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Subject: Morning Clips – Wednesday, November 16, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

McClatchy DC: Haley 'giddy' about a GOP-dominated Washington

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/election/article114996718.html>

David Lightman

Gov. Nikki Haley of South Carolina is giddy over the prospect of having Republicans controlling Congress and the White House. And Donald Trump, who she tangled with earlier this year before saying this spring she'd back the nominee and then voting for him last week? She's hopeful. "I'm just giddy, and if you talk to any of the governors here, we are so excited at the possibility and the opportunities that are going to be here," Haley said during a meeting of the Republican Governors Association. The governors are meeting this week at the posh Waldorf Astoria Resort, in the shadow of Disney World. Haley appeared on a panel called "Leading the Charge" with three other governors, then participated in a news conference. In January, Haley gave the GOP response to President Barack Obama's State of the Union address. She criticized those in her party, urging people to resist "the siren call of the angriest voices." Trump fired back.

McClatchy DC: Trump's biggest headache could be the 33 Republican governors

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/election/article115007548.html>

David Lightman

The nation's Republican governors could be Donald Trump's biggest headache. Politically, they are so much that Trump is not. They represent broad, diverse constituencies that demand results they can see in their daily lives. They have usually worked their way up, starting with local offices or running small local businesses. So as the GOP governors meet this week with each other, donors and corporate officials at the lush Waldorf Astoria resort in the shadow of Disney World, many are very careful when discussing the president-elect. They're keeping enough distance so that if he proves to be a political liability, they'll be fine. "Governors need the White House, but they're pragmatic," said Henry Barbour, Republican Party committeeman from Mississippi. Trump needs the governors. Republicans will occupy at least 33 state houses next year, their best showing since 1922, and they have vast political networks in their states.

NOTE: Gov. Nikki Haley of South Carolina tangled with Trump earlier this year. When she gave the GOP response to the State of the Union address in January, she criticized those in her party, urging people to resist "the siren call of the angriest voices."

NOTE: Haley endorsed Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., for president, and after it became apparent Trump was the nominee, she said she would back him.

NOTE: Haley voted for Trump, but said last month, "The election has turned my stomach upside down." Tuesday, Haley said, Trump is "talking about inclusion... so far he's done well." Haley hoped "he continues to be disciplined in his comments."

NOTE: The governors were more circumspect when asked about Trump chief strategist Steve Bannon, who many civil rights groups are protesting because of his ties to white supremacists. Haley said she didn't know Bannon. Burgum said, "I'm not close enough. I'm not a political insider."

NOTE: Gov. Sam Brownback of Kansas found Pence's remarks "exciting." Brownback particularly appreciated how "he showed us how we could do some things in the short term." Haley raved: "He stands by his word. He's going to give good advice when needed."

Associated Press: GOP governors hope to move fast on making promised changes

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=5VDecLP9

Gary Fineout

Republicans are still celebrating their election victories, but the country's GOP governors warned this week that they need to move fast on many of the changes that have been promised to voters. The Republican Governors Association held its annual conference at a resort near Disney World this week where several governors talked eagerly about how the election of Donald Trump could herald sweeping changes on everything from health care to education. But many of them said those changes need to come soon before the nation and Republican leaders get caught up in the 2018 election cycle. "We cannot squander this opportunity," said Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey. Republicans now control the White House and Congress. And Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker pointed that this was the first time there has been this many GOP governors across the country since the 1920s.

NOTE: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley called it a "new day" for statehouses across the country, but she added her own admonition. "We can't celebrate too long, we've got to get to work," Haley said. "And that means 30 days, 60 days, 90 days, 120 days, all of us have to get to work."

Tampa Bay Times: Scott, other Republican governors delight in dominance under Donald Trump

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/politics/stateroundup/republican-governors-delight-in-dominance-under-donald-trump/2302983>

Adam C. Smith

There aren't many elected Republicans in America happier about Donald Trump's election than Florida Gov. Rick Scott, an early Trump supporter in a battleground state dominated by Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio loyalists. Not only is Scott a fellow super-rich businessman and political outsider who ran against the GOP establishment, he also ran a health care company, Columbia/HCA, that was targeted by the Clinton administration in the 1990s for Medicare fraud. So you can understand why Scott — a likely candidate for U.S. Senate in 2018 — is smiling big this week. "I now have a president I can talk to. I talk to Trump a lot. I have both a president and a vice president who are friends of mine," Scott, 63, said Tuesday in Orlando, where he is attending the annual conference of the Republican Governors Association.

NOTE: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley nine months ago saw Trump as "everything a governor doesn't want in a president." Tuesday, one week after his election, she described herself as "giddy" and saw nothing but opportunity.

NOTE: Haley said it's inevitable governors will have disagreements here and there with Trump but, "We are in a far better situation than we were a month, two months, two years ago. The idea that Republican governors can now have a seat at the table and actually get some things done . . . is what we care about."

Bloomberg: Republican Governors are 'Giddy' as Trump Prepares Presidency

<http://www.bloomberg.com/politics/articles/2016-11-16/republican-governors-are-giddy-as-trump-prepares-presidency>

John McCormick

Republican governors meeting for the first time since Donald Trump won the White House are gearing up for Washington to begin passing a broad-ranging conservative agenda after years of gridlock, bolstered by their party's wide electoral success. South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley, who once quipped that Trump represented "everything a governor doesn't want in a president," said during a panel discussion at an annual meeting of the Republican Governors Association in Florida that she was "just giddy" about the possibilities that lay ahead for Republicans, who now control the majority of states and the nation's capital. "We can now start to really govern," she told reporters. "I've never known what it's like to have a Republican president. I can tell you, the last six years, Washington was the hardest part of my job." Republicans now hold 33 governorships, the highest for the party since 1922. They also have majorities in roughly two-thirds of state House and Senate chambers. Still, observers say that ultimately the governors could find it difficult to see eye-to-eye with Trump when it comes to governing and policy matters that could dramatically affect their state

budgets, access to federal funding and job growth.

NOTE: Haley and other chief executives repeatedly brought up Mike Pence, the vice president-elect and a fellow governor from Indiana, as they reassured themselves that they'll have a good relationship with Trump's White House.

NOTE: "I don't know Bannon, so I don't have much to say about that," Haley told reporters.

NOTE: Just nine months earlier, Haley had been much less accepting about a potential Trump presidency. Asked about her changed tune, Haley said her previous remark was something said during a primary campaign, she's always believed in supporting the eventual nominee and Trump has shown greater self-control since his victory.

NPR: Republican Governors Thrilled With Increased Influence In Washington

<http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2016/11/15/502241080/republican-governors-thrilled-with-increased-influence-in-washington>

Greg Allen

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said Tuesday the fact that Republicans now control the White House, Congress and so many governors' mansions has left her "giddy." Haley and the rest of the Republican Governors Association are meeting this week in Orlando, Fla., to discuss their party's victories last week and how they hope to work with President-elect Donald Trump. On election night, Republicans picked up three states now governed by Democrats: Missouri, New Hampshire and Vermont. North Carolina's governor's race is still being contested. But even if Democrat Roy Cooper's lead holds and he defeats incumbent Pat McCrory, the GOP will hold governorships in 33 states, the most in nearly a century. That's lent almost a party atmosphere to the conference proceedings, even for governors who had expressed reservations about Trump, like Haley and New Mexico's Susannah Martinez. During the campaign, Martinez said Trump's "offensive rhetoric" raised questions about his fitness to be president. Now she says she's confident Trump will deliver on campaign promises and "his commitment to make sure that America is great again."

NOTE: Haley said she always supported him, despite concerns about his rhetoric. In Orlando, she said "words matter" and she was still watching Trump's statements. "President-elect Trump has done well," Haley said. "I hope he continues to do that. I hope he continues to be disciplined in his comments."

