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To:
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Subject: Clips – Sunday, September 4, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier : 2018 governor's race starts to loom large after November. So who's going to run?
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160904/160909733/2018-governors-race-starts-to-loom-large-after-november-so-whos-going-to-run->

Gavin Jackson

Republican-leaning South Carolina probably won't be a major factor in the presidential race, so attention is turning to the 2018 campaign for governor. Incumbent Nikki Haley is constitutionally prevented from seeking a third term, but lots of Republicans are jockeying to succeed her, even with the filing period still 18 months away. The speculative list of those in the discussion remains fluid. Some contenders have started fundraising toward the \$2 million to \$4 million needed to run a credible campaign. Others are traveling the state and taking the temperature of voters, speaking to small groups and building name recognition. The potential field is less clear for Democrats, who haven't fared well in recent gubernatorial elections and still have a way to go in determining their best contenders.

Tropical Storm Hermine News:

Associated Press : Hermine kills 2, ruins beach weekends in northward march

<http://bigstory.ap.org/4351e52b1d3349b9aeadb7c7a1a0e851>

Jessica Gresko

Storm system Hermine spun away from the U.S. East Coast on Sunday, removing the threat of heavy rain but maintaining enough power to keep beaches at risk for dangerous waves and currents — and off-limits to disappointed swimmers and surfers during the holiday weekend. The National Weather Service said a tropical storm warning remains in effect for Rehoboth Beach in Delaware, which could experience wind gusts of up to 50 mph and life-threatening storm surges during high tide late Sunday and into Monday. Virginia Beach also remained under a tropical storm warning Sunday, with the weather service describing conditions as "breezy to windy." No significant rainfall was expected for the area, although scattered rain may occur in parts of southern New England and in the mid-Atlantic states. In New Jersey, tropical storm-force winds could whip up on Monday, and record flooding remained a threat south of the Atlantic City area.

Associated Press : The Latest: Storm surge likely up coast from Virginia to NJ

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=hu9AhEnL

SC State Wire

Hermine is moving east-northeastward as a powerful post-tropical cyclone and a dangerous storm surge is expected along the coast from Virginia to New Jersey. The U.S. National Hurricane Center said Saturday night that the storm's maximum sustained winds remain at 70 mph with higher gusts. Hermine is expected to intensify to hurricane force on Sunday. The storm is centered about 205 miles east of Norfolk, Virginia, and 195 miles southeast of Ocean City, Maryland. It is moving east-

northeast at 12 mph. Hermine was the first hurricane to hit Florida in more than a decade when it came ashore early Friday.

Associated Press : 21,000 remain without power as Hermine leaves South Carolina

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=bCwRNX4k

SC State Wire

Tropical Storm Hermine has left power outages and downed trees in South Carolina, but little damage. About 21,000 customers remained without power Saturday morning, well after the storm moved out of the state. About half the outages are along the coast, while the other half are in inland counties like Dillon, Florence, Lee and Sumter. Hermine brought wind gusts of up to 60 mph along the coast Friday with winds gusting to 50 mph inland. Widespread areas east of Columbia received at least 4 inches of rain, with up to 10 inches of precipitation reported around Myrtle Beach. No major flooding was reported, and the storm caused no deaths or serious injuries. Hermine left behind beautiful weather. Lows across the state made a rare summer dip below 70 degrees.

Aiken Standard: Aiken area gets back to normal quickly after Hermine <http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160903/160909836/aiken-area-gets-back-to-normal-quickly-after-hermine>

Dede Biles

The Aiken area didn't suffer any significant or widespread damage while Hermine moved through South Carolina on Friday as a tropical storm that pounded the state with heavy rains and gusting winds. Trees fell, power lines came down and water covered parts of roads locally. But by Saturday morning, there were few signs that there had been any problems. In Aiken's city limits, leaves were scattered in the streets and large puddles remained. Piles of debris – some large, but most small – could be seen at the edges of yards. "We went back to 'Op Con 5,' which means normal operating conditions, at about six o'clock on Friday night after being at 'Op Con 4' (a level of increased awareness)," said Aiken County Emergency Management Director Paul Matthews. "To be honest with you, it wasn't a lot worse than a typical summer afternoon thunderstorm. We just had more widespread rain and a little bit more widespread wind. We were lucky."

Island Packet: Hermine was fast, recovery likewise: Sunshine, football and power (mostly) are on <http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article99787242.html#storylink=cpy>

Madison Hogan

As Tropical Storm Hermine swept through South Carolina, the Lowcountry was spared from the worst effects. Lingering power outages, especially in the northern part of Beaufort County, and scattered tree falls were reminders of the storm, however. The National Weather Service reported from 2 to 5 inches of rainfall throughout Beaufort County. Of SCE&G's 49,194 Beaufort County customers, only 16 remained without power as of 9 p.m., according to the utility's web site. Only six people in Jasper County reported outages. Across the state, another 5,916 SCE&G customers were without power in Colleton, Charleston, Dorchester, Berkeley, Orangeburg, Calhoun, Lexington, Richland, Allendale and Hampton counties. Palmetto Electric reports all customers have regained power.

