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Subject: Clips – Saturday, December 3, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

WSAV: SC Governor to host free open house event at the mansion

<http://wsav.com/2016/12/02/sc-governor-to-host-free-open-house-event-at-the-mansion/>

Jeffrey Williams

Governor Nikki Haley, First Gentleman Michael Haley and their children, Rena and Nalin, invite South Carolinians and their families to join them for a Christmas Open House on Monday, December 5, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM at the governor's mansion. The event is free of charge, open to the public, and no reservations are required. The First Family asks that open house guests consider bringing canned goods to be donated to the Harvest Hope Food Bank. The donations will be accepted at the entrance to the governor's mansion. The Columbia Garden Club, which has decorated the governor's mansion for Christmas every year since 1981, began preparations last week when the Governor's Mansion received three live Christmas trees from the South Carolina Christmas Tree Growers Association and poinsettias grown by the Future Farmers of America from Lexington Technology Center – all of which will be on display during the open house.

Area Development: Ortec Expands Operations To Include Pendleton, South Carolina, Facility

<http://www.areadevelopment.com/newsItems/12-3-2016/ortec-anderson-county-south-carolina.shtml>

Ortec, a leading biomaterial and polymer technology company, is expanding its existing operations in Anderson County, South Carolina. Complementing recent growth at its facilities in both Pickens and Greenville Counties, the company intends to invest \$20 million and create 60 new jobs in Anderson County. To expand in Anderson County, Ortec is upfitting its existing 200,000-square-foot building, which is located at 500 Westinghouse Road in Pendleton, South Carolina. Ortec will be investing in new production equipment and support infrastructure, allowing for an added focus on the production of materials going into specialty coatings, adhesives, automotive applications and graphic arts technology. The expanded facility is projected to be operational in the third quarter of 2018, and hiring of new positions will begin in early 2018.

NOTE: "It's always exciting to see one of our businesses prove how committed they are to South Carolina by continuing to invest in our people and create new jobs here. This \$20 million investment and the 60 new jobs it means for Anderson County will make a real difference in the local community and should be celebrated across the state," said Governor Nikki Haley.

General Assembly News:

Post and Courier: South Carolina's looming pension crisis

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/south-carolina-s-looming-pension-crisis/article_dd4cd1e2-b03d-11e6-9d85-7b24e6e338ed.html

David Slade

Years of ill-timed investments and a refusal to abandon questionable strategies have left South Carolina's government pension plans on the ropes, with a massive funding gap that threatens promised benefits to future retirees. The plans serve roughly one out of nine state residents, and the shortfall — \$24.1 billion — is more than triple the Palmetto State's annual budget. That's left lawmakers and the state's investment managers scrambling for a fix, as the burden grows for workers and taxpayers. Teachers, firefighters and other government employees have been required to pump

ever-rising amounts of money into the pension system, only to see their retirement plans become increasingly uncertain. Costs have soared for state and local governments, school districts and public colleges. The pension shortfall is the “state’s biggest problem of the decade,” said Sen. Kevin Bryant, R-Anderson, co-chairman of the Joint Committee on Pension Systems Review.

Post and Courier: The impact of fees and expenses on pension plans

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/the-impact-of-fees-and-expenses-on-pension-plans/article_3be0feac-b040-11e6-b287-03272685b796.html

David Slade

Here’s how seemingly small, annual investment expenses can make a huge difference over time with a pension fund: Imagine \$100 million were invested for 20 years, earning a high average yearly return that matches South Carolina’s current target for pension funds of 7.5 percent. If the cost of investing that money were 1.5 percent each year — and South Carolina’s pension funds paid more than that in 2013 and 2014 — then at the end of 20 years that \$100 million investment would be worth \$314 million. Tripling the value of an investment over two decades might sound good, but what if it could quadruple instead? With annual investment expenses of just 0.15 percent — South Carolina’s pensions used to pay less than that until late 2007 — the original \$100 million would become worth \$412 million in 20 years.

