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Subject: Clips – Friday, November 11, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: Richland rec board gets hearing before Haley fires them

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=otx50wtk

SC State Wire

Gov. Nikki Haley says she wants to remove all seven members of the Richland County Recreation Commission board because they allowed the commission's indicted former leader to abuse his power. In Thursday's executive order, Haley said she will hold a public hearing with a three-person panel Nov. 30 to let the commissioners make their case they shouldn't be fired before she makes her final decision. The board supported ex-director James Brown III, who resigned after he was indicted on a misconduct in office charge. Prosecutors say Brown tried to coerce female employees to have sex with him. The governor says the board did not properly review complaints of harassment and that Brown was hiring family members. She says the board also gave Brown raises he didn't earn.

The State: Gov. Haley seeks to fire 7 controversial Richland County Recreation board members

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article113983448.html>

John Monk

Gov. Nikki Haley is moving to fire all seven members of the Richland County Recreation Board. The rare action by Haley comes after months of lawsuits alleging sexual harassment by recreation director James Brown III, who retired last month after he was indicted for misconduct in office. It also follows allegations by a bipartisan majority of the 17-member Richland County Legislative Delegation that members of the appointed recreation board that oversaw Brown had grossly mismanaged the recreation commission's affairs for years. Lawmakers said board members allowed unwarranted pay raises and widespread nepotism and thus had neglected their duties. In a 10-page executive order announced Thursday afternoon by the governor's office, Haley affirmed the charges brought by the delegation majority and named the seven board members she seeks to remove.

WIS: Gov. Nikki Haley threatens to remove recreation commissioners in executive order

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33682072/gov-nikki-haley-threatens-to-remove-recreation-commissioners-in-executive-order>

Jeremy Turnage

Gov. Nikki Haley has signed an executive order beginning the process of potentially removing all seven members of the Richland County Recreation Commission. According to the order, Haley is convening a three-person panel to hold a public hearing on Nov. 30, 2016 for the purpose of letting the seven members of the recreation commission testify on charges that they have helped former executive director James Brown, III. Charges of nepotism, sexual harassment, and excessive spending have been filed against the former director. Brown was indicted on charges that he used his office to coerce sex. The Richland County Legislative Delegation has repeatedly asked Haley to step in and remove the commissioners. For her part, the governor asked for further information from the recreation commission on the matter. "This was just a snowballing effect of complaint after complaint after complaint," said State Representative Joe Lourie, a Democrat who represents Richland County.

WACH: Gov. Haley issues executive order to remove Richland County Recreation Commissioners

<http://wach.com/news/local/gov-haley-issues-executive-order-to-remove-richland-county-recreation-commissioners>

commissioners

Tara Petitt

Governor Nikki Haley has issued an executive order calling for the removal of all seven Richland County Recreation Commission board members. Governor Haley's order states the commissioners neglected their duty by failing to investigate harassment and nepotism claims against former agency director James Brown, III. Last month, a Richland County grand jury indicted Brown on a misconduct in office charge. Just two days later, Brown was arrested and charged with intimidating a witness tied to that case. He subsequently retired. "We thank the Governor and her staff for their diligence in pursuit of all the facts dealing with this complicated matter. This has always been about what is fair and right for the employees of the Recreation Commission and about providing quality, fiscally responsible services to the citizens of Richland County," said Senator Joel Lourie.

WOLO: Governor Haley Issues Executive Order Seeking Removal of Richland Rec Commission Members

<http://live-abccolumbia.pantheonsite.io/2016/11/10/governor-haley-issues-executive-order-seeking-removal-richland-rec-commission-members/>

Thursday Governor Nikki Haley issued an Executive order in regards to the Richland County Recreation Commission Board Members. In the Executive Order from the Governor, it states, "I hereby provide written notice to all members of the Richland County Rec Commission of the specific charges brought against them showing cause for removal from office. I hereby provide reasonable notice of an opportunity to be heard at a public hearing to be held on November 30, 2016 specific time and location to be determined. The Richland County Rec Commission has been under fire after allegations of sexual harassment and nepotism surfaced concerning the Commission's Director. Last month Governor Haley had requested the board turn over an internal report on the allegations against the former director James Brown the third."

WLTx: Governor to Hold Hearing to Decide If Board Should Be Fired

<http://www.wltx.com/news/local/governor-to-hold-hearing-to-decide-if-board-should-be-fired/350852391>

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley has charged all seven members of the Richland County Recreation Commission Board, and says they'll have to face a hearing to determine if they'll be fired. Haley sent a letter late Thursday to members, outlining three main charges against the group: Charge 1: The Board neglected its duty to review nepotism complaints involving the Executive Director James Brown III and had knowledge he had family members working at the RCRC. Charge 2: The Board neglected its duty in making compensation decisions regarding Executive Director James Brown III. Charge 3: The Board neglected its duty and was misfeasant and malfeasant by failing to investigate claims of harassment, retaliation, and intimidation and in improperly delegating to investigate Brown to Brown's subordinate. The charges against them will be heard by a three-person panel on November 30. Haley said those who don't come to the hearing will be removed from office on December 1.

McClatchy DC: Clinton won't be America's first female president. Who will?

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/election/article113891963.html>

Lindsay Wise

To many voters who proudly wore pantsuits to the polls and expected to celebrate history with Hillary Clinton's election, the likelihood of a woman becoming America's commander in chief seems more remote than ever. Now Clinton's supporters are struggling to come to terms with the reality that the first female presidential nominee won't be the one to shatter what she calls the "highest and hardest glass ceiling." Clinton, looking shell-shocked herself, tried to reassure them that it would only be a matter of time. "Some day," Clinton said in her concession speech, "someone will, and hopefully sooner than we might think." But if not Clinton, then who? "In many ways it's ironic because people were looking for change election and the real change we could have seen in our democracy was not realized," said Debbie Walsh, director of the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers.

University. Not only will the highest office in the land remain out of women's reach for now, Walsh said, but the number of female members of Congress will remain the same after this election, stalled at 104. There will be one more woman in the Senate, bringing the total to 21. In the House, the number of women will go down by one, to 83.

NOTE: Republican Nikki Haley, the Indian-American governor of South Carolina, could be a presidential contender. Her leadership after the fatal shooting of black South Carolinians in Charleston last year drew widespread praise and raised her profile nationally.

Island Packet: Nikki Haley praises Beaufort family pillow company expansion as 'huge win'

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article113866493.html>

Stephen Fastenau

Gov. Nikki Haley praised a Beaufort pillow company's upcoming expansion as a "huge win" for Beaufort County and South Carolina's manufacturing industry this week. Harris Pillow Supply plans a \$2 million investment in moving into a new building and adding 22 new jobs during the next five years. The family company has operated at 3026 Trask Parkway and plans to move to a larger facility on Parker Drive by early next year. "Our state is on the move in so many ways, and this \$2.1 million investment that means 22 jobs is just one more example of Team South Carolina's hard work paying off for the talented people who make up our elite workforce," Haley said in a news release. The company recently received a \$225,000 grant from the county for the work on the new building, with the condition Harris Pillow meets its goal of added jobs. The new space — previously home to Beaufort Liquidation and 84 Lumber — will double the size of the current building. Harris Pillow started in 1956 by William Harris and has operated in Beaufort since 1980, now run by John Harris and his son, Patrick. The company makes and sells pillows to a variety of customers, including hotel chains and private labels. Harris Pillow also makes a machine that renovates old pillows. In Haley's news release, Patrick Harris said the expansion will allow the company to install more equipment and reach more markets.

