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To:
Date: 11/18/2016 8:47:24 AM
Subject: Morning Clips – Friday, November 18, 2016

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Reaction to Gov. Nikki Haley meeting with President-elect Donald Trump:

CNN: Madam Secretary or not, Nikki Haley still a star

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/11/17/opinions/haley-secretary-of-state-bailey-opinion/>

Isaac Bailey

The oddest thing has happened. In the wake of the 2016 election and Hillary Clinton's loss, South Carolina has inadvertently positioned itself to become the state that could produce the nation's first woman president: Nikki Haley. Back in January, I wondered if Gov. Haley had missed her window to take advantage of her enormous political potential on a national stage. She's smart, a quick-learner and one of the craftiest politicians in the nation. Yet instead of running for the top job, she was then giving the GOP response to President Obama's final State of the Union address and being talked up as a vice presidential prospect for candidates who soon washed out of the race. Now, it looks as though that window may not be closed after all, as Haley is reportedly in the running to be secretary of state in the Donald Trump administration. If, as the daughter of Indian immigrants, she becomes America's top diplomat (or even if she manages her consideration wisely), she will be back in line to do in her party what Obama did in his: break barriers while backed by a diverse coalition of Americans.

NOTE: But regardless of whether she actually gets this job, it's clear to me that those who dismiss Haley are making a serious mistake. I was there when Haley came through Myrtle Beach during her first run for governor and was being mocked then, too, by experts who said she had no shot in a state who had only elected white men for its highest office. Anyone paying attention to how she handled questions during press conferences way back then could see how clear it was that she was a force to be reckoned with. She was then dismissed again during her first term as she traded elbows with a Republican-controlled General Assembly not always allied with her -- until she got the job done, again and again.

CNN: Graham knocks Paul: 'He is my friend, he's a libertarian, but he's an outlier'

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/11/17/politics/lindsey-graham-rand-paul-donald-trump-confirmations/>

David Wright

Sen. Lindsey Graham gave his full support to both Rudy Giuliani and John Bolton as picks for secretary of state by the incoming Trump administration, while chiding critics like Sen. Rand Paul who have vowed to oppose the potential nominees. "You can put the Republicans in a very small car who are going to follow Rand Paul's advice when it comes to national security," Graham told CNN's John Berman and Kate Bolduan on "At This Hour." "He is my friend, he's a libertarian, but he's an outlier." "Graham expressed confidence that both Giuliani and Bolton could be confirmed as heads of the State Department despite early opposition from Paul and Democrats, who have seized on Giuliani's international consulting work and paid speaking engagements -- something Hillary Clinton was criticized for -- as potential conflicts of interest. He also dismissed Paul's complaint about the hawkish Bolton since his recess appointment during the Bush administration.

NOTE: Graham also said he could support another potential candidate -- his state's governor, Nikki Haley -- though his backing was more lukewarm. "I would say (Haley) did a good job as governor of South Carolina. She's talented, she's capable. I think she could do a good job in any assignment given. I don't know about her foreign policy. I haven't talked to her," he said, adding later, "At the end of the day, I would support her."

USA Today: S.C. rep on Gov. Haley rumors: Cabinet doesn't need to be a Benetton ad

http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/onpolitics/2016/11/17/sc-rep-gov-haley-rumors-cabinet-doesnt-need-benetton-ad/94032538/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

Eliza Collins

South Carolina Rep. Mark Sanford doesn't want Donald Trump's Cabinet to look like a "Benetton commercial" but he does think Gov. Nikki Haley's Indian heritage could help her if she was secretary of State. Sanford was speaking to MSNBC Thursday when he was asked about reports that his state's governor was being considered for secretary of State. President-elect Trump and Haley were scheduled to meet in New York Thursday. "I don't think the Cabinet needs to look like a Benetton commercial, but I think having folks of different ethnic backgrounds matters, particularly in that role. Given we're 5% of the world's population and most of the world doesn't look like us," he said. Benetton commercials are known for their diversity. In February Haley, who had endorsed Florida Sen. Marco Rubio — a Cuban-American — for president, said the new group of conservative leaders "looks like a Benetton commercial."

USA Today: Cabinet diversity? Eh, sure

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2016/11/17/short-list-thursday/94016232/>

There were no announcements from President-elect Donald Trump on his Cabinet picks Thursday, so the world keeps watching the Trump Tower elevator doors. And speculates. And gaffes. Example: South Carolina Rep. Mark Sanford said he doesn't think the Cabinet needs to look like a "Benetton commercial." Explain: 1. Benetton ads are known for their diversity. 2. S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley reportedly met with Trump Thursday about the secretary of State position. Haley's Indian heritage could be a plus for that role, Sanford said. Meanwhile, we haven't heard much from Trump: "My transition team, which is working long hours and doing a fantastic job, will be seeing many great candidates today," tweeted the tweeter-(elect)-in-chief.

WACH: Mark Sanford says Nikki Haley would be a good fit for Secretary of State

<http://wach.com/news/local/mark-sanford-says-nikki-haley-would-be-a-good-fit-for-secretary-of-state>

Matthew Stevens

Former South Carolina Governor and US Congressman Mark Sanford told MSNBC he thinks Gov. Nikki Haley would make a good Secretary of State. When asked if he thought Haley would be a good fit the Congressman responded, "Yeah I do. I think that having folks of different ethnic backgrounds matters, particularly in that role. Given we are five percent of the world's population and world doesn't look like us." Sanford then praised her handling of the historic floods and tragedies that the state has faced over the past few years. "I think at a whole host of different levels she has a lot to bear," said Sanford. Sanford noted that she was been recognized by her fellow governors after earlier this week Haley was chosen as the Vice President of the Republican Governor's Association. Speculation for Haley joining President elect Donald Trump's cabinet started Wednesday after reports surfaced that she was in the running for Secretary of State.

MSNBC: Rep. Sanford on Trump, Gov. Nikki Haley

<http://www.msnbc.com/msnbc-news/watch/rep-sanford-on-trump-gov-nikki-haley-811563587678>

VIDEO: Rep. Mark Sanford, R - South Carolina, talks to Hallie Jackson about his state's governor, Nikki Haley, and her candidacy for Secretary of State in Donald Trump's administration.

MSNBC: Transition team: President-elect Trump to meet with Nikki Haley

<http://www.msnbc.com/brian-williams/watch/transition-team-president-elect-trump-to-meet-with-nikki-haley-811042371995>

VIDEO: Brian Williams & panel talk about Nikki Haley, who is reportedly on Trump's list for secretary of state, plus what role Donald Trump's son-in-law could play in a Trump White House.

ABC News: Donald Trump Holds Meetings With SC Gov. Nikki Haley and Henry Kissinger

<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/donald-trump-holds-meetings-sc-gov-nikki-haley/story?id=43608308>

Katherine Faulders

Amid swirling speculation about his Cabinet picks, President-elect Donald Trump is in Trump Tower in New York City for another full day of meetings, where he is believed to be narrowing down his possible choices, with nominations expected within the next few weeks. Since his visit to Washington, D.C., last week, Trump has remained in his Manhattan headquarters and residence, with no public events, holding multiple meetings with top transition aides and various contenders for his Cabinet. The meetings today were likely to focus on foreign policy and national security, including a mix of people who are providing counsel and those whose names are reportedly in the mix for Cabinet positions in the Trump administration.

NOTE: Among those who visited or were expected to head to Trump Tower today: Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., a contender for attorney general; South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, a possible secretary of state; and former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

NOTE: Haley, a late endorser of Trump, originally threw her support behind Florida Sen. Marco Rubio before the South Carolina primary in February. "Marco Rubio is the only one that can defeat Donald Trump, and Marco Rubio can beat Hillary Clinton and will win in November," Haley said on ABC News' "This Week" in February.

NOTE: Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., voiced his support for Haley today, telling CNN, "She's talented, she's capable and could do a good job in any assignment given. I don't know her foreign policy. I haven't talked to her. Her husband was in the South Carolina National Guard. He deployed to Afghanistan. I think she's a traditional Republican when it comes to foreign policy. I certainly would support Nikki Haley. I like her a lot."

NOTE: "Gov. Haley was pleased to meet with President-elect Trump," her deputy chief of staff Rob Godfrey said in a statement to ABC News after the meeting. "They had a good discussion, and she is very encouraged about the coming administration and the new direction it will bring to Washington."

CBS: Kellyanne Conway talks possible Trump Cabinet, meeting with Japanese PM

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/kellyanne-conway-talks-possible-trump-cabinet-meeting-with-japanese-pm/>

Reina Flores

On the day President-elect Donald Trump will gather with the first foreign head of state since his election victory, top senior adviser Kellyanne Conway joined "CBS This Morning" and gave a preview of the meeting, to be held with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. "I think any deeper conversations about policy and the relationship between Japan and the United States will have to wait until after the inauguration," Conway said Thursday when asked whether Mr. Trump and Abe would discuss the businessman's campaign trail promises to make Japan pay for its own defense. "Maybe they'll discuss that today," she added, but went on to say that it would be a "much more informal meeting than all of that since we have a current president and commander-in-chief." Conway weighed in on other news of the Trump transition team, including Mr. Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, who was reportedly seeking national security clearance earlier this week.