Sun News: Hermine moves away after drenching Grand Strand, rip currents hang around

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article99788747.html>

Elizabeth Townsend

After Tropical Storm Hermine dumped almost a foot of rainfall in some areas along the Grand Strand, flooded roadways and downed trees, the storm moved away and Horry County officials shifted operating levels back to normal Saturday morning. "Overnight there were a several issues including trees down (approximately 10 reported in the western parts of the county) and flooding of streets

along the coast and some inland," said Lisa Bourcier, Horry County spokeswoman Saturday morning. "Roads should be open and passable this morning, although a couple of road washouts were reported in Murrells Inlet area. No structural damage was reported." WPDE reported amounts of rainfall totaled to: Surfside Beach – 9.56 inches; Murrells Inlet – 7.56 inches (though more was in some places); Myrtle Beach – 7.11 inches; Pawleys Island – 6.93 inches; Garden City – 6.84 inches; Socastee – 5.67 inches; Conway – 5 inches.

SC Political News:

Associated Press : SC legislators ask Supreme Court to end education oversight

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=qjmlf1Oy

SC State Wire

Lawyers for South Carolina legislators want the state Supreme Court to end its oversight of a 23-year-old case over school funding. Attorneys for Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman and House Speaker Jay Lucas said in a court filing last week that both legislative chambers are making good faith efforts to improve education. The Supreme Court demanded reports on the Legislature's progress after the justices ruled in November 2014 that poor, rural students lack educational opportunities. Lawyers for the poorer districts say the reports just were accounts of legislative meetings and lists of budget items that don't address the problems. They say most of the money given to education last session is distributed statewide instead of to the districts in need. The court case started in 1993.

Associated Press: Deepening pension deficit looms for South Carolinians

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

Seanna Adcox

Four years after South Carolina lawmakers passed a law they hailed as keeping the state's public pension system solvent for generations, they are scrambling to fill a deepening deficit that could affect every taxpayer in the state. While public pensions nationwide are struggling with growing debt, South Carolina's situation has been worsened by investment underperformance. The state's \$28 billion pension portfolio - which 1 in 10 South Carolinians are counting on for their retirement - would be worth about \$4 billion more if returns over the last decade had been on par with other large public pensions, according to an analysis by the state's public benefits agency. Keeping the debt in check will likely require workers in the system and taxpayers to pay hundreds of millions more in future years.

The State: As fall campaign kicks off, 4 SC candidates have \$100,000+ in the bank

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article99814117.html#storylink=cpy>

Bristow Marchant

Labor Day is one of those pivotal dates on the calendar, the end of summer and the beginning of the fall – general election campaign. In South Carolina this fall, nine state Senate seats – out of 46 – are being contested by at least two candidates. In the S.C. House, 36 out of 124 seats will be contested in November. Of the 45 contested races, the largest war chest has been amassed by Sen. Nikki Setzler, D-Lexington, who had \$208,417 on hand as of July 10. Setzler faces a challenge for the Senate's District 26 seat from Republican Brad Lindsey, who had only \$462.07 in the bank. Twelve candidates in contested races have no fundraising totals on file with the S.C. Election Commission – five Democrats, three Republicans, two Libertarians, and one member each from the American and Green parties.

The State: Watchdog Crangle co-teaching public corruption class

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article99842022.html>

Cassie Cope

John Crangle knows a thing or two about public corruption, having led S.C. Common Cause for nearly 30 years and written a book on "Operation Lost Trust" – a 1990s federal sting operation that ensnared S.C. lawmakers in indictments on corruption charges. The ethics watchdog is co-teaching a University of South Carolina law school class on the subject along with longtime law professor Kenneth Gaines. Crangle said he has concerns about a number of attorneys who get caught up in misconduct as public officials. In addition, lawyers such as Columbia attorney Butch Bowers have developed an expertise in the subject defending high profile South Carolina politicians who fended off ethics allegations. Because attorneys are helping public officials prevent campaign violations and defending them against allegations, Crangle started the course to help those young lawyers learn more about campaign finance law.

The State: After hundreds of millions spent on SC roads – where are the orange cones?