The Herald: Fort Mill financial company expanding, to add 175 jobs

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/business/article113878453.html>

A Fort Mill financial company will expand and add 175 jobs at its York County site. South Carolina and York County officials announced Thursday that OneMain Holdings, which already has a location on Munn Road in Fort Mill near S.C. 160 and Interstate 77, has started hiring for new positions. OneMain Holdings has a presence in 44 states with more than 1,800 branches and 11,000 employees, a statement from state officials said. Britt Blackwell, York County Council chairman, said in a statement that the county congratulates the company on its expansion and choice to make York County a home for its business. "Their decision to expand here will create more diverse job opportunities for our vibrant workforce," Blackwell said in a statement.

NOTE: Gov. Nikki Haley also praised the expansion, saying South Carolina continues to work toward having the most competitive business environment and skilled work force possible. The area also is home to the Lash Group, which is adding 2,400 jobs to the area in its new headquarters.

Veteran's Day:

Associated Press: EdVenture Museum in Columbia holds military appreciation day

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

SC State Wire

EdVenture children's museum in Columbia is holding a military appreciation day to honor those who serve in uniform on Veterans Day. All military members and their families are being granted free admission to the museum on Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Guests are invited to explore the museum, participate in patriotic activities and leave a handprint on a special flag to honor fallen soldiers. The museum and Sysco Corp. are providing free lunch for dependent children age 12 and under.

Greenville News: Deals and freebies for military on Veterans Day

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/11/10/deals-and-freebies-military-veterans-day/93230956/>

Elizabeth LaFleur

Veterans Day is Friday, Nov. 11. Below is a list of businesses and groups offering deals on Friday to say thank you to Veterans and active military. Most deals require proof of service, like a military ID.

Post and Courier: Veterans Day events

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/veterans-day-events/article_6d65cde6-a784-11e6-89f3-c3562b53706b.html

The State: Thanks, everyone! Kids, parents, teachers show vets some love

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/education/article114059063.html>

The city of Columbia's Veterans Day Parade – one of the largest in the Southeast – is scheduled for 11 a.m. Friday. The parade will begin at the intersection of Sumter and Laurel streets and travel south on Sumter Street, ending at Pendleton Street near the State House. The grand marshal is Fort Jackson, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Parking in city garages on Sumter and Lady streets is free.

Sun News: Veterans Day events in full force for, beyond this weekend

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article113878148.html>

Steve Palsin

Veterans Day marks a sunny, fitting way to start this weekend, with a bunch of celebrations this Friday through Sunday, and two other events also booked for Wednesday and Thursday next week. Take your pick of ways to salute and thanks to everyone who has served or is serving in our nation's military, stateside and around the world. The service by the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 925 Grand Strand, at 11 a.m. Friday outside the Old Horry County Courthouse, on Third Avenue in Conway, will include dedication of an in-memory stone, for service personnel who died after their tours in Vietnam. Two screenings will roll on Friday. The Museum of Coastal Carolina, in Ocean Isle Beach, N.C., will show "Honor Flight: One Last Mission" at 2 p.m., a documentary centering on four World War II veterans who made a day trip earlier this decade from Milwaukee to the war memorials in Washington, D.C. Also, the 13th annual "Salute to American Veterans" will include the including premiere of "Men of Honor – Freddie Stowers and Alvin York: Duty and Courage in the First World War," at 7:30 p.m. in Coastal Carolina University's Wheelwright Auditorium, off U.S. 501 in Conway.

Morning News: Veterans Day to be observed at Florence park

http://www.scnw.com/news/local/article_10940ab2-a7a5-11e6-b48b-c318eb7dea9f.html

The Veterans Day ceremony at 11 a.m. Friday at the Florence Veterans Park will feature as the speaker the first native of Vietnam to become a general/flag officer in the U.S. military as well as the dedication of three new monuments to the park. Brigadier General Viet Luong and his family emigrated from Vietnam in 1975 as political refugees after the fall of Saigon when he was 9 years old. "You wouldn't think at 9 years of age that something you experience would inspire you to have a lifelong career in the military, but that moment was very profound for me," Luong said. "Through our evacuation, the refugee camps in Guam, Arkansas, just the overall experience and the way we were treated just reinforced the fact that I really need to serve and carry on the tradition of these great Americans." Three monuments – two new monuments and one new to Florence Veterans Park – will be unveiled as well. The new U.S. Army monument – a black granite obelisk with scenes etched into it honoring the Army – will occupy space in the front of the park, nearest the parking lot it shares with the Florence Civic Center.

Aiken Standard: SRS celebrates Veterans Day

http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/srs-celebrates-veterans-day/article_c3c6a8a6-a78c-11e6-86ef-

[ef00df39c11d.html](#)

Today, veterans across the country will be honored with parades, 21-gun salutes and other traditions to pause and acknowledge their willingness to serve. For some it may have been in a relatively straightforward environment, but for others it was arduous, demanding and over a long period of time – in all those cases, they served. And with that commitment was a level of risk and sacrifice. In honor of Veterans Day, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, or SRNS, paid tribute to the hundreds of veteran employees within the company during a reception at the Savannah River Site. One SRNS employee veteran Star Burdell works in HB Line Radiological Control, or RadCon, and served in the U.S. Army in field artillery from 1981-1987. When she was deployed during the Cold War, women were not allowed to be on the front lines. To her, the best thing about her experience in the military was living outside the United States because it put things into perspective.

The Herald: Clemson honors Rock Hill war hero

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article113976033.html>

Bret McCormick

The Punchbowl in Korea and Clemson's Memorial Stadium are both crater-like depressions in the earth, but they couldn't be more different. Herman Knight was recognized last Saturday for his contributions at both the Punchbowl, where he was nearly blown to bits by a North Korean mortar shell in 1953, and Clemson's perhaps less aptly named Death Valley, where Knight played on the Tiger football team from 1950 to 1952. The 87-year-old's moment in the limelight was part of Clemson's Military Appreciation Day, during its 54-0 win over Syracuse. Jimmy Wallace, the former Northwestern football coach who befriended Knight at the YMCA Wellness Center in Rock Hill, wheeled him out to midfield for the opening coin toss. Clemson coach Dabo Swinney, wearing camouflage fatigues with his normal Clemson gear, greeted Knight and said a few words to him while 80,000 fans looked on from the stands. Knight also was joined by his granddaughter Carlie Cauthen, a freshman at Clemson involved in ROTC, just like her grandfather.

The Herald: The 'Kimberly' helps South Carolina students 'soar'

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article114058313.html>

Tracy Kimball

She lost her life soaring above the desert, not the treetops she envisioned when she was a little girl and wrote a book, asking Santa for the ability to fly. "If I could fly I would visit many places I will never get to go or see on land," she wrote in the Christmas book. "Being able to fly is a lot to ask for, but some day it might happen." Kimberly Hampton had not thought about her flying story for a long time when her parents presented it as a gift when she finished flight school in the Army. After vigorous training, health obstacles and life-changing decisions, South Carolina's Kimberly Hampton received her wings and reached her childhood fantasy of flight after joining the Army. She was always a reacher. Kimberly was always reaching to achieve another goal, reaching to better her own score, and reaching past health challenges. Later, as her parents found out, she had reached out to help others and left a lasting impact. More than 12 years after their daughter died in Iraq, the parents of the first female pilot in the United States shot down by enemy fire are still learning about the life of their daughter.