NOTE: On other names floated for Cabinet positions, Conway discussed the possibility of the secretary of state post getting filled by South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, once a vocal critic of Mr. Trump's rhetoric on the campaign trail.

NOTE: "It would probably be irresponsible to go ahead and name all the people right at once," Conway said. "But we're very happy that Governor Haley is coming to meet with President-elect Trump. I'm sure they'll have a broad-- a wide ranging conversation."

Fox News: Should Nikki Haley be chosen to join Trump's Cabinet?

<http://video.foxnews.com/v/5214659734001/?#sp=show-clips>

VIDEO: McCarthy discuss the potential of Donald Trump choosing Governor Nikki Haley to join his Cabinet

Post and Courier: Go big or go home? Gov. Haley could wind up with new job

http://www.postandcourier.com/columnists/go-big-or-go-home-gov-haley-could-wind-up/article_1b2afad2-acdf-11e6-ba59-d740edd19821.html

Brian Hicks

So are we about to lose our governor to Washington or has she been cast in a twisted new season of "The Apprentice"? Cabinet edition. Late Wednesday, word got out that Gov. Nikki Haley was on President-elect Trump's list of interviews for Secretary of State, or something. She reportedly met with him Thursday. As the incoming prez says, this could be yuge. The question here is whether Trump is really doing conciliatory outreach to political opponents – or just toying with them for the satisfaction of saying, in front of a national audience, "You're fired. Go back to the suite." Or the Statehouse, as the case may be. That's what Haley must determine as she listens to what is undoubtedly an attractive sales pitch, a ticket to the national (even international) stage. Folks say Trump holds grudges, and the governor was one of the few people who actually stood up to him during the campaign. You may recall back in the spring Trump sent a nasty Tweet about how the people of South Carolina were embarrassed by their governor. Haley responded with the ultra-classy "Bless your heart." Which really means, well, you know.

Post and Courier: Haley now has to wait for a Trump phone call, maybe

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/haley-s-office-confirms-meeting-with-trump-but-little-else/article_2523e17a-acd0-11e6-88f4-afa80a60b1f7.html

Schuyler Kropf and Andy Shain

From the top job in a state with no international borders, to maybe becoming the nation's chief diplomat, everyone is wondering whether President-elect Donald Trump will pop the question. After a whirlwind 24 hours of speculation, Gov. Nikki Haley met face-to-face Thursday with a previous political foe inside downtown Manhattan's Trump Tower. Neither side disclosed details of what was discussed, but Haley's long-shot possibility of becoming the nation's next secretary of state was widely considered the topic. "They had a good discussion, and she is very encouraged about the coming administration and the new direction it will bring to Washington," a Haley spokesman said in a statement after their midday session. While Haley has received high marks for handling domestic matters at home, her resume includes next to no experience in national security or foreign affairs, indicating the job may be a tough sell to the American people.

The State: How Gov. Haley's meeting with President-elect Trump went

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article115392398.html>

Jane Moon Dial

SC Gov. Nikki Haley traveled to New York City to meet with President-Elect Donald Trump Thursday, though there was no news yet of a new position for her in his administration. Haley met with Trump at his office in Trump Tower, and Rob Godfrey, Haley's deputy chief of staff, said the meeting went well. "Governor Haley was pleased to meet with President-elect Trump," Godfrey said in an emailed statement. "They had a good discussion, and she is very encouraged about the coming administration and the new direction it will bring to Washington."

Reports had been circulating that both Haley and Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster were being considered for positions in Trump's administration. News outlets reported South Carolina's governor was being considered for the job of secretary of state, while McMaster, an early Trump supporter, could become Trump's attorney general. The meeting comes the day after Haley was named vice chair of the Republican Governors Association, a nationally visible post that puts her in line to become the chair of the association in 2018.

The State: What if Gov. Haley, Lt. Gov. McMaster leave SC for Trump?

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article115380258.html>

Cassie Cope

With chatter that GOP Gov. Nikki Haley and Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster have been approached by President-elect Donald Trump's transition team about joining his administration, some are asking:

What happens if one or both leave their S.C. posts? If only Haley leaves. If Haley gets a position in the Trump Administration — secretary of state or secretary of commerce have been speculated — McMaster would rise to the governor's office. That would give the Columbia Republican two years in office before he likely would run again for the governor's office in 2018. McMaster, a former S.C. attorney general, ran for the GOP nomination for governor in 2010 but endorsed Haley after placing third in the Republican primary. That would leave the lieutenant governor's office open, which would be filled by the president pro tempore of the Senate. State Sen. Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, is president pro tempore of the Senate. However, the power of the Senate leader, who controls appointments to many state government panels, along with Leatherman's chairmanship of the Senate's powerful budget-writing committee far outweighs the influence wielded by the state's lieutenant governor.

Greenville News: Nikki Haley appointment to Donald Trump cabinet would impact state

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/11/17/nikki-haley-donald-trump-cabinet/94044060/>

Amanda Coyne

The appointment of Gov. Nikki Haley or another South Carolina politician to President-elect Donald Trump's cabinet could have a serious impact on the state. Haley met Thursday with Trump in New York. The governor's office did not say what the pair discussed, but Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster has said Haley is under consideration for multiple cabinet positions, including secretary of state. If Haley were to join the Trump Administration, McMaster would assume the governorship, a position he has publicly considered running for in 2018. That could mean an advantageous position for McMaster, giving him experience with the job before campaigning begins. Two candidates — House Speaker Pro Tempore Tommy Pope and former Lt. Gov. Yancey McGill — have already publicly stated their intention to run for the Republican gubernatorial nomination, and multiple others are openly entertaining the idea.

Greenville News: Haley meeting with Trump today, reportedly being considered for secretary of state

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/11/17/haley-meeting-trump-today-reportedly-being-considered-secretary-state/94017162/>

Amanda Coyne

Gov. Nikki Haley is expected to meet with President-elect Donald Trump today in New York, according to the president-elect's press pool. The meeting was not on Haley's public schedule when it was released Monday afternoon. Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster told the Post and Courier Wednesday that Haley was being considered for multiple positions within the administration, including secretary of state, and that he was being considered for U.S. attorney general. Haley has led South Carolina trade missions to countries including India, Sweden and Germany, and the S.C. Department of Commerce has offices in China, Germany, Japan and India. Outside of international economic development efforts, Haley's foreign policy experience is limited. The U.S. secretary of state is one of the highest-ranking foreign policy officials in the federal government.

Aiken Standard: Some 'optimistic' of possible South Carolina representation in Trump administration

http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/some-optimistic-of-possible-south-carolina-representation-in-trump-administration/article_001bc436-acf5-11e6-bf23-9b2a2e464353.html

Maayan Schechter and Christina Cleveland

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley met with President-elect Donald Trump on Thursday in Trump Tower in New York City amid news her name has been floated around for secretary of state. Haley's Deputy Chief of Staff Rob Godfrey said through email Haley was pleased to meet with Trump. "They had a good discussion, and she is very encouraged about the coming administration and the new direction it will bring to Washington," he said. Haley's name first showed up as a possible addition to Trump's cabinet after "Morning Joe" host and former Florida Congressman Joe Scarborough tweeted on Wednesday afternoon, "Sources tell me Donald Trump is now considering Governor Nikki Haley for Secretary of State." Scarborough followed that with, "Trump has spent the past several days reaching out to political figures who opposed him in the Republican primary to fill major positions."

WIS: Gov. Nikki Haley meets President-elect Donald Trump, calls it 'good conversation'

[http://www.wistv.com/story/33737089/gov-nikki-haley-meets-president-elect-donald-trump-calls-it-good-conversation?](http://www.wistv.com/story/33737089/gov-nikki-haley-meets-president-elect-donald-trump-calls-it-good-conversation?clienttype=generic&utm_content=buffer9e01f&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer)

[clienttype=generic&utm_content=buffer9e01f&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer](http://www.wistv.com/story/33737089/gov-nikki-haley-meets-president-elect-donald-trump-calls-it-good-conversation?clienttype=generic&utm_content=buffer9e01f&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer)

Jeremy Turnage

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley met President-elect Donald Trump on Thursday at Trump Tower as speculation continues she's being considered for a cabinet-level position in Trump's administration. According to a statement from the governor's office, Haley met with Trump for a brief period of time but did not say what they discussed. "Governor Haley was pleased to meet with President-elect Trump," Haley's Deputy Chief of Staff Rob Godfrey said. "They had a good discussion, and she is very encouraged about the coming administration and the new direction it will bring to Washington. "Reports on Wednesday indicated Haley was being considered for Secretary of State, but further reports said she was being considered for other cabinet positions in the Trump administration as well.

WIS: Trump, Haley's complicated relationship makes job opening curious

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33737287/trump-haleys-complicated-relationship-makes-job-opening-curious>

Jeremy Turnage

As Gov. Nikki Haley meets President-elect Donald Trump on Thursday to discuss her potentially becoming the next Secretary of State, the pair's complicated relationship over the past year is drifting back into the spotlight. From the beginning of the Republican primary back in 2015, Haley made it apparent she was not a fan of Trump's policies or rhetoric heading into South Carolina's GOP primary. In a December 2015 interview, Haley was asked about Trump's comments about Muslims. "That's an embarrassment for the Republican Party," Haley said. "It's un-American, it's unconstitutional. We have always been a great country because of the freedoms that we have. We are not going to start making laws based on religion." Haley also seemed to target Trump in the GOP Response to President Barack Obama's final State of the Union address in January 2016.