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article99841767.html#storylink=cpy>

Cassie Cope

New orange cones are few and far between. Yet S.C. lawmakers have touted their band-aid approach to fixing roads for the past two years. They sent nearly \$300 million in new money to counties for road-repairs and approved borrowing about \$200 million a year to yield another \$4 billion in state transportation projects. But drivers have seen few new work zones pop up and are hitting the same pot holes. Why? Because it takes time to fix a road or replace a bridge. For example, only about 6 percent — or \$12.6 million — of the \$217 million counties received in 2015-16 has been spent. However, another 88 percent — or \$190.8 million — has been committed to road projects. It takes about two years after the state or counties receive money before people will see roads being fixed, said Eric Dickey, an engineer with Davis and Floyd and past chairman of the S.C. Alliance to Fix Our Roads. So what is the time-consuming process? Bear with The Buzz – this might sound like engineer speak.

The Lancaster News : State website helps recover unclaimed cash

<http://www.thelancasternews.com/content/state-website-helps-recover-unclaimed-cash>

State Treasurer Curtis Loftis announced this week that citizens can now search for unclaimed property on the his office's website, treasurer.sc.gov, and on the national database MissingMoney.com.

Each year, companies turn over billions of dollars to states' unclaimed property programs when they cannot locate the owners of the funds. South Carolina's Unclaimed Property Program, administered by the State Treasurer's Office, is currently seeking the rightful owners of more than \$500 million.

Post and Courier: Meet Roads, the donkey born out of the Statehouse roads debate

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160903/160909812/meet-roads-the-donkey-born-out-of-the-statehouse-roads-debate->

Gavin Jackson

The roads funding debate raging for years in the Statehouse has manifested itself in a donkey born here in June. Lexington Republican state Sen. Katrina Shealy named the donkey "Roads" for three reasons. "She was abandoned, like South Carolina's roads," Shealy said. "It cost a lot to fix her, and I don't know what the upkeep is going to be — like South Carolina roads." Roads isn't Shealy's first

donkey. The first-term senator tells of how she came to have five female and two male donkeys — yes, that's seven in the stables in total. "We had one," Shealy said, "and his name was Harry. And, um, Harry got bit by a rattlesnake and died." So Shealy and her husband got two more donkeys, which soon multiplied into seven, with another on the way. Surprisingly, donkeys make good watch dogs from the state's growing menace, the coyote. That's Roads' job: to protect Shealy's Yorkie named Jefferson.

Index-Journal: Sen. John Drummond dies at 96

<http://indexjournal.com/news/Sen--John-Drummond-dies-at-96-18047805>

State Sen. John W. Drummond, a Ninety Six native who represented Greenwood County for more than four decades before retiring from elected office in 2008, died Saturday. He was 96. Born Sept. 29, 1919 into a family of mill workers, Drummond served as a pilot and paratrooper in World War II. He spent 10 months as a prisoner of war after his plane, "Raid Hot Mama," was shot down over France. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, nine Air Medals, three Battle Stars, a Presidential Citation and two Purple Hearts. When he returned, he went from service member to entrepreneur, baking and selling doughnuts at Golden Rings before getting into the oil distribution business and starting Drummond Oil Co. Drummond was first elected to the state House of Representatives, where he served one term, in 1964 and joined the Senate two years later, where he would serve 42 consecutive years in office, serving for a period as president pro tempore of that body and chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. He also served as chairman of the State Reorganization Commission, which tried to make state government more efficient and was a strong supporter of public education.

The State : As polls tighten, electoral map still favors Clinton

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article99847102.html>

Bristow Marchant

After an August of leading in the polls, Hillary Clinton must be hoping summer never ends. Donald Trump, on the other hand, probably hopes Labor Day will be the real start of the presidential campaign – and the polls will continue to narrow Clinton's lead until Election Day. The Democratic presidential candidate built a healthy lead in the polls last month, as a slow drip of news about her private email server and the Clinton Foundation was often overwhelmed by Trump's comments about "Second Amendment people" and his feud with a Gold Star family. In recent weeks, the Republican nominee waffled on his signature issue: tougher immigration enforcement. But after a face-to-face meeting with the Mexican president last week, Trump doubled down on his call for mass deportations and a border wall financed by Mexico.

Greenville News: Easley pastor, Trump surrogate says he 'overstated' biography

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2016/09/03/easley-pastor-trump-surrogate-says-he-overstated-biography/89839874/>

Anna Lee

Mark Burns, an Easley pastor and Donald Trump surrogate, has admitted to falsifying parts of his professional biography after a heated interview with CNN earlier this week. "As a young man starting my church in Greenville, South Carolina, I overstated several details of my biography because I was worried I wouldn't be taken seriously as a new pastor," Burns said in a statement late Friday. "This was wrong, I wasn't truthful then and I have to take full responsibility for my actions." The televangelist who can often be seen introducing Trump at campaign events posted the apology on his social media accounts. He added on Twitter that he's "thankful for a God who looks beyond our faults." Attempts to

reach Burns were unsuccessful Saturday. His statement came shortly after his interview with CNN anchor Victor Blackwell, who confronted Burns about the professional accomplishments listed on his church website, including his bachelor's degree from North Greenville University. The site has since been taken down.