Herald-Journal: World War II veterans recall military service

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161110/world-war-ii-veterans-recall-military-service?rssfeed=true>

Allison M. Roberts

Lt. Col. Wallace Storey was a pilot in the 8th Air Force and 384th Bomb Wing from August 1942 until October 1945. Storey, 93 of Spartanburg, fought in France and Germany during World War II. During his career, Storey has received numerous air and combat medals and the European Theater medal. Storey left active duty in 1945 and was an Air Force Reserves pilot until 1982, when he retired.

Herald-Journal: Veterans look forward to Friday parade

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161110/veterans-look-forward-to-friday-parade?rssfeed=true>

Allison M. Roberts

Scenes of red, white and blue and military dress uniforms will be present on the streets of downtown Spartanburg Friday as service members and civilians celebrate veterans during the annual Veterans Day Parade. The parade, sponsored by the Disabled American Veterans this year, will begin at 4 p.m. at the intersection of South Church Street and Marion Avenue, beside Mt. Moriah Baptist Church. The 1-mile parade route will proceed down South Church Street, through downtown and end at Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium. Charlotte Gillespie, commander of the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 3 in Spartanburg and a past state commander for the organization, said local groups rotate organizing the parade each year. Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion will take turns the next two years, she said. This year, Gillespie has arranged for nearly a dozen veterans from White Oak Manor and Windsor House nursing homes to be honored as the parade's grand marshals. They include World War II, Vietnam and Korean War veterans, she said.

Greenville News: Upstate family gave cherished WWII flag to the Smithsonian

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/11/10/upstate-family-gave-cherished-wwii-flag-smithsonian/93591020/>

At age 35, Pvt. 1st Class Lawrence Lollis made the ultimate sacrifice. It was March 12, 1945, that he gave his life for his country. A truck driver for Cheerwine soft drink company here in Greenville, he'd been tasked with transporting troops to and from the front lines in Marseilles, France. He never made it back to U.S. soil. Stateside, his wife Violet Lollis received the telegram, notification that he was "killed in action," on March 23, 1945. His three daughters, Linda, Helen and Bobby Jean, were left without a father. Violet also received her late husband's posthumous military honors, some of which she stored away carefully in a chest. There they stayed for another 60 years. Nearly 72 years after the war, middle child Helen Lollis, who was 4 years old when he died, still thinks about her father. In her living room, she keeps a picture, dagger and some of her father's military awards on display.

General Assembly News:

The State: Pension costs rising as SC lawmakers look for a fix

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article114020063.html>

Cassie Cope

As S.C. lawmakers grapple with how to fix the state's ailing pension system, the cost of having roughly \$20 billion in unfunded liabilities is ticking up. That cost is rising by about \$150,000 an hour, said state Rep. Jeff Bradley, R-Beaufort, a member of the joint House-Senate panel tasked with addressing the underfunded pension system. That sum is interest on the money owed to pay for the benefits promised to S.C. state retirees. That debt is increasing as pension investments fail to earn as much — 7.5 percent — as assumed by state law. To address that gap, lawmakers could increase the amount of taxpayer money that government employers — state and local governments plus school districts — pay into the pension system. State workers also could pay more from their paychecks for their pensions. Retirees now get an annual 1 percent cost-of-living increase, capped at \$500, to their pensions. That benefit accounts for \$3.3 billion of the pension debt, said Public Employee Benefit Authority director Peggy Boykin.

The State: SC lawmakers will have \$446 million more to spend next year

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article114003493.html>

Cassie Cope

S.C. lawmakers will have an added \$446 million to spend next year, bringing the state's general fund budget to \$7.9 billion, the Board of Economic Advisors forecast Thursday. That total includes \$139 million reserved for one-time costs — like building projects — if the state closes its books with a surplus. The state's next budget will take effect July 1. On top of the \$446 million, another \$16 million will be freed up because fewer general fund dollars will be needed to make up for a shortfall in sales tax revenues used to reduce property taxes. Lawmakers will decide whether the added money should go to shore up the state's underfunded pension system, address crumbling roads and rural schools,

or pay for Hurricane Matthew recovery costs.

Associated Press: State officials expect additional \$446 million next year

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ZiUz7lp6

SC State Wire

The State Board of Economic Advisors say South Carolina budget-writers can expect to have an additional \$446 million next year. The State newspaper reported (<http://bit.ly/2eYJhcM>) the forecast Thursday includes nearly \$140 million reserved for one-time expenditures, if the state ends up with a surplus. Another \$16 million will be available because less money will be needed to make up for a shortfall in sales tax revenue that is used to reduce property taxes. Lawmakers returning to Columbia in January will decide how to use the money. Possibilities include the state's roads, rural schools, recovery from Hurricane Matthew and the underfunded pension system. The state's next budget will take effect July 1.

SC Agency News:

Associated Press: SC prisons open up program for veterans behind bars

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

SC State Wire

South Carolina prisons are starting a new program to help veterans behind bars prepare for life outside of prison. The Department of Corrections announced in a news release that on veterans with an honorable discharge will be allowed into the 96 spots at the MacDougall Correctional Institution. Prisons director Bryan Stirling says about 10 percent of South Carolina's 20,000 prisoners are veterans and the state wants to provide them as much support as they can. Veterans within two years of their prison release date are eligible for the program, which will be led by Michael Cole. He is the retired commander of the Navy Consolidated Brig in Charleston.

The State: Owners reluctant to fix shaky dams could cost taxpayers

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article114050533.html>

Sammy Fretwell

About 20 percent of the people told by the state to repair dams battered by last year's historic flood have failed to respond – and South Carolina's top environmental regulator says that could cost taxpayers. Catherine Heigel, director at the Department of Health and Environmental Control, said Thursday that non-compliance problems, as well as issues with dams hammered by Hurricane Matthew last month, have the agency in need of more money for dam safety. DHEC is developing a one-time, supplemental budget request on dams that will be submitted to the Legislature. Heigel did not say how much the agency would ask for. She made her remarks at Thursday's DHEC board meeting. "At some point the state has to step in and take action," Heigel said, referring to work that must be done on dams. "That action could be fairly minor. Even minor vegetation removal is still costly. Or it could be to the extent of engineering a permanent breach."

Greenville News: County DSN agencies say .00 med error rate doesn't mean 0 errors

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/11/10/county-dsn-agencies-say-00-med-error-rate-doesnt-mean-0-errors/93287436/>

Tim Smith

So far this year, county disability agencies have reported 13 critical incidents involving medication errors, the state Department of Disabilities and Special Needs has told The Greenville News. Such reports are required, according to DDSN's directive on medication error reporting, when "serious adverse reactions" such as harm to the client occur. DDSN spokeswoman Lois Park Mole noted that during the time the 13 incidents were reported, DDSN providers cared for 5,316 people in residential settings. The agency did not detail the incidents, which it released to The News in response to follow-up questions by the newspaper as a result of last week's listing by DDSN of 41 providers in the DDSN system and their medication error rates.

SC Delegation News:

Associated Press: Rep. Gowdy to speak at service remembering fallen officers

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

SC State Wire

U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy is the special guest speaker at an annual remembrance of fallen South Carolina law enforcement officers. The South Carolina chapter of the Fraternal Order of Police has scheduled a service on Friday at the Law Enforcement Monument on the Statehouse grounds in Columbia. The monument was dedicated in 2005.

