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To:
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Subject: Morning Clips – Monday, November 14, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Gov. Nikki Haley lame duck? 'Not so fast'

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/gov-nikki-haley-lame-duck-not-so-fast/article_cb4f3a7a-a6a1-11e6-af68-7b19c6fba123.html

Gavin Jackson

Tuesday severely altered the arc of Gov. Nikki Haley's political future, but Statehouse players said she'll still be able to push a legislative agenda in her remaining two years. Going from speculation around a 2020 White House run to a future where Donald Trump could control Washington for the next eight years has reshaped her political outlook, which observers add remains bright, despite her earlier battles with the president-elect. Though Haley wasn't Trump's biggest fan, former state Republican Party director Tony Denny said her decision to vote for him, attend the Republican National Convention — albeit briefly — and not waiver her support, helps her as the GOP-sweep moves forward. "I think governors will play a major role in helping Trump," said Denny, who today is the principal of his lobbying firm Denny Public Affairs. "I think that makes her a player. I think for those who say 'lame duck,' I'd say not so fast." Denny doesn't deny Haley, 44, will face some of the same challenges other governors traditionally do as their terms in office ebb. But Haley remains popular in South Carolina and has name recognition across the country that's expected to grow this week.

Times and Democrat: Witness to mom's shooting finds own value after abuse

http://thetandd.com/news/local/witness-to-mom-s-shooting-finds-own-value-after-abuse/article_29892624-b19a-5b07-8510-cdd13666397f.html

Dionne Gleaton

Keyonnah Haynes vividly remembers the pearl handle of the snub-nose revolver. It was the weapon placed at the side of her mother's head by her abusive stepfather. On the night of Aug. 25, 1994, the massive man burst through the door of their home while her mom was taking a shower. It was the night she almost lost her life. Haynes, who was 8 at the time, remembers standing in the hallway as her mother was yanked from the shower and pummeled in the face before being shot in the head. The man then shot her mother's job supervisor, who was at the home. "My mom was able to get up, blood leaking from her head, dropping blotches and blotches everywhere. She said, 'I just need to get to the hospital,'" Haynes said. She also watched the supervisor take his last breath at the hands of her stepfather.

NOTE: The solicitor thanks state Gov. Nikki Haley for providing the state funding for additional prosecutors this year. He said the funding has specifically allowed him to bring the CDV cases up to General Sessions Court in Orangeburg and Calhoun counties and to provide a prosecutor in the Magistrate's Court in Dorchester County, with the option to bring cases to General Sessions Court there, too.

Times and Democrat: Skipp Pearson, celebrated jazz musician, snags Order of Palmetto

http://thetandd.com/lifestyles/leisure/skip-pearson-celebrated-jazz-musician-snags-order-of-palmetto/article_24b4ca5c-1fca-59ab-97c3-d61b94410173.html

Dionne Gleaton

A celebrated jazz musician who has worked for more than three decades to keep jazz alive in South Carolina as an educator and entertainer will receive the state's highest civilian honor in January.

Thales Thomas "Skipp" Pearson, a native of Orangeburg, has been at the forefront of the effort to preserve live jazz music, particularly in his state. Gov. Nikki Haley will present Pearson, who is revered as the state's ambassador of entertainment and hospitality, with the Order of the Palmetto during a ceremony at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 14, at the Johnson Hall Auditorium of the Darla Moore School of Business at the University of South Carolina.

Times and Democrat: SCA director reports group has brought \$105M in private investment to region
http://thetandd.com/news/sca-director-reports-group-has-brought-m-in-private-investment/article_8ba40bd8-bbeb-5a58-b1f6-5dedfd5124c8.html

Dionne Gleaton

Southern Carolina Alliance Executive Director Danny Black brought Bamberg County Council up to date the economic development group's work to improve the quality of life in the region. Black's group serves the Bamberg, Allendale, Barnwell, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper counties. The SCA to date has brought \$105 million in private investment to the region and just over 260 new jobs, Black reported. Gov. Nikki Haley was among those who celebrated the opening of Bamberg County's new barrel-making company, Blackwater Barrels, on Sept. 21. Black said the SCA also has an ongoing marketing plan, with "42 or 45" active projects being pursued for the region. Bamberg County is one of six Promise Zones, or high-poverty communities, where the federal government partners with local leaders to address priorities. Black said 41 grant applications have already been submitted through the Promise Zone to provide services in both Bamberg County and across the region.

General Assembly News:

Post and Courier: Lawmakers to vet candidates for opening S.C. Supreme Court seat
http://www.postandcourier.com/news/lawmakers-to-vet-candidates-for-opening-s-c-supreme-court/article_75b4015a-aa0b-11e6-9cce-8fb8faad667b.html

Maya T. Prabhu

Seven candidates vying for the state Supreme Court seat opening up by retiring Chief Justice Costa Pleicones will begin the vetting process Monday. A panel of lawmakers from the state Senate and House will hold public hearings for all open judge seats, with vetting of Supreme Court hopefuls scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. Monday. First Circuit Judge Diane Schafer Goodstein of Summerville and Administrative Law Court Judge Ralph King Anderson III of Columbia are among the seven candidates who threw their names into the ring. In February, Anderson was one of three finalists for the seat left vacant by former Chief Justice Jean Toal, but he withdrew from consideration less than an hour before lawmakers began voting. Legislators ultimately elected Justice John Few.

Bluffton Today: Coastal Conservation League celebrates Bill S. 139
<http://www.blufftontoday.com/bluffton-news/2016-11-13/coastal-conservation-league-celebrates-bill-s-139>

Jessicah Lawrence

State legislators received recognition last month for their efforts in preserving coastal shorelines. The Coastal Conservation League honored Rep. Bill Herbkersman with the Legislator of the Year Award for serving on the Blue Ribbon Commission that includes scientists, developers, attorneys and lawmakers who worked for nearly 10 years to develop policies for development near beaches. "The environment is a way of life for us on the coast," Herbkersman said. "I perish the thought of a day that comes when we can't take our kids swimming at Hilton Head, or Kiawah, or Myrtle Beach." The event held Oct. 22 at the Columbia Museum of Art celebrated state leaders who spearheaded the shoreline management bill S. 139 that became law in the spring. The bill permanently set a baseline moving seaward along the state's beachfronts, restricting certain construction in hazard-prone areas.