CNN: GOP governors 'giddy' in wake of Trump's win

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/11/15/politics/gop-governors-donald-trump/>

Eric Bradner

Republican governors said they were "giddy" Tuesday over the prospect of more control of federal education, health care and transportation dollars under a Donald Trump administration. At the first major gathering of Republicans since Trump's victory, high-profile governors largely set aside the topic of the President-elect himself. Instead, they said they're thrilled that the GOP controls both Congress and the White House. And they're excited about the promotion within their own ranks, with Indiana Gov. Mike Pence set to become vice president. "I'm just giddy, and if you talk to any of the governors here, we are so excited at the possibility and the opportunities that are going to be here," said South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley. "The idea that now we can start to really govern -- I have never known what it's like to have a Republican president. I can tell you that the last five years, Washington has been the hardest part of my job," Haley said. "This is a new day."

Orlando Political Observer: Republican Governors imagine possibilities with GOP control Orlando conference

<http://orlando-politics.com/2016/11/15/republican-governors-imagine-possibilities-with-gop-control-orlando-conference/>

Frank Torres

On Tuesday afternoon, the Republican Governor's Association convened their annual conference right here in Orlando and held a panel discussion with four of their brightest stars. They're collective message was one of hope under a Donald Trump Presidency and GOP majorities in both the Senate

and the House of Representatives. The panel consisted of Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, Arizona Governor Doug Ducey, Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson and South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley. The discussion was moderated by Radio Host Bill Bennet. Walker was excited at what Republican control at all levels could accomplish. "The sky is the limit." Walker began "The possibilities are endless, now that we have a Republicans in the house, Republicans in the senate. There is no limit to the good we can do. Republicans are alive and well and that success started in the states." Nikki Haley was excited to have a fellow former Governor, now Vice-President elect Mike Pence in a position to make their collective goals possible.

Orlando Sentinel: Scott looks forward to Trump presidency

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/politics/political-pulse/os-scott-trump-presidency-republican-governors-conference-20161115-story.html>

Steven Lemongello

Gov. Rick Scott called for "disruptive change" in a Donald Trump administration - while admitting that on many issues, he doesn't know what Trump will do. He also appeared to open the door to a potential U.S. Senate run in 2018 for incumbent Bill Nelson's seat - but he punted when directly asked about Trump's widely condemned appointment of Breitbart editor Steve Bannon as chief adviser. Scott was speaking to reporters at the Waldorf Astoria Orlando Tuesday on the first full day of Republican Governors Association conference, which brought together governors from across the country just a few weeks after they won control of what will be 34 governorships across the nation. Scott repeatedly compared Trump's rise as an "outsider" businessman to his own election as governor in 2010.

NOTE: At a joint press conference later in the day, Scott, New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley all avoided comment on Bannon, with Haley also saying she did not know him.

NOTE: But Haley, who opposed Trump earlier this year, advised the president-elect that "communication and tone matter. The power of words matter. ... What you never want to see is any divisiveness in a state or the country."

The State: GOP leadership post could elevate Haley's national profile

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article114993163.html>

Cassie Cope

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley could be about to take another step into the national spotlight. This week, Haley could be elected vice chair of the Republican Governors Association. Haley is on the RGA's executive committee and is a contender for its vice chairmanship. Typically, vice chairs rise to become chair of the association the following year. For Haley, that means if she is elected vice chair, she would chair the GOP governors group in 2018, her final year as S.C. governor. The Republican governors are meeting this week in Orlando. "It ups her national profile," said political consultant Katon Dawson, a former S.C. GOP chairman. Winthrop University political scientist Scott Huffmon agreed. "It would further signal her move on to a national stage." Haley, in her second-term as S.C. governor, has made plenty of national headlines in recent years — for her handling of the Emanuel Nine church shooting, Confederate flag controversy and flooding in 2015 and, most recently, for this year's Hurricane Matthew.

Post and Courier: Haley to pray at Emanuel AME on Tuesday, asks others to join across S.C.

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/haley-to-pray-at-emanuel-ame-on-tuesday-asks-others/article_945dd53e-ab52-11e6-b758-a737692f9a61.html

Schuyler Kropf

Gov. Nikki Haley will pray at Mother Emanuel AME Church next Tuesday and asks residents across the state to join her in an organized show of faith. At noon on Nov. 22, Haley wants South Carolinians to pray for the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, as well as the lingering effects of Hurricane Matthew, according to a press release. She also noted "two significant criminal trials are underway in Charleston," referring to the murder trial of former police officer Michael Slager of motorist Walter Scott, and the Emanuel AME Church case where white supremacist Dylann Roof is charged with

killing nine black worshippers."Faith, prayer and helping our neighbors is what got us through a challenging time last year, and those things will get us through these two trials and the aftermath of the hurricane," Haley said.

WIS: Haley organizes day of prayer on Nov. 22

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33714771/haley-organizes-day-of-prayer-on-nov-22>

Jeremy Turnage

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley announced a day of prayer vigils in the Palmetto State in an effort to continue the healing after Hurricane Matthew and two criminal cases in Charleston. On Tuesday, Nov. 22, Haley said churches and other houses of worship will open at 12 p.m. and sound bells in observance of services statewide. "Faith, prayer and helping our neighbors is what got us through a challenging time last year, and those things will get us through these two trials and the aftermath of the hurricane," Haley said in a statement. "In South Carolina, we know how to have compassion toward each other, count our blessings, and remember that we are one state, one people." Hurricane Matthew devastated parts of the South Carolina coast last month, causing millions in damages. The state is also in the middle of the Michael Slager and Dylann Roof trials -- two high-profile cases that rocked the nation and the state last year.

WOLO: Haley Announces Statewide Prayer Vigils

<http://www.abccolumbia.com/2016/11/15/haley-announces-statewide-prayer-vigils/>

Kimberlei Davis

As South Carolinians prepare for Thanksgiving and the holiday season, Governor Nikki Haley announced a day of prayer vigils throughout the state on Tuesday, November 22. The governor, working together with leaders of the faith community, urges everyone, regardless of their faith or denomination, to pray for continued strength and healing across the state and give thanks for the state's blessings. Prayer vigils will be held in individual places of worship at 12:00 PM when bells will ring in observance of services statewide. "Faith, prayer and helping our neighbors is what got us through a challenging time last year, and those things will get us through these two trials and the aftermath of the hurricane," said the governor. "In South Carolina, we know how to have compassion toward each other, count our blessings, and remember that we are one state, one people." Two significant criminal trials are underway in Charleston, and many families along the coast and throughout the Pee Dee are still recovering from the effects of Hurricane Matthew.

WLTX: Gov. Haley Calls for Statewide Day of Prayer Next Week

<http://www.wltx.com/news/local/gov-nikki-haley-announces-statewide-prayer-vigils-next-week/352373145>

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is calling for a day of prayer vigils throughout South Carolina next week. The day will be Tuesday, November 22, just two days before Thanksgiving. Haley wants everyone--regardless of faith--to pray for continued strength and healing, and to give thanks for the state's blessings. The vigils will be held in a houses of worship at 12 p.m. when bells will ring in observance of services statewide. "Faith, prayer and helping our neighbors is what got us through a challenging time last year, and those things will get us through these two trials and the aftermath of the hurricane," said the governor in a statement. "In South Carolina, we know how to have compassion toward each other, count our blessings, and remember that we are one state, one people."

WSPA: SC statewide prayer vigil announced by Gov. Haley

<http://wspa.com/2016/11/15/sc-statewide-prayer-vigil-announced-by-gov-haley/>

SC Gov. Nikki Haley has announced a statewide prayer vigil for Tuesday Nov. 22 in a press release: "As South Carolinians prepare for Thanksgiving and the holiday season, Governor Nikki Haley announced a day of prayer vigils throughout the state on Tuesday, November 22, 2016. The governor, working together with leaders of the faith community, urges everyone, regardless of their faith or denomination, to pray for continued strength and healing across the state and give thanks for

the state's blessings. Prayer vigils will be held in individual places of worship at 12:00 PM when bells will ring in observance of services statewide. 'Faith, prayer and helping our neighbors is what got us through a challenging time last year, and those things will get us through these two trials and the aftermath of the hurricane,' said the governor. 'In South Carolina, we know how to have compassion toward each other, count our blessings, and remember that we are one state, one people.'