SC Political News:

Post and Courier: South Carolinians could land jobs in Donald Trump administration

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/south-carolinians-could-land-jobs-in-donald-trump-administration/article_08c9442e-a781-11e6-a306-9b00de851265.html

Emma Dumain

Three South Carolinians who put their political fortunes on the line backing Donald Trump early in his campaign could be rewarded with jobs in the president-elect's administration. Those working closely with the Trump transition team say Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, state Rep. Jim Merrill and Columbia real estate developer Bill Stern are in the best position among Trump's many Palmetto State backers to be offered to work for him in Washington, D.C. "One thing I learned is, Mr. Trump is extremely loyal," said Ed McMullen, Trump's South Carolina campaign chairman. "Every one of the people who worked on the campaign from start to finish will be in a position to be a part of this administration because Mr. Trump directed that to be the case." McMullen said McMaster, Merrill and Stern "were absolutely critical to the (S.C.) primary win, and they will play major roles in the future of how the administration develops." He added "opportunities will present themselves."

The State: Trump's SC supporters not rushing to join his administration

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article114006258.html>

Cassie Cope

S.C. Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster says he is not seeking a cabinet position or ambassador's job in a Trump Administration. McMaster, who delivered one of the speeches nominating Donald Trump for the presidency at the GOP convention, said he is "not too interested in doing anything in Washington." Instead, McMaster, 69, said he hopes to run for S.C. governor in 2018. "I'm much more excited about South Carolina." Still, McMaster, a former S.C. attorney general and state GOP chairman, did not totally swear off an administrative gig. "In politics, you never say never." Columbia real estate developer Bill Stern, chairman of the Southeast Business Coalition for Trump, also said he was not seeking a Trump Administration post. "I'm very happy with my day job," said Stern. But, he added, if Trump asked for his help "certainly I would consider."

Post and Courier: Veterans consider how this week's elections will affect them and the country they served

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/veterans-consider-how-this-week-s-elections-will-affect-them/article_addcf1ae-a75e-11e6-a106-1337a83891fb.html

Prentiss Findlay

Retired Marine Maj. Gen. James Livingston of Mount Pleasant, a Medal of Honor recipient, hopes Tuesday's election of Donald Trump will be a catalyst for more military funding. Livingston said defense funding cuts and downsizing are top concerns. "Young Americans have to go overseas so many times because we don't have enough forces," he said. "And I think they just need to put their money where their mouth is in terms of making this country great again." Ed Burns, Dorchester County Veterans Affairs officer, said Trump's election could prove to be a positive for the military and

veterans."He's pro-military and pro-veteran, so I would hope that once he gets in and gets settled that we'll see an increase in funding," Burns said. "I think the majority of veterans, they would all sort of feel that way. I was 28 years in the Air Force and we always needed money."

Aiken Standard: Trump victory doesn't shock USC Aiken professor

http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/trump-victory-doesn-t-shock-usc-aiken-professor/article_82a54eba-a78a-11e6-882a-8bc624e55b68.html

Michael Smith

As pundits expressed awe and wonder over Donald Trump's victory in the presidential election, Dr. Bob Botsch wasn't surprised at all. The USC Aiken professor emeritus likened the 2016 presidential election to 2008, when voters then also sought change, regardless of their political persuasions. "We had a party in power for two successive terms in the White House and the country was ready for a change," Botsch said. "It is very, very, very hard for any party to win a third term in the White House. "As the keynote speaker during the North Augusta Chamber of Commerce's power lunch Thursday, Botsch said Tuesday's election results all boiled down to turnout. "This was a populist, white working-class uprising," he said. "Many of the people who voted for Obama in 2008 and 2012 when he was a 'change candidate' now voted for Trump despite his negativism because he was a change candidate and gave a voice to their anger."

Island Packet: CNN's Bakari Sellers calls for unity, rebukes Trump in speech on Hilton Head Island

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article113859528.html>

Lucas High

In the wake of an election that saw Beaufort County vote overwhelmingly in favor of Donald Trump, CNN political analyst and former Democratic South Carolina lawmaker Bakari Sellers walked a thin line during a speech Thursday between calling for unity and critiquing the new president-elect's conservative policy positions. Sellers gave the keynote address before about 800 local government officials and members of the business community at the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce's annual State of the Region luncheon on Hilton Head Island. He noted Democratic Party presidential nominee Hillary Clinton's lead in the popular vote and said Trump will not be governing with a mandate from the nation's voters. Because of the slim margin of victory and relatively low voter turnout, Tuesday's election "wasn't a revolution or anything like that," Sellers said.

The State: Richland County deputy rants about Obama, 'worthless Democrats'

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article113918283.html>

Cynthia Roldan

A Richland County deputy has removed a personal social media post in which he insulted President Barack Obama and made a reference to "worthless Democrats." Deputy Timothy Michaud took down the comments dated Wednesday at the request of the Sheriff Leon Lott. No disciplinary action will be taken, sheriff's spokesman Lt. Curtis Wilson said. Michaud said he served in the military under former President George W. Bush and Obama "and I can say serving under Obama in the military was a disaster" without further explanation. The rest of Michaud's remarks were laced with expletives. "This is not something the department condones and, as public servants, we must refrain from expressing opinions on social media," Lott said in a statement. "The sheriff's department will handle any social media posting that is detrimental to the department." This isn't the first time social media comments got public safety officials in the Midlands in hot water. In July, three Columbia firefighters were fired over Facebook posts aimed at Black Lives Matter protesters who had taken to the streets to protest. A Richland County paramedic was also fired for comments on social media in July.

President-elect Trump News:

Associated Press: Behind the smiles, tough reality for Trump and GOP Congress

<http://bigstory.ap.org/b762b5aa193e47ed9b9e144725adb6b0>

The budding new alliance between Donald Trump and congressional Republicans hides a tougher

reality: Even with unified GOP control of Washington, the president-elect's priorities may have trouble getting through Congress. And in some cases Republicans themselves might be the barrier. Building a border wall and restricting immigration from terror-stricken nations? Don't count on Senate Democrats to go along, and they will effectively wield veto power in many cases. Repealing President Barack Obama's health care law? That looks likely to happen in some way, shape or form, but a number of states that accepted that law's expansion of the Medicaid health program for the poor are represented by Republicans. It will take painstaking and potentially lengthy negotiations to come up with a solution. And then there are Trump's protectionist views on trade, skepticism about international treaty organizations and promises to protect Social Security and Medicare. All that flies in the face of Republican Party orthodoxy — and the list goes on. Still, all that seemed like a problem for another day as Trump paid a triumphant visit to Capitol Hill on Thursday after a cordial White House meeting with President Barack Obama.

Associated Press: Trump likely to try to reverse Obama environment initiatives

<http://bigstory.ap.org/c295f2c99e714450a48f301a722f8185>

President-elect Donald Trump has not minced words about his approach to environment and energy policy: He loathes regulation and wants to increase the use of coal, offshore drilling and fracking. Trump has said he believes climate change is a hoax and that he would "cancel" U.S. involvement in the landmark Paris Agreement on global warming. While he's been vague about precise policies, Trump's election likely means trouble for some of President Barack Obama's signature environmental initiatives, environmentalists and policy analysts say. They say it's probable that Trump's administration will seek to weaken or kill the Clean Power Plan, a cornerstone Obama policy meant to reduce carbon pollution from the nation's power plants as part of an effort to combat climate change. The Clean Power Plan is being challenged in federal court, and if it survives, Trump could move to scuttle it. But not without a fight.