NOTE: Local Coastal Conservation League representative Kate Schaefer previously said the bill will greatly help Beaufort County, especially in restoring the shoreline of Hunting Island. The state has budgeted \$30 million for beach nourishment, a \$10 million drop from the proposed allocation by Gov. Nikki Haley. Restoring the shoreline on Hunting Island will cost about \$6.8 million, Schaefer said.

SC Agency News:

Post and Courier: DHEC approves Awendaw park mining permit, neighbors appeal

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/dhec-approves-awendaw-park-mining-permit-neighbors-appeal/article_b302b092-a81c-11e6-bcf9-0fa4b3480442.html

Diane Knich

Charleston County Council Chairman Elliott Summey has received a permit from the state's Department of Health and Environmental Control to mine dirt to create a park in Awendaw, but neighbors have appealed the decision. Under the permit, Summey is allowed to disturb 82 of the property's 290 acres to mine dirt and build a lake, which will be the park's central feature. But Summey said he's not going to resume work until the matter is resolved. "We're doing nothing," Summey said. "We're waiting on DHEC." The plan for a park on Doar Road has been in the works since 2009. That's when Summey joined the majority of County Council to approve \$5.2 million in Greenbelt money to purchase the property. Then, in 2014, Summey's company Jackson Development placed the low bid to build the town park. He signed a contract that gives him the right to mine and sell dirt in exchange for developing a lake, trails, open grassy areas and unpaved parking lots, and supplying potable water.

Greenville News: AARP study recommends changes in handling SC vulnerable adults

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/11/13/aarp-study-recommends-changes-handling-sc-vulnerable-adults/93635746/>

Tim Smith

The state's unit for protecting vulnerable adults has seen a 63 percent increase in clients in the past five years with no increase in funding and a reduction in the number of caseworkers since 2001, according to an AARP study that is recommending increased training, better data collection and more funding for the state Department of Social Services. According to the study, 60 percent of the substantiated claims made to the DSS Adult Protective Services unit were for self-neglect, while 30 percent alleged neglect by a caregiver. The study grew out of recommendations last year by the Institute of Medicine and Public Health and was conducted with the aid of the Nelson Riley Mullins & Scarborough law firm's pro bono program. Sen. Thomas Alexander, whose Senate budget subcommittee oversees DSS, said he had not yet read the study but hoped DSS would ask for additional resources in light of the study's findings.

SC Political News:

The State: SC Democrats mull next move after big losses on Election Day

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article114448438.html>

Democratic S.C. congressional candidates now are picking up the pieces after being routed Tuesday. Longtime U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn of Columbia easily won re-election Tuesday, the only Democrat to win a congressional race. Other Democratic congressional candidates lost by more than predicted, crushed by an unexpected wave of Donald Trump support. "It was disappointing but kind of consistent with what I saw as I got around the district," said Democrat Fran Person, who ran against U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney, R-Indian Land, in the 5th District. "A whole lot of hard-working folks out there kind of feel disenfranchised by the system." Person, a former aide to Democratic Vice President Joe Biden, was seen as the Democrat's most legitimate challenger this year to a Republican incumbent. But he lost by more than 20 percentage points Tuesday. "The top of the ticket always really dictates what happens on the bottom half," S.C. Democratic Party chair Jaime Harrison said. "If you're able to get more Republicans out in the contest, odds are Republicans are going to do much better."

Post and Courier: Palmetto Politics: Graham on Trump enemies list

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/palmetto-politics-graham-on-trump-enemies-list/article_3073f35e-a761-11e6-b860-13c942d24e72.html

Schuyler Kropf, Brenda Ringe, Gavin Jackson and Glenn Smith

Omarosa Manigault, a star in President-elect Donald Trump's "Apprentice" TV game contest, says the new president will keep a list of Republicans who worked against the GOP nominee's efforts. "It's so great our enemies are making themselves clear so that when we get into the White House, we know where we stand," she told the Independent Journal Review. Manigault singled out Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who repeatedly blistered Trump's conduct before the election and voted for independent candidate Evan McMullin of Utah for president. "If [Graham] felt his interests was with that candidate, God bless him," said Manigault, who served as Trump's director of African American Outreach. "I would never judge anybody for exercising their right to and the freedom to choose who they want. But let me just tell you, Mr. Trump has a long memory, and we're keeping a list," she said.

Post and Courier: Obamacare sign-ups surge after election as law's future looks shaky

http://www.postandcourier.com/features/your_health/obamacare-sign-ups-surge-after-election-as-law-s-future/article_b8a7081a-a806-11e6-8fab-871a5cb65ad9.html

Lauren Sausser

While President-elect Donald Trump and the Republican-controlled Congress have made repealing Obamacare one of their top domestic priorities next year, sign-ups on HealthCare.gov surged after the election last week as patients scrambled to enroll before it's too late. Open enrollment for Affordable Care Act plans lasts through Jan. 31. U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell tweeted Thursday more than 100,000 people signed up for an Obamacare plan on Wednesday — the highest number in a single day this season. Experts say it's unlikely these insurance benefits would vanish immediately, even if Trump repeals the law early next year. But that hasn't stopped South Carolinians who depend on Obamacare for health insurance from worrying what comes next.

Aiken Standard: More Aiken County voters cast ballots in this year's election than in 2012

http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/more-aiken-county-voters-cast-ballots-in-this-year-s/article_1eafac74-a862-11e6-b89a-7315b998f306.html

Christina Cleveland

More Aiken County voters cast ballots in last Tuesday's general election than in 2012, though the percentage of registered voters casting ballots declined slightly from four years ago. Results from the S.C. State Election Commission show a 68 percent turnout for this year's general election and 75,549 ballots cast of 110,956 registered voters. In 2012, there were 70,832 ballots cast out of then 102,274 registered voters, totaling a 69.26 percent voter turnout, according to the election commission's website. On Election Day, however, poll managers at some precincts reported seeing longer lines and a larger turnout than previous elections and primaries.

President-elect Trump News:

Associated Press: Trump names new senior aides who are a sharp contrast

<http://bigstory.ap.org/2641d7d0c0164a06afdd5e23674af339>

With his first two key personnel appointments, President-elect Donald Trump made an overture to Republican circles by naming GOP chief Reince Priebus as his White House chief of staff and fired a shot across the Washington establishment's bow by tapping Breitbart News executive Stephen Bannon as chief strategist and senior counselor. The two men had made up the president-elect's chief of staff shortlist, and while Priebus received that job, Bannon's post also is expected to wield significant clout. The media executive with ties to the alt-right and white nationalist movement was given top billing in the press release announcing their appointments. Trump's hires were, at first glance, contradictory, though they fit a pattern of the celebrity businessman creating a veritable Rorschach test that allowed his supporters to see what they wanted. Priebus, who lashed the RNC to Trump this summer despite some intraparty objections, is a GOP operative with deep expertise of the Washington establishment that Trump has vowed to shake up. He has close ties to House Speaker Paul Ryan, a fellow Wisconsinite.