Fox Carolina: Gov. Haley announces a day of prayer vigils in SC

<http://www.foxcarolina.com/story/33714926/gov-haley-announces-a-day-of-prayer-vigils-in-sc>

Aneliz Baltazar

As South Carolina is preparing for Thanksgiving, Gov. Nikki Haley announced a day of prayer vigils throughout the state on Nov. 22. The Governor's Office stated that two significant trials are underway in Charleston and many families along the coast and throughout the Pee Dee are still recovering from the effects of Hurricane Matthew. "Faith, prayer and helping our neighbors is what got us through a challenging time last year, and those will get us through these two trials and the aftermath of the hurricane." Haley said. The Governor's Office along with leaders of the faith community are urging people, regardless of their faith or denomination, to pray for continued strength and healing across the state and give thanks for the state's blessings.

WCSC: Haley announces day of statewide prayer vigils

<http://www.live5news.com/story/33714728/haley-announces-day-of-statewide-prayer-vigils>

Patrick Phillips

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley announced Tuesday a statewide day of prayer vigils scheduled just before the Thanksgiving holiday. Haley set the date of the vigils as Tuesday, two days before Thanksgiving. In a statement from the Governor's Office, Haley, working with community faith leaders, called for everyone, regardless of faith or denomination, "to pray for continued strength and healing across the state and give thanks for the state's blessings." "Faith, prayer and helping our neighbors is what got us through a challenging time last year, and those things will get us through these two trials and the aftermath of the hurricane," Haley said. "In South Carolina, we know how to have compassion toward each other, count our blessings, and remember that we are one state, one people." "The vigils come as two high-profile trials continue and as residents in the Pee Dee are continuing to recover from Hurricane Matthew.

Palmetto Daily Business: Thorne Research to build new complex in Summerville

<http://palmettobusinessdaily.com/stories/511043681-thorne-research-to-build-new-complex-in-summerville>

Thorne Research will begin construction on a new manufacturing facility and corporate office complex in Summerville. "Given the dramatic impact and planned growth arising from our collaboration with the Mayo Clinic, the U.S. Olympic Committee, the Colorado Hospital Association and others, combined with dramatic increases in new professional customers, particularly medical doctors and our international businesses, our new Summerville facility will meet our need to increase capacity and productivity to meet our anticipated future growth," Thorne CEO Paul Jacobson said. The project will cost an estimated \$35 million and create 330 jobs.

NOTE: "The fact that Thorne Research has decided to move its headquarters to Summerville is a real reason to celebrate, and it shows that the Team South Carolina approach to creating a competitive business environment and developing one of the most skilled workforces in the world is working for the state as a whole," Gov. Nikki Haley said. "We're excited to welcome Thorne to the South Carolina family and thank its leadership for the commitment that this investment, and the 330 new jobs it will create, shows they have toward the people of our great state."

Palmetto Daily Business: OneMain to expand operations in York County

<http://palmettobusinessdaily.com/stories/511043680-onemain-to-expand-operations-in-york-county>

OneMain Holdings will expand its operations in York County, creating approximately \$279,000 in capital investment and 175 jobs. "OneMain is proud of our growth and accomplishments in the great

state of South Carolina, and we remain committed to building our business here for many years ahead," OneMain President and CEO Jay Levine said. "I would like to thank the team at the New York Grant Co., an economic incentives consulting firm, for their diligence in helping us navigate the process and obtain the benefits under the South Carolina Enterprise Program." OneMain plans to lease about 58,000 square feet across from its existing facility on 605 Munn Road East in Fort Mill. Hiring will begin in the fourth quarter of this year.

NOTE: "The 175 jobs that this investment from OneMain Holdings means for York County should be celebrated throughout the state," Gov. Nikki Haley said. "Each time one of our companies decides to expand its operations here, it shows that Team South Carolina's hard work toward creating the most competitive business environment and most skilled workforce possible is paying off for South Carolinians."

Palmetto Daily Business: SC Chamber launches local business issues survey in support of Gov. Haley's competitiveness council

<http://palmettobusinessdaily.com/stories/511045339-sc-chamber-launches-local-business-issues-survey-in-support-of-gov-haley-s-competitiveness-council>

The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce has launched a statewide survey seeking input from businesses about the "business friendliness of the counties" in which they do business. The survey can be found here and is part of Governor Nikki Haley's "Local Government Competitiveness Council," which is chaired by South Carolina Department of Revenue Director Rick Reames. "What we really hope our end goal is that once we come out with this report and we talk to the counties about it, when they go to decide something for that county, they will know whether they need to vote for that extra fee and whether they should be increasing taxes or decreasing taxes," said Governor Nikki Haley in launching the competitiveness council in March 2016. "They will have a toolkit to let them know how to improve in their county, and not only that, the people will have that toolkit on whether they're making decisions to move that county forward or backward." The council's mission is to evaluate local governments based on three categories: Public Infrastructure, Taxes, Business and Industry, and Regulation; and, Workforce Readiness.

General Assembly News:

The State: Rec Commission board member resigns

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article114918743.html>

Avery G. Wilks

One of the seven Richland County Recreation Commission board members that Gov. Nikki Haley intends to fire has walked away on his own. Wilbert Lewis resigned Tuesday, becoming the only board member to step down after turmoil at the troubled commission. Lewis was not one of the five board members that a group of Richland County legislators had accused of allowing unwarranted pay raises and widespread nepotism at the commission. After those lawmakers requested Haley remove the five board members, the Republican governor moved to fire all seven. "Although I believe he is one of the few on this board who have acted in the best interest of the agency and the employees, I respect his decision to allow the commission to move forward with a new board in a new direction," said state Sen. Joel Lourie, D-Richland. "His departure should be viewed as a sacrifice by a respected public servant who is putting the greater good ahead of his personal ambition."

SC Supreme Court News:

Post and Courier: Summerville judge one of three selected to vie for spot on state Supreme Court

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/summerville-judge-one-of-three-selected-to-vie-for-spot/article_2f6bd7f0-ab4f-11e6-bdfb-ebbc7bab7d33.html

Maya T. Prabhu

Circuit Judge Diane Schafer Goodstein of Summerville is one of three finalists who made the early cut to run for a seat on the S.C. Supreme Court. Now she and two others will begin lobbying state

lawmakers to elect them. Goodstein joins judges Ralph King "Tripp" Anderson III of Columbia and George C. James of Sumter in their quest to fill the seat opening when S.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice Costa Pleicones retires at the end of the year. Goodstein serves as a judge in the 1st Judicial Circuit. After easily selecting Anderson, an Administrative Law Court judge, and James, who serves in the 3rd Judicial Circuit, the legislative review panel members deadlocked on the third choice. After a 45-minute break, the Judicial Merit Selection Commission agreed to move Goodstein forward. None of the judges were present during the vote.

Island Packet: Circuit Court Judge Mullen to interview for SC Supreme Court appointment

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/crime/article114844113.html>

Caitlin Turner

The Honorable Carmen Mullen joins six other candidates who are being interviewed to succeed retiring Chief Justice Costa Pleicones on the S.C. Supreme Court. Mullen, a circuit court judge in Beaufort County, will be interviewed by members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission in Columbia on Tuesday morning, according to a Post and Courier news article. From there, the candidates will be narrowed down based on their stances on the role of the judiciary branch. Four of the candidates were interviewed on Monday.

SC Agency News:

Associated Press: State agency suspends changes to abortion regulations

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=GXVZj8DC

Seanna Adcox

A South Carolina agency is holding off on recommending any changes to abortion clinic regulations after being inundated with responses to its drafted proposal. The state Department of Health and Environmental Control confirmed Tuesday the process is delayed indefinitely. Spokeswoman Cassandra Harris says the agency received nearly 460 comments on proposed changes put out in September for public review. The agency had expected to hold a hearing in December, then send recommendations to legislators. Abortion rights advocates praised the department's move. Suggestions they opposed included requiring physicians who perform abortions to be board-certified in obstetrics and gynecology and requiring clinics to meet higher surgical standards. Planned Parenthood regional spokeswoman Vicki Ringer says the decision shows South Carolinians "spoke out loudly and in huge numbers" to oppose medically unnecessary restrictions.

