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**Subject:** Morning Clips – Wednesday, November 30, 2016

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## Morning Clips – Wednesday, November 30, 2016

### Governor Nikki Haley News:

**Associated Press:** Haley kicks off holidays with 50th tree-lighting ceremony  
[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=PqwbHqQF](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=PqwbHqQF)  
SC State Wire

Gov. Nikki Haley and her family will kick off the holiday season with an annual tree-lighting ceremony at the Statehouse. The 50th annual Governor's Carolighting starts at 6 p.m. Thursday on the north steps of the Statehouse. The tree-lighting program begins an hour later. Haley will be joined by her husband Michael and their two children. This year's state Christmas tree is a 35-foot-tall white fir from a tree farm in Swanton, Maryland. The free, public event is sponsored by the Columbia Metropolitan Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Columbia Garden Club and the Garden Club of South Carolina. WYFF-TV anchor Nigel Robertson will again host the event.

**WLTX:** Governor Appointed Panel to Hear RCRC Board Members Side  
<http://www.wltx.com/news/local/governor-appointed-panel-to-hear-rcrc-board-members-side/358729091>

Mary Sturgill

A third member of the Richland County Recreation Commission Board stepped down late Tuesday afternoon. This is the latest development, coming after a lawsuit was filed in March shed light on issues at the commission. That lawsuit was followed by four others, against the tax payer funded commission, the director and or at least one or more of the board members; the governor requesting documentation from the board and not getting all that she asked for. The governor's panel of three wants the board to answer why they kept the director, James Brown, III, in position for so long, and why they looked the other way in allegations against him. Lawmakers called for the resignation of the board back in August. Just late Tuesday, a third board member George Martin sent his resignation letter to the Governor citing family issues for his departure effective immediately. Two board members have already stepped down.

**Times and Democrat:** Officials: Recognize volunteer firefighters  
[http://thetandd.com/news/local/officials-recognize-volunteer-firefighters/article\\_e3839d83-b75e-51f7-9980-1e0c207c2da9.html](http://thetandd.com/news/local/officials-recognize-volunteer-firefighters/article_e3839d83-b75e-51f7-9980-1e0c207c2da9.html)

Gene Zaleski

Two Orangeburg County Fire Commissioners expressed concerns Monday that volunteer firefighters did not receive the proper recognition from state leadership for their role during last month's hurricane. Commissioner David Funchess said he has heard S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley, "talk about EMS, I heard her talk about game wardens, I heard her talk about Highway Patrol, you name it." Volunteer firefighters helped to block off roads, direct traffic and clear roads, he said. "Let's send her a letter before she leaves," Commissioner Deloris Frazier said. Haley has been tapped by President-elect Donald Trump to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. She will serve as governor until the U.S. Senate approves her appointment. Orangeburg County Fire System Coordinator Gene Ball said fire departments across the state met in Columbia. A representative from the governor's cabinet was in attendance. "It should be getting back to the governor about the volunteer fire departments being out there," Ball said. "It should have been brought up from the get-go," Funchess said. "The only ones that I heard mentioned are the ones that got paid and I don't think that is right."

## **Nikki Haley: UN Ambassador News:**

**Jon Passantino:** VIDEO: Here's Romney's full remarks after dinner tonight with Trump

<https://twitter.com/passantino/status/803790944734691329>

**USA Today:** 'America's best days are ahead of us,' Romney says after meeting with Trump

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/onpolitics/2016/11/29/americas-best-days-are-ahead-of-us-romney-trump-meeting/94644182/>

Steph Solis

Mitt Romney is praising Donald Trump, saying he has "increasing hope" that the president-elect can lead the country to a "better future." The 2012 Republican presidential nominee dined with Trump in Manhattan Tuesday night. (Nov. 29) APMitt Romney, the former GOP presidential nominee being considered for secretary of State, praised President-elect Donald Trump on Tuesday night after a dinner in New York. "I happen to think that America's best days are ahead of us," Romney said after dinner, according to pool reports. "I think you're going to see America continue to lead the world in this century." Romney, who said he was discussing "affairs throughout the world" with Trump, told reporters he was "impressed" with how Trump handled his victory speech and his transition efforts, naming Cabinet-level nominees such as South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley and Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions. "All of those things combined gives me increasing hope that President-elect Trump is the very man who can lead us to that better future," Romney said at around 9:30 p.m. ET in the lobby of Trump Tower. Trump left through a different exit as Romney addressed reporters, according to pool reports.

**Fox News:** Romney says he has 'increasing hope' for Trump administration after dinner meeting

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2016/11/30/romney-says-has-increasing-hope-for-trump-administration-after-dinner-meeting.html>

Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney said Tuesday that he had "increasing hope" that President-elect Donald Trump would lead America to a "better future" after the two met for dinner in Manhattan. Romney, who is rumored to be on the shortlist for the secretary of state position in Trump's cabinet, praised the real estate mogul for his victory in this month's presidential election, a feat Romney failed to accomplish as the GOP nominee in 2012. "He won the general election," Romney told reporters following the meal, which was also attended by Trump's incoming chief of staff, Reince Priebus. "And he continues with a message of inclusion and bringing people together and his vision is something which obviously connected with the American people in a very powerful way."

**NOTE:** Romney also said Trump had selected "solid, effective, capable people" to hold positions in his administration. He singled out for particular praise South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, Trump's choice for U.N. ambassador; Health and Human Services Secretary nominee Rep. Tom Price, R-Ga.; and Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., Trump's pick for attorney general.

**New York Daily News:** President-elect Donald Trump dines with former rival Mitt Romney at Jean-Georges restaurant in Trump hotel

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/trump-dines-ex-rival-mitt-romney-manhattan-restaurant-article-1.2891935>

Nicole Hensley

Former GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney sat down for a ritzy meal with Donald Trump at an upper Manhattan establishment as the President-elect continued to mull his secretary of state pick. The former Republican rivals settled into a corner table with a round of water Tuesday night at French restaurant Jean-Georges in the Upper West Side. The future Commander-in-Chief sat next to Romney, the man who declared Trump a fraud, a con man and a phony during the primaries, and was accompanied by his Chief-of-Staff pick Reince Priebus.