Associated Press: Is Trump's tough plan on immigration cracking?

<http://bigstory.ap.org/5b3a6f19c12f4296a2ec58e9a184cf4b>

President-elect Donald Trump's tough-talking plan to rein in illegal immigration showed signs of cracking on Sunday, with the president-elect seemingly backing off his vow to build a solid wall along the southern U.S. border and the top House Republican rejecting any "deportation force" targeting people in the country illegally. In an interview with CBS' "60 Minutes," Trump said Sunday he would accept a fence in some places along the U.S. southern border where he had promised to build a wall. During his campaign he insisted he would deport 11 million people living in the country illegally, with exceptions. But he distanced himself from that position as time went on, and in his first television interview since winning the presidential election, Trump said he's willing to deport or incarcerate 2 million to 3 million people living in the country illegally who "are criminal and have criminal records, gang members, drug dealers." Earlier Sunday, House Speaker Paul Ryan, also told CNN's "State of the Union" that "we are not planning on erecting a deportation force." Ryan said "I think we should put people's minds at ease" on mass deportation because the top priority is really border security.

Associated Press: Trump win prods European diplomats to seek greater role

<http://bigstory.ap.org/bf438076c7c24904b707d70a575c7649>

Top EU diplomats are calling for more robust European defense and a greater European voice in world affairs as Donald Trump — whose isolationist, protectionist promises have worried many on this side of the Atlantic — prepares to assume the U.S. presidency. With many question marks around Trump's foreign policy plans, EU foreign ministers meeting in Brussels agreed Sunday night on the need to strengthen Europe's role in world affairs until the future of trans-Atlantic relations becomes clearer. The top diplomats will join defense ministers Monday to discuss cooperation with NATO, whose future is uncertain after Trump suggested that Washington could abandon its NATO commitments, which include mutual defense in case of an attack. "The European Union is a superpower," EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini told reporters. She said the discussions Monday are not about an "EU army" as such, but about "a European Union security and defense that becomes more credible than it is today, more effective than it is today."

Associated Press: Still reeling, Democrats begin battling for future

<http://bigstory.ap.org/60df70e37de84671b7411c394b437f7b>

Still reeling from a devastating defeat in last week's election, Democrats are beginning the process of charting the direction of their party in the Donald Trump era. With Hillary Clinton and her team staying out of the public eye, liberal politicians have begun jockeying for control of the party's future. While they all backed Clinton, they're now pushing for a serious shift in the party's policy positions, financial resources and grassroots organizing to focus more on motivating their base and winning back the white working class voters who went for Trump. "We have to do a lot of rethinking," said Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who mounted a fierce challenge to Clinton in the primary. "Democrats are focused too much with a liberal elite, which is raising incredible sums of money from wealthy people," Sanders said on CBS's "Face the Nation." The Democratic National Committee, the last bastion of party power in Washington, is quickly emerging as ground zero for the fight.

Wildfires Across Southeast:**Associated Press: Evacuations lifted in Pickens County as wildfire is slowed**

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=8Hmn7JPG

SC State Wire

Authorities have lifted an evacuation order in Pickens County after firefighters were able to stop a wildfire from quickly spreading. The South Carolina Forestry Commission said in a news release that fire breaks built Saturday were keeping the fire on Pinnacle Mountain from spreading closer to homes and businesses in northern Pickens County. Officials say the 3-square mile blaze in Table Rock State Park is spreading much more slowly as wetter weather moves in. Light rain fell for several hours

Sunday. Authorities say firefighters will continue building firebreaks to try and contain the fire as drier weather comes back in a few days.

Associated Press: The Latest: SC officials recommend wildfire evacuations
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=TKvU7lqT
SC State Wire

Authorities are recommending that people who live just south and southwest of the Pinnacle Mountain Fire at Table Rock Park should leave their homes. WYFF-TV reports (<http://bit.ly/2fNkDNI>) that the South Carolina Forestry Commission and the Pickens Fire Department are recommending the evacuation. Forestry Commission officials emphasize that residents are not in imminent danger and that the evacuation is a precautionary measure. Midway Baptist Church in Pickens has opened as a shelter. Authorities say infrared imagery provided by overnight flights indicates the fire was 1,400 acres early Saturday, double its size on Friday night.

Associated Press: Bottled water, other drinks needed for SC fire responders
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=PGjqIFd1
SC State Wire

The Easley Fire Department is asking residents to donate water and other drinks to help the people fighting a fire on Pinnacle Mountain. Capt. Matthew Littleton of the fire department says responders need bottled water and Gatorade- and Powerade-type drinks. Since officials are asking people to stay away from the fire, they don't want the items brought directly to the responders. Instead, he asks that residents bring the bottled drinks to Station 1 at 1089 South Pendleton Street in Easley. He says no supplies other than the bottled drinks are needed now.

Independent Mail: Light rain helps slow Pinnacle fire
<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/2016/11/13/light-rain-helps-slow-pinnacle-fire/93767070/>
Abe Hardesty

A light, unexpected rain and higher humidity helped slow the pace of the Pinnacle Mountain fire Sunday in Pickens County. Information from infrared photography showed that another 700 acres had been destroyed in 24 hours — the same amount that burned Friday. The fire has burned 2,100 acres near Table Rock State Park, making it the most damaging fire in the Upstate since 2,856 acres burned in Oconee County in 1978, according to the South Carolina Forestry Commission. The slower rate of advance gave firefighters renewed hope Sunday, even as the southern edge of the fire reached within a half mile of S.C. 11. "The rise in relative humidity probably helps more than the rain," said Chisolm Beckham, a resources unit leader with the Forestry Commission. "When dry leaves are piled as high as they are now, it's like a tinderbox, and the higher humidity slows the burn a little."