Berkley Independent: DEW helping veterans find jobs

http://www.berkeleyind.com/news/dew-helping-veterans-find-jobs/article_2654969a-a779-11e6-aa12-6b3ba7152995.html

Olin Booker was out of a job, out of money and out of time. In January 2016, he was packing to move back to Georgia when he was advised by his VA administrator to visit the Greenville SC Works Center and talk with them about finding a job. He decided to give it a try, and there he met Frank Mattox, an SC Works veteran's representative, who within hours had lined up an interview with Michelin Prime. Two days later Booker had an interview with the company and was hired on the spot. Booker, who served eight years in the U.S. Army Reserves, is one of the 8,000 veterans who were placed in jobs by the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW) last year. South Carolina also has one of the lowest veterans' unemployment rates in the country at 4.4 percent. "(SC Works) turned my life around. I was in the process of packing, getting ready to move," he said. "I hadn't worked since 2012. My savings were depleted; I had just enough money to pay my rent. I was two weeks from being homeless."

NOTE: At the urging of Gov. Nikki Haley, DEW has made finding jobs for veterans a top priority. In the past year, DEW has refined how it delivers employment services to veterans including:

NOTE: "Making sure our veterans, like Mr. Booker, have opportunities is one of Gov. Haley's priorities," said Cheryl Stanton, executive director of the Department of Employment and Workforce. "I am proud of the work our team of veteran representatives provides to ensure her goals are

realized. They work closely with veterans to find the right fit and with businesses to determine their workforce needs and inform them about the advantages of hiring veterans.”

SC Political News:

McClatchy DC: Graham wants the past to be past with Trump. There are huge deals to be done
<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/national/article115019603.html>

Matt Schofield

After spending the better part of a year questioning the character and quality of candidate Donald Trump, South Carolina’s senior senator Tuesday said it was time to focus on the positives the president-elect brings to the office. The Republican Lindsey Graham on election day very publicly announced that he was voting for independent Evan McMullin because he didn’t believe in the vision of his party’s candidate . During the campaign he voiced concerns about what he perceived to be Trump’s lack of understanding of foreign policy, and he questioned the now president-elect’s conspiracy theories, such as the notion that the election was rigged in favor of democrat Hillary Clinton (who lost). But Tuesday afternoon in a small press gallery in the Capitol, Sen. Graham said that as the votes are now in, it’s time for him to focus on helping Trump become a successful president. Graham is an influential member of the Senate, with a particularly strong reputation on military matters and foreign affairs. On the latter, he hoped the incoming president would learn a bit more about the realities of foreign policy and that his positions would evolve.

Post and Courier: Graham is ready to work, and 'ready to talk,' to President-Elect Trump
http://www.postandcourier.com/news/graham-is-ready-to-work-and-ready-to-talk-to/article_86981c78-ab77-11e6-ab5b-230a082f61cf.html

Emma Dumain

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham spent the better part of a year ridiculing Donald Trump, never expecting the GOP nominee for president to actually win the race for the White House. Now, the South Carolina Republican is rumored to be on a literal or figurative "enemies" list circulating among Trump allies — a warning he could be shut out of negotiating rooms by the new administration. However, if Graham is worried about retribution, he isn't showing it. In a meeting Tuesday with members of the Capitol Hill press corps that he convened, Graham made it clear he is still a senior legislator with plans, connections, clout and a willingness to be helpful. "Clearly, me and 'the Donald' have issues," Graham said. "And I will do everything I can to help him because he will be commander-in-chief in dangerous times." Graham said he could be a partner of Trump’s in efforts to pass major infrastructure legislation, citing his many years of work in support of deepening the Port of Charleston, and other ports as well. He said he was gratified by Trump’s stated commitment to boosting defense spending, recalling that his own short-lived bid for president was centered on strengthening the military.

Post and Courier: AG Alan Wilson asks Donald Trump, team not to relocate detainees to U.S.
http://www.postandcourier.com/news/ag-alan-wilson-asks-donald-trump-team-not-to-relocate/article_4366ac30-ab6d-11e6-8518-d31baeb1327c.html

Gavin Jackson

S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson joined two of his counterparts in urging President-elect Donald Trump and his transition team not to transfer terror detainees from Guantanamo Bay to the United States. In a letter Tuesday, Wilson and fellow Republican Attorneys General Cynthia Coffman, of Colorado, and Derek Schmidt, of Kansas, asked Trump to intervene on any relocation plan of Gitmo prisoners to sites in their states as a matter of "unparalleled concern." "We would be derelict to accept conclusory press reports and assume he will leave office with Guantanamo operational," the letter said, referencing President Barack Obama. "There remains a very real possibility the president may choose to push beyond his executive authority and move these terrorists to our country."

Post and Courier: You can't fight fire with the same kind of fire
<http://www.postandcourier.com/columnists/you-can-t-fight-fire-with-the-same-kind->

[of/article_7624558a-aab6-11e6-a90b-db2ef5594c9f.html](http://article_7624558a-aab6-11e6-a90b-db2ef5594c9f.html)

Brian Hicks

So about 100 people gathered in Marion Square over the weekend to protest President-elect Donald Trump. Never thought you'd hear that four-word combo, huh? Anyway, these protesters are upset by the bigotry and misogyny Trump and his supporters spewed during the campaign, which happened ... regularly. People across the country now feel disenfranchised and worried. Assuming they voted, it's understandable. But it's time to stop. Shortly after President Barack Obama was elected, a new group calling itself the tea party did the same exact thing to him – questioned his eligibility, said he wasn't their president, talked about taking their country back. Except some of them carried signs depicting nooses. Don't try to deny it, Republicans, or pretend we haven't heard this tune before. It's a tad hypocritical to criticize these protesters, especially since all those nonsense claims eight years ago turned out to be bunk. Anybody come for your guns lately?

President-elect Trump News:

Associated Press: Amid strains, Trump says only he knows finalists for Cabinet

<http://bigstory.ap.org/da0982414a3e445f82c8d3bf37646967>

President-elect Donald Trump hadn't been seen in public for days when he walked into New York's 21 Club to applause from fellow diners. The unannounced evening out with family was a contrast to the behind-the-scenes machinations that suggested a struggling transition as names surfaced and sank for top administration positions. Not to worry, Trump suggested in a Tuesday night tweet: "Very organized process taking place as I decide on Cabinet and many other positions. I am the only one who knows who the finalists are!" Before dinner at the midtown Manhattan restaurant— he broke with protocol and left his press contingent behind — Trump met with the head of his transition team, Vice President-elect Mike Pence, but another day passed without a Cabinet announcement. Strains were showing within the process. Trump's allies engaged in an unusual round of public speculation about his potential appointments. Former Rep. Mike Rogers, a respected Republican voice on national security issues, quit the transition effort. And an apparent clerical oversight temporarily halted the Trump team's ability to coordinate with President Barack Obama's White House.

Associated Press: Government forces pound Aleppo for 2nd day

<http://bigstory.ap.org/dd99f45215db4e11b9c6fc78e694e8dd>

Pro-government forces pushed on with their bombardment of the Syrian city of Aleppo Wednesday on the second day of a massive offensive against the city's rebel-held eastern quarters. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group says 20 civilians have been killed by the fierce bombardment that resumed Tuesday after a three-week respite. Local activists counted at least 50 artillery and air strikes since the morning. The U.N. estimates that pro-government forces have trapped some 275,000 people in Aleppo's eastern quarters in a strict blockade enforced since August, as ground and air forces meanwhile pound the area's hospitals. The U.N. warned last week that food rations inside Aleppo's rebel-held districts could be depleted this week. Syrian President Bashar Assad said in an interview published Tuesday with Portugal's state-run RTP television channel that his forces were fighting to liberate civilians from "terrorists," while most of the rebels in Aleppo, numbering around 8,000 according to the U.N., are Syrians who have been fighting to overthrow Assad.