Herald-Journal: Chambers focused on better roads, education funding in 2017

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161202/chambers-focused-on-better-roads-education-funding-in-2017?rssfeed=true>

Bob Montgomery

Better roads, an educated workforce and solving a state pension crisis are among the top legislative goals for 2017, according to Upstate business leaders. “If our infrastructure is crumbling, our manufacturers cannot get goods to market,” said Jason Zacher, vice president of public policy of the Upstate Chamber Coalition. The coalition represents 13 chambers in the Upstate, including the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce, host of Friday’s legislative outlook breakfast at the Spartanburg Marriott. About 100 business leaders attended. Held each year, the breakfast is when the chamber outlines its priorities for the General Assembly to address in the coming year. Among area lawmakers who attended were Reps. Derham Cole, Edward Tallon and Mike Forrester, and Sens. Scott Talley, Glenn Reese and Harvey Peeler. Zacher said the Upstate Coalition plans to lobby this year for a gasoline tax of 10 to 12 cents per gallon “to provide a substantial, sustainable and recurring funding source so DOT can work on more than 85 percent of state roads that are rated fair or poor.”

SC Agency News:

WIS: Inmate's father says he was not informed of son's alleged stabbing by corrections officers

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33856394/inmates-father-says-he-was-not-informed-of-sons-alleged-stabbing-by-corrections-officers>

Jeremy Turnage

Three South Carolina corrections officers have been fired and charged with attempted murder in connection with the stabbing of a handcuffed inmate. The father of that inmate says there were other officers involved in the attack. The state Department of Corrections has not identified the inmate, but we have spoken to his father who tells us the victim is Kenya Eugene Spry, 30. SCDC records show Spry has been held since January 2005 on charges including armed robbery and assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature. More recently, those records indicate additional time for assaulting and throwing bodily fluids at employees. The department says on Wednesday it filed attempted murder charges against former officers Jarrell Boyan, Pernell Fogle, and Jaquan Smith with allegations they attacked Spry in his cell at the Kirkland Correctional Institution on Oct. 6

SC Supreme Court News:

Post and Courier: Panel reconsidering judges' nomination to state Supreme Court

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/panel-reconsidering-judges-nomination-to-state-supreme-court/article_10fcdf9e-b8ce-11e6-abd9-4b1c36517a7c.html

Maya T. Prabhu

A panel tasked with nominating candidates to serve on the S.C. Supreme Court will reconsider its selection of an state Administrative Law Court judge after learning he recently attended a political fundraiser. The Judicial Merit Selection Commission is expected to meet Monday and determine if Judge Ralph King "Tripp" Anderson III still should remain one of three candidates under consideration to replace retiring Chief Justice Costa Pleicones. The canons of conduct prohibit judges or judicial candidates from attending political gatherings. Commission chairman Sen. Chip Campsen said after hearing additional testimony from Anderson, the commission voted 7-3 Tuesday to reconsider his nomination. "We approved the motion to reconsider the vote whereby he was nominated," said Campsen, R-Isle of Palms. "He could be nominated again, or someone else could be nominated."

SC Delegation News:

WIS: Sen. Tim Scott indicates he's 'praying' about run for SC governor in 2018

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33856279/sen-tim-scott-indicates-hes-praying-about-run-for-sc-governor-in-2018>

Jack Kuenzie

While Henry McMaster appears to be on track to take over the governor's office for the remainder of Gov. Nikki Haley's term if she is confirmed, there's still plenty of talk about what happens in two years. McMaster had already indicated he would launch a campaign to succeed Haley. At least a half dozen other potential candidates have also been eyeing the office. One of the most intriguing is U.S. Senator Tim Scott, who just won a full term but said Thursday he is still thinking about running for governor. "I've said that my work in the Senate is not yet finished," Scott said. "I certainly believe that when you see opportunity that you pray about those opportunities. I am at least praying about it. I've said that sometime in the first quarter I'll come to a decision and certainly I think that the work that I'm doing right now in the Senate is very valuable work. I hope to continue to do so." Scott says if he was to seek the governor's office he would base his run on conservative values, free markets, and an effort to expand and diversify high-tech manufacturing and what Scott called the "Silicon Harbor" concept of technology.