**NOTE:** Romney dumped the anti-Trump act he trumpeted during the primaries and praised the President-elect in the billionaire's hotel lobby. He commended Trump on his election victory and

spoke highly of administration picks South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley for United Nations ambassador and Rep. Tom Price (R-Ga.) to lead the Department of Health and Human Services. "I happen to think that America's best days are ahead of us," Romney said.

**Business Insider:** Romney changes his mind about Trump, says he hopes he 'can lead us to that better future'

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

Bryan Logan

Mitt Romney had some glowing words about President-elect Donald Trump on Tuesday night after the two men met for dinner in New York. Romney is one of the top candidates to be Trump's secretary of state. Speaking to the press on his way out of the Jean-Georges restaurant in Manhattan Tuesday night, Romney said that he believes the president-elect "can lead us to that better future." The former Massachusetts governor and 2012 GOP presidential nominee applauded the Trump transition team and the incoming president for his Cabinet selections thus far. He specifically praised South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, who was selected as UN ambassador, Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama, who got the nod for attorney general, and Rep. Tom Price of Georgia, who was chosen Tuesday to be Trump's health and human services secretary.

**Politico:** Trump's conservative dream team

<http://www.politico.com/story/2016/11/trump-conservative-dream-team-231972>

Andrew Restuccia, Nancy Cook and Lorraine Woellert

Donald Trump's education secretary nominee is a huge critic of public schools and has pushed to steer taxpayer dollars to charter schools and voucher programs. His Health and Human Services pick wants to dismantle Obamacare and privatize Medicare. His attorney general nominee would crack down on "sanctuary cities" and increase deportations of undocumented immigrants. And his choice to run the CIA believes shutting down "black site" prisons was a mistake, while his national security adviser contends Islam is a threat to Western civilization. Add them all up, and the president-elect is well on his way to building a conservative dream team that has Republicans cheering and liberals in despair. "It's the most conservative [Cabinet] since Reagan," said David McIntosh, president of the Club for Growth. "But I don't think he's using an ideological lens to pick people. I think he's genuinely looking for people who share his priorities for these agencies."

**NOTE:** With Mitt Romney still in the mix for secretary of state and South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley getting the nod for U.N. ambassador, Trump is also adding some moderate voices to his administration. Betsy DeVos, Trump's pick for education secretary, also wins points from the GOP establishment as a longtime Republican megadonor.

**Politico:** High energy: Trump's flurry of announcements put him ahead of predecessors

<http://www.politico.com/blogs/donald-trump-administration/2016/11/trump-flurry-of-announcements-231968>

Henry C. Jackson

President-elect Donald Trump's flurry of cabinet appointments is putting him far ahead of schedule compared to recent presidential transitions. In fact, Donald Trump has announced five more cabinet level appointments than President Barack Obama had by a comparable point in 2008, with two more top posts in the Trump administration all-but confirmed. Trump has announced six cabinet level nominations: Sen. Jeff Sessions, for attorney general; Betsy DeVos, for education secretary; Gov. Nikki Haley for ambassador to the United Nations; Rep. Tom Price, for the Department of Health and Human Services; Elaine Chao to run the Department of Transportation. In addition, Trump is expected to soon announce investor Wilbur Ross as his Commerce secretary and financier Steve Mnuchin to run the Treasury Department. Trump has also appointed four senior-level White House aides, including a national security adviser, White House counsel, chief of staff and chief strategist.

**Politico:** Muslim government officials huddle on ways to survive Trump

<http://www.politico.com/story/2016/11/donald-trump-muslims-government-231890>

Nahal Toosi

Muslim-Americans and other minorities holding national security jobs in the federal government fear for their futures under President-elect Donald Trump — enough so that some have held informal meetings to discuss how to protect themselves from potential anti-Muslim witch-hunts. The employees are on edge about everything from retaining their security clearances to the possibility of discriminatory treatment under Trump, whose top aides include known peddlers of conspiracy theories about Islamists infiltrating the U.S. government. Many, especially in the intelligence realm, fret that Trump's rhetoric and actions could undermine their work by damaging America's relationships overseas. The sudden anxiety is extraordinary after eight years of life under President Barack Obama, who made pursuing diversity in the federal ranks a national security priority.

**NOTE:** Some employees are holding out hope that Trump will nominate a secretary of state or secretary of defense with more moderate views, people who could serve as a buffer against discrimination. Trump's nominee for U.N. ambassador, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, is of Indian descent, which some saw as a positive signal. But for the most part Trump's appointments have been in sync with the incendiary rhetoric he used on the campaign trail.

**Rep. Joe Wilson:** VIDEO: I spoke on the House floor, commending @nikkihaley for being named US Ambassador to the UN. Watch my remarks below. #sctweets

<https://twitter.com/repjoewilson/status/803759702186266624>

**WYFF4:** Students in the Upstate feel a connection to Governor Nikki Haley's next step

<http://www.wyff4.com/article/students-in-the-upstate-feel-a-connection-to-governor-nikki-haleys-next-step/8377800>

Mike McCormick

VIDEO: Governor Nikki Haley's pending move to the United Nations is providing inspiration for some Spartanburg County students

### **General Assembly News:**

**Post and Courier:** Henry McMaster cementing his Trump ties while Tim Scott still waiting in the wings

[http://www.postandcourier.com/news/henry-mcmaster-cementing-his-trump-ties-while-tim-scott-still/article\\_6a8076e2-b668-11e6-91ef-775a4e622d54.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/news/henry-mcmaster-cementing-his-trump-ties-while-tim-scott-still/article_6a8076e2-b668-11e6-91ef-775a4e622d54.html)

Gavin Jackson and Schuyler Kropf

Three weeks after his decisive election win, President-elect Donald Trump has extended his brand in South Carolina... While the moves appear to be the continuation of Trump's links in the state, they also are in preparation for what many believe could be one of the most significant governor's races in state history. South Carolina Republican U.S. Sen. Tim Scott is still mulling a run for governor in 2018, possibly against an incumbent McMaster. He would also be in line to possibly become the first black Republican governor in the South. Political scientists say even with McMaster's White House ties that might not be enough to dissuade Scott from challenging a fellow sitting Republican. "Tim Scott has his own base, and coattails are only so long," said Winthrop University political scientist Scott Huffmon of Trump's potential reach. "Scott has support in just about every twig and branch of the Republican Party in South Carolina."