SC Agency News:

Herald-Journal: Future of executions in SC remains uncertain

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20160903/future-of-executions-in-sc-remains-uncertain?rssfeed=true>

Allison M. Roberts

Like other prison systems across the country, the S.C. Department of Corrections can't purchase the drugs necessary to carry out lethal injections. The drugs are not available in the United States, and European countries — which are strongly opposed to the death penalty — have refused to sell the drugs to American prisons. That means executions in states that rely primarily on lethal injection are now in limbo for the foreseeable future. The long appeals process associated with death penalty cases increases the likelihood that any stockpiled remaining drugs will expire, and few states have acted to reinstate other forms of execution, such as the electric chair or firing squad. While death penalty opponents have welcomed the shift, some victims' families, such as Carol Wright, feel their loved ones have been cheated of justice. South Carolina hasn't executed anyone since 2011, and in 2013 one of the drugs in the state's supply that's needed for a lethal injection expired. Since then, corrections officials haven't been able to obtain the three-drug cocktail used in executions.

Herald-Journal : Death penalty process agonizing for mother of victim

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20160903/death-penalty-process-agonizing-for-mother-of-victim>

Allison M. Roberts

Kelly Center thinks about the man who killed her daughter at least once a day and wonders if his death sentence will ever be carried out. In 2009, Ricky Lee Blackwell Sr. shot 8-year-old Brooke Center in the head four times while holding her in a headlock. It was an act of revenge, Center said, because Blackwell was mad at his estranged wife and Brooke's father, who were dating. Blackwell was convicted and sentenced to death in 2014, five years after Brooke's murder. Center still is frustrated it took so long for the trial to begin, since it meant that much later a start to the lengthy appeals process that Blackwell is guaranteed. "He did it in revenge because he was mad at his wife and my husband," Center said. "He took it out on an 8-year-old. There's no sense in that. He should die." It could take 15 to 20 years for Blackwell to exhaust his appeals, Center said. But with South Carolina executions on hold due to an inability to obtain lethal injection drugs, there is no guarantee Blackwell's sentence will be carried out.

SC After Recent Violence:

Post and Courier : As nation ponders community policing, Scott and Gowdy hope S.C. can engage in the debate

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160903/160909811/as-nation-ponders-community-policing-scott-and-gowdy-hope-sc-can-engage-in-the-debate>

Emma Dumain

During the August congressional recess, 12 U.S. House members — participants in a bipartisan group tasked with restoring trust between police and civilians — dialed into a conference call. U.S. Rep. Cedric Richmond, D-La., provided an update on how his community was doing after Alton Sterling, a black man, was shot and killed by white policemen outside a convenience store in Baton

Rouge.U.S. Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., shared local reactions to the news that the New York City Police commissioner was stepping down.And U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., recalled the “homework assignment” he’d given to his working group colleagues: Talk to people you wouldn’t normally speak to, Gowdy said. Find someone who has had an experience unlike any you have known.Hours after the conference call concluded, Gowdy was off to follow his own advice. He stepped into the Brookland Baptist Church in West Columbia, joined by U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., and nearly two dozen fellow South Carolinians — half of them from the faith community, half of them with careers in law enforcement; most of them non-white.

LGBT News:

The State: Loud, proud crowd celebrates acceptance at SC Pride festival

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article99847057.html>

Sarah Ellis

They carried signs with messages such as, “Disarm hate,” and wore shirts making statements such as, “Love has no labels.”Many of the tens of thousands of revelers at Saturday’s Famously Hot S.C. Pride festival in downtown Columbia had a personal statement to make.And the festival itself – one of the Midlands’ largest events, in its 27th year – had a message to send the Columbia community “This is who we are. This is who we’ve been. And you can get with it, or you don’t have to watch the parade,” said Bret Weaver, otherwise known by his drag persona, Amanduh Please, on Saturday. “In the beginning, it was a hidden celebration, and it was so close-knit. But now, it’s open.”Weaver, 27, and his friend Trei Helms, 18, both of Greenville, said they’ve see Pride events grow in scope and diversity over the years, signaling growing acceptance beyond the gay community.“The misconception about Pride is that it’s for gay people, and it’s not,” Helms said. It’s also an event for straight allies of the gay community, he said. “It is for everyone.”