WIS: Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster wants to do what he can to help Trump succeed

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33737804/lt-gov-henry-mcmaster-wants-to-do-what-he-can-to-help-trump-succeed>

Jeremy Turnage

Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster says he has spoken to President-elect Donald Trump's transition team and he's open to taking a role in his administration. In brief remarks since Trump's stunning electoral victory last week, McMaster, who was one of the first mainstream Republicans to endorse Trump in the wide-open Republican primary in January 2016, said he wants to help Trump in the next four years. "I want to do whatever I can to help Mr. Trump succeed," McMaster said. "He's the perfect man for right now." McMaster, as well as Gov. Nikki Haley, have been floated as possible candidates for cabinet-level jobs within the Trump administration. A number of other more nationally prominent candidates for attorney general have been floated over the past week, and McMaster has also had his eyes on a run for governor. He says he'd have to seriously weigh both possibilities. "You just have to take those things as they come. The future of our state is wide open. We have enormous opportunities, more than I think any other state in the country. But our country is in trouble. We have great power and great potential but we've been going in the wrong direction. I want to do what I can to see our state goes to the top and also that our country gets stronger and stronger," McMaster said.

WLTX: Gov. Haley has 'Good Conversation' with President-Elect Trump

<http://www.wltx.com/news/politics/nikki-haley-pleased-to-meet-president-elect-trump/353432987>

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley met with President-Elect Donald Trump Thursday, in what some have reported is a discussion about a possible cabinet position. Haley's office confirmed in an afternoon statement that the two had a face-to-face at Trump Town in Manhattan. "Governor Haley

was pleased to meet with President-elect Trump," said Haley Deputy Chief of Staff Rob Godfrey. "They had a good discussion, and she is very encouraged about the coming administration and the new direction it will bring to Washington." A day earlier, reports began surfacing that Haley was being considered for the Secretary of State job in the new administration. South Carolina Lieutenant Governor Henry McMaster told the Associated Press that indeed was the case, and that he was a possible candidate for attorney general. Haley had verbally sparred a few times with Trump during the primary campaign, and she first supported Marco Rubio's candidacy, then Ted Cruz when he dropped out. But after Trump became the nominee, she said she supported him, and said he was a far better option for America than Democrat Hillary Clinton.

WACH: Gov. Haley 'encouraged' after meeting with President-elect Trump

<http://wach.com/news/local/gov-haley-encouraged-after-meeting-with-president-elect-trump>

Brian McConchie

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley reportedly had a positive meeting with President-elect Donald Trump on Thursday. Haley traveled to Trump Tower in New York for a face-to-face meeting with Trump. "Governor Haley was pleased to meet with President-elect Trump," Rob Godfrey, Haley's Deputy Chief of Staff, said. "They had a good discussion, and she is very encouraged about the coming administration and the new direction it will bring to Washington." Wednesday afternoon, several reports surfaced indicating Haley was a potential candidate for the Secretary of State job in the Trump administration. Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster is also said to be a possible choice for attorney general. Haley had been critical of Trump's rhetoric while he was on the campaign trail. However, in late October, she publicly said she would vote for Trump, adding the election "turned her stomach upside down," calling it "embarrassing" for both the Republican and Democratic parties. Ultimately, Haley said "based on policies" Donald Trump was the best person for the job of president.

WACH: SC politicians high on Haley as Trump's Secretary of State

<http://wach.com/news/local/sc-politicians-high-on-haley-as-trumps-secretary-of-state>

Shelli Adamczyk

Governor Nikki Haley visited with Donald Trump in New York Thursday over the possibility of being the President-elect's Secretary of State. Haley's office said that the governor had a good meeting with Trump and was "very encouraged" about the new administration. Following that meeting, top SC politicians voiced their support for the governor for the cabinet position. "She has brought new, fresh ideas to government that is the same sort of ability and determination and vision she will take with her wherever she goes. I think Mr. Trump and the Trump transition team has recognized that talent," said Lt. Governor Henry McMaster. McMaster reportedly is being considered for Attorney General under Trump. McMaster spoke to Trump's transition team over the phone Thursday and said he fully supports Haley and that the President-elect's focus on South Carolina says a lot.

WSPA: Gov. Haley Meets with President-elect for Possible Cabinet Post

<http://wspa.com/2016/11/17/gov-haley-meets-with-president-elect-for-possible-cabinet-post/>

Robert Kittle

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley met with President-elect Donald Trump Thursday at Trump Tower in New York, reportedly to talk about the position of Secretary of State in his administration. Haley Chief of Staff Rob Godfrey says, "Governor Haley was pleased to meet with President-elect Trump. They had a good discussion, and she is very encouraged about the coming administration and the new direction it will bring to Washington." The Trump administration is also reportedly considering South Carolina Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster for Attorney General or possibly another post. Lt. Gov. McMaster says he has not met with Mr. Trump yet. He would not say whether he would take a job in the administration if one is offered, but said he wants to do whatever he can to help Mr. Trump succeed. "I'm not particularly excited about going to Washington, or any other place. I like South Carolina, but I want to do all I can to help," he said Thursday in Columbia. McMaster was an early supporter of Donald Trump's and was the first elected official in the nation to endorse him. He served as U.S. Attorney for South Carolina under President Reagan and was elected Attorney General for South

Carolina in 2002 and 2006. He ran for governor in 2010 but lost to eventual nominee Nikki Haley.

Red State: Ann Coulter Can't Stop Herself... Nastily Insults Nikki Haley

<http://www.redstate.com/mickeywhite2/2016/11/17/ann-coulter-cant-stop/>

Mickey White

Ann Coulter who has been relatively quiet on social media broke her silence in a big way this afternoon. After the rumors were floated that Nikki Haley was among those being considered for Cabinet positions, possibly even Secretary of State, Coulter tweeted this out to her over 1 million followers: She was apparently watching MSNBC at the time. Nikki Haley isn't even that kind of "Indian". She says she's being funny with this lean into the white nationalist stuff, but I fail to see the humor. Coulter appears to have spent the rest of the day tweeting links to InfoWars. As I've said previously Ann Coulter is one of the most disappointing figures of 2016. There was a time when many looked to her columns and books for smart analysis. Those days are no longer. Instead of piercing through the nonsense, to deliver the truth to her devoted fans, Coulter has become the noise. Rubbing elbows with the "alt-right", She's the reason people think Republicans are Racist. Did I mention she has over a Million followers on Twitter alone?

WYFF4: Ann Coulter slams PEOTUS Trump's consideration of Gov. Nikki Haley for cabinet

<http://www.wyff4.com/article/ann-coulter-slams-peotus-trumps-consideration-of-gov-nikki-haley-for-cabinet/8302893>

Carla Field

On the day South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley met with President-elect Donald Trump and his transition team about a potential cabinet position, political commentator Ann Coulter made what appeared to be an obvious jab at the governor's heritage. Ann Hart Coulter tweeted Thursday afternoon: "If Trump wants an Indian Sec of State, how about Tonto?" Coulter describes herself as the author of 11 New York Times bestsellers, a legal correspondent for Human Events and writes a syndicated columnist for Universal Press Syndicate. She is known for incendiary remarks, particularly on social media. Haley was born in Bamberg, South Carolina, in 1972. Her birth name is Nimrata Nikki Randhawa. Her parents are Sikh immigrants from Punjab, India. CNN reported Wednesday that Haley has been tapped as a nominee for Secretary of State, alongside top Trump adviser and former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani. After the meeting Thursday with Trump, Haley's office released a statement saying: "Governor Haley was pleased to meet with President-elect Trump. They had a good discussion, and she is very encouraged about the coming administration and the new direction it will bring to Washington."

President-elect Trump News:

Associated Press: The Latest: Trump said to pick Sen. Jeff Sessions for AG

<http://bigstory.ap.org/eb32c7f1d0534868b1d1be496081730c>

President-elect Donald Trump is offering the post of attorney general to Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions, one of the Trump's closest and most consistent allies. That's according to a senior Trump official, who was not authorized to speak publicly about the conversation. The official on Friday wouldn't say whether Sessions had accepted the job, which left open the possibility that the arrangement was not finalized. Sessions was the first senator to endorse Trump and was a close adviser throughout the campaign. Trump released a statement Thursday after a meeting with the senator saying he was "unbelievably impressed" with Sessions. The Alabama Republican previously struggled with a Senate confirmation hearing when he was nominated for a federal judgeship in 1986. He was dogged by racist comments he was accused of making while serving as U.S. attorney in Alabama. He later withdrew from consideration for the post.

Associated Press: Trump offers national security adviser job to Flynn

<http://bigstory.ap.org/f031d113b2f54a39804d782356c809d1>

President-elect Donald Trump is offering former military intelligence chief Michael Flynn the position

of national security adviser, elevating a fierce critic of current U.S. foreign policy into a crucial White House role. Flynn's selection amounts to Trump's first signal to allies and adversaries about the course he could take in office. It's unclear whether Flynn, a retired Army general, has accepted the job, though a senior transition official confirmed Thursday that the president-elect has made the offer. The official was not authorized to discuss the offer publicly and insisted on anonymity. Flynn was a fierce critic of President Barack Obama's military and foreign policy long before he began advising Trump on national security issues during the presidential campaign. While the position of national security adviser doesn't require Senate confirmation, Flynn would work in the West Wing and have frequent access to the president. Flynn, who turns 58 next month, had built a reputation as an astute intelligence professional and straight talker when he became the director of the Defense Intelligence Agency in 2012. After retiring two years later, he made clear he took issue with the Obama administration's approach to global affairs and fighting Islamic State militants.