Associated Press: Iran deal endangered if Trump seeks to renegotiate its terms

<http://bigstory.ap.org/85acd2b840984ab9bacbaa680c7675ce>

Donald Trump isn't going to rip up the Iran nuclear deal on day one as president, but his vows to renegotiate the terms and increase enforcement could imperil an agreement that has put off the threat of Tehran developing atomic weapons. Emboldened Republican lawmakers are already considering ways to test Iran's resolve to live up to the deal. As a candidate, Trump issued a variety of statements about last year's pact. He called it "stupid," a "lopsided disgrace" and the "worst deal ever negotiated," railing against its time-limited restrictions on Iran's enrichment of uranium and other nuclear activity, and exaggerating the scale of U.S. concessions. Trump said that he doesn't want to simply tear up the agreement. Instead, he spoke of reopening the diplomacy and declared that unlike President Barack Obama's diplomats, he would have been prepared to walk away from talks. Trump's exact plans are vague, however, and a renegotiation would be difficult. Iran has little incentive to open talks over a deal it is satisfied with. And none of the other countries in the seven-nation accord has expressed interest in picking apart an understanding that took more than a decade of stop-and-go diplomacy and almost two full years of negotiation to complete.

Associated Press: With Trump, a major US shift in Mideast

<http://bigstory.ap.org/9693ae5bcb354ec0ade126be69d9d6f5>

President-elect Donald Trump's positions on Middle East issues, if carried out, could bring yet more volatility to the world's most combustible region. Besides vowing to rip up the international nuclear deal with Iran, Trump says he will ramp up the war on Islamic State militants; he could make the Palestinians more desperate by siding with Israel's hard-line right wing. He also seems set to end the Obama administration's cold shoulder toward authoritarians like Egypt's Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi. Trump has most often been vague and sometimes outright contradictory about plans in the Mideast. And his stances could change. His call for a ban on Muslims entering the U.S. worried many in the region, but he has since watered down that stance, and many opinion-makers in the Gulf at least call it simply campaign rhetoric. Overall, Trump has shown a focus on fighting Islamic militants and favoring

strongmen who do so. He's shown less concern with human rights or the complicated minutiae of the Mideast's many factions and interests. That is a simpler, black-and-white stance in the eyes of some, but it can also bring a backlash.

Associated Press: Oregon is epicenter as Trump protests surge across nation

<http://bigstory.ap.org/2a936aa6a71b4238bd9a463f142e027c>

Another night of nationwide protests against Donald Trump's election came to a head in Portland, where thousands marched and some smashed store windows, lit firecrackers and sparked a dumpster blaze. Police termed the protest a riot and used "less lethal munitions" to help clear the streets. Some 4,000 protesters surged into the downtown area late Thursday night with chants like "we reject the president-elect!" Officers began physically pushing back against the crowd that at times threw objects at them as midnight approached, arresting several people and using flash-bang devices and types of smoke or tear gas to force people to disperse. After several orders to leave, police said officers used "less lethal munitions," such as pepper spray and rubber projectiles. Live video footage showed officers firing what appeared to be the non-lethal items. It wasn't immediately clear if anyone was hit. Protest number continued to dwindle through the night and as the early morning hours wore on, police announced to remaining clusters of protesters to immediately disperse or be "subject to arrest and the use of riot-control agents." Police said they made 26 arrests.

Gov. Pat McCrory News:

Associated Press: North Carolina governor sees fortunes change this election

<http://bigstory.ap.org/ae7f6afea4c84dd09852895b79ca98c5>

The Trump train that carried Republicans to victory all over the South may have left one car behind in North Carolina — Gov. Pat McCrory, who trailed by a few thousand votes Thursday in a still too-close-to-call race that played out amid anger over the state's transgender bathroom law. The law limiting LGBT rights appeared to have a substantial role in the Election Day contest between McCrory, who signed the measure and vigorously defended it against boycotts and other protests, and Democratic Attorney General Roy Cooper, who called for its repeal. McCrory, who in 2012 won the governorship by 500,000 votes in a blowout the same year President Barack Obama was re-elected, was losing by 5,000 votes out of nearly 4.7 million cast. In 2012, McCrory received 170,000 more votes than Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney. This time, he trailed Donald Trump by 63,000 votes. McCrory could still win. There are tens of thousands of provisional ballots that have to be examined to determine whether they are valid and can be added to the vote tallies. Counties don't have to submit their final results until Nov. 18.

Hurricane Matthew Recovery:

Island Packet: Hunting Island to refund \$1 million in camping reservations

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article113903783.html>

Stephen Fastenau

The final cost of Hurricane Matthew's damage to Hunting Island isn't yet known, but the state will absorb at least a million-dollar hit in the coming weeks. The park will remain closed until at least next spring, and the oceanfront campground sites will be closed at least through next year. Those who reserved inland campsites through May 21 will receive refunds, and all the oceanfront site reservations next year will be refunded. In all, the park will give back \$1.1 million in camping fees, state parks spokeswoman Dawn Dawson-House said Thursday. "It's a jewel, and we've always known that," Dawson-House said. "It's like a child of ours.... It's important we recover and restore as quickly as we can." Notices will go out to those with reservations Friday. The refunds could take about two weeks to process. People who made reservations will have the chance to transfer the reservation to another state park for a 15 percent discount. The north end of Hunting Island, including the lighthouse, could reopen to visitors sometime this spring, Dawson-House said. The nature center and part of the fishing pier reopened in October.

Post and Courier: Hurricane curtailed home-buying in Charleston region

http://www.postandcourier.com/business/hurricane-curtailed-home-buying-in-charleston-region/article_9d06db30-a752-11e6-a5e6-6f8a704daacd.html

Warren L. Wise

Hurricane Matthew didn't wash away Charleston-area home sales in October, but the storm dampened the pace from previous months. Transactions in the region rose 0.6 percent over October 2015, according to preliminary data Thursday from the Charleston Trident Association of Realtors. Last month, 1,272 homes changed hands at a median price of \$240,000, up about \$15,000, or 6.7 percent, from a year earlier. So far this year, 14,963 homes have been sold in the Charleston region at a median price of \$240,000. At the current pace, sales for the year could surpass the 2015 total of 16,202. Volume is up 9 percent through Oct. 31, and the median price is 6 percent higher. "October's home sales remained strong and steady, particularly considering we had to contend with Hurricane Matthew that evacuated much of the Lowcountry for multiple days," said Michael Sally, president of the association. "We expect that sales volume will quiet some as we head into the holiday season, but price growth will likely remain steady as we are still working with a very limited inventory of homes."

Savannah River Site/MOX News:**Aiken Standard:** Nuclear isotope facility would bring low-enriched uranium to SRS

http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/nuclear-isotope-facility-would-bring-low-enriched-uranium-to-srs/article_27ad50b0-a768-11e6-86dc-7bd7354073c4.html

Thomas Gardiner

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued a draft environmental impact statement, or EIS, Wednesday regarding the application to construct a new nuclear medical isotope facility. The statement covers construction of the facility as well as alternative options, including denial of the application and an option to use a different technology set for creation of the isotopes. The facility is planned for Columbia, Missouri, but would have a connection to South Carolina's Savannah River Site. The facility will use low-enriched uranium to create Molybdenum-99, or Mo-99. Molybdenum is a special isotope that can be used to create several other products, including the most commonly used nuclear medical isotope in the United States, Technetium-99. That isotope is used in bone scans to identify fracture locations, in brain scans to identify strokes, and in heart scans to indicate heart attacks and other low-blood flow complications.

Michael Slager Case:**Associated Press:** Witness: Officer's DNA not on fingernails of black victim

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

Bruce Smith

A fired white police officer's defense lawyer told jurors at the start of his murder trial that he was provoked to shoot an unarmed black motorist when the fleeing man "physically and forcefully resisted" being subdued by a stun gun, "to the extent that they were both fighting on the ground." A DNA expert's testimony Thursday cast some doubt on that argument, revealing that none of the North Charleston officer's genetic material was found under the dead man's fingernails, and that a DNA analysis of his Taser was inconclusive. Samuel Stewart of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division testified at the trial of Michael Slager, whose shooting of 50-year-old Walter Scott in April 2015 was captured on a bystander's cellphone and shared worldwide. DNA from the Taser "is a mixture of two individuals, and Walter Scott and Michael Slager can't be excluded as contributors to the mix," Stewart testified. He also said there was DNA on three other areas on the stun gun that did not belong to either Scott or Slager.