Independent Mail: Firefighters struggle with Pinnacle blazes
<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/11/12/firefighters-struggle-pinnacle-blazes/93747632/>
Abe Hardesty

Pinnacle Mountain residents north of S.C. Highway 11 evacuated their homes Saturday as more than 20 crews of firefighters battled multiple fires. By the end of the day, Darryl Jones, Forest Protection Chief for SC Forestry Commission, said crews struggled to keep pace with the fires. "It's still only about 15 percent contained," said Jones, who planned to get infra-red photos at 5 a.m. that would give him a better picture of fires that swept across the South Carolina mountains overnight Friday and all day Saturday. The National Weather Service forecast included a slight chance of rain Sunday, but Jones said it would not likely be enough to stop the fires. "Even if we get some rain, it won't take care of the problem. We're going to be here until we get significant rain," he said. Meanwhile, firefighters from around the Upstate knocked on doors of Pinnacle Mountain residents living on the north side of S.C. 11 near Table Rock State Park Saturday — a total of about 100 residents — urging them to leave immediately. All complied.

Independent Mail: Officials issue mandatory fire evacuation

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/2016/11/11/crews-fight-contain-pinnacle-fire/93651414/>

Mike Eads and Abe Hardesty

The South Carolina Forestry Commission has issued a mandatory evacuation for Pinnacle Mountain residents north of S.C. Highway 11. The evacuation applies to all residents between the intersection of S.C. 178 and to the west gate of Table Rock State Park. The fire has continued to move down the mountain. Earlier on Saturday, Doug Wood, director of communications, said residents in designated areas north of S.C. Highway 11 were recommended to evacuate their homes while crews fight forest fires in the area. The evacuations are a precaution, Wood said, involving residents who live south and southwest of Pinnacle Mountain near Table Rock State Park in Pickens County. The decision was made as persistent winds of 6-10 miles an hour pushed the fires toward Highway 11.

Greenville News: Federal funds authorized to battle Pickens County wildfires

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/11/13/federal-funds-authorized-battle-pickens-county-wildfires/93765754/>

The fire on Pinnacle Mountain continues to burn and has grown to around 2,200 acres in size. Light rain has been falling in the area since about 5 a.m. Sunday, which has assisted with slowing down the fire's path, according to Pickens County Emergency Management. All residents that were evacuated were allowed to return home. Residents should stay tuned for updates in what is still considered a dangerous environment. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency has authorized federal funds to reimburse costs to South Carolina to fight the Pinnacle Mountain fire. This authorization makes FEMA grant funding available to reimburse 75 percent of the eligible firefighting costs for managing, mitigating and controlling the fire. Eligible costs can include labor, equipment and supplies used for fighting the fire and costs for emergency work such as evacuations and sheltering, police barricading and traffic control.

Greenville News: Health warnings issued for wildfire smoke

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/11/11/health-warnings-issues-wildfire-smoke/93646030/>

Liv Osby

With smoke from area wildfires blanketing the region, respiratory experts say residents should stay indoors and avoid exposure - especially those with asthma or other respiratory conditions. People - particularly the very young, the elderly and those with lung illnesses - should protect themselves and their families, said Mike Shoemaker, manager of respiratory care services at AnMed Health Women's and Children's Hospital.

Herald-Journal: Firefighters continue to battle Party Rock fire in North Carolina

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161113/firefighters-continue-to-battle-party-rock-fire-in-north-carolina?rssfeed=true>

Chris Lavender

More than 3,400 acres have burned in the Party Rock fire near Lake Lure, N.C. as firefighters continue to battle the blaze. N.C. Forest Service spokesman Bill Swartley said Sunday night that the fire was moving slowly on the southern edge and firefighters are keeping a watchful eye as well on the fire's northern edge as it continues to spread. "Fire weather conditions are going to increase," Swartley said. "This fire may continue to spread. There is a front coming on Wednesday blowing from the southwest and another front is coming on Saturday. We don't know if it will have moisture. Before the fronts pass there will be very strong winds and that is a strong concern." Firefighters continue to arrive on scene at the Lake Lure staging area on Sunday afternoon. Swartley said there were nearly 360 firefighters fighting the blaze this week. Smoke billowed into the air from a fire atop a mountain not far from the staging area. Swartley said a soaking rain was needed to help extinguish the fire.

Herald-Journal: Mandatory evacuation ordered in Lake Lure fire

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161112/mandatory-evacuation-ordered-in-lake-lure-fire?>

rssfeed=true

An immediate mandatory evacuation has been ordered for residents in communities along Highway 64/74-A from the Henderson County line to Highway 9, Highway 9 to Shumont Road and all Henderson County homes on Shumont Road. The evacuations were ordered due to the fire's potential growth to the west-northwest, the N.C. Forest Service said in a 1:15 p.m. update. An evacuee shelter has been established at Bat Cave Baptist Church at 5095 Chimney Rock Road in Hendersonville. The shelter can also be reached at [828-625-9061](tel:828-625-9061). The shelter is also open to Buncombe County evacuees responding to a voluntary evacuation issued earlier this morning.

Aiken Standard: Smoke blankets Aiken as nearby wildfires continue to burn

http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/smoke-blankets-aiken-as-nearby-wildfires-continue-to-burn/article_42b59b46-a831-11e6-9089-1b93c605a81b.html

Tripp Girardeau

Residents were seeing and smelling smoke all over the Aiken County area Friday, and those with respiratory issues are encouraged to take some precautions. The South Carolina Forestry Commission announced Thursday that a wildfire on Pinnacle Mountain at Table Rock State Park in the Pickens County area has grown from 15 to 250 acres in the past 24 hours, according to a release. Fire Chief Darryl Jones, with the S.C. Carolina Forestry Commission, said smoke from this fire is mixing with smoke from several other fires in surround states, and wind conditions are causing the smoke to spread to areas all over the state.

Morning News: Burn ban posted for Darlington County

http://www.scnow.com/messenger/news/article_4e8a23c4-a903-11e6-885d-4be728fa4521.html

Darlington County officials have posted a burn ban for the county. A long-dry period in the wake of Hurricane Matthew, low humidity and high winds have increased the danger posed by wildfires, according to a release issued by the Darlington County Emergency Management Division. The ongoing wildfires in Georgia and the Carolinas have limited resources that would otherwise be available to combat such fires, according to the release.