Associated Press: Flynn: outspoken general, intelligence pro, Trump supporter

<http://bigstory.ap.org/9f7697a31c754f38a043522a4aced1a8>

Retired Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn, the man Donald Trump has asked to be his national security adviser, built a reputation in the Army as an astute intelligence professional and a straight talker. What set Flynn apart after he shed his uniform in 2014 was the blistering public criticism he quickly leveled at the White House and Pentagon, taking issue with a wide range of national security policies, including the administration's approach to fighting the Islamic State group and, more generally, its handling of global affairs. In recent public comments, including his fiery address at the Republican National Convention, Flynn has emphasized his view that the threat posed by IS requires a more aggressive U.S. military, as well as his belief that Washington should work more closely with Moscow. Flynn is a champion of other foreign policy themes Trump pushed during the campaign, including renegotiating the Iran nuclear deal.

Associated Press: The Latest: Trump said to want only the 'best and brightest'

<http://bigstory.ap.org/eb32c7f1d0534868b1d1be496081730c>

A Republican Party spokesman says President-elect Donald Trump is searching among "the best and brightest in the country" to set up his administration. RNC communications director Sean Spicer tells Fox News Channel's "Fox and Friends" the billionaire businessman isn't "looking at someone's political affiliation, whether they supported him or not." He was asked the question in the context of Trump's scheduled meeting this weekend with 2012 Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney, who earlier this year was a harsh critic of the real estate mogul. Spicer wouldn't comment on whether Trump was set to offer Romney a position in the administration now being formed. But when asked what the pair was expected to discuss, the Republican strategist said only that "they're going to have a conversation." Spicer called Trump the "new sheriff in town" and said he's determined to bring qualified people into his administration.

Associated Press: Trump's election triggers flood of immigration questions

<http://bigstory.ap.org/e80581bf45404778a457e5444ae25892>

Immigration hotlines are buzzing. Legal clinics are seeing an influx of clients. Public schools are fielding frantic questions from parents and students. Since the election, Donald Trump's tough talk on immigration has stirred anxiety nationwide among immigrants regardless of legal status. They are turning to lawyers, schools, advocacy groups and congressional offices for help. "We're operating with a lot of unknowns, and a certain amount of fear comes with that," said Vanessa Esparza-López, a managing attorney at the Chicago-based National Immigrant Justice Center. In Chicago, a hotline run by the state's largest immigrant-rights group received more than 330 calls in the week after the election, compared with the usual 100 or so. Denver school officials sent a letter to parents in response to questions about the election's effect on students living in the country illegally. The New York Legal Assistance Group said it's receiving 40 to 60 daily calls about immigration, up from 20 to 30. The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles reported 19 walk-ins on a single day, all with citizenship questions.

Associated Press: Obama urges European leaders to work with Trump

<http://bigstory.ap.org/9f936ed4bff04da5970ea35f55a9660f>

President Barack Obama used a meeting with key European leaders Friday to urge them to work with the incoming administration of President-elect Donald Trump and to discuss steps necessary to resolve the conflicts in Syria and eastern Ukraine, the White House said. Obama's meeting with the leaders of Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Spain was likely his last in such a setting before he leaves office. The session expands on lengthy talks he held the day before with German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Obama didn't speak with reporters before departing for Peru on Air Force One. The White House said Obama thanked his counterparts for their cooperation during his two terms in office. He urged them to work on common challenges with a Trump administration on the "basis of the core values that define the United States and Europe as open democracies."

Associated Press: The Latest: Obama concludes meeting with European leaders

<http://bigstory.ap.org/a6699aa862e9498ba4a6d5720e3a392b>

President Barack Obama has concluded his final official visit to Germany and is in route to Peru after meeting with European leaders on Friday. Obama will now turn his focus to his final Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation leaders' meeting. The organization, which focuses much of its energy on improving trade relations among the 21 participating nations, is figuring out how to continue that work after a proposed free trade agreement called the Trans-Pacific Partnership stalled on Capitol Hill with GOP leaders making clear it will not be considered this year. Economic experts expect Obama will field uncomfortable questions about President-elect Donald Trump's pledges to overhaul U.S. trade policy.

General Assembly News:

WIS: November is National Family Caregivers Awareness Month in SC

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33742507/national-family-caregivers-awareness-month-script>

Leland Pinder

November is National Family Caregivers Awareness month in South Carolina. Thursday at the State House Lt. Governor Henry McMaster and Irmo native Leeza Gibbons marked the occasion recognizing the nearly 800,000 South Carolinians who provide free care and support to chronically ill and disabled loved ones. Gibbons runs Leeza's Care Connection, a family caregiver organization to help others inspired by her own experience caring for her mother who had Alzheimer's Disease. "470 billion dollars in unpaid care is what caregivers provide. that's twice as much as home care and nursing care combined so just think about what a tremendous service from family members who are offering their love, their time," Gibbons said.

WOLO: Family Caregiver Awareness Month

<http://live-abccolumbia.pantheonsite.io/2016/11/17/family-caregiver-awareness-month/>

TV Personality and South Carolina Native Leeza Gibbons joined SC Lt. Governor Henry McMaster Thursday to honor Family Caregivers Awareness month. Gibbons wants caregivers to know there is help out there and support.

WSPA: Bill could allow SC teachers to carry guns at school

<http://wspa.com/2016/11/17/bill-could-allow-sc-teachers-to-carry-guns-at-school/>

South Carolina Representative Joshua Putnam is working on a draft bill that would allow teachers to apply for a special concealed weapons permit that would allow them to carry guns at school. Putnam represents portions of Anderson, Pickens, and Greenville Counties including Townville where a September shooting claimed the life of 6-year-old Jacob Hall and injured another student and teacher. The special CWP would be voluntary and the bill would require principals and superintendents to vote to allow their teachers to take the class which would be taught by SLED. The class would be created by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division and would be the same sort

of training given to police officers when they are trained in active shooter situations. Teachers would only get the license if they passed the class.

SC Agency News:

WACH: Juvenile at DJJ joins SC Philharmonic for a day

<http://wach.com/news/local/juvenile-at-djj-joins-sc-philharmonic-for-a-day>

Tara Petitt

Musicians from the South Carolina Philharmonic were welcomed by the Department of Juvenile Justice Thursday. For almost two hours, juveniles were able to forget they were behind the fence and get lost in the music. One 17-year-old had the chance of a lifetime- he was welcomed on stage to perform with the orchestra. Jacob has played the violin for seven years. He started when he was eleven years old. When his DJJ music teacher learned that the Philharmonic was coming to play for the students, he asked if Jacob could join. "I was scared, but I'm glad I did it," said Jacob. "It was a good experience for me." The 17-year-old says he started playing the violin because he knew it was his mom's favorite instrument and he wanted to make her proud. "I already knew how to read music because I played trumpet in fifth grade, so by the time I got to sixth grade, I already knew how to read music," said Jacob.

WBTW: New SC Program Connects Moms in Prison & Their Kids

<http://wbtw.com/2016/11/17/new-sc-program-connects-moms-in-prison-their-kids/>

A new program in South Carolina aims to keep mothers who are in prison more connected to their young children at home, while also improving literacy levels for the women inmates and, eventually, their children. Called "Mother's Voice," the program provides the women with children's books that are able to record and playback audio. The women read the books out loud, their voices are recorded, and then the books are sent to their children, who can listen to them at night before bed or anytime they want to hear their mothers' voices. Department of Corrections Director Bryan Stirling says he remembers his parents reading to him as a child and the bond that created. "One of the things that's lacking for folks that come to the Department of Corrections is education, so it's about reading and learning and things of that nature, but it's also about the connection with the family," he says. The average SC prison inmate has a 10th-grade education, he says, so having the women get in the habit of reading aloud should help them improve their reading ability. It will also familiarize their children at home with the words as they read along, listening to their mothers' voices.

Wildfires Across Southeast:

Associated Press: Gasp! Wildfires cause hacking and wheezing across the South

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=1plPpekC

SC State Wire

Asthma sufferers and others with breathing problems are turning up at hospitals and doctors' waiting rooms, wheezing and hacking. Schoolchildren are being kept inside at recess. And people whose lungs are easily irritated are being told to close the windows and run the air conditioner if they have one. Dozens of wildfires that have burned an estimated 190 square miles across the Southeast have thrown a shroud of smoke over the region in the past week or so, even in distant metropolitan areas like Atlanta, leaving cities big and small smelling like a campfire jamboree, but without the fun. The murk - sometimes yellowish-brown, sometimes gray or milky - has veiled mountaintops, obscured Atlanta skyscrapers and intermittently turned the sun into a pale golden smudge over the city. At times, the flames have also cast a haze over Nashville and Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Charlotte, North Carolina.