Associated Press: The 'Trump effect' weighs on France's presidential election

<http://bigstory.ap.org/e6be7bf79b904d5589591e4ea48989f3>

Donald Trump's election in the U.S. has given a new boost to conservative leaders in what may be the next major populist battleground, France, where far-right leader Marine Le Pen is convinced that her anti-immigration, anti-Islam views can lead her to the presidency in five months. Former President Nicolas Sarkozy, running to get his job back, says that Trump's election shows that politicians must listen to "the wrath of the people." "Mr. Trump wants to defend American interests? Fine, I want to defend French interests and those of Europe. What Americans allow themselves, why should we

refuse that for France?" Sarkozy said in a rally in the southern city of Nice on Tuesday night. Sarkozy is facing tough competition in his party's two-round primary that starts Sunday. Polls have repeatedly placed him behind ex-Prime Minister Alain Juppe. Another major contender, former Prime Minister Francois Fillon, is gaining popularity as he also presents himself as an alternative to Sarkozy.

Associated Press: Iran's top leaders move to calm concerns over Trump election

<http://bigstory.ap.org/c0ee0374cedd4b118c9b942356501a89>

Iran's two top leaders — its president and the country's supreme leader — both sought Wednesday to calm concerns in Iran over the future of Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers in the wake of Donald Trump's election for U.S. president. President Hassan Rouhani said the country will remain committed and loyal to the deal, regardless of the outcome of the U.S. election. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Iran was indifferent to the result of the U.S. vote, insisting the Iranian nation was "not worried" about the future and was ready for any fallout from the U.S. election. Trump's much publicized criticism of the nuclear deal and his campaign vows to renegotiate the terms and increase enforcement of the deal that put off the threat of Tehran developing atomic weapons has sent jitters across Iran. "If a president is changed here and there, it has no impact on the will of Iran," Rouhani said in a speech broadcast live on state TV from the city of Karaj, where he was visiting. "Based on the deal, we implement our commitment."

Wildfires Across Southeast:

Associated Press: The Latest: 2 men arrested in Tennessee arson cases

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=gp4a0y11

SC State Wire

Authorities have arrested two men in separate arson cases as Tennessee fends off wildfires that have burned more than 16,000 acres in the eastern end of the state. State Agriculture investigators, the State Fire Marshal's office and local authorities arrested Matthew Ryan Wallace, 27, of Tuscaloosa, Ala. He is charged with igniting a wildfire along a Sequatchie County road Monday. The felony charges are punishable by up to six years in jail and up to a \$3,000 fine. Separately, Monroe County deputies arrested Charles Edward Martin, 50, of Madisonville, Tenn., on Monday for intentionally setting a fire along a road. The state's arson reward fund has grown to offer up to \$2,500 for a tip that lead to an arson arrest and conviction. Tennessee's Farm Bureau Federation and Forestry Association have donated to the fund. The arson hotline is [1-800-762-3017](tel:1-800-762-3017).

Associated Press: As fires torch South, burn bans enacted, arson investigated

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

SC State Wire

As drought-stressed forests burn across much of the South - including a blaze scorching a Manhattan-sized area of north Georgia - some traditional outdoor activities are now banned. Starting campfires, lighting fireworks, smoking cigarettes, even parking a car off-road is prohibited, for fear that a hot tailpipe could ignite dry leaves below. The Tennessee Valley Authority issued a burn ban Tuesday on its public lands across Tennessee and in parts of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina and Virginia. The authority said its ban applies to anything that might produce an open flame. Gov. Bill Haslam, meanwhile, banned outdoor burning in more than half of Tennessee's counties through December 15.

Associated Press: The Latest: TVA bans burning in 7 states amid drought, fire

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=gp4a0y11

SC State Wire

As drought dries up forests across the South and with no sign of coming rain that might help put out dozens of major wildfires, the Tennessee Valley Authority has issued a burn ban on its public lands in seven states. The TVA on Tuesday said the ban applies to anything that might produce an open flame, from campfires to smoking cigarettes. It's even prohibited to park a car off-road where a hot

tailpipe might light up dry grass or leaves. The rules apply across Tennessee and in parts of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina and Virginia. Meanwhile, Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam has banned outdoor burning in more than half the state's counties through December 15. Details can be found at the website "burnsafetn.org" <http://burnsafetn.org/>. The Tennessee Division of Forestry is currently fighting 67 wildfires over about 16,000 acres.

Associated Press: Officials warn wildfire smoke to cause bad air quality in SC

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=64ZBXkcj

SC State Wire

Smoke from wildfires in the Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina mountains will make air quality unhealthy throughout South Carolina. The Department of Health and Environmental Control issued a code red alert for 25 counties along and west of Interstate 77 through to Orangeburg County. DHEC says everyone should limit their time outdoors if possible, especially people with respiratory issues. A code orange alert has been issued for much of the rest of the state. Smoke from the fires spread over the state Tuesday, settling into Columbia before daybreak and later making it hundreds of miles away to Charleston. Forecasters expect the smoke to stay around until the wind shifts Thursday.

Independent Mail: Pinnacle Mountain Fire continues to grow

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/south-carolina/2016/11/15/pinnacle-mountain-fire/93892398/>

Mike Ellis

Greenville Water officials are monitoring their water to make sure the Pinnacle Mountain Fire doesn't force them to change their supply. The fire is being directed toward the Table Rock Reservoir, one of three sources for the water company. One of the risks is that an exceptionally heavy rain could send piles of soot into the water, which would require either extra treatment methods or a switch to lean even more on the other two sources, the North Saluda Reservoir and Lake Keowee, said Olivia Vassey, communications manager for the water company. The soot risk will diminish over time and smaller amounts of rain would not pose as much of a risk to the water supply, she said. As smaller rains fall and leaves start to layer over the fire debris and nature takes over, any risk of soot in the water system will likely go away, Vassey said.

Independent Mail: Pinnacle Mountain fire may keep Upstate smoky for days

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/south-carolina/2016/11/14/pinnacle-mountain-may-flourish-after-fire/93793586/>

Ron Barnett and Mike Ellis

Smoke from the biggest wildfire in the South Carolina mountains since 1978 is likely to continue blanketing the Upstate for the rest of the week as firefighters continue to battle the blaze and the weather offers little hope for relief, officials said. The Pinnacle Mountain fire is about 25 percent contained, and the fight to extinguish it is expected to go on for at least another week, according to a spokesman for the state Forestry Commission. Authorities are urging motorists to avoid State 11 and U.S. 178 in northern Pickens County to keep the highways clear for vehicles involved in fighting the fire near Table Rock State Park. They're also informing residents in the area of ways to protect their property from the blaze that had consumed more than 2,300 acres by Monday morning.

Greenville News: Greenville Co. Schools take precautions due to smoke from wildfire

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/11/14/greenville-co-schools-take-precautions-due-smoke/93796930/>

Elizabeth LaFleur

Greenville County Schools is taking extra precautions to protect students from potentially dangerous air. The district has been in touch with South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and the National Weather Service about air quality due to ongoing fires in Pickens County and Western North Carolina, according to Elizabeth Brotherton, Greenville County Schools

spokesperson. Principals were advised that students with asthma or other breathing conditions should be allowed to stay indoors instead of going outside for recess, according to Brotherton. GCS also told principals they should honor any parent requests that children stay inside. At least one school in northern Greenville County cancelled recess and outdoor activities because of the thick haze. Schools were advised to take similar precautions for students involved in sports practices after school.

Greenville News: Pediatrician: Take precautions to protect children with asthma from wildfire smoke
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/11/15/take-precautions-protect-children-asthma-wildfire-smoke-pediatrician-warns/93889126/>

Liv Osby

Children with asthma and other respiratory illnesses are particularly hard hit by the clouds of smoke from area wildfires hovering over the Upstate, a local pediatrician says. So special precautions should be taken at home, in schools and in the community to protect them, said Dr. Steven Snodgrass, medical director of pediatric pulmonology for Greenville Health System Children's Hospital. Outdoor exposure should be limited in these vulnerable children, especially if they are already battling colds and respiratory illnesses at this time of year, he said. And windows should be closed to limit exposure. Requests from parents and caregivers to skip recess and other outdoor activities should be honored, he said, along with athletes participating in outdoor sports who are susceptible.