Hurricane Matthew Recovery:

Post and Courier: Hurricane Matthew brings isolated farm damage, limits rebound from trying '15

http://www.postandcourier.com/business/hurricane-matthew-brings-isolated-farm-damage-limits-rebound-from-trying/article_849b3918-a6a5-11e6-8b24-d70e8cd03ecb.html

Thad Moore

A year after floodwaters ruined the peanuts and cotton on his Holly Hill farm, Barry Hutto needed a good year. So did most other South Carolina farmers, after 2015 gutted production with drought and devastating rains. So as Hurricane Matthew took aim at the Lowcountry last month, the threat of heavy rain and strong winds spelled disaster for cash-strapped growers. Crops like cotton, peanuts and soybeans were still in the field in many places, and they were being prepared for harvest - a time when plants are especially vulnerable. But as the storm passed, Hutto was mostly spared. His crops were salvageable, if damaged, and he'd have to pay to have downed trees lifted from his fields, but Matthew wasn't the gut punch it could have been.

Palmetto Daily Business: Vending Association boosts One SC Fund after hurricane

<http://palmettobusinessdaily.com/stories/511041615-vending-association-boosts-one-sc-fund-after-hurricane>

(SCVA) of Columbia, which recently donated \$5,000 to the One SC Fund for statewide post-hurricane relief efforts. SCVA provided the package in conjunction with fellow vending organizations in the Southeastern U.S. at the 2016 Atlantic Coast Exposition in Myrtle Beach less than a week after Hurricane Matthew tore through the region; suppliers also donated a truck full of products to the Community Kitchen of Myrtle Beach. The South Carolina Vending Association joined the North Carolina Vending Association, Virginia Automatic Merchandising Association and with corporate

members and sponsors to collectively pledge a total of approximately \$27,000 to aid various disaster relief funds across the area. The One SC Relief Fund is a Columbia-based fundraising effort to help South Carolinians recovering from a disaster, such as Hurricane Matthew and the 2015 Thousand Year Flood. With help from the Central Carolina Community Foundation, Gov. Nikki Haley established One SC in late 2015 following major flooding throughout the Palmetto State to assist victims in two dozen FEMA-designated emergency counties.

Aiken Standard: Barnwell residents can register for FEMA assistance after hurricane

http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/barnwell-residents-can-register-for-fema-assistance-after-hurricane/article_f3ab5984-a833-11e6-aaa1-5f0c0be33492.html

Christina Cleveland

Residents in 21 qualified South Carolina counties, including Barnwell County, have until Dec. 13 to apply for federal disaster aid after Hurricane Matthew, according to the S.C. Emergency Management Division. The agency said in a news release registering with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, better known as FEMA, is the first step to attaining federal disaster assistance. FEMA will ask applicants to provide information about the property damage they sustained from the hurricane, proof of identity and residency, insurance and other documentation to help determine eligibility, the release states. Survivors in those counties should register with FEMA even if they have insurance, according to the statement, which says FEMA cannot duplicate insurance payments, but under-insured applicants may receive help after their insurance claims have been settled.

Serial Killer Todd Kohlhepp:

Associated Press: Successful real-estate firm built between grisly crimes

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=dP03Yd7V

Jonathan Drew and Seanna Adcox

As he built a successful real estate firm, Todd Kohlhepp's behavior struck some as odd: watching pornographic videos during work, making macabre jokes in marketing literature and openly discussing that he was a sex offender. But he was also an award-winning agent described as a hard worker and good boss. All the while, authorities say, he was hiding a grisly secret that included seven killings over 13 years. He gunned down four people at a motorcycle shop in 2003 and within the last year killed three more, authorities said. The crimes were uncovered earlier this month when investigators rescued a woman chained up in a 30-foot long storage container on his property. "He was the kind of Type Double A, hair-on-fire kind of guy. ... You felt that if he wanted to take you out, he could take you out easily," said Lawrence Shorts, a mortgage banker who worked on transactions with Kohlhepp.

Greenville News: Kohlhepp driven by anger

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2016/11/12/driven-anger/93548938/>

Eric Connor

Todd Christopher Kohlhepp has been angry ever since he learned to walk and talk. It's the type of uncontrollable anger that fueled him to destroy classmates' preschool projects, torture pets and lay waste to a neighbor's teenage innocence. Now, authorities say, the 45-year-old real estate agent is a serial killer. It was anger and hurt that motivated her only child to kill four people in a motorcycle store in 2003, and again what drove him late this summer to kill the boyfriend of a woman authorities say Kohlhepp kept bound in chains for two months, his mother says. Two others, a Spartanburg couple, also were killed last December, and authorities say like the boyfriend were buried within a compound that Kohlhepp was carving out of 95 acres in rural Spartanburg County.

Independent Mail: '48 Hours' to feature Kohlhepp case

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/crime/2016/11/12/48-hours-feature-kohlhepp-case/93650978/>

Saturday's edition of '48 Hours' will be about the cases connected to Todd Kohlhepp, a real estate

agent and convicted sex offender accused of kidnapping Anderson resident Kala Brown. Brown and her boyfriend, Charles David Carver, disappeared from Anderson at the end of August. Investigators found her alive Nov. 3, chained in a metal storage container on property in Woodruff that belongs to Kohlhepp. Carver's body was found on Kohlhepp's 95-acre property. So were the bodies of Meagan McCraw Coxie and Johnny Coxie, a husband and wife who were last seen alive in Spartanburg nearly a year ago. Kohlhepp has confessed to the 2003 quadruple homicide at Superbike Motorsports in Chesnee. The '48 Hours' episode "Buried Secrets" will air at 10 p.m. Saturday on CBS.

Greenville News: How police used pings from a cell phone to find Kala Brown

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2016/11/11/how-police-used-pings-cell-phone-find-kala-brown/93666136/>

Nathaniel Cary

While many details of just how authorities were able to zero in on Todd Kohlhepp's 95-acre property in Woodruff as the site where a missing Anderson woman was being held captive, they have said that pings from kidnapping victim Kala Brown's cell phone played a role in helping them to locate her. Anderson police investigators were able to obtain cell phone records from AT&T, Brown's cell phone service provider, after they had obtained a search warrant or court order, said Ann Elsas, spokeswoman for AT&T in South Carolina. The technology investigators used to locate Brown's last cell phone signal isn't like the more-common GPS technology most people are familiar with from using Apple or Android devices. That technology would have worked only if she had location services turned on or a "find my phone" feature, said Gary Miliefsky, CEO of Snoopwall, an electronic security company. Instead, investigators obtained cell phone records to show which cell phone towers Brown's phone had connected to up until the moment it died, according to security experts.

