competitive congressional race of the cycle.

The Herald: Biden Rock Hill visit for Democrat candidates set for Tuesday at AME center

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/politics-government/election/article111069852.html>

Andrew Dys

Vice-President Joe Biden will campaign in Rock Hill Tuesday for Democrats, including a former aide running for Congress, at the Kenneth Monroe AME Zion Transformation Center, party officials announced. Doors open at the center at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday for the public appearance, Democratic part officials said, which is billed as a get out the vote event. Biden was in Fort Mill and Rock Hill in September - he tipped a waitress \$20 for a milkshake - but neither appearance was public. The event follows a similar stop in Sumter, also in the 5th Congressional District. The event features Biden and Fran Person, who worked for Biden before challenging incumbent Republican South Carolina 5th District Congressman Mick Mulvaney in the Nov. 8 election. Person has raised significant money but trails Mulvaney in the polls.

LGBT Laws:

Associated Press: 5 things to know: Transgender case lands in Supreme Court

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

SC State Wire

For the first time, the nation's highest court will wade into the issue transgender rights - a contentious debate that has divided communities and courts across the country. The U.S. Supreme Court announced Friday that the justices will take up the case of a Virginia school board that wants to prevent a transgender teenager from using the boys' bathroom at his high school. Here are five things you should know about the case and its potential implications nationwide...

NOTE: If there are eight justices and the court splits evenly, the 4th Circuit decision would stand and Grimm would win his case. But the decision would have no impact outside the 4th Circuit covering Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland, West Virginia and South Carolina.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: More S.C. workers finding full-time jobs as underemployment rate improves

http://www.postandcourier.com/business/more-s-c-workers-finding-full-time-jobs-as-underemployment/article_e5850ae2-9d18-11e6-8b99-cb9cc1d5949c.html

Thad Moore

More workers in South Carolina are finding full-time jobs as the state's labor market continues to grow

tighter. The number of people who have given up on finding work is dropping, and so is the number of workers who have part-time jobs but want more hours, according to figures released Friday by the U. S. Department of Labor. The Labor Department says 10.1 percent of South Carolinians were underemployed between October 2015 and September, a half-point better than last quarter and its lowest point since 2007. The state's underemployment rate is released each quarter as an annual average. That's still higher than the national average of 9.8 percent, but the state is edging closer to the rest of the U.S. South Carolina's was the 17th-highest rate in the country - still high, but better than its No. 5 spot this time last year.

Post and Courier: Basic questions about Obamacare open enrollment answered

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/basic-questions-about-obamacare-open-enrollment-answered/article_178463b2-9d0a-11e6-9788-0b45aad3be0f.html

Lauren Sausser

Open enrollment for Obamacare starts Tuesday. While politicians will continue debating the law's merits before - and after - Election Day, more than 200,000 South Carolinians who rely on the federal law for health insurance have some choices to make. Here, you'll find answers to a few basic questions. For further help, visit HealthCare.gov or call an insurance agent...

Local News:

The Herald: Prosecutor outraged: Chester, Lancaster felon sentences among 98 shortened by Obama

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/crime/article111064447.html>

Andrew Dys

The prosecutor for Chester and Lancaster counties is outraged after a Chester mother and a Lancaster man linked to drug-dealing killers in the 2000s are among 98 drug felons who had sentences commuted Thursday by President Barack Obama. Both Olynthia Lousie Hinton and Antonio Hood faced state charges, and had prior state convictions, for drugs before they were prosecuted federally, 6th Circuit Solicitor Randy Newman said. Newman said that even though Obama and advocates for early release call the defendants non-violent drug offenders, drug trafficking under South Carolina law is a violent crime. Hood was arrested with five kilograms of cocaine. "Law and enforcement and prosecutors work tirelessly to target these repeat offenders, to try and provide safe streets and neighborhoods for people, and it is like a slap in the face when the commander-in-chief decides that he doesn't believe in the way the criminal justice system handles them," Newman said.

Sun News: Obama changes Myrtle Beach man's prison sentence

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article111016647.html>

Elizabeth Townsend

President Obama reduced the prison sentence of a Myrtle Beach man, along with nearly 100 others from around the country on Thursday, according to a news release from the White House. John Aundo Gamble of Myrtle Beach had his 20-year sentence commuted by the president and its now set to expire on Oct. 27, 2018, which is conditioned upon enrollment in a residential drug treatment program, according to the release. Gamble is charged with of possession with intent to distribute five grams or more of cocaine base and a quantity of cocaine; felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition; using, carrying and possessing a firearm during and in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, officials said. Gamble was sentenced to 240 months imprisonment with five years supervised release, according to the release.