Greenville News: DHEC cautions residents about wildfire smoke

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/11/14/state-health-officials-caution-residents-wildfire-smoke/93806560/>

Liv Osby

State health officials on Monday cautioned residents about the potential effects of wildfire smoke enveloping the Upstate. Air quality monitors are detecting elevated levels of particulate matter in several regions, particularly in the Upstate counties, according to the state Department of Health and Environmental Control. Areas north of I-20 and west of I-77 are at risk, officials said, adding that the conditions may linger for the next several days. "Smoke from these fires can irritate the eyes and respiratory system, as well as aggravate or exacerbate chronic heart and lung diseases," said Rhonda Thompson, chief of DHEC's Bureau of Air Quality. People with respiratory health issues are advised to limit their time outdoors to avoid the smoke and to take measures to prevent outdoor smoke from getting inside, according to DHEC. Keep windows and doors closed and keep fresh-air intakes closed and filters clean in air conditioning and central heating units to prevent smoke from getting inside, officials said.

Herald-Journal: Smoke, haze from wildfires cover the Upstate

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161114/smoke-haze-from-wildfires-cover-upstate?rssfeed=true>

Zach Fox and Bob Montgomery

Imagine being stuck in a room full of smokers. That's what being exposed to smoke and haze from the western Carolina wildfires is like for some people who have breathing problems. "There are some similarities to second-hand smoke. It's an irritant," said Dr. Emmanuel Sarmiento of Allergic Disease and Asthma Center of Greenville and Spartanburg. Wildfires near Lake Lure in North Carolina and in Pickens County South Carolina continued to burn Monday and create smoke and haze that has covered many parts of the Upstate, with no relief expected anytime soon. Although weather conditions slowed the Pinnacle Mountain fire's progress some, the fire is still mostly uncontained, according to Pickens County emergency management officials.

The Herald: No breathing easy in York, Lancaster, Chester: Wildfire smoke could affect health

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article114879678.html>

David Thackham

Officials are urging people with health issues in York, Chester and Lancaster counties to stay inside because large wildfires have caused large clouds of smoke to descend on the tri-county area. The National Weather Service issued an air quality action day until midnight for residents in York,

Lancaster, and Chester counties, as well as affected citizens in Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Greenwood, Greenville, Laurens, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg, and Union counties. The area is currently under a "code orange" air quality warning. Rock Hill schools said Tuesday they would be taking "extra precautions" to protect students. The school system said it will limit outdoor recess and after-school programs to 20 minutes, keep students with asthma or other respiratory conditions inside and close the outside fresh air dampers to its HVAC systems.

The State: Mountain wildfires could affect health, Midlands under 'code orange' air alert

<http://www.thestate.com/news/weather/article114854178.html>

Jane Moon Dial and Sammy Fretwell

Smoke coming from wildfires in the mountains of South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia could affect breathing and visibility in the Midlands, according to officials. The National Weather Service issued a code orange air quality alert Tuesday morning, warning smoke from the wildfires could affect several areas of the Midlands – including Richland, Lexington, Kershaw, Newberry, Fairfield, Sumter and Lee counties. Code orange means children and adults, including those with respiratory diseases such as asthma, should limit prolonged outdoor exposure. The alert warned that fine particulates could create unhealthy breathing conditions and irritate eyes. Assistant state epidemiologist Dr. Melissa Overman said the particulates in the smoke will aggravate most lung conditions, chronic respiratory conditions and some heart conditions.

Post and Courier: Code orange air quality alert issued for Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester counties as smoke persists

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/smoke-hanging-in-the-air-in-the-lowcountry-expected-to/article_6d736a6c-ab50-11e6-ba46-a71ddf91cbe4.html

Bo Petersen

A code orange air quality alert was issued for the Lowcountry until midnight Wednesday as smoke from wildfires in the mountains again fumes the region. The air quality alert indicates that fine particles from smoke could approach dangerous levels for sensitive adults, according to the National Weather Service. Individuals with respiratory conditions should limit their time outdoors through the alert's duration. "We're seeing it now," said meteorologist Bob Bright, National Weather Service, Charleston on Tuesday. Forecasters say northwest winds pushing the air through the area are expected to move more northward by Thursday, bringing some relief, but "there's really no way to predict" how thick the wildfire smoke will remain, Bright said.

Post and Courier: Advisories issued for dense fog, coastal flooding in Charleston

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/advisories-issued-for-dense-fog-coastal-flooding-in-charleston/article_bc619ee4-abf2-11e6-8c2a-aba4ab2c0ddb.html

Angie Jackson

Lowcountry residents are waking up to a blanket of dense fog and smoke from wildfires in the mountains. Visibility will be reduced to a quarter mile or less at times, according to a National Weather Service fog advisory in effect through 10 a.m. Meteorologists say drivers should use low-beam headlights when needed, prepare for a longer commute and leave plenty of distance between cars. An air quality alert was issued for the Lowcountry through midnight Wednesday as dozens of blazes continue to spread in the southern Appalachian region. The code orange alert means fine particles from smoke could approach dangerous levels for sensitive adults, according to the weather service. Forecasters expect the smoke to stick around overnight and through Thursday. A coastal flood advisory is also in effect until 11 a.m. for downtown Charleston and surrounding low-lying areas. High tide is expected to occur at 9 a.m. and peak between 7.6 and 7.9 feet. Moderate saltwater flooding is possible one to two hours before and after high tide.

Island Packet: Beaufort, Jasper counties may experience more smoke from Appalachian wildfires

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/crime/article114919618.html>

Caitlin Turner

The National Weather Service has issued a special announcement of smoke impacting areas of Beaufort and Jasper counties as wildfires spread across the southern Appalachians. The smoke impacted Beaufort County on Friday, according to Daufuskie Island Fire Department Chief Edward Boys. Boys said a statement made by Hilton Head Island Fire & Rescue that the smoke came from open burning on Daufuskie was incorrect. Areas of Daufuskie are beginning to experience smoke again on Tuesday as it is carried to the area by south and southeastern winds, Boys said. In addition to Beaufort and Jasper counties, areas of Allendale, Hampton, Colleton, Dorchester and Berkeley counties may also experience smoke, according to a National Weather Service release. Visibility may be as limited as one to three miles at times, the release said. Active children and adults as well as those with respiratory ailments that can be triggered by smoke should limit outdoor activity and prolonged outdoor activities should be limited for everyone, the release said. Motorists should also be alert for sudden changes in visibility.

Aiken Standard: Code red air quality alert issued for Aiken, Barnwell, Edgefield counties as smoke lingers

http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/code-red-air-quality-alert-issued-for-aiken-barnwell-edgefield/article_824cce6a-ab6e-11e6-b7a4-2f8a64480ed5.html

Tripp Girardeau

As most of Aiken County and surrounding counties received another hazy day Tuesday, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control issued a code red air quality alert for the area for Wednesday. A code red alert, or unhealthy, has been issued for the Abbeville, Aiken, Allendale, Anderson, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Cherokee, Chester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, Lexington, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Orangeburg, Pickens, Richland, Saluda, Spartanburg, Union, and York counties. A code orange alert, or unhealthy for sensitive groups, has been issued for Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Clarendon, Colleton, Dorchester, Georgetown, Hampton, Jasper, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lee, Sumter, and Williamsburg counties.

Hurricane Matthew Recovery:

Island Packet: A week after reopening, replacement trees are going up at Harbour Town

<http://www.islandpacket.com/sports/golf/rbc-heritage-tournament/article114998333.html>

Jeff Shain

What Hurricane Matthew ripped out, Harbour Town is hastening to put back in. A small fraction of it, anyway. Though it would be near impossible to replace all the trees downed on the home of the RBC Heritage Presented by Boeing, crews already are on site this week to plant more than a dozen large oaks and palms in key areas of the course, which reopened for play just last week. The oak trees are all at least 55 feet tall, with trunks some 18 inches in diameter. Sabal palms are in the 30-foot range. One magnolia tree will be put back at Harbour Town's third hole. And next month, seven tall pines arrive. "Replacement trees of significance," said Cary Corbitt, vice president of sports and operations at Sea Pines Resort. Though it represents maybe a little more than 5 percent of the 400 or so Harbour Town trees knocked down by Hurricane Matthew, those spots were deemed critical either to maintain shot strategy or to fill in areas where too much tree canopy had been lost.