Associated Press: The Latest: Governor offers reward in North Carolina fires

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

SC State Wire

North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory says the state is offering a reward of up to \$10,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for setting wildfires in the western part of the state. McCrory announced the reward during a briefing in Bat Cave, North Carolina, one of the towns evacuated because of threat of wildfires. McCrory also said dry conditions are causing the wildfires to spread, so people across the region need to continue taking steps to prevent wildfires. The governor said he was also concerned about air quality in western and central North Carolina. Smoke from the wildfires drifted eastward, specifically leaving a haze over the city of Charlotte. Also of concern is the weekend weather forecast, which calls for winds that could gust up to 50 mph.

Greenville News: Crews burn 1,300 acres to tame Pinnacle Mountain fire

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/11/17/families-evacuate-near-table-rock/94012830/>

Michael Burns and Anna Lee

Smoke cloaked Table Rock State Park all day Thursday as firefighters burned nearly 1,300 acres along the slopes of Table Rock in an effort to contain a wildfire of historic proportions. At 4 p.m., the Pinnacle Mountain fire had burned approximately 4,000 acres, though most of the growth came from the burnout operation to keep the fire from crossing Saluda Road, an official with the state Forestry Commission said. About 400 acres remain in the burnout area, said Forestry Commission spokesman Russell Hubright, and plans are to finish burning by mid-day Friday. Meanwhile, Pickens County Schools announced a two-hour delay Friday due to dangerous air quality conditions. Heavy smoke from the burnout operation was expected to combine with existing air pollutants to "create dangerous air quality conditions in parts of the county, especially in the morning," said school district spokesman John Eby.

Greenville News: Pickens County delays start of school Friday due to wildfire smoke

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/11/17/families-evacuate-near-table-rock/94012830/>

Michael Burns

Pickens County Schools announced a two-hour delay for the start of school Friday as firefighters worked to contain the Pinnacle Mountain wildfire and residents evacuated the nearby area Thursday. "We expect the current large-scale burnout operation on the Pinnacle Mountain fire to create heavy smoke, which will combine with existing air pollutants to create dangerous air quality conditions in parts of the county, especially in the morning," said school district spokesman John Eby. "Parents have the discretion to keep their children home from school all day, and all absences will be excused for the day." Meanwhile, unfiltered sunlight poked through smoke for the first time in days Thursday as ash flurried onto Missie Hunter's front porch at the edge of the wildfire evacuation zone. Emergency-management officials opened a shelter for displaced families as the state Forestry Commission and firefighters prepared a controlled burnout to tame the largest wildfire in the South Carolina mountains in modern history.

Herald-Journal: Massive wildfire burnout underway around Table Rock

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161117/massive-wildfire-burnout-underway-around-table-rock?rssfeed=true>

Bob Montgomery

A massive burnout of 2,000 acres of forest land in northern Pickens County is underway in an effort to contain the Pinnacle Mountain fire, the largest mountain wildfire in South Carolina history. About 100 people who live in the 86 homes near the controlled burn have been evacuated due to the heavy smoke expected, said S.C. Forestry Commission spokesman Russell Hubright. National Guard helicopters began Thursday morning at the northern face of Table Rock near the reservoir by dropping small "ping pong balls" of chemical powder that ignite upon hitting the forest floor, Hubright said. By Thursday afternoon, the burn is expected to encompass both sides of Table Rock to the reservoir, south to the Pinnacle Lake area, and east to the Table Rock State Park boundary near High Low Gap, Hubright said. Bulldozers, fire trucks and fire crews with hand tools are working the wildfire today to keep the controlled burn within established lines, Hubright said.

The State: Air quality improves in the Midlands, games to go on as planned

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article115486953.html>

Cynthia Roldan

An air-quality alert will not be issued Friday for the Midlands by the state's health agency, after clearer skies Thursday with little smoke smell. A shift in airflow expected Friday will bring cleaner air to the region, further lowering concentrations of unhealthy particulates, the Department of Health and Environmental Control said in a statement. As of late Thursday, most athletic organizations were proceeding as planned with planned games this weekend. Also, after remaining indoors Wednesday, Midlands students, including in Lexington 2, were allowed to have recess outdoors Thursday. In the Upstate, Pickens County schools announced a two-hour delay for students Friday, saying a burnout operation on Pinnacle Mountain could create dangerous air-quality conditions, The Greenville News reported.

The State: With air quality suffering, SC schools must decide fate of playoffs scheduling

<http://www.thestate.com/sports/high-school/prep-football/article115444393.html>

With air quality across the state suffering this week from wildfires burning in several Southeastern states, the S.C. High School League is leaving it up to each school to decide whether or not to proceed as planned with playoff football games on Friday night. According to a statement from the SCHSL, "DHEC has informed us that as of 12:00 pm [Thursday], they expect the projected air quality throughout the state to be at the Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups Level (Orange) or less [Friday] statewide. Since we know that the conditions are constantly changing and vary from the projected forecasts, we ask that the school administrators continue to monitor their local forecasts to determine if they should play their playoff game as scheduled Friday night." If teams decide not to play Friday, the SCHSL encourages schools to make the game up as soon as possible, with Sunday would be option if needed.

Aiken Standard: S.C. health agency asks smokers to kick the habit during Great American Smokeout

http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/s-c-health-agency-asks-smokers-to-kick-the-habit/article_8f39a3b2-ac29-11e6-aa0e-23dc9949b521.html

Thomas Gardiner

On average, about 54 Americans die from cigarette smoking every day, according to statistics from the Center for Disease Control. Every third Thursday in November, the American Cancer Society sponsors the Great American Smokeout to help inspire more people to kick the habit. The Great American Smokeout encourages smokers to quit for 24 hours and to build a plan to quit for good. To support that mission and build plans for individual smokers, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control has launched a statewide Quitline. This year marks the support service's 10th anniversary. "For a decade, DHEC's statewide Quitline has provided free tobacco treatment and cessation counseling services to nearly 100,000 tobacco users in South Carolina," said Sharon Biggers, DHEC's director of the agency's Division of Tobacco Prevention and Control.

Aiken Standard: Aiken County back under code orange air quality alert

http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/aiken-county-back-under-code-orange-air-quality-alert/article_0a4d1a00-ac40-11e6-882a-2b0bf4f9af25.html

Maayan Schechter

Aiken County is back under a code orange air quality alert as of Wednesday afternoon, according to the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. The alert is for Aiken, Abbeville, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun and Charleston counties. The smoke seen lingering in Aiken County is due to a nearby wildfire in Pickens County that continued to grow. The South Carolina Fire Commission reported the Pinnacle Mountain Fire at Table Rock State Park grew from 2,312 acres on Sunday to 2,765 acres by late Monday.

Post and Courier: Code orange smoke alert in effect until midnight

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/code-orange-smoke-alert-in-effect-until-midnight/article_479068d8-ad83-11e6-be07-dba2a54045ec.html

Prentiss Findlay

Lowcountry residents will wake up Friday to another day of smoke from wildfires in the mountains. A code orange air quality alert is in effect for Charleston and Beaufort counties until midnight. The smoke is from numerous large wildfires in the southern Appalachian Mountains. The smoke plumes are expected to create unhealthy breathing conditions where the smoke is most concentrated. Smoke from these fires can irritate eyes and the respiratory system as well as exacerbate chronic heart and lung diseases. The state Department of Health and Environmental control recommends that those with respiratory health issues limit time spent outdoors to avoid the smoke, and take measures to prevent outdoor smoke from getting indoors.

Post and Courier: Lowcountry asthma patients suffering due to mountain wildfire

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/lowcountry-asthma-patients-suffering-due-to-mountain-wildfire/article_346777ea-acf4-11e6-aaea-f714ab132141.html

Derek Asberry

Jasmine Matthews, a 7-year-old asthma patient, has battled red and irritated eyes, chest pains and shortness of breath since Saturday. Her doctor at Charleston Allergy and Asthma put her on a breathing treatment Thursday, hoping it would offset the smoky conditions in the Lowcountry caused by the mountainous wildfires, including one atop Pinnacle Mountain in Pickens County. "She came to me and told me how much her chest hurts and so the treatment should get her lung functioning back to where it needs to be," said Jennifer Matthews, Jasmine's mother. The state Department of Health and Environmental Control says the large wildfires are producing smoke plumes that are making conditions worse for those who suffer from chronic heart and lung diseases.

Sun News: Update: Air quality alert extended, unlikely in Horry County

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article115107618.html>

Elizabeth Townsend

An air quality alert has been issued for Georgetown and Murrells Inlet along the Grand Strand due to large smoke plumes produced by numerous wildfires in the southern Appalachian Mountain region, and health officials advise those with respiratory issues limit their time outside. The National Weather Service in Wilmington, N.C. issued the alert late Tuesday evening and has extended the alert until midnight Thursday for inland Georgetown County, including Kingstree, Andrews, Georgetown, and Murrells Inlet, according to weather officials. Williamsburg County is also under the alert.

Hurricane Matthew Recovery:

Associated Press: Coastal park hammered by Matthew reopening

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ltGJy8EZ

SC State Wire

A state park on the South Carolina coast that was hammered by Hurricane Matthew last month is reopening. The state Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism announced that Edisto Beach State Park between Charleston and Beaufort reopens Friday. The department said the beach front area for daily use, a highland campground, education center and boat ramp are all reopening. But the park's oceanfront campground suffered heavy damage and is still undergoing repairs. That area is not expected to reopen until September. In the adjacent town of Edisto Beach, Matthew pushed several feet of sand onto the beachfront avenue, destroyed an oceanfront home and clawed away at the foundations of numerous others.