SC Political News:

The State: S.C. military commanders: Crisis looming over Real ID

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article118567613.html>

Jeff Wilkinson

Military commanders told Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster on Friday that the state's non-compliance with federal Real ID driver's licenses will cause them headaches. Unless the federal government grants an extension, as it has done for the past five years, beginning on Jan. 30 visitors, delivery people and workers without U.S. Department of Defense identification will have to show a second form of federally acceptable identification, primarily a passport, to gain entry to installations such as Fort Jackson in Columbia and Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter. And in January 2018, S.C. driver's licenses would no longer be accepted to board a plane or a secured federal building like the the Matthew Perry Federal Courthouse in Columbia. "It needs to be addressed," said Col. Daniel Lasica, commander of the 20th Fighter Wing at Shaw. "It affects everything from food delivery to major contractors." In a letter Nov. 16, U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford, R-Charleston, asked U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson to push back a deadline for South Carolina to comply with the Real ID Act of 2005.

Associated Press: Dean steps out of DNC race; Ellison says he may leave seat

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=d0ZO3GvS

SC State Wire

Howard Dean took himself out of the race to become chairman of the Democratic National Committee on Friday, while the frontrunner in the contest, Rep. Keith Ellison, said he may leave his Minnesota congressional seat to serve in the position. The two dramatic announcements came during the first public forum in the race to lead the DNC after Democrats lost the White House in November's election. Ellison, a supporter of Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders in the primary, has the backing of much of the party's liberal wing and that of incoming Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer. Ellison is one of two Muslim members of Congress. Critics have zeroed in on some of his past statements about Israel and questioned whether he could do the grueling DNC job while serving in the House. **NOTE:** Ellison and the two other remaining candidates said they wanted to focus on rebuilding state parties after historic losses in governor's races and statehouses, as well as the presidential defeat. "We must become a community organization, working in our neighborhoods with grassroots activists," said South Carolina party chairman Jaime Harrison.

McClatchy DC: SC's Harrison states his case to lead Democrats, as Howard Dean drops his candidacy

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/article118588163.html>

Matthew Shofield

Jaime Harrison of South Carolina campaigned to be chairman of the Democratic National Committee on Friday, selling himself as "a poor black man from South Carolina" who knows young voters, knows the grass roots far from Washington and would be free to devote himself full time to the job. In his pitch to state party officials from around the country, he spoke about the pain of the party's losses last month, and how his 2-year-old son came into his room asking why he was sad. As he leaned over to kiss his son, he said, he realized it wasn't simply the fact that Hillary Clinton had lost. It was the consequences of political failure, for his generation, the generation of his son and the generation of his mother. "I'm a poor black man from South Carolina," he said. "My whole life people have been telling me to sit down. That's not going to happen anymore. I'm not going to have it."

Michael Slagger Case:

Associated Press: Jury going into next week in ex-officer's murder trial

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=MGt8sM6N

Bruce Smith and Meg Kinnard

The jury in the murder trial of a former South Carolina police officer charged with gunning down a black motorist will continue deliberating next week, despite at one point Friday appearing deadlocked by a juror who told the judge he could not "with good conscience approve a guilty verdict." The panel of one black and 11 white jurors has now deliberated for more than 16 hours over three days on whether to convict former North Charleston police Officer Michael Slager in the death of 50-year-old Walter Scott. They will return to the jury room Monday. Twice on Friday the jurors told Judge Clifton Newman they had reached a stalemate. One juror sent a letter directly to the judge saying he could not "with good conscience approve a guilty verdict." The juror added he was not about to change his mind.

Associated Press: The Latest: Slager jury goes home for weekend

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

SC State Wire

Jurors in the Michael Slager murder trial are going home for the weekend. They have deliberated more than 16 hours over three days in the case of the white former South Carolina patrolman charged in the shooting death of Walter Scott. Scott who was black, was shot five times in the back running from a traffic stop in April of 2015. The shooting was captured on cellphone video that stunned the nation. At one point Friday it appeared jurors were deadlocked when the judge read a letter from one of them saying that he could not vote to convict Slager and was not about to change his mind. But the jury foreman said he thought the panel could still reach a unanimous verdict and the

deliberations continued.

Associated Press: No verdict in motorist death after 16 hours deliberation

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

Bruce Smith Meg Kinnard

The jury in the murder trial of a former South Carolina police officer charged with gunning down a black motorist will continue deliberating next week, despite at one point Friday appearing deadlocked by a juror who told the judge he could not "with good conscience approve a guilty verdict." The panel of one black and 11 white jurors has now deliberated for more than 16 hours over three days on whether to convict former North Charleston police Officer Michael Slager in the death of 50-year-old Walter Scott. They will return to the jury room Monday. Twice on Friday the jurors told Judge Clifton Newman they had reached a stalemate. One juror sent a letter directly to the judge saying he could not "with good conscience approve a guilty verdict." The juror added he was not about to change his mind.