Herald-Journal: VIDEO: Spartanburg County Sheriff Chuck Wright discusses the Todd Kohlhepp case.

<http://www.goupstate.com/video/20161113/spartanburg-county-sheriff-chuck-wright-discusses-todd-kohlhepp-case?rssfeed=true>

Michael Slagger Case:

Associated Press: Trial of ex-cop in black motorist's death enters third week

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=5PJOUuUa

Bruce Smith

The trial of a white South Carolina police officer accused in the shooting death of an unarmed black motorist is entering its third week. Michael Slager is the former North Charleston patrolman charged with murder in the April 2015 shooting death of 50-year-old Walter Scott. Cellphone video of the shooting showed Scott being shot in the back while fleeing a traffic stop. The defense contends Scott was able to grab the officer's stun gun and was pointing it at the officer before the shooting. The state continues its case Monday after already calling 27 witnesses. Slager, who turns 35 Monday, could be sentenced to 30 years to life if convicted in Scott's death.

Post and Courier: Testimony enters 7th day as prosecution nears end of case in Walter Scott shooting

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/testimony-enters-th-day-as-prosecution-nears-end-of-case/article_7af5f598-aa23-11e6-870b-fb5710222cbb.html

Andrew Knapp

Testimony will resume at 9 a.m. Monday in the murder trial of Michael Slager, the former North Charleston policeman who shot Walter Scott. Jurors will be returning for the seventh day of testimony after a three-day break. Prosecutors are likely to rest their case early on this abbreviated week; no proceedings are scheduled Friday. Ninth Circuit Solicitor Scarlett Wilson emerged once last week from the courtroom in downtown Charleston and said, "We're getting there." But certain witnesses, including North Charleston Police Chief Eddie Driggers and the lead State Law Enforcement Division

investigator, Angela Peterson, have yet to take the stand. With similar testimony already done, though, it's uncertain if they will. Slager, now 34, stopped Scott, 50, for a broken brake light on April 4, 2015. After answering inconsistently the officer's questions and not producing paperwork for the 1990 Mercedes-Benz — it was in the glove compartment, testimony revealed last week — Scott got out and ran. Slager chased him.

Post and Courier: Another contentious week ahead as defense mounts case in Michael Slager murder trial

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/another-contentious-week-ahead-as-defense-mounts-case-in-michael/article_f79de6a4-a5ce-11e6-8c54-031fa9c2abe9.html

Andrew Knapp

When they return to court Monday, jurors will have had three days to ruminate on questions they heard from attorneys hoping to upend the case against the policeman who killed Walter Scott. With all but a few of the 27 witnesses called in former North Charleston patrolman Michael Slager's murder trial, opposing attorneys have gone tit-for-tat in conveying their views of Scott's shooting death through the questions they ask. The presiding judge had cautioned them not to testify themselves through their own inquiries, but the tactic has persisted. The defense's challenge Thursday of a leading investigator was no different. "You know that this whole case is not about the shooting; it's about what led to the shooting. Isn't that correct?" defense lawyer Andy Savage asked him. "The case is what the case is," Lt. Charles Ghent of the State Law Enforcement Division said.

Opinion/Editorial:

Post and Courier: No offshore seismic testing

http://www.postandcourier.com/opinion/editorials/no-offshore-seismic-testing/article_ee1b3278-a03b-11e6-b1db-6f9e7a0dccef.html

Editorial

With the presidency about to change hands and environmental policies in limbo, South Carolina's leaders need to deliver an unequivocal message to the White House: No seismic surveying off our coast. Sounding for oil with sonic booms, which enable undersea mapping, potentially threatens all manner of sea life for miles around. That's why the government of Belize recently suspended a seismic survey that potentially endangered the longest barrier reef in the Northern Hemisphere. Unfortunately, some South Carolina politicians, including Gov. Nikki Haley and elected officials representing inland districts, got caught up in the "drill, baby, drill" rhetoric of a few years ago and have supported offshore drilling. It's time they pay attention to the sobering reality of offshore seismic testing and drilling, and listen to the "no seismic testing" chorus from every community along South Carolina's coast.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Electric shock: South Carolina utility board OKs \$831M increase for nuke project
http://www.postandcourier.com/business/electric-shock-south-carolina-utility-board-oks-m-increase-for/article_76bc41fa-a81e-11e6-af07-23e565f17933.html

David Wren

The state Public Service Commission has approved a settlement agreement between South Carolina Electric & Gas and the S.C. Small Business Chamber of Commerce that limits to \$831 million the increase in construction costs for two new nuclear units near Jenkinsville. That means bills are likely to go up again to cover the additional costs at the V.C. Summer site. Already, the average SCE&G customer pays \$23 per month - of 16.1 percent of their total bill - to cover the overruns in Fairfield County. At a hearing last month, more than a dozen senior citizens testified that higher bills could force them to choose between power and medicine. The settlement cuts SCE&G parent SCANA Corp.'s initial estimate of \$852 million in additional costs. It also trims the amount of profit the utility can earn from the project - to 10.25 percent from its current 10.5 percent - starting next year.

Post and Courier: Don't expect much from unemployment compensation in South Carolina
http://www.postandcourier.com/business/don-t-expect-much-from-unemployment-compensation-in-south-carolina/article_a3fc648e-a75a-11e6-bf68-7fbe0ec7e16f.html

David Slade

Next year South Carolina employers will pay lower rates, for the third year in a row, to fund unemployment compensation. The state has been digging out of its jobless hole since the recession. That's when it turned out the state hadn't collected enough from businesses to pay claims, and had to borrow nearly \$1 billion from the federal government. That money's been repaid, the fund has built up a surplus, and rates have been repeatedly cut. How? Less unemployment, for starters, but there have also been large cutbacks in the compensation workers can expect if they do become unemployed through no fault of their own. For the many workers who have never collected an unemployment check, it may be reassuring to think that the financial safety net would be there if needed. We've all heard politicians talk about how unemployment checks discourage people from seeking re-employment, so those benefits must be pretty generous, right? Think again.