Associated Press: The Latest: Witness: Officer's DNA not found on victim

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=kdAMfOZ1

SC State Wire

An expert is testifying that there was no DNA from a former white police officer found under the fingernails of a black South Carolina motorist who was fatally shot while fleeing a traffic stop. Samuel Stewart of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division testified Thursday during the murder trial of fired North Charleston patrolman Michael Slager, who was videotaped shooting Walter Scott. The defense contends the two men struggled over Slager's stun gun before fleeing the scene. But Stewart testified that DNA from the dead man's fingernails contained none of Slager's DNA. An analysis of the Taser was less conclusive. Stewart testified that there was a mixture of the DNA of two individuals on the weapon and that DNA from both Slager and Scott could not be ruled out. Stewart said blood stains on Slager's uniform shirt and pants also were analyzed. He testified that the blood contained Slager's own DNA, and that while there was another person's DNA, there was not enough of it to analyze its source.

Associated Press: The Latest: CSI agent says stun gun was processed properly

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

SC State Wire

A state crime scene investigator says there was nothing nefarious about officers swabbing a Taser for DNA but not taking fingerprints from the stun gun an officer used before shooting an unarmed black motorist who was running away. Almon Brown, who works for the State Law Enforcement Division, testified at the murder trial of fired North Charleston officer Michael Slager on Thursday that the weapon was processed according to lab protocol. Brown, who combed the scene for evidence following the April 2015 shooting death of Walter Scott, says there is no doubt from the evidence that there was a struggle between Scott and Slager. The defense earlier questioned Brown about why no fingerprints were taken from the officer's Taser, which the defense contends Scott got control of before the shooting. A dramatic cellphone video seen worldwide shows Scott running away without the spent Taser and falling to the ground dozens of feet away from Slager after being shot five times in the back.

Associated Press: The Latest: Brother worried victim bought Mercedes

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=tvZW1j2N

SC State Wire

The brother of Walter Scott says he was worried when his brother bought a 1990 Mercedes Benz because he lived in North Charleston, South Carolina, which is known for profiling black motorists. Anthony Scott took the stand Thursday at the trial of Michael Slager, the white former North Charleston patrolman charged in the death of Walter Scott. The motorist was shot and killed while running from a traffic stop in April of 2015. Anthony Scott says he worried that his brother, who was in the process of buying the car at the time he was shot, had fallen behind in child support payments. The day of the shooting Anthony Scott said he went to the scene of the shooting and saw his brother's car. As he testified: "When I saw the vehicle and I saw the tape around the car I knew it wasn't a good scene." Scott also testified about how his family learned about a cellphone video made by a bystander, which captured dramatic footage of Slager shooting Scott.

Post and Courier: Slager defense continues to try to show that the state investigation was incomplete

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/slager-defense-continues-to-try-to-show-that-the-state/article_7f86b626-a6f7-11e6-bde3-d738fe7ac748.html

Andrew Knapp

State Law Enforcement investigators were not trying to slant the case when they collected and inspected evidence in the wake of the fatal shooting of Walter Scott, a SLED agent said Thursday. Almon Brown, once a special agent at the State Law Enforcement Division, returned to the stand Thursday to talk about the investigation and handling of evidence. Brown testified in Michael Slager's murder trial on Tuesday, but was unable to return to the stand Wednesday due to a doctor's

appointment. The former agent said he and others on the case conferred and followed protocol based on their training. "Was there any nefarious intent on y'all's part not to take fingerprints (from Slager's Taser)?" Deputy Solicitor Bruce DuRant asked. "No, sir," Brown responded. But Slager lawyer Andy Savage continued his bid to make it look like the investigation was bungled. He pointed out that SLED didn't do 3D scan of Slager's car, as it did Scott's, because North Charleston police said Slager's car was unavailable.

Post and Courier: Defense, investigators spar over evidence at center of Walter Scott shooting
http://www.postandcourier.com/news/defense-investigators-spar-over-evidence-at-center-of-walter-scott/article_7f86b626-a6f7-11e6-bde3-d738fe7ac748.html

Andrew Knapp

An analyst found DNA from both Walter Scott and North Charleston policeman Michael Slager on the officer's Taser — a discovery defense lawyers says bolsters their claim the stopped motorist grabbed the device before Slager shot him. But the expert from the State Law Enforcement Division said testing did not reveal which man's DNA was most prominent on the stun gun. Defense attorneys have implied during the officer's murder trial the device had more of Scott's DNA than Slager's. "Both may have contributed equally to the DNA on the Taser," analyst Samuel Stewart testified Thursday. Thursday's sixth day of testimony featured jurors being shown key pieces of physical evidence in the state's quest to convict Slager for murder. He faces 30 years to life in prison if convicted. Scott's older brother, Anthony, told the jurors how he had implored his brother to reconsider buying the 1990 Mercedes-Benz with flashy rims that he was driving when Slager encountered him. The brother feared Scott would be pulled over and go to jail because he was behind on child support payments.

Serial Killer Todd Kohlhepp:

The State: Mother talks about accused serial killer son's alleged crimes
<http://www.thestate.com/news/state/south-carolina/article114090388.html>

Rachael Myers Lowe

The mother of accused serial killer Todd Kohlhepp, 45, told an upstate television station that her son admitted the crimes to her earlier this week. The first part of Reggie Tague's interview with WSPA was broadcast Thursday night. Three bodies were found on the 96 acres of land in Woodruff belonging to Tague's son. The discoveries were made after the rescue of an Anderson woman on November 3, 2016, who was found chained up in a locked container on the property. One of the bodies was identified as Charlie Carver who went missing last August at the same time as the rescued woman. The two other bodies were identified as Spartanburg couple Meagan Leigh McCraw Coxie and Johnny Joe Coxie. Authorities said Kohlhepp also confessed to being responsible for the 2003 Superbike Motorsports quadruple homicide in Chesnee that left Scott Ponder, Brian Lucas, Beverly Guy and Chris Sherbert dead.

Herald-Journal: Prayer vigil to promote healing amid ongoing serial killer investigation
<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161110/prayer-vigil-to-promote-healing-amid-ongoing-serial-killer-investigation?rssfeed=true>

Daniel J. Gross

Amid an ongoing probe into suspected serial killer Todd Kohlhepp, a group of Spartanburg County residents is seeking to bring people together in prayer Monday. "The purpose of the prayer vigil is to unite all people in our county and beyond who want to come together and pray. This is a grassroots effort of several friends who felt led to give their time with planning and to bring the start of healing during this time of tragedy," said Kimberly Shell, a Spartanburg County resident and one of the organizers. Kohlhepp is charged with four counts of murder after authorities say he confessed to the 13-year-old Superbike Motorsports quadruple homicide in Spartanburg County. He has also been charged with kidnapping after detectives found a missing Anderson woman chained up inside a locked container on his 96-acre Woodruff property, and has been linked to three other deaths — missing Anderson man Charlie Carver and married couple Johnny Coxie and Meagan McGraw-

Coxie. All three bodies were found on the property owned by Kohlhepp, but Kohlhepp has not been charged in those cases.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Dry, windy conditions feed wildfires across the Southeast

<http://bigstory.ap.org/b4b4fa3df6f44d19ba680dfafa7af00f>

Many of the nation's largest active wildfires have been burning in the southern Appalachian mountains, where a relentless drought has turned pine trees into torches and forced evacuations in dozens of communities. More than 5,000 firefighters and support staff from around the nation have poured into the Southeast to try to suppress these fires, Shardul Raval, director of fire and aviation management for the southern region of the U.S. Forest Service, said Thursday. The effort includes about 40 aircraft, including three large air tankers flying out of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Tens of thousands of acres of forest have burned and about a dozen of the largest fires were uncontained, the forest service said. High winds and temperatures and weeks without rain have combined to spark blaze after blaze in the unusually dry landscape. Numerous teams reported wind-driven fires racing up slopes and down ravines as they struggled to protect hundreds of threatened structures.