Post and Courier: On brink of mistrial, jurors opt to try again to reach verdict in Michael Slager case

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/once-asking-for-mistrial-jurors-opt-to-try-again-to/article_fd2e9366-b848-11e6-b41b-830f4fe6976f.html

Andrew Knapp

On the brink of hopelessness that their deliberations would end without a verdict, jurors stepped back from their impasse Friday, resolving to discuss further whether a white North Charleston policeman committed a crime when he fatally shot Walter Scott, a black man. They sent notes to the judge throughout the afternoon, at a time saying they were deadlocked. Their messages pointed to a lone holdout, a juror who refused to convict the former patrolman, Michael Slager, of either murder or manslaughter. There are 11 other jurors. The jury's other option is acquittal. Whatever their decision, it must be unanimous. But through nearly 18 hours of deliberations, they still had not found one. The judge was prepared to declare a hung jury and order a mistrial. Their desperation was apparent, as the holdout wrote to the judge, sidestepping the usual procedure that tasks the jury's foreman — a sort of spokesman — with such communication. The resulting letter was a rare look into the closed-door workings of a jury grappling with a case that the whole world is watching.

Dylann Roof Case:

Associated Press: The Latest: Jury pool of 67 chosen for Dylann Roof trial

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=YI2B0Eb8

SC State Wire

A judge has finished picking the 67 people who will make up the jury pool for Dylann Roof's death penalty trial in the killing of nine black people at a Charleston church. U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel, prosecutors and Roof, acting as his own attorney, spent this week picking jurors who could be open-minded about imposing the death penalty if Roof is found guilty. A pretrial hearing will be held Monday, and the final panel of 12 jurors and six alternates will be selected Wednesday with testimony beginning soon after. The trial is expected to last until January with a break over Christmas. Roof, who is white, is charged in federal court with hate crimes in the shootings of nine people during a June 2015 Bible study at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Associated Press: Dylann Roof's lawyers want back on death penalty case

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Gcj3Q78y

Jeffrey Collins

Defense attorneys dismissed by Charleston church shooting defendant Dylann Roof strongly condemned his decision to represent himself and filed a motion Friday to get back on the case. The lawyers are worried Roof may not present evidence that could sway a jury to spare his life while acting as his own attorney during his federal death penalty trial and that would violate the U.S. Constitution's ban on cruel and unusual punishment. The lawyers said they did not know why Roof

wanted to represent himself but added that other defendants in capital cases have fired their lawyers to avoid having embarrassing evidence revealed. The lawyers also suggested that Roof might deliberately sabotage his own defense in order to get the death penalty."The reliability of the most complicated proceeding known to the criminal law ... cannot be assured with an untrained layperson - in this case, a 22-year-old ninth-grade dropout," the four defense lawyers wrote.

Post and Courier: Roof trial to move forward after jury pool of 67 qualified

http://www.postandcourier.com/church_shooting/roof-trial-to-move-forward-after-jury-pool-of-qualified/article_6ad37ffe-b88e-11e6-a7b1-2702ea41dd73.html

Jennifer Berry Hawes

Dylann Roof's former lawyers are contending the government will violate the accused Emanuel AME Church shooter's constitutional rights if a judge continues to allow him to represent himself in his federal death penalty trial. The filing came just moments after the federal judge overseeing Roof's hate crimes trial admonished the self-avowed white supremacist's former attorneys for pressing to play a more-active role, including efforts to present evidence Roof doesn't want put forth. Earlier court filings show defense lawyers planned to provide evidence of a "mental disease or defect or any other mental condition." The legal team argues the Eighth Amendment precludes allowing Roof to continue as his own attorney and block evidence from being introduced that could help spare him from the ultimate punishment. They maintain the 22-year-old is unprepared to handle the complexities of a 33-count death penalty case, and allowing him to proceed would deprive him of his rights to protection against cruel and unusual punishment.