Local News:

Sun News: Day of violence erupts in Longs. Four injured, one killed in multiple shootings
<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article114536748.html>

Emily Weaver

Multiple shootings injured four people and killed a former Loris High School football standout in Longs on Saturday. Two people were injured when a gunfight and at least one other shooting erupted at The G Spot night club in Longs early Saturday morning, according to the Horry County Police Department. Less than 12 hours later, another shooting considered "random" and unrelated broke out on Freemont Road in Longs, fatally wounding 19-year-old Levi Herman Moody of Loris and injuring two other men, according to police. Horry County officers were called to The G Spot at 8160 S.C. 90 at 4:10 a.m. for a reported shooting in progress, Horry County Police Lt. Raul Denis said in a release. Once at the scene, officers were told that a fight that started inside the club was pushed outside and, once there, a man produced a gun and started shooting, Denis said.

Sun News: Former Loris football star killed in Longs shooting
<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article114519153.html>

Emily Weaver

A former Loris football standout was fatally wounded in a shooting late Saturday afternoon along Freemont Road in Longs. Nineteen-year-old Levi Herman Moody of Loris was pronounced dead at Seacoast Medical Center at 4:35 p.m. from a single gunshot wound to the abdomen, said Horry County Deputy Coroner Tony Hendrick. Officers of the Horry County Police Department responded to the reported shooting on the 600 block of Freemont Road at 3:50 p.m. Dispatchers received a call that a man was walking on the street while firing shots at random and that another man had been shot and was lying in the roadway, according to Lt. Raul Denis of the Horry County Police Department.

Associated Press: Widow sues to prevent release of husband's jail death video
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=naJvHy15

SC State Wire

The wife of an inmate who died in custody at the Greenwood County jail has sued the local newspaper, sheriff and coroner to prevent officials from releasing video footage of the last hour of his life. Demetric Cowan died in custody on March 13, about six hours after he was arrested and charged with drug possession and resisting arrest. Cowan died from a drug overdose, and officers at the jail were not charged, according to a report from the State Law Enforcement Division, obtained by The Index-Journal of Greenwood (<http://bit.ly/2fwhHUG>). The newspaper requested jail surveillance video under the Freedom of Information Act shortly after Cowan died. They were given video, but not footage that covered most of the final hour of Cowan's life. The lawsuit by Cowan's widow said

releasing the video would be an invasion of privacy because it would show Cowan's last moments and reveal private medical information.

Associated Press: Man's suicide leads police to wife's body in another county

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=VztNYaH5

SC State Wire

Officers checking on the wife of a man who killed himself in Orangeburg found her dead from a gunshot wound at her Richland County home. Orangeburg Public Safety Capt. Victor Cordon told media outlets a 38-year-old man was found dead around 3 a.m. Saturday after his neighbors heard gunshots. Cordon says officers called Richland County deputies to ask officers to help them tell the man's wife he was dead. Authorities say deputies then found 46-year-old Danielle Colburn-Govan dead from a gunshot to the upper body. Police think the man killed Colburn-Govan before killing himself, but the investigation continues. The man's name has not been released.

The State: Murder-suicide suspected in deaths of husband, wife

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article114374888.html>

A woman was shot to death in a Richland County home, and her husband is also dead, with a murder-suicide suspected, according to Richland County sheriff's deputies. Richland County sheriff's deputies arrived to do a welfare check, at the request of the Orangeburg County sheriff's department, at a home in the 200 block of Morningside Drive, near St. Andrews Park and Pine Grove Elementary School off Broad River Road, around 6:15 a.m. Saturday. Danielle Lavonne Colburn-Govan, 46, was found dead in her home with gunshot wounds in her upper body, deputies said. An autopsy is scheduled for Sunday, according to Richland County Coroner Gary Watts. Her husband was found dead in Orangeburg County. The deaths are being investigated as a possible murder-suicide, according to the Richland County Sheriff's Department.

Associated Press: Man dies, 2 deputies injured after altercation on highway

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=o607Zxes

SC State Wire

A man involved in an altercation with Charleston County deputies on a highway has died. Charleston County Deputy Major Eric Watson says the incident started Sunday afternoon when two deputies responded to a call about a person walking barefoot on Highway 78 and impeding traffic. Watson says that after the officials approached the suspect, he got a hold of one of their batons and struck both officials with it. One of the deputies deployed a stun gun, but it was unable to stop the suspect. The deputies eventually restrained the man with the help of bystanders. The unidentified man was taken to the hospital, where he died. The deputies were also transported to the hospital for treatment. The State Law Enforcement Division is investigating the incident.

Associated Press: SC motorcyclist dies when deer runs in front of him

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=XwYI3OY4

SC State Wire

Authorities say a motorcyclist died after a deer ran in front of him on a road near Inman. Coroner Rusty Clevenger identified the motorcyclist as 52-year-old Rodney Joe Frady of Boiling Springs, who died in the accident Sunday afternoon. Troopers tell multiple media outlets that Frady was thrown from a 1995 Harley-Davidson motorcycle when he struck the deer. They say he wasn't wearing a helmet. He was taken by ambulance to Spartanburg Regional Medical Center, where he died from his injuries.

Associated Press: Driver strikes and kills biker, then steals another vehicle

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=aCtALrD6

SC State Wire

Authorities say a driver ran a stop sign on a Rock Hill street, struck and killed a motorcyclist, ran away from the wreck and stole another vehicle. Police said in a news release that after hitting the

motorcycle around 12:30 p.m. Saturday, the car struck a tree. Investigators say the driver ran about two blocks and stole a 2000 white Jeep Cherokee from another motorist. The SUV has a North Carolina license plate EAZ7956. No arrests have been made. York County Coroner Sabrina Gast identified the dead motorcyclist as 21-year-old Joshua Moore.

Associated Press: Feds investigate fire at Beaufort County Black Chamber

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=je1c9KKu

SC State Wire

Federal authorities are investigating a fire that destroyed the Beaufort County Black Chamber of Commerce, which had been the target of vandals in the past. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms says a team of investigators and federal agents arrived Sunday in Beaufort. The team will work with the Beaufort/Port Royal Fire Department and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division. The building burned Saturday; the loss is estimated at more than \$2 million. Before the building broke ground, someone spray painted "Racist" in red letters on its sign in July 2015. Beaufort County Black Chamber CEO and president Larry Holman has said the fire will set back the project by at least a year. It was to be completed in December with a grand opening in January.