**Times and Democrat:** McMaster can be effective as governor

[http://thetandd.com/news/mcmaster-can-be-effective-as-governor/article\\_6942ee1c-d78c-5b3f-be5c-02c44789e387.html](http://thetandd.com/news/mcmaster-can-be-effective-as-governor/article_6942ee1c-d78c-5b3f-be5c-02c44789e387.html)

Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster made news ahead of South Carolina's Republican presidential primary early in 2016 by becoming one of the first public officials in the country to endorse Donald Trump. After winning with that choice, McMaster is about to win again by assuming the elected office he has been wanting for years. If the U.S. Senate confirms Gov. Nikki Haley as Trump's nominee for ambassador to the United Nations (and there is no reason to believe it will not), McMaster will take

over as governor. He would complete Haley's term, which ends in 2018. McMaster has a distinguished career that includes stints as South Carolina U.S. attorney, state Republican Party leader, attorney general and lieutenant governor, having been elected to the state's second-highest office in 2014. McMaster was one of the "establishment" candidates derailed by Haley when the then-little-known Lexington County lawmaker won the GOP nomination and was elected the state's first female governor in 2010.

**WIS:** What kind of governor are we getting with Henry McMaster?

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33819075/what-kind-of-governor-are-we-getting-with-henry-mcmaster>

Jack Kuenzie

As we know, President-elect Donald Trump has chosen Gov. Nikki Haley to serve as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. While it could be several months before the Senate acts on her confirmation, Haley's move to that job opens the way for a new governor. So what kind of chief executive will Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster be? We've seen the man now holding the lieutenant governor's office in a range of capacities over the last three decades. It was first as U.S. Attorney and his supervision over the massive drug trafficking case known as Operation Jackpot. Later, McMaster worked on the Commission on Higher Education and ran the state Republican Party as chairman for nine years. Then, he served two terms as South Carolina's Attorney General, along the way beating Democrat Steve Benjamin in 2002. His first bid to become governor happened in 2010, which imploded with the rise of a then-relatively unknown state representative named Haley. McMaster built a reputation as a leader who aimed for agreement, so says political consultant Joel Sawyer.

**WSPA:** New SC Governor Could Impact Top State Issues

<http://wspa.com/2016/11/29/new-sc-governor-could-impact-top-state-issues/>

Robert Kittle

Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster's different style and personality could make a difference in some of the top issues facing South Carolina, after he's expected to become governor next year. In a written statement issued Tuesday, he said he and Gov. Nikki Haley met last week to start planning the transition for when she becomes U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations and he becomes governor. Gov. Haley has had an often-strained relationship with the legislature. One year she issued report cards on lawmakers, giving bad grades to those who disagreed with her. She also campaigned against some lawmakers in her own party. This past legislative session, lawmakers trying to find a way to pay for much-needed road and bridge repairs debated raising the state's 16.75-cents-per-gallon gas tax, one of the lowest in the nation. But Gov. Haley promised to veto the increase unless lawmakers also passed a much larger tax cut. They approved neither.

## **SC Agency News:**

**The State:** Shaky dams continue to cost state money; DHEC seeks \$5 million more in next year's budget

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article117774658.html>

Sammy Fretwell

South Carolina's environmental agency is seeking \$5 million in next year's budget to shore up, inspect or remove dams in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, the second major storm to smack the state in two years. South Carolina needs \$2.3 million to stabilize or tear down about 24 dams shaken by Hurricane Matthew and about \$3 million to inspect most of the state's other dams to ensure they are in optimum shape, according to the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. The request to increase DHEC's budget for dams is contained in the department's 2017-2018 budget plan, which was completed last week. "DHEC's dam safety program has dealt with two disasters in two years, which has strained an already limited budget," the agency said in its budget request to lawmakers. The request said DHEC needs money "to place dams into a safe status and to provide detailed information on dams around the state to help mitigate future impacts."

**WACH:** Prison leaders: Cellphones "grave threat to public safety "

<http://wach.com/news/local/prison-leaders-cellphones-grave-threat-to-public-safety>

Melanie Barden

Former Lee Correctional Institution officer Robert Johnson says he confiscated 1,000 cell phones from inmates in one year. He worked at the prison for 15 years, until one day, everything changed. Johnson says, "I heard a boom and the door was kicked in and I heard someone yell 'Police.' Well I knew the police wouldn't be coming to my house." Johnson was shot 6 times by an inmate at his prison that had just been let out and was on probation. The former inmate's purpose was to carry out a murder for someone behind bars. "A cell phone in the hands of an inmate, he was able to call an inmate who had just got out on probation and he set up six thousand dollars to kill me," says Johnson. The FBI determined the motive was to punish Johnson for confiscating a large contraband package weeks earlier that cost the "inside" gang money. "When we got that they said it was the straw that broke the camel's back and they figured they needed to get rid of me," he says. Now, the former corrections officer has dedicated his life to an initiative to block cell phone reception around prisons.

**NOTE:** South Carolina's chief of prisons Bryan Stirling says he is on board. "This is just a war that we have going with contraband coming in," says Stirling.

### **SC Political News:**

**The State:** Scott, Gowdy added to Trump transition team

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article117897243.html>

Bristow Marchant

Two members of South Carolina's congressional delegation have been named to positions in President-Elect Donald Trump's transition team. Sen. Tim Scott and Rep. Trey Gowdy were both named to positions on the transition team Tuesday. Scott was named a vice chair of the transition, one of seven named in a release sent out by the Trump team on Tuesday. Four others are also members of Congress. Vice President-Elect Mike Pence is the chairman of the transition. Gowdy, of South Carolina's Upstate 4th District, was also named to the transition's executive committee. The transition team is assisting Trump in preparing to take over the presidency and staff his administration.