Post and Courier: Killers facing death penalty rarely want to admit mental illness

http://www.postandcourier.com/church_shooting/killers-facing-death-penalty-rarely-want-to-admit-mental-illness/article_003fe382-b8b4-11e6-a590-07696c594719.html

Jennifer Berry Hawes

Dr. Xavier Amador, one of the nation's most renowned forensic psychiatrists, sat at his computer one day last week and called up the racist manifesto attributed to Dylann Roof. He began to read it again. First, the accused Emanuel AME Church killer wrote that he didn't grow up in a racist home or environment. Okay, Amador noted, no history of violent racial influences. Roof went on: "The event that truly awakened me was the Trayvon Martin case." The event. Amador underscored the singular. One thing. Roof described searching online for more about Martin, a black teenager gunned down by a community watchman in Florida. Then he searched "black on white crime." "I have never been the same since that day," Roof typed. Tucked in those clear, crisp words, Amador saw the classic germination of a paranoid schizophrenic's delusion, in this case one that might have led a young man barely out of his teens to grip fervently to a new and violent white supremacist ideology. The 2,440-word online manifesto, which Roof apparently last updated just hours before police say he walked into a Bible study and gunned down nine worshipers in 2015, appears to detail a derailment into delusion.

Serial Killer Todd Kohlhepp:

Herald-Journal: Real estate complaints against Todd Kohlhepp never investigated

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161202/real-estate-complaints-against-todd-kohlhepp-never-investigated?rssfeed=true>

Daniel J. Gross

Several client complaints made against accused serial killer Todd Kohlhepp when he was working in real estate were not investigated, newly obtained state records show. The complaints allege that Kohlhepp harassed and threatened clients and made several social media posts that alluded to sexual activity and acts of revenge, according to records from the S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation obtained through the Freedom of Information Act. According to records, two complaints were never investigated and a third was investigated but then dismissed after Kohlhepp wrote a response letter defending himself. A fourth complaint, filed against Kohlhepp after he was

initially charged with kidnapping an Anderson woman, is still being investigated. In one complaint, a client alleges Kohlhepp mishandled the repair work on a property, forged a name on a listing agreement and threatened him with a gun.

Wildfires Across Southeast:

Associated Press: Dazed Tennessee residents get first look at wildfire rubble

<http://bigstory.ap.org/d815463e2ec5490788af38e1429452a1>

Charlotte Moore needed a phone charger. "I'll just get it at home," she shrugged. Then she remembered that her home was gone. The realization came as she made the familiar drive up to the top of Laurel Mountain in the Roaring Fork neighborhood of Gatlinburg on Friday, where what lay ahead was anything but familiar. On the first day officials let property owners return to assess the damage from the wildfire that devastated their homes, the eastern Tennessee tourist destination was headed toward an uncertain future. As people were allowed into the city, Sevier County Mayor Larry Waters raised the death toll to 13 and said the number of damaged buildings now approached 1,000. He also defended the response to the wildfires that spread rapidly Monday, saying it was not the time for "Monday morning quarterbacking." He promised a full review later. Gatlinburg residents and business owners, meanwhile, got their first look at the wildfire destruction Friday, and many walked around the once-bustling city in a daze, sobbing.

Hurricane Matthew Recovery:

Morning News: Volunteers pour in to help Nichols recover from flooding

http://www.scnow.com/living/faith_and_values/article_432c54d4-b911-11e6-be2d-472a52594c43.html

Naeem McFadden

More than 200 volunteers from across the state and country arrived in Nichols on Friday for a two-day work blitz, cleaning out homes damaged by Hurricane Matthew. More than 90 percent of the town's residential and commercial properties were damaged and many residents were forced to seek shelter or find other places to live. The relief effort is organized by the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. Disaster response coordinator George Olive helps serve five counties and said the volunteers are working on as many as 17 homes. "We're trying to finish the process of tearing things out, which means all the floors, walls and what needs to be removed so we can treat the mold and then rebuild the houses," Olive said. "Today's effort is about trying to get people back in their homes." Olive spent several weeks in town since the flood waters receded in Nichols.

Morning News: United '74 to host event in Florence to help displaced families

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_e1c056c6-b90d-11e6-b115-47687cd2d267.html

Joshua Lloyd

United '74 will host a "Room for One More" event Saturday to give families affected by Hurricane Matthew a better Christmas season. The event will happen from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the New Life Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ on North Douglas Street in Florence. United '74 is a group composed of alumni of McClenaghan High School, South Side High School, West Florence High School and Wilson High School. Each member graduated in the Class of 1974. LaShonda NeSmith, one of the event's organizers, said a big portion of this event is centered on gifts for children. "This is to make sure kids have a good gift for Christmas," she said. "The families we're targeting are those with school-age children who have been displaced, living in hotels, motels and living with friends and family after Hurricane Matthew."