Opinion/Editorial:

Post and Courier: A lack of legislative competition

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160904/160909765/a-lack-of-legislative-competition>

Editorial

The election season has been tumultuous at the national level, from the nominating process to the ongoing charges and countercharges between Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump. By contrast, since the primary elections, the state legislative races have been muted to the point of obscurity.That’s not because our politicians are particularly genteel.It’s because there are so few contested races.Fewer than 25 percent of the General Assembly seats at stake this year feature candidates from the two major parties. Thus, more than three-quarters of the legislative incumbents are getting a free ride.And that situation doesn’t necessarily reflect broad public appreciation of our lawmakers. A 2015 Winthrop University poll put public approval rating of the Legislature at 45 percent. (In contrast, Gov. Nikki Haley’s approval rating is 59 percent.)So the lack of competition — and ultimately, accountability — reflects the skill of legislative gerrymandering that increasingly provides safe seats for Republicans and Democrats.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier : Next bad drought could cripple state, region

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160903/160909835/next-bad-drought-could-cripple-state-region>

Bo Petersen

Thirsty? The Southeast is. And the pelting from Tropical Storm Hermine won't make much difference. The storm arrived with all of South Carolina and much of the region in drought or under the threat of drought, less than a year after record flooding rains fell in this state. The specter of drought has plagued the state for nearly two decades, including two severe episodes at the turn of the century and then in 2007-2008. The next severe drought could easily be worse, regional hydrologists say, as warming climate evaporates more of the surface water and brings longer, more severe swings of rainy and dry periods. All that while more people and more industries dip into the shrinking supply. And next time might come sooner than you think. That's why officials and researchers in South Carolina are scrambling to quantify just how much water comes through the state at any given time, who uses it and how important is that use: Sooner or later, a serious enough drought will force officials to prioritize who gets how much at a time. An update on the multi-agency S.C. Surface Water Availability Assessment will be given at the S.C. Water Resources Conference in Columbia in October.

Local News:

The Herald: 'Talk to kids': Indian Land boy, 11, died playing 'choking game'

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article99796977.html>

David Thackham

Garrett Pope was the typical, happy 11-year-old boy, his parents say. He loved playing with his friends, riding his bicycle, going fishing and playing football and lacrosse. He also was an impressionable boy, and that led him to make a mistake that cost him his life, according to his father, Garrett Pope, Sr. His son died while playing "The Choking Game," in which youths cut off their airwaves in an attempt to get a sense of euphoria. Pope said he doesn't know where Garrett would have learned about the game, and said he doesn't want any other parents to experience what his family suffered. "Whatever we can do to prevent this from happening to anybody else, that's the goal," Pope said in an interview Saturday, explaining why he felt it important to speak publicly about the incident.

Associated Press: South Carolina man arrested in Ky.

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Ls9wXpJr

SC State Wire

Kentucky State Police arrested a South Carolina man who was driving a car with ten pounds of marijuana hidden in the dash, trunk and spare tire. Police stopped the Mercury Milano on Interstate 24 in western Kentucky around noon for speeding. During the stop, according to a release from state police, a trooper noticed "indicators of criminal activity" and was given consent to search the car. Trooper T.J. Williams found marijuana inside the dash, in the trunk along the right and rear fenders and in the spare tire. Thirty Adderall pills were also found, according to state police. The driver, 33-year-old Saleh M. Al Garad, of Columbia, S.C. was arrested and charged with speeding, drug trafficking and other drug offenses. Al Garad was jailed in the Caldwell County Detention Facility.

Associated Press : Man who left kids in truck with gun violates probation

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=K6pY62Ra

SC State Wire

A father who left four children alone in a truck with a gun and a box of bullets hidden under the seats had been sentenced to jail after violating his probation. Prosecutors wanted a longer sentence for Jason Grant. They said he has refused to provide a urine sample for drug testing to his probation agent. After he pleaded guilty to unlawful neglect in June, a possible 10-year prison sentence was

suspended. Circuit Court Judge Dan Hall decided to send Grant to jail for 90 days, warning him he wouldn't see leniency again, The Herald of Rock Hill reported (<http://bit.ly/2cobbBo>). "Hopefully this will get whatever it is out of your system. I hope we don't see you again," Hall said. Grant left his children, ages 13, 11, 7 and 5, in his truck while he sat in a stall at a Rock Hill gas station bathroom for hours and it was luck that the children didn't find the gun or hurt themselves, prosecutors said. Grant said he has tried to follow the rules of his probation and wanted to give a urine sample, but couldn't. "I'm not a rule breaker," Grant said. "I'm a tough guy, I can hang in there."

Post and Courier: Son slain in drug deal, Elizabeth Moffly turns to campaigning

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160903/160909945/son-slain-in-drug-deal-elizabeth-moffly-turns-to-campaigning->

For Elizabeth Moffly, hitting the campaign trail after Labor Day is part of the healing process, even if so many Charleston County voters might not understand it. In March, shortly after her college-age son Patrick Moffly, 23, was killed in a drug deal gone bad, she filed to run for public office, launching a Republican campaign to be the county's next auditor. While retreating into mourning might be the expected norm, Moffly, a former school board member and also somewhat of a perennial candidate, said jumping back onto the campaign trail has actually helped. "I'm still on that roller coaster," she said, "and I will be on that roller coaster the rest of my life." Patrick Moffly was killed March 4, shot in the chest inside his apartment at 97 Smith St. in downtown Charleston. One suspect has been charged in the killing.