Post and Courier: Daniel Island man arrested in fatal James Island motorcycle crash, third deadly tri-county accident in seven days

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/daniel-island-man-arrested-in-fatal-james-island-motorcycle-crash/article_d9a85124-9d7d-11e6-8fef-3b2caba1a841.html

Gregory Yee

A motorcyclist died Friday night in a crash with another vehicle on James Island. Officers were dispatched at 7:08 p.m. to the intersection of Fort Johnson and Camp roads to a report of a crash involving a motorcyclist and another motorist, said Charles Francis, a Charleston Police Department spokesman. Anthony Michael Marino, 26, of Island Park Drive on Daniel Island, has been charged with reckless homicide, Francis said. The investigation is ongoing. The crash is the third fatal incident involving a motorcyclist in the tri-county area in the last seven days. Thomas Combahee, a 53-year-old North Charleston resident, was killed after being thrown from his motorcycle Sunday night on Interstate 26. Combahee died of blunt trauma due to the crash.

The State: Man jumps off I-126 bridge into river after crash

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article111058002.html>

Cynthia Roldan

A man who jumped off the Interstate 126 bridge and into the Broad River on Friday has been taken to the hospital for observation. The man jumped into the river after being involved in a single-vehicle crash, said Lt. Curtis Wilson, spokesman for the Richland County Sheriff's Department. Investigators don't know yet why the man jumped, but he is OK, Wilson said. The Columbia Fire Department has reported the crash took place just before 11 a.m., on the westbound lanes of I-126. Only one westbound lane remains open as officials investigate. Wilson said the Columbia Police Department will determine if charges will be filed against the man, because the incident took place in the city's jurisdiction.

Associated Press: Missing fisherman's body found 140 feet down after 7 months

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

SC State Wire

The body of a man who disappeared more than seven months ago while fishing has been found by a private search team nearly 140 feet below the surface of Lake Russell. Abbeville County Coroner Ronnie Ashley says an autopsy determined Mitchell Gibson drowned. Ashley said in a news release that Gibson's body was taken out of the lake Thursday afternoon. A private team hired by Gibson's family used a special sonar device to locate the body. Gibson disappeared on March 12. While his cellphone, coat, a life jacket and other items surfaced, he and his boat did not. Authorities are still investigating Gibson's death.

Post and Courier: Hollywood highway dedicated to police officer killed in line of duty 34 years ago

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/hollywood-highway-dedicated-to-police-officer-killed-in-line-of/article_9e48561e-9d3d-11e6-a80b-aff5cff42b08.html

Gregory Yee

John Gianatos looked at his friend's name on the sign along the highway. Tears welled up. His voice cracked — face frozen in an anguished grimace. "I'm sorry," he said, wiping away the tears. "Sometimes ..." The retired Charleston County police officer's thoughts trailed off for a moment. Gianatos was one of several former and current law enforcement personnel and local politicians present at a dedication ceremony Friday naming a portion of S.C. Highway 165 in Hollywood after Steven Buist Hiott Jr., a county police officer who was fatally shot while making a traffic stop 34 years ago. Gianatos remembered that night: How he arrived on the scene; how he helped pick up his friend's lifeless body and place him on the stretcher; how he drove his friend's patrol car back to the station before going back to help with the suspect search. "It's even hard today," he said. "People liked him. They respected him."

Herald-Journal: Sheriff's Office suing former jail officer

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161028/sheriffs-office-suing-former-jail-officer?rssfeed=true>

Daniel J. Gross and Alyssa Mulliger

The Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office has released a video showing a physical altercation between a jail officer and an inmate, in response to an ongoing legal dispute with the now-former officer. The

video shows an inmate tossing things out of the open food hatch near the bottom of his cell door and sticking his foot out of the opening. Four deputies, including Brian Blalock, come to the cell and try to close the open hatch. The inmate is seen on the video resisting with his foot on the hatch. The video then shows the deputies opening the cell door and Blalock pushing the inmate away from the door. The deputies quickly close the cell door and again try to close the open hatch, but the inmate sticks his foot back out. Blalock is seen kicking and stomping the inmate's foot multiple times before another deputy leans down and uses pepper spray through the hatch opening. The deputies are then able to close the hatch, the video shows.