South Carolina News:

Aiken Standard: Drought response committee changes statuses for 11 S.C. counties

http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/drought-response-committee-changes-statuses-for-s-c-counties/article_8790e382-b8b8-11e6-aed2-271a0819c132.html

The South Carolina Drought Response Committee recently changed drought statuses for 11 counties in the state, while weather experts have said even if forecasted rain occurs, it wouldn't be enough to make a "big dent" in the state's current conditions. In a news release distributed Thursday, the drought response committee said it made the changes after meeting with the South Carolina Forestry Commission Thursday morning. According to the statement, all counties in the southern portion of the state have been upgraded from normal to incipient, the first level of drought. The coastal counties in the Lower Savannah River Basin of the state have also been upgraded to incipient, and Barnwell County has been moved to moderate status, the statement read.

Local News:

Aiken Standard: New date set for hearing of Florida man accused of killing priest
http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/new-date-set-for-hearing-of-florida-man-accused-of/article_e26145dc-b8cb-11e6-857b-3765b761fb72.html

Tripp Girardeau

A hearing scheduled Friday for the Jacksonville, Florida, man accused of killing a Florida priest in Burke County, Georgia, has been moved to another date. Steven J. Murray, 28, was scheduled to be in Burke County Superior Court on Friday, but a motion was filed to have the hearing continued, said Sherry Cates, Burke County clerk of court. The Augusta-Richmond County District Attorney's office said a date has not yet been set for Murray's next hearing. Murray was indicted May 19 on three counts of murder, possession of a firearm during a crime and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, according to court records. With the murder counts, the state has sought multiple indictments for the same event, according to the indictment. Murray is currently being held in the Clayton County, Georgia, jail. He is accused of fatally shooting the Rev. Rene Robert, 71, of St. Augustine, Florida, sometime between April 10 and 18, the indictment states.

Sun News: Woman who intentionally hit fire truck denied bond, faces additional charges
<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article118419768.html>

A Charlotte, N.C., woman who police say intentionally rammed a fire truck faces additional charges in connection with the incident and was denied bond Friday morning in an Horry County court, according to jail records. Sinksar Bahru Solomon, 58, drove her car into the front of a fire truck on Tuesday on S.C. 544 and Founders Drive. She was charged with reckless driving at the time, and now faces an additional charge of attempted murder, assault on a police officer while resisting arrest and malicious injury, according to records at J. Reuben Long Detention Center. Coastal Carolina University authorities were requesting police arrive as soon as possible because Solomon was becoming irate and combative, according to the report. A CCU officer told police that a white Pontiac Sunfire struck an Horry County firetruck on Founders Drive. The driver then got out of the car and hit the CCU officer in the chest with her fist after he asked her for identification, the report states.

Sun News: Don't panic, it's just a mass casualty exercise
<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article118448863.html>

Todd Garvin

Passers-by near the Myrtle Beach Airport on Saturday will see a host of emergency vehicles, but shouldn't be alarmed. Myrtle Beach International Airport will host a full-scale exercise to simulate a mass casualty/fatality incident. Taking part will be the Horry County Department of Airports, Horry County Emergency Management, Horry County Police, Horry County Fire/Rescue, Horry County E911 Dispatch, Horry County Sheriff's Office, county coroner's office, and the Myrtle Beach police and fire departments. The public will see a large number of public safety vehicles and personnel in and around the airport, although the exercise will not disrupt the daily operation of the facility. The scenario for the exercise is a commercial airline crash on approach to the airport. The debris field will be located entirely within the security fence. The Federal Aviation Administration requires the airport to conduct a full-scale emergency exercise every three years and tabletop exercise annually.