Independent Mail: Seneca officer fired year after Zachary Hammond shot

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/09/03/seneca-officer-fired-year-after-zachary-hammond-shot/89831692/>

Mike Ellis

Seneca Police Chief John Covington has fired officer Mark Tiller, who fatally shot unarmed teen Zachary Hammond in July 2015. Tiller's final day on the payroll will be Friday, Covington said in a statement Saturday afternoon. The chief says that he could not provide further comment on the "personnel" matter. Tiller will not face state prosecution, but the FBI and the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division are investigating the shooting. Tiller's attorneys have said, in court filings earlier this year, he faces "profound criminal exposure as result of the ongoing criminal investigation" by federal authorities. Hammond, 19, was fatally shot when he drove his 2002 Honda Civic away from Tiller during a botched police drug sting in a Hardee's parking lot on July 26, 2015. Tiller was placed on paid leave after the shooting. He was making \$18.25 an hour at the time and had received at one point, three promotions in an 18-month period, according to his personnel file.

Associated Press: SC officer who killed unarmed teen fired 13 months later

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=8q3HsNaM

SC State Wire

A police officer who wasn't charged in the shooting death of an unarmed South Carolina teen is being fired from the force more than a year after the incident. Seneca Police Chief John Covington said in a short statement that Mark Tiller was being terminated and would stay on the payroll until Friday. He refused to give a reason, calling it a personnel matter. A state prosecutor didn't press charges against Tiller for the July 2015 killing of 19-year-old Zachary Hammond, saying while Tiller might have made a bad decision heading toward Hammond's moving car, the officer had less than three seconds to react and broke no law. Federal authorities are still investigating. Hammond's family released a statement saying they are glad Tiller will no longer be a police officer.

Herald- Journal: Online threats made against Byrnes High, Jewish, Muslim students

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20160903/online-threats-made-against-byrnes-high-jewish-muslim-students?rssfeed=true>

Zach Fox

Spartanburg County Sheriff's deputies are investigating threats made against Jewish and Muslim students at Byrnes High School. Additional law enforcement officers will patrol Byrnes High School over the next several days after the threats, which contained vulgar and violent language, were reported to deputies. "We are taking it very seriously," said Spartanburg School District 5 Superintendent Scott Turner. "I was very alarmed when I saw the posts and how vile some of the language was, and how direct the threats were, not only against our students but the families of our students." The threats included Nazi language and imagery, Facebook screenshots show. In addition to the violent, threatening language, the posts included pictures of someone wearing a gas mask, and images of Nazi medals and a knife adorned with a swastika.

Associated Press: Online threat to kill Jewish, Muslim students at SC school

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

SC State Wire

Authorities say they are investigating online threats to kill Jewish and Muslim students at a South Carolina high school. Spartanburg School District 5 said in a news release that a Byrnes High School student reported the threats Friday evening. The threats said Byrnes High would be attacked Tuesday and included pictures of a person in a gas mask and a knife with a swastika on the handle. Superintendent Scott Turner says Spartanburg County deputies are patrolling the school the holiday weekend, and there will be security sweeps and extra officers on hand when school returns Tuesday. The sheriff's office says it is investigating the threats, but no arrests have been made. Byrnes High has about 2,300 students and is one of the largest high schools in South Carolina.

Associated Press : County warned principal that paper asked for public report

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=bmiWSfM0

SC State Wire

A lawyer for Beaufort County warned a high school principal that a newspaper asked for a police report she was mentioned in and told her what she could do to keep the public document secret. Hilton Head High School principal Amanda O'Nan ended up filing an anonymous request to have release of the report blocked. A judge released a redacted report before relenting to The Island Packet of Hilton Head's argument that the Freedom of Information Act required the entire document be released. The report involved a possible relationship with O'Nan and a Beaufort County deputy. O'Nan's husband said the deputy was using his police car to meet his wife at the school for the affair. O'Nan said their relationship was professional only. The deputy resigned when confronted with allegations he ran the license plate without permission. The newspaper requested any reports of misconduct against the officer, and assistant Beaufort County attorney Allison Coppage wrote a lawyer representing O'Nan a note about the paper seeking the information and giving the exact deadline the report would be released unless someone intervened, according to documents obtained by The Island Packet of Hilton Head (<http://bit.ly/2c0fOSz>).