The State: SC to give mobile homes to poorest survivors of October 2015 flood

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article115386128.html>

Avery G. Wilks

Some of the poorest survivors of the historic October 2015 storm could get a brand new home for

Christmas. Before the new year begins, state disaster recovery officials expect to begin giving out the first of the free, 860-square-foot mobile homes to S.C. residents who need them. Officials plan to eventually deliver 600 or more homes to low- and moderate-income families still homeless or living in housing damaged by the storm, which dropped more than two feet of rain on parts of South Carolina. "These people have been in need for a long time," S.C. Disaster Recovery Office spokeswoman Beth Parks said. "For more than a year, they've been in these horrible situations and can't get out on their own." Federal recovery dollars will pay for the \$60,000 mobile homes, which state officials prefer to call "manufactured homes."

The Herald: 'They've lost it all': Nation Ford team helps clean up hurricane-ravaged SC town

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article115459753.html>

Bret McCormick

As John Young sifted through a stranger's belongings last week, he came across a photo of a young girl. Amid the soiled and destroyed contents of an elderly lady's house in Nichols, S.C., the partially torn photo felt important. The lady's reaction when Young showed her the picture confirmed it. "She grabbed on to it and held it like it was the last thing she had," he said. Young was one of 70 Nation Ford football players who traveled to Nichols the week of Nov. 9 to help the devastated town of 400 people continue to clean up. After Hurricane Matthew passed through in mid-October, rivers in the Pee Dee region of the Carolinas rose quickly, including the Lumber River, which passes just east of Nichols. At least seven dams broke upstream and the the river's waters rose 17 feet in just a few hours, according to the AP.

Island Packet: Ridgeland disaster relief center to close soon; Beaufort County locations still open

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article115109658.html>

Wade Livingston

The Jasper County Disaster Recovery Center in Ridgeland is tentatively slated to close at 7 p.m. Friday, according to officials. While that center — located at 1509 Grays Highway — should shut down, Beaufort County relief centers will remain open, according to Jasper County Emergency Services. Those centers are located on Hilton Head Island at the Hilton Head Island Town Hall Council Chambers at 1 Town Center Court, and in Beaufort at Burton Wells Recreation Center at 1 Middleton Recreation Dr. The Hilton Head center's hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday. The Beaufort location is open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. Jasper residents in need of help after the Ridgeland center closes can register with FEMA disaster assistance at www.disasterassistance.gov or call 1-800- 621-3362.

Island Packet: FEMA approves debris removal for more Hilton Head private roads

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article115205338.html>

Teresa Moss

The Town of Hilton Head Island so far has hauled 636,038 cubic yards of Hurricane Matthew debris — enough to fill Madison Square Garden two times, town official Charles Cousins said Wednesday. And the debris piles keep growing. On Wednesday, the town was preparing to add another 16 private communities to its debris-removal list. The Federal Emergency Management Agency late last week approved the town's request for reimbursement of the removal in those areas. According to a letter sent Thursday to the town by FEMA, the approved neighborhoods include...

WACH: Recovery center to open in Sumter for Hurricane Matthew survivors

<http://wach.com/news/local/recovery-center-to-open-in-sumter-for-hurricane-matthew-survivors>

Matthew Stevens

State officials announced Thursday that they will open a disaster recovery center in Sumter to help Hurricane Matthew survivors. The center will be open for three days from November 21 through November 23. State, FEMA and USBA officials will be there to help survivors from October's hurricane to apply for disaster assistance and other necessary aid. Those impacted by Matthew may be eligible for federal and state assistance for temporary rental assistance and essential home repairs. The

recovery center will be at the Cherryvale Community Center in Sumter on Confederate Road and will be open from 9am to 7pm.

Michael Slagger Case:

Associated Press: The Latest: Defense witness says officer, motorist struggled

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=h0gFFCRN

SC State Wire

A defense witness says that enhanced video shows former South Carolina patrolman Michael Slager struggling on the ground with Walter Scott before Slager shot the black motorist as he ran away. Forensics video analyst Grant Fredericks testified Thursday that he enhanced the cellphone video taken by a passerby that recorded Slager's shooting of Scott in April 2015 during a traffic stop. Fredericks said the enhancement was intended to clarify and stabilize the images. Although the video is shaky and blurry in spots, Fredericks said it shows Scott on his side with his arm around Slager's upper body. Fredericks also said Slager's left hand can be seen holding Scott's wrist, and Taser wires tangled around Slager before the shooting. Slager is on trial for murder in the death of 50-year-old Scott.

Associated Press: Witness: Officer, black man struggled before shooting

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=IKxptn9c

Bruce Smith

Former South Carolina patrolman Michael Slager wrestled with Walter Scott on the ground and was entangled in Taser wires before shooting Scott as he fled a traffic stop, a defense witness testified Thursday. Slager, who is white, is charged with murder in the shooting death of the 50-year-old Scott, a black motorist who was unarmed when he ran from the officer in April 2015. Scott was shot five times in the back in a shooting captured on cellphone video that was shared on the internet and stunned the nation. Forensics video analyst Grant Fredericks testified that he used computers to enhance the video to stabilize it and make it clearer. Although the video shown to the jury was shaky and blurry in spots, Fredericks said it shows Scott on his side with his arm around Slager's upper body. He said Slager's left hand can be seen holding Scott's wrist and there are Taser wires tangled around Slager before the shooting.

Post and Courier: Defense says officer yelled, 'Let go of my Taser,' in disputed recordings of Walter Scott shooting

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/defense-says-officer-yelled-let-go-of-my-taser-in/article_4bf85696-ac71-11e6-9782-677402bdd996.html

Andrew Knapp

Defense attorneys for the North Charleston officer who killed Walter Scott want to tell jurors that Scott was cursing the police during a struggle with the lawman. Their evidence is based on an expert's interpretation of the sound featured in a video showing patrolman Michael Slager firing eight times as Scott ran away. But the defense case revolves around what happened before the shooting, and the lawyers contend that Scott's alleged words portrayed his animus toward law enforcement and could explain his conduct that drew the officer's gunfire in self-defense. The officer's words, refined in other audio recordings, also support his account that Scott had gotten control of his Taser, the defense said. "Let go of my Taser," Slager said, according to the expert's version, "or I'll have to shoot you."

Dylann Roof Case:

Associated Press: The Latest: Judge keeps Dylann Roof hearing closed

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=5BbaO2fh

SC State Wire

The federal judge overseeing Dylann Roof's death penalty trial gave the families of the nine black worshippers he is charged with killing at a Charleston church an extraordinary chance to air their

concerns. U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel held a hearing Thursday to give anyone a chance to object to his ruling closing Roof's competency hearing next week. But he didn't restrict what the eight family members of victims or the pastor of the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church could say. Some relatives talked about how the trial delays hurt them. Others say it will be hard to deal with the trial in December as Christmas neared. They all asked for Monday's competency hearing to be open. Gergel says he is moved by their pain. But he says the hearing will remain closed.

Associated Press: Judge doesn't change mind on closed Dylann Roof hearing

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=1MPNTpiT

Jeffrey Collins

Families of nine black worshippers killed in a Charleston church got a chance Thursday to air concerns about the case to a federal judge, who reaffirmed his decision to keep defendant Dylann Roof's competency hearing next week closed to the public. Some relatives talked about how the trial delays hurt them. Others say it will be hard to deal with the proceedings in December as Christmas neared. They all asked for Monday's competency hearing to be open. "I really want you to consider what kind of a signal you are sending to the community," said Alana Jackson, granddaughter of Daniel Simmons Sr. U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel said he understood their concerns. But after also hearing from lawyers hired by The Associated Press and other media outlets, he said his mind hadn't changed. The hearing will include extensive statements made by Roof that might not be allowed at his death penalty trial. But they could find their way to jurors and taint their view of the defendant just days before jury selection is set to begin, Gergel said.

The State: Roof death penalty jury selection could start Nov. 28

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article115406678.html>

John Monk

A federal judge signaled Thursday he will begin jury selection for the delayed Dylann Roof death penalty trial on Nov. 28, following the Thanksgiving holiday. And, following a 45-minute hearing at the U.S. courthouse in downtown Charleston, Judge Richard Gergel also said he will hold Monday's mental competency hearing for Roof behind closed doors. Gergel announced his decision to close Monday's hearing following emotional pleas to open it from more than a half-dozen African-American survivors and relatives of victims of the June 2015 massacre at Charleston's historic Mother Emanuel AME church. Two media lawyers, Carl Muller and Brad Lanford, representing state and national news outlets including The State, The Greenville News, The Charleston Post & Courier, NPR and the AP, also argued unsuccessfully to open Monday's hearing. Federal prosecutors, too, asked that the hearing be open. A federal indictment in the case alleges Roof, 22, a self-described white supremacist from the Columbia area, drove to Charleston in June 2015 to kill African-Americans at Mother Emanuel to "incite racial tensions across the nation," then killed in execution fashion nine people, including the church's pastor, state Sen. Clementa Pinckney.