The State: Small Midlands cab companies sue Columbia Metropolitan Airport over access

<http://www.thestate.com/news/business/article118527148.html>

Roddie Burris

Several taxi companies in Columbia have filed suit against the Columbia Metropolitan Airport because they have been banned from transporting passengers to and from the airport. The five cab companies – Miracle Taxi, Angel Taxi, BBB Taxi, Palmetto Taxi and Budget Cab – say the airport's Oct. 1 ban is a violation of the state constitution. The cabbies also say in the civil suit, filed Nov. 29 in Richland County court, that the ban wipes out the majority of the income of these small cab companies, which are mostly mom-and-pop type operations, in favor of three large local cab companies, Checker Yellow, Blue Ribbon and Capital City Cab. The airport also allows UBER drivers to continue operating at CAE, picking up passengers and dropping them off. Small cabbies can earn up to 90 percent of their income from airports, according to Mark Schnee, the Columbia attorney representing the small cab companies.

Post and Courier: Latest Port Royal appraisal far below Charleston ports agency's asking price

http://www.postandcourier.com/business/latest-port-royal-appraisal-far-below-charleston-ports-agency-s/article_872271ee-b8c8-11e6-84b5-833ce9a1c438.html

David Wren

A new appraisal for land the State Ports Authority repeatedly tried to sell in Port Royal shows the site is worth far less than the maritime agency's asking price, raising questions about why the property has languished for a decade without a buyer. "We've had a town for 12 years now that's had to have this huge, blighted piece of property right in the middle of its downtown district, instead of having that property sold and developed and become a part of the community," said state Sen. Tom Davis, R-Beaufort. An appraisal completed this week for the state Department of Administration puts the value of the former Port of Port Royal site at just under \$7 million. The SPA valued the roughly 317-acre former marine terminal along Battery Creek at \$22.5 million and later offered it for a \$14.8 million minimum bid, but never publicly released its appraisals.

WLTX: Sheriff Lott Helps One of His Deputies Get Married

<http://www.wltx.com/features/sheriff-lott-helps-one-of-his-deputies-get-married/362279719>

Sheriffs enforce the laws. They keep the peace. And occasionally, they help people say their "I dos." Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott officiated the wedding ceremony Friday for one of his deputies, Karla Gonzalez Diaz. Diaz met Lott when she worked in Puerto Rico and provided security detail for the sheriff while he was there training officers. So when she got married, she asked him to officiate. Lott says it was an honor when she asked him to officiate her wedding. "We're about family, a community family and a sheriff's department family," Lott said. "And like I told Karla's husband at the ceremony today he's part of our family now. And we are about family, we take care of each other and we cry when there are sad times and we celebrate days like today when we have something like this. "Sheriff Lott has married three couples in his career.

President-elect Trump News:

Associated Press: Trump speaks directly with Taiwan's leader, irking China

<http://bigstory.ap.org/52ff93497ec54bcfa7a8867b930d9bc9>

In a break with decadeslong diplomatic tradition, President-elect Donald Trump spoke directly with the president of Taiwan, a move that drew an irritated response from China on Saturday and looked set to cast uncertainty over U.S. policy toward Asia. It is perhaps unprecedented for a U.S. president or president-elect to speak directly with a leader of Taiwan, a self-governing island the U.S. broke diplomatic ties with in 1979. China said it lodged a stern complaint with the U.S. and reiterated its commitment to seeking "reunification" with the self-governed democratic island, which it considers a renegade province. In initial comments apparently meant to downplay the significance of the call, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Saturday that the contact between Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen and Trump was "just a small trick by Taiwan" that he believed would not change U.S. policy

toward China, according to Hong Kong's Phoenix TV.

Associated Press: The "Two Trumps" surface in president-elect's transition

<http://bigstory.ap.org/aee8f58429ff413c9a52ebe3d72bd29b>

Donald Trump's skeptics hope the presidency will reveal a serious side of the brash businessman. His supporters want him to keep the freewheeling style that rattled Washington. In true Trump fashion, so far he's doing both. Trump has soothed some Republican establishment anxieties with many of his early Cabinet picks, including the respected retired Gen. James Mattis to lead the Pentagon and Georgia Rep. Tom Price, an orthopedic surgeon tapped to head the Department of Health and Human Services. He's hinted that he's open to shifting some of his most controversial policies, including his rejection of climate change and support for torture. He's been full of praise for President Barack Obama and largely respectful of Hillary Clinton, his vanquished campaign rival. But Trump is also refusing to abandon the raucous, stream-of-consciousness rallies and Twitter tirades that defined his presidential campaign. He's continued to level false statements, claiming without evidence that millions of people voted illegally in the election. And he's infused the normally staid Cabinet selection process with reality television drama, inviting cameras into his dinner with Mitt Romney, a leading candidate for secretary of state, and announcing the secretary of defense pick in an arena, seemingly off the cuff.