Associated Press: The Latest: South Carolina extends burning ban in Piedmont

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=S4LCPaQX

SC State Wire

The South Carolina Forestry Commission has expanded its burning ban from five Upstate counties to all 19 Piedmont counties. A statement from the commission said the ban took effect at 6 p.m. Thursday. State Forester Gene Kodama expanded the ban because of weather conditions in the Piedmont that led to an elevated risk of wildfire. The commission's statement also said the diversion of resources to a wildfire in Pickens County also led to the expanded burning ban. A wildfire on Pinnacle Mountain at Table Rock State Park has grown from 15 to 250 acres in the past 24 hours because of dry conditions. The commission is sending extra firefighters to the area in addition to deploying an incident management team.

Aiken Standard: Residents may see more smoke as a new wildfire flares up in S.C.

http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/residents-may-see-more-smoke-as-a-new-wildfire-flares/article_9e56413e-a774-11e6-a445-6b01a2638197.html

Tripp Girardeau

Local residents may have noticed smoke around the area Wednesday in Aiken, and there may be more smoke to come as a new fire has started up in South Carolina. Fire Chief Darryl Jones, with the South Carolina Forestry Commission, said a blaze has broken out in Pickens County in the Table Rock State Park area. He said smoke from this fire mixing with smoke from several dozen wildfires in western North Carolina, northeastern Georgia and southeastern Tennessee will likely cause Aiken residents to see more smoke in the air. "Basically, as wind directions change, we'll see more and less of the smoke," Jones said. The smoke likely will not dissipate until either the Appalachian wildfires are controlled or the state receives significant rainfall.

Independent Mail: Crews battle Pinnacle Mountain fire

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/2016/11/10/crews-battle-pinnacle-mountain-fire/93589640/>

Mike Eads

The forest fire atop Pinnacle Mountain has grown to over 250 acres, fueled by the dry air and drier conditions on the ground. Doug Wood, director of communications for the South Carolina Forestry Commission, said early Thursday night that firefighters had been ordered off the mountain until daybreak Friday, due to the steep terrain and worsening conditions. He said extra firefighters would be deployed to help the 50 or so already sent to the scene. The commission has extended its outdoor fire ban across the northern half of the state, due to "... extremely low relative humidities, which,

combined with dry fuels on the ground, create the potential for outdoor fires escaping easily and spreading rapidly," according to statement from Wood.

The Herald: Burning ban extends to York, Chester counties

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article114005473.html>

The South Carolina Forestry Commission has expanded its State Forester's Burning Ban from five Upstate counties to all Piedmont counties, including York and Chester, effective Thursday evening. The ban also applies to Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Edgefield, Fairfield, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, Lexington, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Pickens, Richland, Saluda, Spartanburg, and Union counties. State Forester Gene Kodama expanded the ban Thursday afternoon after a wildfire on Pinnacle Mountain at Table Rock State Park had grown from 15 to 250 acres over 24 hours. There was also a fast-growing wildfire in Pickens County.

Post and Courier: Outpacing its peers, Port of Charleston stands to gain from global trends

http://www.postandcourier.com/business/outpacing-its-peers-port-of-charleston-stands-to-gain-from/article_4509e904-a76b-11e6-bb62-07278bbbe255.html

David Wren

Growth in the amount of containerized cargo passing through the Port of Charleston is tracking at the higher range of maritime facilities along the East Coast. And it isn't expected to decline despite worries over a slowing world economy and president-elect Donald Trump's trade policies. "I've looked at the East Coast ports overall and they are all hovering within 2 to 3 percent of either side of the zero line - some are slight declines, some are showing slight growth," Jim Newsome, president and CEO of the State Ports Authority, said during Thursday's monthly board meeting. "We tend to be on the better side of the percentage equation." Container volume at the port's terminals is up 1.6 percent through the first four months of fiscal 2017 compared with the same period a year earlier. At nearly 389,000 boxes through October, the SPA is on pace to barely top the all-time annual mark of 1.134 million.

Herald-Journal: 2018 World Equestrian Games likely to have wide impact

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161110/2018-world-equestrian-games-likely-to-have-wide-impact?rssfeed=true>

Alyssa Mulliger

The multimillion-dollar economic impact of the 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games at the Tryon International Equestrian Center will undoubtedly extend beyond the Mill Spring, N.C., venue to other areas of both Carolinas, the managing partner of the investment group behind the equestrian center said Thursday. "This is an event that has a tremendous scale and grandeur," said Mark Bellissimo of Tryon Equestrian Partners. "This is something we've dreamed about in terms of an opportunity to hold the World Equestrian Games." Last week, the equestrian center announced it had been selected by the Fédération Equestre Internationale to host the two-week international sporting event that will run Sept. 10-23. The equestrian center submitted a bid to host the event in August, after Bromont, a city in Quebec, Canada, withdrew from holding the 2018 games. The games take place in different parts of the world every four years and feature eight equestrian disciplines.

Local News:

Associated Press: Woman found dead in closet in Hanahan, boyfriend arrested

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=m1wWqscC

SC State Wire

A man has been arrested and charged with murder after his girlfriend's body was found in a closet of their apartment in Hanahan. Berkeley County Coroner Bill Salisbury said in a statement that police found the body of 39-year-old Melanie Rivera on Tuesday afternoon. Hanahan Police Capt. Michael Fowler said officers checked the apartment after getting a call from Rivera's co-workers, who had not heard from her in several days. Salisbury said her body had been in the closet for more than 24 hours.

Thirty-five-year-old Michael Patrick Strait Jr. was arrested during a traffic stop Tuesday night. It was not known if Strait has an attorney. An autopsy scheduled for Thursday is expected to reveal more about how Rivera died. There was no indication of a motive.

Post and Courier: Hanahan police: Melanie Rivera strangled after she found boyfriend's phone calls, texts to another woman

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/hanahan-police-melanie-rivera-strangled-after-she-found-boyfriend-s/article_b348cbfe-a786-11e6-9553-67affa656ddf.html

Gregory Yee

Hanahan police believe a 39-year-old woman whose body was found "stuffed in the closet" this week was killed after a fight with her boyfriend over texts and phone calls to another woman. Michael Patrick Strait Jr. confessed verbally and in writing to killing Melanie Rivera on Nov. 5, according to a warrant and an affidavit. Strait told investigators that he and Rivera, his live-in girlfriend, fought after she found phone calls and texts he sent to another woman, according to the documents.

Investigators believe he grabbed her by the neck and held her down on their living room couch until she stopped moving, the documents said. "(Strait) immediately discarded all her belongings in the community dumpster and placed her body in the downstairs linen closet with the motivation to conceal the crime," the documents said. Berkeley County Coroner Bill Salisbury has ruled Rivera's death a homicide — asphyxiation by manual strangulation.