**WCIV:** Senator Tim Scott, Congressman Trey Gowdy chosen for Trump transition team

<http://abcnews4.com/news/lowcountry-and-state-politics/senator-tim-scott-congressman-trey-gowdy-chosen-for-trump-transition-team>

President-elect Donald Trump announced several additions to his transition team Tuesday. Among those were Congressman Trey Gowdy of South Carolina's 4th Congressional District in the Greenville/Spartanburg area and Senator Tim Scott of Charleston. Here's a look at the complete list of vice chairs and executive committee members...

### **Michael Slagger Case:**

**Associated Press:** Closing arguments set in trial in black motorist's death

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=iH1sglML](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=iH1sglML)

Bruce Smith

After hearing from 55 witnesses during a monthlong trial, a South Carolina jury is set to hear closing arguments in the Michael Slagger murder trial. Slagger is the white former North Charleston patrolman charged in the shooting death of 50-year-old Walter Scott as the black motorist ran from a traffic stop in April of last year. The shooting was captured on cellphone video. The 35-year-old Slagger could be sentenced to 30 years to life if convicted by the jury of 11 whites and one black. Closing arguments are set for Wednesday. Circuit Judge Clifton Newman is expected to decide whether the jury will be allowed to visit the scene of the shooting before closing arguments. He says that if they do, one representative from the defense and one from the prosecution will accompany them but the visit will be closed to the media.

**Associated Press:** The Latest: Court adjourns; closing arguments Wednesday

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

SC State Wire

Court has adjourned for the day in the Michael Slager murder trial in South Carolina. Closing arguments are set for Wednesday morning in the trial of the former North Charleston police officer charged in the shooting death of 50-year-old Walter Scott. Scott, who is black, was shot five times in the back as he tried to flee a traffic stop in April of last year. Slager is white. The shooting was captured on cellphone video by a bystander. Judge Clifton Newman is expected to make a final decision Wednesday before closing arguments on whether the jury can visit the scene of the shooting. He says if he allows them to do so, one representative of both the defense and the prosecution will accompany jurors but no members of the media.

**Associated Press:** Defense rests case in the Michael Slager murder trial.

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=KYO8E2Sa](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=KYO8E2Sa)

Bruce Smith

Former North Charleston patrolman Michael Slager choked back tears Tuesday, testifying in his own defense that he felt "total fear" when the black motorist he was chasing from a traffic stop got control of his Taser and pointed it at him. Slager, 35, faces 30 years to life if convicted of murder in the shooting death of 50-year-old Walter Scott, who managed to break away and run dozens of feet from the officer and his stun gun before falling to the ground with five bullets in his back. The defense rested its case late Tuesday, and closing arguments are planned for Wednesday. The April 4, 2015, shooting stunned the nation after a bystander captured the scene on a cellphone video, images that have been played multiple times in the courtroom during Slager's trial. "My family has been destroyed by it. The Scott family has been destroyed by it. It's horrible," he said.

**Post and Courier:** After a month of listening, jurors expected to discuss Michael Slager's fate

[http://www.postandcourier.com/news/after-a-month-of-listening-jurors-expected-to-discuss-michael/article\\_90316bd0-b6b8-11e6-bf45-8f86c5788b5e.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/news/after-a-month-of-listening-jurors-expected-to-discuss-michael/article_90316bd0-b6b8-11e6-bf45-8f86c5788b5e.html)

Andrew Knapp

For a month, jurors sat through testimony about Walter Scott's shooting death. They watched and re-watched a video of North Charleston officer Michael Slager shooting eight times until Scott stopped running and fell face-first into the spot of grass where he died. They listened as the man who filmed the killing called it an "injustice" and as Slager himself described the "total fear" he felt when Scott took his Taser. The 12 jurors had to hold in their thoughts about everything they heard and saw over the 19 days of court proceedings. But for the first time since they showed up on Halloween to hear the murder case, they're expected Wednesday to get their first opportunity to discuss it and decide Slager's fate.

**Post and Courier:** 'Things could have been different' in Walter Scott shooting, ex-officer says in testimony

[http://www.postandcourier.com/news/things-could-have-been-different-in-walter-scott-shooting-ex/article\\_8a6b731e-b5e4-11e6-b31f-4f831924634b.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/news/things-could-have-been-different-in-walter-scott-shooting-ex/article_8a6b731e-b5e4-11e6-b31f-4f831924634b.html)

Andrew Knapp and Brenda Rindge

Michael Slager sighed as the video appeared Tuesday on the TV screen above him. It was the same footage that had landed the former North Charleston policeman in jail for Walter Scott's death. It played, and a prosecutor pointed to something on the ground: the Taser that Slager said Scott had taken from him during a fight. Slager can see that now, he said. The video kept playing, and the sound of the first gunshot from Slager's gun filled the courtroom. The prosecutor said Scott was about 18 feet away from the officer. Slager can see that now, he said. The video played on, and the prosecutor froze the screen as it showed Slager dropping the Taser near Scott's lifeless body. Slager can see that now, he said. While he can see those things from the video, Slager testified in his own murder trial that he didn't realize them at the time. He knew only that he was scared of Scott, that he fired and fired — eight times in all — until Scott went down.

## Serial Killer Todd Kohlhepp:

**Greenville News:** State is paying for Todd Kohlhepp's defense

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2016/11/29/todd-kohlhepp-south-carolina/94617714/>

Michael Burns

Though he purchased hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of property and has saved enough money to transfer some to a friend as part of investigators' efforts to secure his cooperation, accused serial killer Todd Kohlhepp is being represented at least temporarily by an attorney paid by the state of South Carolina. Shane Goranson, who notified the Spartanburg County magistrate Monday night that Kohlhepp waived his right to appear at the arraignment for his most recent charges, is a capital defender for the South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense, a group that provides legal representation to state residents who cannot afford to hire attorneys. Kohlhepp, 45, a registered sex offender and real-estate broker from Moore, is facing 12 charges, including seven counts of murder, according to warrants. He's also under investigation in Arizona, where he "admitted to shooting somebody," an investigator told the former wife of one of Kohlhepp's alleged victims. Kohlhepp could be put to death if found guilty.