Associated Press: For Russia, Trump presidency offers hope of sanctions relief

<http://bigstory.ap.org/75ab0d755db74529a2fa5acf9e760bba>

Russia's government staunchly denies reports that it tampered in the U.S. election or supported either candidate, but once the results were in, members of President Vladimir Putin's United Russia party didn't hold back. "It turns out that United Russia won the elections in America," Viktor Nazarov, the governor of Omsk, Russia, declared in a radio interview. Long before Donald Trump was on the radar of American voters, Russia had seen opportunity in elections around the world. But 2016 presented a unique window. Motivated by years of crippling economic sanctions and decades of post-Soviet setbacks, the Russians were keener than ever to pounce; the race for the White House, plagued by party infighting, scandal and controversy, was easy bait.

National News:

Associated Press: Man convicted of murder in hot car death to be sentenced

<http://bigstory.ap.org/ee1c5e42598e4d8a9dd9232b56832144>

A judge is set to sentence a Georgia man Monday after a jury last month found that he intentionally left his toddler son in a hot SUV to die. A jury convicted Justin Ross Harris, 36, in the June 2014 death of his 22-month-old son, Cooper. Police were suspicious from the start and took Harris into custody in the strip mall parking lot where he had pulled over and removed his son's lifeless body from the SUV. Harris' defense attorneys argued that he was a loving father and that while he was responsible for the boy's death, it was a tragic accident. Harris' defense team vowed after the trial to appeal the verdict and to seek a new trial. Here are some things to know before his sentencing...

Associated Press: Road rage ends in McKnight's death; criticism of case looms

<http://bigstory.ap.org/64c750e79c0249ba86aecdb9fc2160b6>

A road rage incident possibly sparked by a driver cutting off another on a nearby bridge spiraled into a shooting that left an ex-NFL player dead, authorities said, amid criticism the shooter was allowed to go free. Joe McKnight, 28, was shot Thursday afternoon in Terrytown, across the Mississippi River from New Orleans. Authorities identified Ronald Gasser, 54, who stayed at the scene, as the shooter and released him overnight. At a news conference Friday, Jefferson Parish Sheriff Newell Normand said the altercation started on a nearby bridge and proceeded into the New Orleans suburb. Witnesses reported hearing rapid gunfire after the two men were in a heated argument. Gasser shot McKnight three times from inside his car while McKnight stood outside. No charges have been filed, and some have criticized the sheriff for releasing Gasser.

World News:

Associated Press: The Latest: Iran and Russia reaffirm alliance in Syria war

<http://bigstory.ap.org/b05a5ddd919c41c4930107d7720c0974>

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani says Tehran and Moscow will continue to cooperate in the Syrian war "until the ultimate goal of eradicating terrorism and restoring peace and full security to the region is achieved." The comment was delivered in a Saturday meeting in Tehran between Rouhani and Russia's special envoy to Syria, Alexander Lavrentiev, Iranian state news agency IRNA reported. In the meeting, Rouhani stressed that the Syrian situation can only be resolved through political dialogue and with full respect for the will of the Syrian people, who he said are the main and ultimate decision makers on the future of the country, according to IRNA.

Associated Press: Iran condemns US senate vote to extend sanctions

<http://bigstory.ap.org/73f7988d794e4ed79ed469e550a4275a>

Iran's foreign minister condemned the U.S. Senate's extension of a piece of anti-Iran legislation, state TV reported Saturday. On Thursday the Senate voted to extend the Iran Sanctions Act by 10 years. The measure will now be sent to outgoing President Barack Obama to sign. Iran's state television quoted Mohammad Javad Zarif as saying that the extension "shows the lack of credibility of the U.S. government." On Friday, Bahram Ghasemi, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman, issued a statement condemning the extension of sanctions against Iran and said the act is a clear violation of the landmark nuclear deal reached between Iran and the world powers last year. Ghasemi said, "The U.S. president has agreed within the framework of the nuclear deal that he would use his authority to prevent the legislation and enforcement of any measures in violation of the deal, such as the recent act by the Congress."

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