Post and Courier: Judge to keep Dylann Roof competency hearing closed despite pleas from victims' families

http://www.postandcourier.com/church_shooting/judge-to-keep-dylann-roof-competency-hearing-closed-despite-pleas/article_bf58b918-acc0-11e6-9207-b7371378458c.html

Jennifer Berry Hawes

Relatives of the nine people killed in the Emanuel AME Church massacre urged a judge Thursday to reconsider his decision banning them from Dylann Roof's competency hearing next week. U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel, however, held fast to his decision to close the hearing. Gergel found substantial risk that making the details of Roof's new psychiatric evaluation public would threaten the killer's right to a fair trial and an impartial jury. Several victims' families, the husbands of two of the shooting survivors and Emanuel's pastor lined up in a federal courtroom to press Gergel to consider their pain and rights to observe the proceedings addressing the man who gunned down their loved ones. "It would be unfair for us not to be there," said Tyrone Sanders, standing beside his wife, Felicia, who survived the shooting with their 11-year-old granddaughter by playing dead. Their son,

Tywanza, was killed. "We've lost the greatest portion," Sanders added.

Opinion/Editorial:

Post and Courier: Haley should be considered for Commerce, not Secretary of State

http://www.postandcourier.com/opinion/commentary/haley-should-be-considered-for-commerce-not-secretary-of-state/article_51e93a60-ad08-11e6-a418-83190f569e3a.html

Editorial: Lucas McMillan

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is under consideration for a Cabinet-level position in the administration of President-elect Donald J. Trump. My hope is that our president-elect will nominate Gov. Haley as U.S. Secretary of Commerce rather than other possible posts. Haley is very qualified to lead the Department of Commerce. Like many governors — and S.C. governors since Ernest F. Hollings — she has spent much of her governorship focused on issues related to the economy. Her actions indicate that she understands the global economy. She has sought to recruit domestic and foreign investment to our state as well as promote S.C. exports in the world. She has met with many business and political leaders from the U.S. and other countries in Columbia, but also has seen these leaders abroad as she traveled to Canada, Europe and Asia to promote South Carolina. Haley's 2014 trade mission to India received much attention and led to a presence of the S.C. Department of Commerce in New Delhi. This is a sign that we recognize India as a country with a growing global impact, particularly economic influence, because it has the second largest population, is the world's largest democracy, and still has tremendous economic growth prospects.

Post and Courier: Give Trump transition time

http://www.postandcourier.com/opinion/editorials/give-trump-transition-time/article_7856d470-aced-11e6-9c06-0f5d864c785b.html

Editorial

Donald Trump is the first president-elect to interview prospective Cabinet members at a 58-story building that he owns on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue. But he's not the first president-elect to draw early criticism for his reported roster of Cabinet candidates. And while there are valid concerns about what the Trump presidency will bring, condemning personnel decisions that have not been made is premature. It's also too soon to fret over stories that Mr. Trump's transition mission is rife with turmoil among his top advisers. He and various associates dispute those accounts. Yet even if his inner circle is sharply divided on who should and shouldn't be invited to join Mr. Trump's White House team, that doesn't preclude positive outcomes in the hiring process. Indeed, it might avert misguided choices. S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley was among the prominent visitors who met with the president-elect Thursday at Trump Tower in Manhattan. Among the others: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Florida Gov. Rick Scott, Rep. Jeb Hensarling, R-Texas; and National Security Agency Director Adm. Michael Rogers.

NOTE: Supposedly and surprisingly, though, Gov. Haley is, despite her strong opposition to Mr. Trump during the primary season.

NOTE: And as Lander Professor Lucas McMillan points out on today's Commentary page, Gov. Haley would be a much better fit as Commerce Secretary.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: 1 South Carolina county in exceptional drought

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ArU39p2b

SC State Wire

The U.S. Drought Monitor map shows that one county in South Carolina is in exceptional drought, the highest level of drought. The map shows Oconee County in the far western part of the state is in exceptional drought. No counties were at that stage last week. Forty-four percent of the state is in some level of drought, compared to almost 41 percent last week. At this time last year, none of South Carolina was suffering from drought.

Aiken Standard: Opioid drug added to Schedule I substances in S.C.

http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/opioid-drug-added-to-schedule-i-substances-in-s-c/article_0d397b52-ac2a-11e6-b66e-47dfcb468ff7.html

Thomas Gardiner

In the midst of a nationwide fight against heroin and opioid addiction that fills American cemeteries every day, South Carolina added to its list of outlawed substances. At last week's South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control meeting, a new synthetic drug was voted to be added to the list of Schedule I substances. The substance is named U-47700 and is commonly referred to as "Pink" or "Pinky." According to multiple reports, Pinky was one of the drugs found in Prince's system when he died from an overdose earlier this year. A number of deaths in South Carolina have been attributed to the substance, with about 50 confirmed deaths nationwide since June.

Aiken Standard: Thanksgiving travel expected to increase in the Carolinas

http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/thanksgiving-travel-expected-to-increase-in-the-carolinas/article_71d15944-ad0c-11e6-b4dd-ff57a206c513.html

Tripp Girardeau

As millions across the state and nation prepare to hit the roads for the Thanksgiving holiday, the South Carolina Highway Patrol is urging motorists to take the necessary precautions and preparations for a safe trip. AAA Carolinas projects 2 million Carolinians will travel 50 miles or more from home this Thanksgiving, with just under 1.4 million North Carolinians and 670,000 South Carolinians traveling. This represents a 1.9 percent increase over 2015. This year's increase in Thanksgiving travel is spurred by improvements in the economy during the second half of the year, including rising wages, increased consumer spending and overall strength in consumer confidence, Tiffany Wright, spokeswoman with AAA Carolinas, said in a news release. Fuel prices are down slightly in North Carolina, but up in South Carolina, from this point last year.

Local News:

Associated Press: SC man released after 39 years; says didn't kill man in 1973

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

SC State Wire

A South Carolina man who served 39 years in prison for a murder that he says he didn't commit has walked out of prison but isn't quite a free man. The Herald of Rock Hill reports (<http://bit.ly/2g35TKh>) 61-year-old James Robert McClurkin left Broad River Prison on Thursday as a parolee but not exonerated. Police and attorneys now say he didn't kill 74-year-old Claude Killian of Chester in August 1973. McClurkin and Ray Charles Degraffenreid were convicted of Killian's murder in 1977. The evidence against them was the word of a co-defendant. Last month, Chester County Sheriff Alex Underwood told the South Carolina parole board that McClurkin was innocent. McClurkin was paroled Oct. 11 but not released until Thursday. The newspaper reports that Degraffenreid is in a prison mental wing. McClurkin says Degraffenreid also should be released.

The Herald: 'I am free': Chester man imprisoned in 1973 murder goes home, still hoping to be cleared

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article115515988.html>

Andrew Dys

For the first time in 43 years Thursday, James Robert McClurkin saw the sky from outside prison walls. He breathed free air. It came at 10:43 a.m. It had been 43 years and a month since the Chester native went inside Broad River Correctional Institution. For 39 of those years, he was in for a murder he, and now police and lawyers, say he did not commit. "I am free," said McClurkin. "It is great. Just breathing this here is great...." Then McClurkin cried. McClurkin was paroled Oct. 11, on his 15th parole hearing on his conviction for the 1973 killing of Chester car wash clerk Claude Killian. In a

1977 trial, where a co-defendant – who later recanted and admitted he lied – blamed McClurkin and Ray Charles Degraffenreid for Killian's death.

Associated Press: Georgia man accused of killing missing Myrtle Beach man
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Nf4p6czK
SC State Wire

A Georgia man has been charged following the death of a missing Myrtle Beach man whose remains were found last week, more than a month after he went missing. Horry County police Lt. Raul Denis tells media outlets that 29-year-old Johnathan Lamar Hillary, of Augusta, is facing a murder charge in the death of 51-year-old Timothy Francis Buckley. Buckley was a former town council member and police officer in Riverhead, New York, who was last seen on Sept 28. His remains were discovered in a wooded lot in unincorporated Myrtle Beach on Nov. 10. Thirty-three-year-old Bernithia Young, of Atlanta, was charged with accessory after the fact to a felony. Both suspects were arrested in Atlanta and are expected to be extradited to South Carolina. It's unclear whether they have attorneys.

Sun News: Georgia man charged with murder in slaying of missing Myrtle Beach man
<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article115471948.html>
Emily Weaver

A Georgia man has been charged with murder in the death of a Myrtle Beach man, whose remains were found in a field 41 days after he was reported missing. Horry County Police Department detectives have charged Johnathan Lamar Hillary, 29, of Augusta, Ga., with murder and possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime in the death of former New York police officer Timothy Francis Buckley. Buckley, 51, was reported missing on Sept. 30, after he was last seen heading to his camper near the Springmaid Resort on the night of Sept. 28. No one heard from Buckley after that night. Buckley's remains were discovered in a wooded lot near U.S. 501 in unincorporated Myrtle Beach on Nov. 10. Officers were called about the discovery of bones, believed to be human, found off of Rodeo Drive, near U.S. 501 at 8 a.m. that day.