## Wildfires Across Southeast:

**Associated Press:** Deadly, destructive wildfires ravage Tennessee tourism town

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=PbDdl1jU](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=PbDdl1jU)

SC State Wire

In the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains, a Tennessee tourist mecca emerged from the smoke, charred and vacant after a swift-moving wildfire. Many buildings were burned to their foundations. Hotel fire alarms echoed through empty streets lined with burned-out cars. The fire picked its spots as it tore through the Gatlinburg area Monday: It destroyed at least 150 buildings but left others intact. Three people were killed and more than a dozen were hospitalized. By Tuesday evening, almost nothing remained of the Castle, perhaps the largest and most iconic home overlooking Gatlinburg. Entire churches disappeared. So did the Cupid's Chapel of Love wedding venue, though its managers promised to move scheduled weddings to a sister venue, Chapel at the Park.

**Associated Press:** Escaping wildfires meant fleeing through hell-like landscape

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=0byJp8NI](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=0byJp8NI)

SC State Wire

With flames dripping from tree branches and the air filled with embers, thousands of people raced through a hellish landscape as they fled wildfires that killed three people and destroyed hundreds of homes and a resort in the Great Smoky Mountains. Fanned by hurricane-force winds, the flames reached the doorstep of Dollywood, the theme park named after country music legend and local hero Dolly Parton. But the attraction was spared significant damage. The fires spread quickly on Monday night, when winds topping 87 mph whipped up the flames, catching residents and tourists in the Gatlinburg area by surprise. Police banged on front doors and told people to get out immediately. Some trekked 20 minutes to catch lifesaving rides on trolleys usually reserved for tours and wedding parties.

**Aiken Standard:** Aiken area residents express concern about wildfires in Tennessee

[http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/aiken-area-residents-express-concern-about-wildfires-in-tennessee/article\\_f0b434ce-b68b-11e6-9d0e-57ada3e3e737.html](http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/aiken-area-residents-express-concern-about-wildfires-in-tennessee/article_f0b434ce-b68b-11e6-9d0e-57ada3e3e737.html)

Dede Biles

Raging wildfires have destroyed or damaged hundreds of buildings in the eastern Tennessee resort towns of Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge, which are popular vacation spots for Aiken-area residents. Thousands of people had to be evacuated from the Sevier County communities, and there were

reports of at least three deaths. Using online news sources, James “JC” Crider followed what was happening Monday night closely as the flames spread from Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and he continued to monitor the situation Tuesday. “We had been hearing things over the last several days,” said Crider on Tuesday afternoon. “But when I saw Facebook posts and live feeds of the fires advancing yesterday, it really hit home as to exactly how widespread they were going to be. It’s just crazy because we were just up there and everything was fine.”

**WIS:** Wildfires in Tennessee destroy homes, businesses forcing evacuation

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33820087/wildfires-in-tennessee-destroy-homes-businesses-forcing-evacuation>

Allie Spillyards

Devastating flames burning in Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge and have now forced 14,000 people to evacuate their homes overnight Tuesday. Hundreds of homes and businesses in the area have been destroyed by a fast-moving wildfire that erupted into an inferno overnight. “This is a fire for the history books because it isn’t like anything most have ever seen,” said Gatlinburg Fire Chief Greg Miller. “Several wildfires quickly spread in East Tennessee after being fueled by high winds reaching up to 87 miles per hour and dry brush. “That is hurricane force,” said Chief Miller. “That is nowhere to be when fighting a fire.” Flames came dangerously close to a Hilton hotel, temporarily trapping terrified guests. Some evacuees, however, made it out on their own by driving through roads choked by smoke and flames. Others were escorted out on foot by Tennessee state troopers after downed trees blocked roads. Troops from the National Guard also helped evacuees leave the area.

**WIS:** Collaboration comes quick in battling wildfires

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33821774/officials-say-collaboration-comes-quick-in-tackling-wildfires>

Mike DeSumma

For several weeks on Pinnacle Mountain, a massive wildfire has continued to leave its mark on the Palmetto State. The flames left more than 10,000 acres burned and required the work of hundreds of emergency crews to extinguish. Among those who were called to help were members of the Columbia Fire Department, who stayed for nearly a week. “We were asked to provide assets from equipment as well as manpower,” said Capt. Brick Lewis. The firefighters did what they could to help. “We worked on a daily basis to make sure that the fire line stayed intact and nowhere did the fire jump,” said Battalion Chief Brannon Taylor. State forestry officials said the response has to be quick in a situation that can be this scary. The South Carolina State Forestry Commission can move its resources statewide to battle a growing wildfire. South Carolina’s firefighter mobilization plan also allows countless firefighting teams, like that of Columbia’s, to be called in. If the fire grows, the calls for more aid and manpower may do so as well.

## **Hurricane Matthew Recovery:**

**Associated Press:** Hilton Head Island homes still at risk after hurricane

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

SC State Wire

South Beach homes on Hilton Head Island remain at high risk for future storm damage after Hurricane Matthew. Hilton Head Island director of public projects Scott Liggett says the homes remain at risk until a beach renourishment project can be completed. The Island Packet of Hilton Head (<http://bit.ly/2gw5mR0>) reports that the hurricane plowed through dunes and washed away sand, soil and vegetation along the 8,000-foot stretch of coast. Liggett says a renourishment project could help replace an estimated 100,000 cubic yards of sand lost from the storm. The town is now waiting to see if contractor Weeks Marine Inc. will stay to fix storm damage on the beach or move on to another project. The contractor is currently working on an island-wide renourishment project that started before the hurricane.

**Island Packet:** To recoup Matthew costs, Palmetto Dunes imposing storm fee for first time in years

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article117783428.html>

Kelly Meyerhoffer

For at least the past four years, Palmetto Dunes hasn't imposed a storm assessment fee on members. That will change in 2017, said Andrew Schumacher, CEO of the Palmetto Dunes Property Owners Association. Palmetto Dunes will assess members \$150 next year – and likely two years after that as well – to replenish its storm fund in the wake of Hurricane Matthew, he said. In 2004, the resort amended its covenant to create a storm reserve fund. Members paid between \$150 and \$200 each year until the fund built up to \$2 million, the capped amount the covenant allows. The covenant also allows Palmetto Dunes to assess up to \$1,000 per household after a storm if the resort needs to secure \$5 million from its bank. That wasn't needed this time around with Hurricane Matthew, Schumacher said.