Serial Killer Todd Kohlhepp:

Independent Mail: Charles David Carver's family talks forgiveness as they plan memorial

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/11/15/charles-david-carvers-family-talks-forgiveness-they-plan-memorial/93882116/>

Nikie Mayo

The mother and stepfather of Charles David Carver say they plan to forgive whomever is responsible for their son's death. "It's hard, but I know I am going to have to forgive," said Jaye Shiflet, Carver's stepfather. "Being a Christian, you've got to. It's what the Bible says." Carver's mother, Joanne Shiflet,

agrees with her husband. The Shiflets believe in forgiveness. But they aren't yet ready to give it. Since they have learned the fate of the young man they call David, the Shiflets have their feet in two worlds. In one, they remember the boy they lost. In the other, they relive the agonizing weeks of waiting and the moment when they learned the awful truth. Jaye Shiflet smiles immediately when he thinks of how he met David on a trip that a Crescent High School singing group took to Walt Disney World in Orlando.

Herald-Journal: Families of Superbike victims plan to sue Kohlhepp

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161115/families-of-superbike-victims-plan-to-sue-kohlhepp?rssfeed=true>

Alyssa Mulliger

The families of some of the four people killed at Superbike Motorsports in Chesnee 13 years ago are filing a lawsuit against accused killer Todd Kohlhepp. Melissa Brackman — the widow of Scott Ponder, one of the Superbike victims — confirmed to the Herald-Journal Tuesday afternoon that she is among the family members planning to file a wrongful death suit against the Moore real estate agent who investigators say confessed to the quadruple homicide. When someone dies due to the fault of another person or entity, the survivors may be able to bring a wrongful death suit. This kind of lawsuit seeks compensation for the survivors' loss, including lost companionship, funeral expenses and lost wages from the deceased. Scott Ponder, 30, built Superbike Motorsports from the ground up. He, along with his 52-year-old mother and part-time employee Beverly Guy, and employees Brian Lucas, 29, and Chris Sherbert, 26, were killed at the store Nov. 6, 2003. "I'm not too sure of any details at this point," Brackman said of the lawsuit.

Michael Slagger Case:

Associated Press: Jurors to see animation of black motorist's shooting death

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=H14xCGid

Bruce Smith

Jurors in the murder trial of a white former South Carolina patrolman who shot an unarmed black motorist will see an animation of the shooting before the prosecution rests its case. Michael Slager is charged with murder in the April 2015 death of Walter Scott as the motorist fled a traffic stop. The shooting was captured on cellphone video. The prosecution was expected to rest Tuesday, but lawyers spent much of the day arguing over the state's final witness. The witness, Bill Williams, compiled the animation from cellphone and dashcam video, drone footage of the crime scene and police call audio. The defense argued that Williams, who's largely self-taught, didn't qualify as an expert. Judge Clinton Newman ruled he could testify and jurors will see the animation Wednesday.

Post and Courier: With techniques under scrutiny, state's final witness set to testify in Michael Slager trial

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/with-techniques-under-scrutiny-state-s-final-witness-set-to/article_502aacec-abb7-11e6-997e-df7b2b8791f7.html

Andrew Knapp

After a legal challenge sidetracked a plan to rest their case against former officer Michael Slager, prosecutors on Wednesday morning are expected to call their last witness in hopes of leaving jurors with another look at Walter Scott's shooting death. Bill Williams, hired by the prosecution for his expertise in virtual crime-scene re-creation, will show the jury a simulation of the foot chase that led to a confrontation between Slager and Scott. But missing will be any portrayal of the struggle that Slager said ended with Scott getting control of his Taser, which drew the officer's gunfire. With contentious cross-examination likely, Williams is apt to testify for hours before the prosecution can rest Wednesday, the eighth day of testimony. Any motions, including ones seeking a mistrial on various legal grounds or asking for an acquittal from the judge, would follow before the defense summons any of its own witnesses.

Opinion/Editorial:

Post and Courier: One way to improve schools

http://www.postandcourier.com/opinion/editorials/one-way-to-improve-schools/article_ec321bf6-ab7c-11e6-801e-37e4c22e707a.html

Editorial

As the state's chief executive, the governor should have a lot more to say about the direction of public education, as one of the state's pre-eminent responsibilities. The best way to accomplish that would be to give the governor authority to appoint the state superintendent of education. Next year would be a good time to advance that idea, with legislative action for a statewide referendum enabling the requisite change in the state constitution. Both Gov. Nikki Haley and state Superintendent Molly Spearman are endorsing the change, and are urging the Legislature to put the question to a vote in the next general election. In a letter to lawmakers this week, they point out that South Carolina is one of only 13 states where the superintendent is an elected official, "wholly separate from the administration of the governor."

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Boeing to cut some jobs, move others, in efficiency effort

<http://bigstory.ap.org/26e2a13ece7e47799019768bb7ffaba2>

Jim Salter

Boeing Co. plans to move about 2,500 positions to other sites, cut 500 jobs and close two facilities by the end of 2020 in an effort to make its Defense, Space & Security business more efficient, the company said Tuesday. About 1,600 positions currently in Huntington Beach, California, will move to plants in three other Southern California locations -- El Segundo, Long Beach and Seal Beach. About 500 positions will move to St. Louis County in Missouri, and 400 will shift to Huntsville, Alabama. Chicago-based Boeing will close a plant that employs 290 people in El Paso, Texas, and another that employs 70 people in Newington, Virginia. The company said the moves will reduce facility space by about 4.5 million square feet. The Huntington Beach plant will remain open. Boeing spokesman Ken Smith declined to say how many workers will remain there.

Post and Courier: South Carolina graduation rate jumps up

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/south-carolina-graduation-rate-jumps-up/article_83b42392-ab47-11e6-a5fe-c3a7a409547f.html

Paul Bowers

South Carolina's high school graduation jumped by more than two percentage points in 2016, according to new data released by the S.C. Department of Education. In a press release trumpeting the new four-year cohort graduation rate of 82.6 percent, State Education Superintendent Molly Spearman called the new graduation rate "a true testament to the collaborative effort of students, parents and educators to ensure that all graduates are prepared for success and meeting the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate." The state's graduation rate, like most nationwide, has been climbing steadily in the past decade. Meanwhile, scores on standardized tests for college and career readiness have flatlined or dropped in some cases.

The State: Local schools get passing marks on SC report cards

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/education/article114880413.html>

Bristow Marchant

S.C. education leaders are touting improvements in the state's graduation rate in the latest school report cards, released Tuesday. The state's graduation rate rose to 82.6 percent in 2016, a new record, state education Superintendent Molly Spearman said, unveiling the new report cards. The graduation rate was 80 percent in 2015 and 72 percent during the 2009-10 school year, just after the end of the Great Recession. "This is over a 2-point increase from last year and a true testament to the collaborative effort of students, parents and educators to ensure that all graduates are prepared for

success,” Spearman said. In the Midlands, graduation rates ranged from a high of 90.3 percent in Lexington-Richland 5 to a low 75 percent in Lexington 4. Other Midlands graduation rates were: Lexington 3, 89.7 percent; Lexington 1, 88.6 percent; Richland 2, 88.5 percent; Lexington 2, 87.9 percent; Kershaw, 83.1 percent; and Richland 1, 77.6 percent.

Aiken Standard: Superintendent: S.C. graduation rate reaches 'unprecedented' high

http://www.aikenstandard.com/education/superintendent-s-c-graduation-rate-reaches-unprecedented-high/article_d1609088-ab58-11e6-86ca-37643a39e158.html

Larry Wood

The state’s graduation rate has climbed to an “unprecedented 82.6 percent,” State Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman announced Tuesday when the 2015-16 state report cards were released. “This is over a 2 percent increase from last year and a true testament to the collaborative effort of students, parents and educators to ensure that all graduates are prepared for success and meeting the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate ” Spearman said. The profile of a South Carolina graduate was developed to ensure that state’s students are receiving world-class knowledge, including rigorous standards in language arts and math for career and college readiness, multiple languages and courses in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, arts and social sciences.