Associated Press: Man kills suspected robber with gun he had in vehicle

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

SC State Wire

Authorities in South Carolina say a man who was forced back into his car by a robber while pumping gas was able to grab his gun inside the vehicle and shoot the suspect. Aiken County Sheriff's Capt. Eric Abdullah said in a news release that a man was pumping gas about 6:20 a.m. Thursday when 39-year-old Steven Kilmek approached him, demanded money, and told him to get back in his vehicle. Coroner Tim Carlton says the man gave Kilmek \$15, but authorities say the two then started fighting. They say Kilmek fired his gun and missed before the man grabbed his own gun and shot Kilmek several times. Paramedics pronounced Kilmek dead at the scene. The robbery victim's name was not released. No charges have been filed.

Sun News: Surfside Beach police makes strides, halves number of burglaries compared to 2015

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article113874608.html>

Surfside Beach is listed as a "hot spot" for burglaries on a report by a security company, according to numbers from 2015. But the Surfside Beach Police Department said it has taken steps to decrease that number and said the town's residents should continue to feel safe. "We had a rash of burglaries and we did make arrests," said Kenneth Hofmann, lieutenant of the Surfside Beach Police Department. ProtectAmerica.com tabbed the Grand Strand town as the No. 7 hotspot in the state of South Carolina for a burglary to occur. The ranking is based on the cities with the highest burglary rates per capita. According to statistics, there were 85 burglaries in 2015 within the city, which has a population of 4,276. Since then, however, the police department has made strides to bring crime and burglaries down in the city.

Sun News: Shots fired outside home of Heather Elvis family

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article113905618.html>

Elizabeth Townsend

A man reported being shot at outside the family home of kidnapping victim Heather Elvis on Wednesday night, and Horry County police are investigating the incident, which they are calling an attempted murder, according to a police report. Officers were called about 10 p.m. Wednesday night to a home off Sly Fox Trail, which an online search showed is the home of the Elvis family. The call was in reference to a shooting, police said, and they met with a male victim whose name was redacted from the report. He told police he was taking trash out to a can in front of his home and as he

was putting trash in the can, he said he heard a popping sound and felt the trash can being struck, according to the report. The victim told police he ran behind his vehicles and eventually into his home. He also told police he saw a vehicle on Recreation Road, near where it intersects with Sly Fox Trail, drive off toward S.C. 707, the report states. He said he couldn't describe the vehicle because it was dark outside, and the vehicle was too far down the road, police said.

Associated Press: Man awarded \$150K in malicious prosecution case

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=jkmLJLR7

SC State Wire

A jury has awarded a Rock Hill-area man \$150,000 in damages after deputies with the York County Sheriff's Office arrested him after injuring an assailant who had trespassed and attacked him on his property. The Herald of Rock Hill (<http://bit.ly/2fCBVq1>) reports that a York County jury found deputies had maliciously prosecuted Russell Shane Carter in the stand-your-ground case. In 2012, Carter told deputies someone had punched him on his property, prompting Carter to hit the assailant with a bat to subdue him before police arrived. Police charged Carter with assault after the other man needed medical treatment, but investigators dropped criminal charges seven weeks later. Carter filed a lawsuit in 2014, arguing that he was defending himself in his home under South Carolina's Castle Doctrine.

Greenville News: Greenville police chief responds to ex-officer's lawsuit

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2016/11/11/greenville-police-chief-responds-ex-officers-lawsuit/93561474/>

Anna Lee

Greenville Police Chief Ken Miller is denying a former officer's claims that he was fired after speaking out about the department's handling of a Black Lives Matter protest, according to court documents filed in federal court this week. The officer, Joshua Pratt, is suing Miller and the city of Greenville over alleged violations to his First Amendment rights. In his Sept. 7 complaint, Pratt claims he was improperly suspended and terminated as retaliation for speaking out about the lack of command and leadership during a Black Lives Matter protest in downtown Greenville. The suit claims Miller threatened officers with discipline and directed an internal affairs investigation at Pratt after he voiced his concerns in departmental meetings and in discussions with City Council members. In the city's response, Miller says Pratt was terminated due to untruthfulness in a warrant, which resulted in an unlawful arrest.

Post and Courier: North Charleston police advisory commission gets final approval

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/north-charleston-police-advisory-commission-gets-final-approval/article_c89c95e2-a788-11e6-9a1b-93fe6ad86a03.html

Diane Kinch

As one of their city's former police officers stands trial for murder, North Charleston City Council members approved a new panel to address residents' police complaints – despite concerns the panel won't go far enough. The new Citizens' Advisory Commission on Community-Police Relations got final council approval Thursday, but some still doubt that it will bring the kinds of changes they say the city needs. And others say the process that created it was not transparent or inclusive. The battle lines have been drawn for months over whether the commission should have subpoena powers like some similar groups in cities such as Atlanta and Miami, but Mayor Keith Summey has pushed back on that. The city held a public meeting last week to review and discuss the plan, and about half of the 50 attendees walked out in protest.

Post and Courier: Disbarred Charleston lawyer charged with breach of trust, released on \$100,000 bail

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/disbarred-charleston-lawyer-charged-with-breach-of-trust-released-on/article_55423dde-a7ad-11e6-87e7-0f787bd2b538.html

Gregory Yee

A former Charleston lawyer who was disbarred in 2015 now faces a criminal charge. Brian Davis, 44,

was arrested by Charleston police Thursday, according to jail records. Davis appeared in Charleston County Bond Court where he was charged with breach of trust with fraudulent intent and was released on \$100,000 bail. According to his disbarment papers, which were filed on Jan. 21, 2015, Davis' practice was built around real estate loan closings and titles. Davis, however, would pocket funds he was supposed to pay toward insurance premiums, mortgages and other obligations on behalf of his clients, according to the papers. At the time he was disbarred, Davis owed clients and other parties more than \$360,000, according to the papers.

The State: Columbia College students will see big tuition drop

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/education/article113907138.html>

Students at Columbia College will see a big drop in their tuition bill next year as the private women's college cuts by nearly \$10,000 the "sticker price" paid by its students. The college said Thursday that students will pay tuition of \$19,500 a year to attend starting with the fall 2017 semester, down from the current \$28,900. College affordability is a rising national issue. The move will bring Columbia College's price tag more in line with its average net cost — after scholarships and grants — to attend, the college said. "We have the opportunity to significantly decrease our tuition price while still maintaining and improving the high quality and lasting value that a Columbia College degree holds," president Beth Dinndorf said in a statement. Adding in the cost of room and board — currently \$7,900 a year — the change will bring the total cost of attending Columbia College to \$27,400, less than the current cost of tuition alone now, according to Monique McDaniels, marketing and communications director.

The State: Many Columbia buses to be equipped with security cameras by early 2018

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article114065588.html>

Cliff Leblanc

More than 70 of Columbia's public buses will be equipped with security cameras by late next year or early 2018, the director of the bus system said Thursday. Bob Schneider said 39 new diesel-powered buses that are on order will have cameras, and 38 buses in the current fleet will be retrofitted with them. All but 20 percent of the \$500,000 camera budget will be paid for with federal funds, meaning \$100,00 would come from local dollars, he said. Schneider was summoned Thursday to a special called meeting by Columbia City Council to lay out how The Comet system is changing and to let some riders air complaints. The new buses begin arriving in the spring and the full complement is expected to be in service within a year after that, Schneider told council. Of the 39 new buses, he said, eight will be small enough to handle routes in neighborhoods where large buses would be more intrusive.

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