## **South Carolina News:**

**Island Packet:** What USMC recruiters, future recruits are talking about following training deaths

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/bg-military/article117766973.html>

Wade Livingston

Tyler Broome has been keeping up with the news, and he's not worried. Broome, 20, of New Bern, N. C., started reading the Marine Corps Times and Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island's Facebook page when he enlisted in May. He's followed the story of Kristian Gashaj, the Marine recruit who remains in critical condition after falling two stories inside the depot's recruit processing center on Oct. 28. He's aware, though less informed about, the more recent death of recruit Zachary Boland, found unconscious in his rack on Nov. 4. And he knows about the March 18 death of recruit Raheel Siddiqui, who was allegedly hazed during his brief time on Parris Island before reportedly jumping from the top deck of his barracks. "As one guy in our pool group said, the Marine Corps was fine for years on end," Broome said during a Nov. 20 phone interview. Broome is a "poolee" in the Corps' delayed entry program, and will be reporting to Parris Island for recruit training in early January.

**Herald-Journal:** More rain coming, but far below what's needed

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161129/more-rain-coming-but-far-below-whats-needed?rssfeed=true>

Chris Lavender

Spartanburg County's latest rainfall wasn't nearly enough to ease drought conditions. The National Weather Service reported that .97 inches of rainfall was recorded at the Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport overnight Monday into Tuesday morning. A heavier band of rain is expected to push through the region on Wednesday, with an additional 1 inch of rainfall possible for some areas of Spartanburg County. The latest U.S. Drought Monitor Index shows Spartanburg County remains in extreme drought conditions. Greenville-based National Weather Service meteorologist Harry Gerapetritis said 29.86 inches of rainfall has been recorded at the airport so far this year through Monday. The average annual rainfall for that period is 42.79 inches. "The recent rainfall helps, but things remain very dry," Gerapetritis said. Andy Rollins, county extension agent with Clemson Cooperative Extension, said plants and shrubs with shallow roots have suffered during the drought. Some reservoirs in the county have reported water levels down 1 to 2 feet, according to Rollins. On Monday, the clay soil in some areas of the county had no moisture up to 2 feet deep. "It's very, very dry," Rollins said. "We are thankful for the rain, but hope we get more."

## **Local News:**

**The State:** Martinez retrial expected to start Wednesday

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article117837118.html>

John Monk

A pretrial hearing in the unusual case of accused home invader-rapist Nathan Martinez dragged on for the second day Tuesday in a Richland County courtroom. Martinez, 37, originally from Utah, is

representing himself in the prosecution's second attempt to put him on trial. An earlier trial was halted before its end. The trial of Martinez, who faces charges of burglary, kidnapping, armed robbery and rape could begin Wednesday. Tuesday's pretrial hearing before state Judge Knox McMahon was marked by Martinez's excruciatingly detailed questions to prospective witnesses, including one of his alleged rape victims. At times, the woman wept as Martinez, displaying no emotion, took her repeatedly over minute details of her rape and afterward, how she was examined at a hospital by a nurse with a rape kit. At pretrial hearings such as this, the judge rules on what can and cannot be admitted as evidence during the actual trial. A jury has been selected in the case, but McMahon has kept it out of the hearing.

**Herald-Journal:** Inmate who died in Spartanburg jail owed child support

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161129/inmate-who-died-in-spartanburg-jail-owed-child-support?rssfeed=true>

Daniel J. Gross

A Taylors man who was found dead in a Spartanburg County jail cell Friday had missed several court hearings for unpaid child support, records show. Kelvin Thomas Taylor, 48, of 140 Chick Springs Road, owed \$1,446.88 in unpaid child support to a Greer woman, court records obtained from the Spartanburg County Child Support Enforcement Division show. Taylor was arrested Nov. 23 following a car crash and taken to the Greenville County jail on a methamphetamine possession charge, but was later transferred to the Spartanburg County jail Thursday on a family court bench warrant. He was found hanging in a cell in the medical wing of the jail and was taken to the Spartanburg Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead. Court records show that Taylor had failed to appear for several court hearings before authorities issued a bench warrant for his arrest on Nov. 1. Clerk of Court Hope Blackley said there are seven to eight employees in the child support office and each one takes on about 3,000 cases. She said a high percentage of cases involve parents who aren't paying child support, which are difficult cases to follow up on. Typically, those who owe support are put on the family court docket several times before a judge signs a bench warrant if they are not appearing.

**Post and Courier:** Hicks column: Sometimes you have to take "yes" for an answer

[http://www.postandcourier.com/columnists/hicks-column-sometimes-you-have-to-take-yes-for-an/article\\_f8880eda-b593-11e6-bc0a-e7f2be921b25.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/columnists/hicks-column-sometimes-you-have-to-take-yes-for-an/article_f8880eda-b593-11e6-bc0a-e7f2be921b25.html)

Brian Hicks

Back in April, members of the Charleston Area Justice Ministry asked Mayor John Tecklenburg the same question six times. Would he direct the police chief to participate in a task force to reduce investigatory traffic stops — and sign a contract, helpfully provided, to do an external audit of the department? They kept asking because they didn't like his answer: No. But the Justice Ministry apparently doesn't like "Yes" any better. Tecklenburg and City Council last week moved to hire an outside auditor to review the police and all other municipal departments by year's end. The mayor even met with representatives of the Justice Ministry beforehand to show them what these auditors would be tasked with investigating. It obviously wasn't good enough. Before last week's City Council meeting, the Justice Ministry stood in Washington Square and said the city wasn't doing enough. They said Charleston's request for proposals limited the scope of the audit; city officials say it asks for exactly what the Justice Ministry is seeking.