Island Packet: Hilton Head Island High principal got heads up from county before suing to keep sheriff's report secret

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/education/article99314092.html#storylink=cpy>

Lucas High

An attorney for Beaufort County tipped off a high school principal that two newspapers had requested

a copy of an investigative report in which she was named and included language that set out what would be needed to keep the public documents secret and how much time she had to do it. On May 15, The Island Packet and The Beaufort Gazette filed the request for a Beaufort County Sheriff's Office investigative report into allegations of misconduct by a deputy. Three days later, assistant county attorney Allison Coppage sent a letter via email to an attorney representing Hilton Head High School principal Amanda O'Nan asking the attorney to let O'Nan know the newspapers were seeking the information. The letter goes on to explain that the county legally is required to respond within 15 business days. "Please allow this letter to serve as notice of the County's intent to release the requested documents on June 1, 2016, absent a court instruction to the contrary," Coppage writes.

Associated Press : Clemson students protest rules for demonstrators to register

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=nzV3cslp

SC State Wire

About two dozen students have protested Clemson University's requirement that visitors register before they can demonstrate on campus. The Anderson Independent-Mail reports (<http://grnol.co/2c2urm4>) that the protesters were unhappy that minister Robby Roberts was asked not to show his sign that said "prayer" last week after he spent a week at in Trustee Park on campus. Clemson officials say they aren't against prayer. But they say anyone protesting must have permission from student affairs and federal courts have backed their position. They say visitors are welcome to say whatever they like. Freshman Matthew Phillips says the university shouldn't limit anyone's free speech whatever the message.

The State: Academic fees rising rapidly for some USC students

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article99838147.html>

Avery G. Wilks

Lawton Mizell figured his fall tuition bill had to be a mistake. But when the Charleston native scoured the University of South Carolina's website for an explanation for the new, \$918-a-semester program fee on his bill, he found more bad news. The \$200-a-semester engineering school fee that Mizell paid as a freshman will be \$1,209 a semester by the time he graduates. It is expected to rise again after he leaves. "When I first found out about it, I was really upset," Mizell said. "It's such a large jump. You kind of feel powerless sometimes. They can pretty much put the fee down, and once the fee is approved, that's it. It's really hard to go back and change it." Academic fees are a fact of life on college campuses, including USC's. All 16 USC colleges and schools tack on additional charges to tuition, many to pay for extra course- or program-specific costs. But those fees are rising rapidly at USC's College of Engineering and Computing, where – university officials say – efforts to revamp the college are costly.

Post and Courier: Time running out to secure an SC tax credit for special needs student tuition

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160904/160909960/time-running-out-to-secure-an-sc-tax-credit-for-special-needs-student-tuition>

David Slade

Time is running short for parents to secure a South Carolina income tax credit worth up to \$11,000 if they pay private school tuition for a child with special needs, at a qualifying school. The state's "educational credit for exceptional needs children" is among several South Carolina income tax credits with a limited amount of funding. Unlike other state and federal tax credits, which taxpayers receive as long as they are qualified, this tax credit is only available as long as the money lasts, on a first-come basis. And this year's funding is fast running out. The exceptional needs credit is actually two different tax credits: one for parents and legal guardians who pay tuition, and another for people

who donate to a scholarship fund. It's the parental tax credit that will soon be exhausted. I'll focus on that one this week, and the tax credit for scholarship donations next week.

Associated Press: Homeless vet reunited with Charleston family after 32 years

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=o1HQb100

SC State Wire

When Anna Judge received a Facebook message last year from a Veterans Affairs social worker, she and her sister Marta Sallie thought it was a hoax. The message said their brother, German Leon, was in the VA's care in Atlanta, and that they needed to speak with his family as soon as possible. Neither had heard from their brother in 32 years. The last time they spoke with him, he said he'd retired from the Army and was heading to Atlanta in search of a job. As time went by without any word, they started to worry. Sallie said they called hospitals and law enforcement in the Atlanta area. They even hired a private investigator to track him down, but he never turned up. So after more than three decades of silence and frustration, the VA's message seemed too good to be true. Leon was among 20 percent of the male homeless population in the United States who are veterans, and among the 50 percent who have serious mental illnesses, according to congressional reports on the issue.

Post and Courier: Union effect: Study ties wage stagnation to demise of organized labor, but not everyone agrees

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160903/160909822/union-effect-study-ties-wage-stagnation-to-demise-of-organized-labor-but-not-everyone-agrees>

David Wren

The decline of labor unions in the United States since the late 1970s has led to slowing wage growth for workers in all segments of the private sector, whether or not those workers belong to organized labor, a new report states. An Economic Policy Institute study released last week says pay for private-sector workers has barely budged for more than 35 years when inflation is factored in, and nonunion men who lack a college degree are actually making less in real wages now than they were in the late 1970s. "Working class men have felt the decline in unionization the hardest," said Jake Rosenfeld, a University of Washington sociologist and one of the authors of the EPI study. "Their paychecks are noticeably smaller than if unions had remained as strong as they were almost 40 years ago. "Rosenfeld estimates weakened union activity has led to an annual wage loss of \$109 billion nationwide.

Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press: Trump tells black congregation he wants to fix 'many wrongs'

<http://bigstory.ap.org/d8550efbd3dc40978080e9c9b4b4071a>

Jill Colvin and Corey Williams

Criticized for urging black voters to support him while speaking to mostly white audiences, Donald Trump visited a predominantly black church to call for a "civil rights agenda for our time." "I am here to listen to you," the Republican presidential nominee told the congregation at the Great Faith Ministries International, where he swayed to songs of worship and read scripture. "I'm here today to learn," said Trump, who is Presbyterian. Trump, who vowed to fix the "many wrongs" facing African-Americans, has been stepping up his outreach to minority voters in recent weeks as he tries to expand his appeal beyond his GOP base. The church visit Saturday marked a rare appearance by Trump in front of a largely minority audience. "This is the first African-American church he's been in, y'all!" said Bishop Wayne T. Jackson, who introduced Trump. "Now it's a little different from a Presbyterian church."

Associated Press: On Road to 270, Arizona is home to best chance for a spoiler

<http://bigstory.ap.org/f262d4ce64c14a0590059737fbaa371a>

Thomas Beaumont

If Hillary Clinton carries Arizona in November, there's a good chance it won't be because Democrats on their own have flipped a reliable GOP state they hope to win consistently someday. Instead, Clinton and Democrats may have Gary Johnson to thank. The Libertarian Party nominee's best chance to influence the presidential race may come in Arizona, where the former New Mexico governor appeals to a group of finicky conservatives who make up part of the GOP base. "It could happen," said GOP Sen. Jeff Flake. "Donald Trump has managed to make this an interesting state in terms of presidential politics, and not in the way that Republicans have wanted." Johnson "is an easy out for some people in our party," Flake told The Associated Press.

National News:

Associated Press : US, Russia come up short on Syria deal; more talks Monday

<http://bigstory.ap.org/d5de175486ee40628f5a7026b5b74fda>

Josh Lederman and Kathleen Hennessey

The United States and Russia came up short Sunday on a deal to end years of brutal fighting between Syria's Russian-backed government and U.S.-supported rebels. Negotiations were to continue Monday, even as a dispirited President Barack Obama doubted the diplomacy would ever pay off. Russia and the U.S. have sought for weeks to secure a cease-fire between Syrian President Bashar Assad's government and moderate rebels that would expand access for hundreds of thousands of civilians caught in the crossfire. The strategy has hinged on an unlikely U.S.-Russian militarily partnership against extremist groups operating in Syria. But beyond the Islamic State and al-Qaida, the two powers have conflicting views about who fits in that category. "We're not there yet," Obama said on the sidelines of an economic summit in China, where across town U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov were trying to hash out the deal. "It's premature for us to say that there is a clear path forward, but there is the possibility at least for us to make some progress on that front."

World News:

Associated Press: Pope declares Mother Teresa a saint and model of mercy

<http://bigstory.ap.org/045802cbf4894c868cf82a37cd5680a0>

Nicole Winfield

Pope Francis declared Mother Teresa a saint on Sunday, praising the tiny nun for having taken in society's most unwanted and for having shamed world leaders for the "crimes of poverty they themselves created." Francis held up Mother Teresa as the model for a Catholic Church that goes to the peripheries to find poor, wounded souls during a canonization Mass that drew an estimated 120,000 people — rich and poor, powerful and homeless — to a sun-filled St. Peter's Square. "Let us carry her smile in our hearts and give it to those whom we meet along our journey, especially those who suffer," Francis said in his homily. The canonization was the highlight of Francis' Holy Year of Mercy and may come to define his papacy, which has been dedicated to ministering to society's most marginal, from prisoners to prostitutes, the refugees and the homeless.

Associated Press: Economic summit opens amid sluggish growth, trade disputes

<http://bigstory.ap.org/fa3d3173373d4fc9bf3e82af46525639>

Joe McDonald

Chinese President Xi Jinping called Sunday for leaders of the United States, Germany and other major economies to resist pressure to raise trade barriers as they opened a summit amid sluggish global growth and disputes over China's steel exports and Apple's Irish tax bill. China made trade a theme of the Group of 20 meeting even as Beijing faces complaints it is flooding world markets with low-cost steel, fueling demands for trade curbs. The president of the European Commission highlighted the conflict by calling for the summit to take action. Opening the two-day meeting in this lakeside city southwest of Shanghai, Xi called for more innovation to spur economic growth and reforms to global financial and economic management. He appealed for cooperation in taxes, anti-corruption and measures to "improve the ability of the world economy to resist risks." Chinese officials said earlier that Beijing would propose a plan to boost trade and innovation through regulatory changes and closer government cooperation.

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