Sun News: He had a bright future until a stray bullet took his life, just like his father
<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article115551183.html>
Emily Weaver

Levi Moody had a gift. He could make people laugh. He could entertain. He could draw the folks in his community — often marred by poverty and plagued by violence — into another world built on hope and promise. "If you were ever in his presence, you'd know it," said his mother, Veronica Thompson. "He was a comedian. ... Ever since he was a baby he was this way." Gunfire stole the laughter Saturday when 19-year-old Levi Herman Moody was struck down by a bullet that loved ones say was never intended for him. When the gunfire ceased, Moody was found lying on Freemont Road in the Freemont community of Longs. Thompson said he was barely breathing as her cousin rushed to his side and tried to get him to hold on with the words "your momma's coming; your momma's coming." Moody was a promising athlete and scholar, but he grew up in a corner of the world that offered more tragedy than promises.

The State: Man stabbed multiple times near high school, police report
<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article115436058.html>
Jane Moon Dial

A suspect is in custody after a man was stabbed near a high school Thursday afternoon, according to officials. Columbia police reported through Twitter a man was stabbed multiple times at the 2100 block of Chestnut Street. The area is near C.A. Johnson High School, which is across Chestnut Street at 2219 Barhamville Road. Police reported a suspect has been detained but did not name the person. Police also reported it as an isolated incident.

Sun News: Father says son falsely accused of Forestbrook school shooting threat
<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article115557593.html>

An eighth grade student initially thought to be behind a threat to bring a gun to Forestbrook Middle School is innocent, his father claims. A different student was later arrested, said Horry County Schools Spokeswoman Teal Britton. "The second student was falsely representing the first," she said, although she wasn't permitted to name any student in particular. Lee Martin said his son Stephen Martin's identity was stolen when another student posed as Stephen on Instagram and threatened to shoot up the school. "We want to make it clear that Stephen Martin did not do this," said Lee Martin. "He had no part in this." After other students saw the threats on social media, they told their parents who called police. Police notified the school and Stephen was suspended, said Lee Martin. Stephen's mother, Amy Martin, got a call from the school on Sunday and said her son doesn't have an Instagram account. "I was shocked and I really did not believe that my son would do that because he doesn't even use social media," she said. "So I asked him when I got home, I asked him about it and he immediately said he didn't do it and I totally believed him."

Post and Courier: \$2.95 million verdict upheld in Berkeley County jail wrongful death lawsuit

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/million-verdict-upheld-in-berkeley-county-jail-wrongful-death-lawsuit/article_ddcdb9b2-ad1b-11e6-8490-6b1ddf3f053e.html

Gregory Yee

A federal appeals court upheld a \$2.95 million verdict in the wrongful death of a Berkeley County jail inmate in 2010. The U.S. 4th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the verdict on Wednesday, according to court documents. The money was awarded to the mother of David Allan Woods, 50, who died on Nov. 11, 2010, after spending a month at the Hill-Finklea Detention Center, as the jail is formally known. Woods died of gastrointestinal bleeding caused by ulcers, cirrhosis and dilated veins in his esophagus known as varices, according to information from the autopsy included in court documents. He started complaining about vomiting blood and having bloody stools but jail staff ignored his condition, according to the documents.

Aiken Standard: Hearing scheduled in lawsuit over 2014 traffic stop

http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/hearing-scheduled-in-lawsuit-over-traffic-stop/article_b0e10f8e-acd6-11e6-a1e7-2fe844ec5d47.html

Maayan Schechter

Lawyers for four former and current Aiken police officers and the agency's chief of police plan to appear in court next month to discuss matters related to scheduling and more in the lawsuit filed by an Aiken County couple who claim they were unconstitutionally searched in broad daylight in 2014. New court filings state a status conference and motion hearing on all pending motions has been scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Dec. 2 in the federal courthouse in Columbia. The case will be before Magistrate Judge Paige J. Gossett, filings state. "All counsel participating in the hearing should be prepared to discuss matters related to scheduling and any other topics which may aid in the disposition of this case," filings said. "Counsel are instructed to have their calendars available during the hearing to facilitate scheduling."

Herald-Journal: Body camera policies vary among Upstate departments

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161117/body-camera-policies-vary-among-upstate-departments?rssfeed=true>

Daniel J. Gross

More law enforcement agencies are acquiring body-worn cameras to improve documentation and transparency, but a review of policies from local agencies shows wide variations in how cameras are handled. The South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy is requiring agencies to submit a policy by March 7 to the Law Enforcement Training Council, regardless of whether they already had cameras or are applying for new ones. The academy provided guidelines for law enforcement to use while developing their policies, but gave departments leeway to include additional standards. The guidelines address which officers must wear body cameras, when the cameras should be activated, what restrictions there are for recording, how long recordings should be retained and who is permitted to review the recordings. "(Agencies) couldn't do any less than what we provided, but they could

definitely go above. It's up to the agency," said Maj. Florence McCants, a spokeswoman for the academy.

Post and Courier: Robert Bosch expanding North Charleston plant - again

http://www.postandcourier.com/business/robert-bosch-expanding-north-charleston-plant---again/article_b59248f4-acd6-11e6-823e-afeb4bd8dffc.html

John McDermott

The Robert Bosch plant in North Charleston is shifting into expansion mode again. The German automotive parts maker said Thursday it will invest \$175 million and add 150 jobs over the next five years at its 1,700-worker Dorchester Road plant. "The commitment strengthens Bosch's presence in the region and will enhance its mobility solutions manufacturing activities at the facility," the company said in a written statement. Bosch makes advanced fuel injectors and anti-lock brake system components in North Charleston. The nine-figure capital investment will include "new manufacturing equipment and tooling as well as workforce training enrichment programs," according to the company's statement.

Morning News: Florence County steps toward tax agreement for Honda expansion

http://www.scnw.com/news/business/article_9bd45d38-ad41-11e6-a456-3ff75b9fe37a.html

Joshua Lloyd

The Florence County Council moved forward on Thursday with a tax agreement to facilitate Honda of South Carolina's forthcoming expansion, formerly known as Project Mirror. The Morning News reported in August on Honda's announcement of \$45 million investment in the county-- a 115,000-square-foot-expansion that will bring 250 new jobs to the area.

The Herald: Catawba Indian Nation ends talks with producer on potential \$350M movie studio

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article115505843.html>

David Thackham

The Catawba Indian Nation voted this week to end negotiations with a film producer to build and manage a movie studio on tribal land in eastern York County near Rock Hill. The Catawbas announced Wednesday that they are halting a proposed \$350 million project with Studio South of Charlotte, but said they will keep the door open for future deals. The board of directors for The Corporate Nation voted "no" to the business deal, but tribal administrator Elizabeth Harris said in a statement Thursday that the Catawbas remain open to opportunities. "We were certainly inspired by the excitement in our community around the idea of doing a movie studio," she said in the statement. "We believe that there is still great potential for a movie studio business model that makes sense for all parties involved."

WACH: Lawsuit over practices of Carolina Water Service heard in federal court

<http://wach.com/news/local/lawsuit-over-practices-of-carolina-water-service-heard-in-federal-court>

Matthew Stevens

A dispute between a controversial water treatment plant and a Midlands environmental advocate is now in the hands of a federal judge. Last year, Congaree River keeper Bill Stangler filed a lawsuit against Carolina Water Service, looking to put a stop to discharges into the region's waterways including the Congaree, Saluda and Broad Rivers. A judge heard arguments from both sides Thursday in a 90-minute hearing. CWS has been cited in the past for improper discharges and this past summer DHEC had to shut down the Saluda River after an excessive amount of sewage was pumped into the river. DHEC also refused to renew CWS' permit for their I-20 plant in Lexington County this past summer. "We look forward to the judge's ruling on this, coming up this is going to be incredibly important in protecting the Saluda River and the people that use it and Carolina Water Service needs to comply with the law. They need to end their discharge and they need to be held accountable for violations for the permit they have," said Stangler after proceedings Thursday.

WLTX: Congaree Riverkeeper, Carolina Water Face off in Court

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<http://www.wltx.com/news/local/congaree-riverkeeper-carolina-water-face-off-in-court/353569595>

A federal ruling could help end Carolina Water Service's pollution into the Saluda River. The Congaree Riverkeeper and the wastewater treatment plant went before a judge, the latest in the ongoing battle to get the company to tie into the regional system under the Town of Lexington. CWS argued in court that they have tried three times to tie in with the town of Lexington, and they said all of the attempts were denied. "The Town won't offer a connection," CWS Attorney John Hoefer told Judge Margaret Seymour. The Riverkeeper's Bill Stangler said the court should hold the company responsible for their obligation to interconnect since 1994. "It's just another example of what Carolina Water Service has said for a decade and a half now," Stangler said. "Blame anyone except themselves for the problems that they've had complying with the Clean Water Act."

World News:

Associated Press: Bombings in Syria's Aleppo hit hospital; 7 die in airstrike

<http://bigstory.ap.org/a18254166ac84d19b1d6843023c19371>

Intensive bombings pummeled Syria's rebel-held eastern neighborhoods of the city of Aleppo on Friday, residents and rescuers said, hitting an area housing several hospitals and sending the chief of a pediatrics clinic in a frantic search for a place to move his young patients. Earlier Friday, airstrikes on a village in the rural Aleppo province killed seven members of the same family, including four children, opposition activists said. The attacks mark the fourth day of renewed assault by Syrian government warplanes on eastern Aleppo districts, a rebel-held enclave of 275,000 people. The onslaught began with a Russian announcement of its own offensive on the northern rebel-controlled Idlib province and the central Homs province. So far, more than 100 people have been killed across northern Syria since Tuesday.

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