**Post and Courier:** Conference of National Black Churches convenes again in Charleston

[http://www.postandcourier.com/features/conference-of-national-black-churches-convenes-again-in-charleston/article\\_737216dc-b665-11e6-9b96-c3841508670f.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/features/conference-of-national-black-churches-convenes-again-in-charleston/article_737216dc-b665-11e6-9b96-c3841508670f.html)

Adam Parker

The Conference of National Black Churches, a national alliance of eight denominations and 30,000 congregations representing about 70 percent of black churchgoers, once again will hold its "National Consultation" in Charleston this December. The three-day event, called "From Anger to Answers: Race and Reconciliation in America," runs Dec. 13-15 at the Charleston Marriott Hotel on Lockwood Drive. An ecumenical service is planned for 7 p.m. Dec. 13 at Emanuel AME Church, 110 Calhoun

St.All are invited to attend the service and participate in the consultation. Registration costs \$149. Go to <http://thecnbc.org>. "From Anger to Answers" is part of the conference's continuing effort to engender interfaith and interracial dialogue at the grassroots level. Last year's event, called "The Healing of Our Nation," was inspired in part by the killing of Walter Scott by a white North Charleston police officer, Michael Slager, and the slaying of nine Emanuel AME Church parishioners by a self-avowed white supremacist, Dylann Roof.

**The State:** Killian Elementary school bus involved in accident, 14 students taken to hospital as precaution

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article117767358.html>

Rachel Myers Lowe

A bus carrying 38 students home from Killian Elementary School was involved in an accident Tuesday afternoon. 14 children on the bus were transported to Palmetto Health Richland Hospital as a precaution, said Richland 2 spokeswoman Libby Roof. Emergency medical technicians examined the children but "there were no major visible injuries," she said. The bus was rear-ended by another vehicle in what appeared to be a chain reaction, Jones said. The accident occurred at 3:40 p.m. at the intersection of Hardscrabble Road and Clinton Street. The bus was stopped on Hardscrabble Road waiting to turn left. The car stopped behind the bus was rear-ended, which pushed it into the bus," Trooper David Jones of the South Carolina Highway Patrol said. No adults involved in the accident were taken to the hospital, Jones said.

**The State:** Columbia gets Amazon book facility, 150 jobs

<http://www.thestate.com/news/business/article117789278.html>

Roddie Burris

Amazon's relocation of a book-making facility to Columbia could mean nearly 150 new jobs in the area, the company said Tuesday. The Seattle-based company will relocate its North Charleston fulfillment center so it will be closer to its Cayce distribution hub, the company said, and all associates at the manufacturing site are being offered continuing roles at the Columbia site. The North Charleston employees could also transfer to any of more than 70 other Amazon locations, officials said. No timeline or location for the Midlands opening has yet been announced. The North Charleston facility will close in March. "We will be opening a new, larger site in Columbia," said Nina Lindsey, a corporate spokeswoman. The North Charleston facility, which prints and ships books, is in a 126,000-square-foot warehouse, which the company currently leases. Amazon opened a 1-million-square-foot plant off Interstate 77 in Cayce in 2011, and the company had almost an immediate impact on the area's employment. It also is a significant contributor to the region's local tax base.

**Morning News:** Pantheon already has plans for expansion after taking over Florence facility

[http://www.scnw.com/news/business/article\\_1f9402b6-b695-11e6-9a61-9724f0bbf615.html](http://www.scnw.com/news/business/article_1f9402b6-b695-11e6-9a61-9724f0bbf615.html)

Joe Perry

Pharmaceutical manufacturer and developer Patheon already has plans in place to expand what will soon be the former facility of Roche Carolina Inc., officials said Tuesday. On Monday, it was announced that Patheon had signed an agreement to take over the 300,000-square-foot plant on the Old Marion Highway. The deal is expected to close in no more than 60 days, Patheon spokeswoman Mari Mansfield said Tuesday. "In our planning for this acquisition, we are hoping to grow the facility," she said. "We are at capacity producing API (active pharmaceutical ingredients), and with this acquisition, it allows us to expand that capacity and take advantage of the skilled talent there – the technical and scientific expertise." Existing suites within the Roche facility were not being used, she said, and Patheon plans on "bringing to life some of that unused space." Mansfield said she couldn't confirm whether the local workforce of about 200 would grow as a result of the plans.

**Post and Courier:** Charleston workers join nationwide protest for \$15 minimum wage Tuesday

[http://www.postandcourier.com/business/charleston-workers-join-nationwide-protest-for-minimum-wage-tuesday/article\\_d9cfd1b6-b66b-11e6-82d1-9b3856f6daf7.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/business/charleston-workers-join-nationwide-protest-for-minimum-wage-tuesday/article_d9cfd1b6-b66b-11e6-82d1-9b3856f6daf7.html)

Thad Moore

Dozens of workers and activists picketed outside a McDonald's restaurant in downtown Charleston on Tuesday, calling for a minimum wage hike as part of a nationwide series of protests. Protesters chanted and held signs demanding a \$15 per hour minimum wage as rush hour traffic rolled past on Spring Street and several police officers looked on. By the time the rally ended late Tuesday evening, seven protesters were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct after they blocked traffic on the Septima P. Clark Parkway, also known as the Crosstown, near Taco Bell/KFC, said Charles Francis, a Charleston Police Department spokesman. Rallies held across the country Tuesday targeted fast-food restaurants and other business that advocates say don't pay their employees enough.

**Post and Courier:** Fruit of the Loom CEO dies at his Charleston home

[http://www.postandcourier.com/news/fruit-of-the-loom-ceo-dies-at-his-charleston-home/article\\_834be018-b676-11e6-8c71-ffe72f428432.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/news/fruit-of-the-loom-ceo-dies-at-his-charleston-home/article_834be018-b676-11e6-8c71-ffe72f428432.html)

John McDermott

An Upstate native who rose through the textile industry to become the chief executive officer at apparel giant Fruit of the Loom Inc. died unexpectedly in Charleston over the weekend, the company said. Rick Medlin was 68. The Bowling Green, Ky.-based company said he died Sunday of natural causes at a home he owned in the city. Medlin had led Fruit of the Loom since August 2010. The company has locations in 17 countries around the world and employs nearly 30,000 workers. It recently more than doubled the size of its Summerville distribution center, where Medlin visited in April to help celebrate that expansion. Before being named president and CEO, the Pelzer native served in various executive and manufacturing roles at Fruit of the Loom, which is part of Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc. empire. Before that he worked at textile makers NRB Industries and Spartanburg-based Milliken & Co.