Associated Press: Juvenile charged in shooting death in North Charleston

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=PtQe4hTP

SC State WireNorth Charleston police have charged a 15-year-old juvenile with murder in a shooting death in a neighborhood that has seen several violent incidents in recent weeks. Authorities tell local media outlets that 17-year-old Amarai Roper Smalls was pronounced dead at the scene Wednesday night. The shooting occurred in a neighborhood along Interstate 26. Last month a 23-year-old man was shot and killed on the same street. The following day a 22-year-old man was wounded in a drive-by shooting on a street nearby.

Island Packet: Judge to decide whether suspect will be tried as adult in Hilton Head teen's slaying

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/article111208937.html>

Stephen Fastenau

A Beaufort County judge will decide whether the teen charged in the shooting death of Dominique Williams in a Hilton Head Island park in 2015 will be tried as an adult. Prosecutors asked that the case be moved to General Sessions Court from Family Court during a hearing Friday afternoon. New details about the deadly encounter emerged during the hearing as prosecutors played video they say shows the suspect shoot Williams once and then run away. Family Court Judge Peter Fuge said he needed time to process the testimony and arguments before he makes his decision. Williams, 17, was shot and killed July 19, 2015, in Coligny Beach Park. The suspect, then 15, was turned in by his family two days later and charged as a juvenile with murder and possession of a weapon during a violent crime. He has been held at the Department of Juvenile Justice's Juvenile Detention Center in Columbia.

Morning News: Darlington ministry aims to help pregnant teens

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_0a2f0008-9d7f-11e6-803b-2be49f9ddd37.html

Melissa Rollins

Pregnancy is a happy time for many women, but when it occurs as a teenager and there is no support system, it also can be full of uncertainty and fear. A ministry in Darlington is working to minimize the negative effects and help young woman get their lives back on track. The Place of Healing held a ribbon cutting in August. It is hoping to open in December or January after necessary renovations are made. Executive director Deandra Ketter said the ministry is something she has worked to open for some time. "I've been working toward this for about 10 years," Ketter said. "But actually having it tangible, where I could touch it, that has just been this year. We had a ribbon cutting to introduce people to the Place of Healing and start getting donations, things that the girls and babies would need. When they come in, I want them to feel at home. I don't want them to want for anything."

Sun News: Horry County Sheriff's Office recommend looking up sex offenders before Halloween

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article111167097.html>

The Horry County Sheriff's Office is encouraging parents to view the Sex Offender Registry prior to trick-or-treating for Halloween. According to the office, there are currently 530 active registered sex offenders in Horry County. They recommend signing up for the free automatic email notifications which will inform users of sex offenders within a specified radius of any address. To view the registry please visit www.sheriff.horrycounty.org. For more information call 843-915-8573 or email

sexoffenderregistry@horrycounty.org.

Aiken Standard: Aiken's drought status upgraded to 'moderate'

http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/aiken-s-drought-status-upgraded-to-moderate/article_90eee07e-9d1e-11e6-9b32-9f2908474836.html

Christina Cleveland

Three counties in South Carolina's Upstate region now have severe drought statuses, according to state climate experts, while other parts of the state are recovering from recent flooding. Information from State Climatologist Hope Mizzell revealed some Upstate counties have received less than 10 percent of normal rainfall throughout the past 60 days, according to a statement released by the S.C. Department of Natural Resources this week. This has intensified the impacts to agriculture, increasing concern regarding forest fires and lowering streamflow and lake levels, the statement reads. The South Carolina Drought Response Committee met Wednesday to update the drought statuses for all of the state's counties. Aiken County's drought status was upgraded from incipient to moderate.

Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press: Clinton tries to quell resurgent email issue late in race

<http://bigstory.ap.org/b1f8075d21964477b9deae6134f8d022>

For more than a year, Hillary Clinton has been a reluctant participant in the email controversy that has dogged her campaign, responding defensively to inquiries — and often only when there's a political imperative to do so. On Friday, the imperative was clear. The email issue flared up unexpectedly just over a week from Election Day, threatening Clinton's lead over Republican Donald Trump. The FBI announced it was looking into whether there was classified information on a device belonging to Anthony Weiner, the disgraced ex-congressman who is separated from longtime Clinton aide Huma Abedin. Clinton stepped in swiftly, holding a brief, hastily arranged news conference in a high school choir room in Des Moines, Iowa. She challenged FBI Director James Comey to release the full details of the new investigation, citing the crucial phase of the White House race.