Post and Courier: Investigation into fire that gutted Beaufort County Black Chamber of Commerce continues

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/investigation-into-fire-that-gutted-beaufort-county-black-chamber-of/article_933b6bc2-a9e9-11e6-b812-4b99b3931a0d.html

Angie Jackson

City, state and federal officials are continuing their probe into a fire that gutted the Beaufort County Black Chamber of Commerce over the weekend. Beaufort-Port Royal Fire Chief Reece Bertholf said investigators are trying to determine the fire's cause and origin. The building was the target of vandalism in July 2015, when someone spray painted the word "Racist" on its sign. Firefighters were called to the three-story, 15,000-square-foot building in downtown Beaufort about 1:40 a.m. Saturday. It took crews three hours to contain the blaze and much of the day to completely extinguish it. The building was under construction and about 90 percent complete before the fire.

Island Packet: Multiple groups investigating fire at Beaufort County Black Chamber of Commerce

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article114539393.html>

Joan McDonough

The investigation continues into the Saturday morning fire at the Beaufort County Black Chamber of Commerce building on Bladen Street in Beaufort. Investigations into the cause and origin of the fire are being conducted by the Beaufort-Port Royal Fire Department, the Beaufort Police Department, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division and about 20 agents from the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, according to a fire department news release. The building was fully involved in flames when firefighters got the call around 1:40 a.m. Saturday, according to the release. It took about three hours to tame the fire and the majority of Saturday to completely put it out.

Associated Press: Deputies: Man burns puppy to death in church parking lot

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=aAq9gkKn

SC State Wire

Richland County deputies say a man set a puppy on fire in a church parking lot, killing the animal. Sheriff's Sgt. Brittany Jackamonis said in a news release that a witness called 911 after seeing a man burn the 10-week-old pit bull puppy around 7 p.m. Saturday in a parking lot near Irmo. Investigators say the man was gone by the time firefighters and deputies arrived. He has not been found. Jackamonis says the puppy was rushed to an emergency veterinarian, but died from its injuries.

The State: Pitbull puppy set on fire dies, person responsible being sought

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article114475968.html>

Rachael Myers Lowe

Responding to a call shortly after 7 p.m. on Saturday Richland County sheriff's deputies found a pitbull puppy that had been set on fire in a church parking lot, said Sgt. Brittany Jackamonis of the Richland County Sheriff's Department. The animal was initially taken to the South Carolina Veterinary emergency clinic on Fernandina Road but late Saturday night Jackamonis reported that the 8-10 week old female puppy had died. The animal was found in the parking lot of Grace United Methodist Church on Harbison Boulevard. Deputies are looking for a man a witness described as an African American in his early 20s and wearing a gray hoodie, said Jackamonis.

The Herald: York unleashes new police partner: K9 officer will 'look out for all of us'

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/crime/article114589978.html>

Teddy Kulmala

There's a new top dog in the city of York. The York Police Department has unleashed Tigris, the agency's new K-9 and the first four-legged officer in York in nearly a decade. She, along with her partner, Lance Cpl. Keith Johnson, has already responded to several calls and has been hitting the streets getting acquainted with residents. Tigris is a Dutch Shepherd, which Johnson said is similar to the Belgian Malinois, a popular breed for police dogs. "A Malinois is a very fired-up dog almost all the time," he said. "Dutchies, as we say, have an on-off switch." Police dogs have various functions, Johnson explained. They can be trained to detect certain types of drugs, weapons, explosives, people or evidence items. Some are trained to do multiple kinds of tracking.

The State: Cramped courthouse drives Richland leaders to explore building a new one

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article114550928.html>

Sarah Ellis

The Richland County Judicial Center already has outlived its expected lifespan by a year, and county leaders now want to explore the costly possibility of building a new courthouse in a new location. The 36-year-old judicial center on Main Street is "busting at the seams," said County Councilman and lawyer Seth Rose. "This has to be done," Rose said. "This is the people's building. ... It's no longer being functional, and that's going to continue to become a bigger problem." Lawyers from both the solicitor's and public defender's offices are doubled up in offices and lack private meeting spaces. Elevators break down on a regular basis. Courtrooms – there are four large and several smaller ones – are not equipped with up-to-date technology.

National News:

Associated Press: Prisons fight opioids with \$1,000 injection: Does it work?

<http://bigstory.ap.org/5368bad53be54fc2a99a4fb1be1039d1>

U.S. prisons are experimenting with a high-priced monthly injection that could help addicted inmates stay off opioids after they are released, but skeptics question its effectiveness and say the manufacturer has aggressively marketed an unproven drug to corrections officials. A single shot of Vivitrol, given in the buttocks, lasts for four weeks and eliminates the need for the daily doses common with alternatives such as methadone. But each shot costs as much as \$1,000, and because the drug has a limited track record, experts do not agree on how well it works. Proponents say Vivitrol could save money compared with the cost of locking up a drug offender — about \$25,000 a year for each inmate at the Sheridan Correctional Center, 70 miles southwest of Chicago. Dr. Joshua Lee, of New York University's medical school, said more evidence is needed to determine whether the medication can help substantial numbers of people and whether it's worth paying for, but the early results are encouraging.

Associated Press: Supermoon to light up sky beginning Monday morning

<http://bigstory.ap.org/d943192e6f614597b1b4bcd6fb1b9f3a>

The brightest moon in almost 69 years will be lighting up the sky this week in a treat for star watchers around the globe. The phenomenon known as the supermoon will reach its most luminescent in North

America before dawn on Monday. It will reach its zenith in Asia and the South Pacific on Monday night. Across the international dateline in New Zealand, it will reach its brightest after midnight on Tuesday local time. The moon orbits the Earth in an oval shape. The moon will be at its brightest this week because it is coming closer to the Earth along its elliptical orbit than at any time since January 1948. The supermoon will also bring stronger than usual high tides, followed by plunging low tides the next morning. Viewers can expect to see a moon about 14 percent larger in diameter and about 30 percent brighter than when it's at its furthest distance from the earth. It won't be as big and bright again for another 18 years.

World News:

Associated Press: 2016 on track for hottest year on record

<http://bigstory.ap.org/6381fc3b0bfb4ccb8cd95135bed1cbfd>

The U.N. weather agency says 2016 is set to break the record for the hottest year since measurements began in the 19th century. The World Meteorological Organization said Monday that preliminary data through October shows global average temperatures this year are 1.2 degrees Celsius (2.2 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels. That's getting close to the limit set by the global climate agreement adopted in Paris last year. It calls for limiting the temperature rise since the industrial revolution to 2 degrees C or even 1.5 degrees C. This year's temperatures were boosted by the El Nino weather event. The previous hottest year was 2015. WMO said 16 of the 17 hottest years have occurred this century, with the only exception being 1998, which was also an El Nino year.

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