**President-elect Trump News:**

**Associated Press:** Trump says he's stepping out of his business empire

<http://bigstory.ap.org/cf0cfb894ff34f87ab404ea1f687c155>

President-elect Donald Trump said Wednesday that he's leaving his business empire to focus on being the nation's 45th president, bowing to pressure to avoid potential conflicts of interest between governing and profiting in the private sector. "I will be leaving my great business in total in order to fully focus on running the country in order to make America great again," he tweeted in a series of missives sent before dawn. "While I am not mandated to do this under the law, I feel it is visually important, as president, to in no way have a conflict of interest with my various businesses." He said legal documents are "being crafted which take me completely out of business operations," he added, saying the presidency is "a far more important task!" Meanwhile, former Goldman Sachs executive Steven Mnuchin, Trump's former campaign finance director, confirmed that Trump has picked him as treasury secretary and that billionaire investor Wilbur Ross has been chosen for commerce secretary. Trump is tapping conservatives with deep ties to Washington and Wall Street to fill out key Cabinet roles as he continues to deliberate over his secretary of state.

**Associated Press:** President-elect Trump chooses Mnuchin for Treasury, Ross for Commerce, in transition moves

<http://bigstory.ap.org/9ecf1a3affd349b18b0c5bf676de49d1>

President-elect Trump chooses Mnuchin for Treasury, Ross for Commerce, in transition moves.

**Associated Press:** Trump transition points toward presidency with new norms

<http://bigstory.ap.org/ba2fabbb2212c40febdad1f5f4dfb922f>

Nancy Benac

Donald Trump, that most unconventional of presidential candidates, last spring pledged that he would act perfectly presidential when the time was right. "I will be so presidential that you'll call me and you'll say, 'Donald, you have to stop that, it's too much,'" he promised during a March television interview.

Less than two months from Inauguration Day, there are growing signs that Trump's idea of what's presidential may never sync up with past norms — to the delight of some and dismay of others. The president-elect has kept up his habit of sending unfiltered tweets, directly challenged the First Amendment right to burn the flag and selected a flame-throwing outsider for a top adviser. He's shown no hesitation to traffic in unsubstantiated rumors, has mixed dealings in business and government, and has flouted diplomatic conventions to make his own suggestion for who should be Britain's ambassador to the U.S., a job that happens to already be filled. He's picked numerous fights with individual journalists, disregarded past practices on press access and dabbled in the name-calling that was commonplace during his candidacy.

**Associated Press:** Trump tapping Washington, Wall Street veterans for top jobs

<http://bigstory.ap.org/cf0cfb894ff34f87ab404ea1f687c155>

President-elect Donald Trump is tapping conservatives with deep ties to Washington and Wall Street to fill out key Cabinet roles as he continues to deliberate over his secretary of state. Trump was moving forward with nominations, including former Goldman Sachs executive Steven Mnuchin as secretary of the Treasury. Mnuchin's official announcement was expected as early as Wednesday, according to a person familiar with the decision who insisted on anonymity in order to confirm the pick ahead of time. Trump on Tuesday chose Georgia Rep. Tom Price to oversee the nation's health care system, picking a fierce "Obamacare" critic who has championed efforts to privatize Medicare. And he selected another veteran Republican, Elaine Chao, a former labor secretary and the wife of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, to head the Department of Transportation. Mnuchin, 53, led Trump's finance operations during the presidential campaign and became close to the president-elect and his family. But he has no government experience, which could prove a hurdle in navigating the tricky politics of Washington.

**Associated Press:** Reckoning for Pelosi as House Democrats vote for leader

<http://bigstory.ap.org/02beb5e7f2454893b33ae8bb00e57d2a>

Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi faces a challenge to her job as frustrated House Democrats meet to select a new slate of leaders. Pelosi is likely to be re-elected easily Wednesday despite disenchantment among some in the Democratic caucus she has led since 2002. Ohio Democratic Rep. Tim Ryan is challenging her for the job, arguing that newer lawmakers need a bigger voice in a caucus that's been led for years by the same aging slate of leaders and committee chairmen. Leadership elections were originally scheduled to be held before Thanksgiving but were delayed to give Democrats more time to discuss and process the election results and consider a path forward. Many are discouraged after losing the White House and making smaller than expected gains in both chambers of Congress.

## **National News:**

**Associated Press:** Possible tornado kills 3 in Alabama as storms cross South

<http://bigstory.ap.org/81b3a834e56a440ebfd15402d8ecb50e>

A suspected tornado killed three people in Alabama as a line of severe storms moved across the South overnight, authorities said. The three who died were all in a mobile home in the northeastern Alabama community of Rosalie, Jackson County Chief Deputy Rocky Harnen told The Associated Press early Wednesday. Another person in the home was critically injured, Harnen said. Harnen also said there were a number of other injuries and estimated that 16 to 20 structures in the county have been destroyed. He could not give an exact number of injuries. The suspected tornado affected an area of homes and businesses that covered nearly half a mile, Harnen said. Harnen also said authorities were searching door to door before dawn Wednesday for any other damage.

## **World News:**

**Associated Press:** Hunt begins for cause of crash that wipes out Brazilian team

<http://bigstory.ap.org/d8efaf518a954120a026b84868b7ce05>

Colombia's worst air crash in two decades snuffed out a storybook run by a Brazilian soccer team, and authorities are digging in trying to figure out why a chartered jetliner crashed in the Andes, killing all but six of the 77 people aboard. The country's aviation agency said Tuesday that the British Aerospace 146's cockpit voice recorder and flight data recorder had been found among the wreckage strewn over a mountainside and were already being studied by experts. Initially, Colombian officials said the short-haul jet suffered an electrical failure, but there was also heavy rain when the crew declared an emergency and the plane disappeared from radar just before 10 p.m. Monday. Authorities also said they were not ruling out the possibility the aircraft ran out of fuel minutes before it was to land at Jose Maria Cordova airport outside Medellin, a report given to rescuers by a surviving flight attendant. Officials said they hoped to interview her Wednesday.

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