Associated Press: Election exposes generational divide among Hispanics

<http://bigstory.ap.org/f081f65d1b2e4667827557112a143f49>

Donald Trump's rhetoric on immigration is testing a long-term trend among Hispanics: Members of a family that has been in the country for multiple generations and uses primarily English are more likely to vote Republican than those who more recently arrived in the United States. The number of Latinos in the United States is growing, making them a key demographic group whose votes are coveted by both major parties. While traditionally they vote for Democrats, that support isn't ironclad. Leo Lopez's father, who came to the United States from Mexico in the 1980s, is a Democrat and firm Hillary Clinton supporter. But Lopez himself, an accounting student at the state university in this heavily Hispanic, blue-collar town, is leaning toward Trump. "I'm kind of scoping them all out," Lopez said at a recent Donald Trump rally here. "Trump's tax plan would help me out more."

National News:

Associated Press: Oregon standoff acquittal sparks fears of new land disputes

<http://bigstory.ap.org/796204163bed4d3abdd5b75c279ffd9e>

The stunning acquittal of seven people who occupied a federal wildlife sanctuary in Oregon during an armed standoff raised fears Friday that the verdict could embolden other militant groups in a long-running dispute over government-owned Western lands. Meanwhile, a juror said the decision was a rejection of the prosecution's conspiracy case, not an endorsement of the defendants' actions. Supporters of Ammon Bundy celebrated the verdict and said it could invite more confrontations. The government's top federal land official, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, issued a statement urging all employees to "remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity." An activist from Boise, Idaho, who once camped by a memorial to occupier LaVoy Finicum at the site where he was shot dead by police,

predicted that the verdict would encourage others to act.

Associated Press: Tense oil pipeline protest subsides at least temporarily

<http://bigstory.ap.org/2e559a4a8b4b4892af77af21ee5f44b7>

A tense protest over the Dakota Access pipeline subsided at least temporarily after some protest leaders urged activists to leave a barricade near a state highway bridge. As many as 50 protesters gathered Friday behind heavy plywood sheets and burned-out vehicles, facing a line of concrete barriers, military vehicles and police in riot gear. But only a handful of people, some of them observers from Amnesty International, remained on the bridge by late afternoon after protest representatives told people to return to the main encampment. Morton County Sheriff Kyle Kirchmeier described the protesters as "non-confrontational but uncooperative" and credited Standing Rock Sioux tribal members for helping to ease tensions on the bridge. Kirchmeier said tribal representatives were allowed onto the private property to remove teepees. Officers arrested one person, but no details were released.

Associated Press: 4 years after Sandy, Christie's plans have changed

<http://bigstory.ap.org/fbf6464642a648dab758d64ac3a5927a>

It's been four years since New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie put on his blue fleece pullover and got to work dealing with Superstorm Sandy. A few days after the storm made landfall in Atlantic City on Oct. 29, 2012, Christie threw presidential politics to the remnants of the wind and welcomed President Barack Obama to tour the damage at the Jersey shore. His leadership during and after the storm helped him coast to re-election in a campaign that assisted him in building a brand aimed at a 2016 presidential run. He had hoped that by now, the fourth anniversary of the storm making landfall in New Jersey, he would be days away from voters choosing him as the 45th president. Instead, the Republican is working for Donald Trump and his own political story has turned out much differently. This month, his approval rating was his lowest yet. The Fairleigh Dickinson University survey showed just 21 percent of registered voters surveyed approved of the job Christie was doing, while 62 percent disapproved.

World News:

Associated Press: Iraqi forces push toward Mosul, Shiite militias join battle

<http://bigstory.ap.org/f43cc5318adb43daaed324e17ac14cbc>

Iraqi forces pushed into a town south of Mosul on Saturday after Islamic State fighters fled with civilians used as human shields, as state-sanctioned Shiite militias joined the offensive by opening up a new front to the west. Iraqi troops approaching Mosul from the south advanced into Shura after a wave of U.S.-led airstrikes and artillery shelling against militant positions inside the town. Commanders said most of the IS fighters withdrew earlier this week with civilians, but that U.S. airstrikes had disrupted the forced march, allowing some civilians to escape. "After all this shelling, I don't think we will face much resistance," Iraqi army Maj. Gen. Najim al-Jabouri said. "This is easy, because there are no civilians left," he added. "The big challenge for us is always the civilians." Lt. Col. Hussein Nazim of the militarized Federal Police, which is leading the advance from the south, said some civilians, mainly the elderly and infirm, might still be in the city, but that the use of heavy artillery and airstrikes was a standard tactic.

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