Aiken Standard: Aiken County's graduation rate near 90 percent

http://www.aikenstandard.com/education/aiken-county-s-graduation-rate-near-percent/article_c46389da-aba8-11e6-9ea0-935ffb0c8703.html

Aiken County’s students are graduating on time at an all-time, unprecedented percentage rate of 88.6 percent, according to report card data released by the State Department of Education on Tuesday. Aiken’s percentage of students successfully completing their high school coursework and earning a diploma tops the state average of 82.6 percent. “Aiken County’s focus on positive individual student outcomes is evident,” Superintendent Dr. Sean Alford said of the report. Only three years ago, 80 percent of high school students earned their diplomas in four years. Since then, the District Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate has climbed steadily, with 82.7 percent graduating on time in 2014 and 85.2 percent in 2015. “This year’s increase, 3.4 points over last year, is especially impressive,” Executive Director of High Schools Dr. Tim Yarborough said. “We’re tracking, supporting and accounting for the individual success of each and every student in a more comprehensive way than ever before.”

Island Packet: School district has some good news about high schools’ graduation rates

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article114916803.html>

Liz Farrell

The Beaufort County School District’s on-time high school graduation rate improved for a sixth consecutive year in 2016 to an all-time high, according to data released today by the South Carolina Department of Education. The district’s graduation rate — the percentage of students who complete high school “on time” and get a diploma in four years — improved to 83.4 percent, up from 78.7 percent in 2015 and up from 75.1 in 2012. The new graduation rate report included several highlights for Beaufort County...

Morning News: Darlington County, Florence One graduation rates show gains

http://www.scnow.com/news/education/article_a3d7b260-abab-11e6-9668-9b748b95ea54.html

Melissa Rollins

For the second year in a row, South Carolina school districts received a report card from the state department of education with no grade. In accordance with Act 200, signed into law in 2014, school districts and their schools will not receive a graded report card again until 2017. The report card made public Tuesday focused instead on areas such as graduation rates, discipline and student scores on SCPASS, SAT and end-of-course exams.

Local News:

Associated Press: Deputies arrest son in parents' killing after wife calls 911

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

SC State Wire

Authorities say a 38-year-old South Carolina man has been charged with murder in the shooting deaths of his parents after his wife called 911 nearly 10 days after they were killed. A Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office report says the wife told deputies early Tuesday she thought her husband's parents were dead at their Inman home, about 12 miles northwest of Spartanburg. The report says when deputies arrived, Stephen Belcher answered the door and was arrested. Authorities say the bodies of 69-year-old Henrietta and William Belcher were found in a bedroom. The police report says one victim was in a wheelchair and the other at a desk. Both were covered with sheets after being shot several times in the head. Arrest warrants say they were killed Nov. 5. It wasn't known if Belcher had a lawyer.

Herald-Journal: Sheriff's Office: Man, 38, confesses to killing parents

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161115/sheriffs-office-man-38-confesses-to-killing-parents?rssfeed=true>

A Boiling Springs man has been charged with two counts of murder after authorities said he confessed to shooting his parents to death. Stephen Linwood Belcher, who turns 39 on Wednesday, of 139 Peachtree Road, was arrested and charged with two counts of murder and possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime, according to arrest warrants out of the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office. Henrietta Green Belcher, 69, and William Edward Belcher, 69, both of 117 Bentwood Drive, were found dead in their home around 1 a.m., according to a statement from the Spartanburg County Coroner's Office. Shortly after midnight, the couple's daughter-in-law, deputies and EMS responded to the residence for a welfare check and discovered the victims, Sheriff's Office spokesman Lt. Kevin Bobo said in a statement. Stephen Belcher was at the scene when deputies arrived, and he was taken to the Sheriff's Office, where he confessed to killing both of his parents, Bobo stated.

Associated Press: Man fatally shot by brother on South Carolina hunting trip

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

SC State Wire

Authorities say a man mistook his brother for a small animal and fatally shot him while they were on a family hunting trip in South Carolina. Union County Sheriff David Taylor tells news outlets 30-year-old Brian G. Pickle of Atlanta was shot Saturday evening by his brother, Scott L. Pickle, after his brother thought he was a coyote or small doe. Taylor says the shooter was in a rush to take the shot because nightfall was coming. Brian Pickle was found dead in the wooded area with a gunshot wound to the head. Their father, who lives in Arlington Heights, Illinois, was also in the hunting party. The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources is investigating the incident. No charges were immediately filed.

The State: 'No fingerprints! No DNA!' defense attorney says – but prosecutor says there's more to it

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article114975038.html>

John Monk

An attorney for a teen charged with murder told a Richland County jury Tuesday morning that investigators had bungled the case against his client and had no clear evidence proving he shot Zaire Franklin to death in a Columbia area apartment complex last August. "No fingerprints! No DNA! Nothing that tied Jermaine Davis to any murder!" said attorney Dick Harpootlian, ticking off evidence police usually have in murder cases – but not in this one. "They are asking you to jump to conclusions!" Harpootlian said in opening remarks to the four-man, eight-women jury Tuesday at Richland County Courthouse. The case is unusual for several reasons: Harpootlian, a well-known defense attorney, usually only takes murder cases for six-figure fees. Here, he is representing for a nominal fee an indigent youth who has been in and out of S.C. Department of Social Services foster homes for nine years and who was a runaway at the time of the shooting. Prosecutors also allege the killing

happened because of an argument over a paltry amount of money – 17 cents.

Associated Press: Man who wrote on Facebook after escape gets 10-year sentence

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=o3KA5sqv

SC State Wire

A Lancaster man who escaped from police and posted on Facebook while on the run has been sentenced to 10 years in prison after he was accused of committing sex crimes against a minor. The Herald of Rock Hill (<http://bit.ly/2fWNEsJ>) reports that 25-year-old Deqwon Blackmon pleaded guilty to assault and battery Tuesday in connection with a June 2014 charge of criminal sexual conduct toward a minor. While free on bond two years ago, police say Blackmon shot and injured three people during an August 2014 shooting near a Lancaster Waffle House. He was arrested, but escaped from loose handcuffs and posted to Facebook that he had to kiss his children. Blackmon was caught in his mother's home in September 2014 following a three-week manhunt. The shooting charges are still pending.

Post and Courier: Authorities identify Charleston County inmate who died

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/authorities-identify-charleston-county-inmate-who-died/article_2c062182-ab82-11e6-8014-836bc7e40623.html

Glenn Smith

The female inmate who died after being found unresponsive Monday in a bathroom at the Cannon Detention Center was a 24-year-old Ladson woman. The Charleston County Coroner's Office identified the woman as Ashley Shipman. Autopsy results to determine the cause of her death are pending. The Charleston County Sheriff's Office said a detention deputy making security rounds in the medical ward found Shipman unresponsive in a restroom shortly after 4 a.m. Monday. She was pronounced dead at Medical University Hospital. Shipman was booked into the jail Oct. 29 on an outstanding bench warrant for disorderly conduct, according to the sheriff's office.

Post and Courier: Coroner identifies man who died in altercation with two Charleston County deputies

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/coroner-identifies-man-who-died-in-altercation-with-two-charleston/article_8bea8838-ab80-11e6-b09c-9fc538c7f3dd.html

Glenn Smith

The Charleston County Coroner's Office has identified Michael Alan Sawyer, 31, of Berkeley County as the man who died in an altercation with two Charleston County sheriff's deputies on Sunday. There is still no word on how he died. The autopsy results are pending, the coroner's office said. Witnesses to an officer-involved altercation Sunday in Ladson say Sawyer was acting like "he was on something" when he jumped on top of a police car and attacked two deputies with one of their batons. Deputy Robert Bittner and Deputy Levi Reiter arrived at Highway 78 near Pinewood Drive around 4 p. m. Sunday after a man was reported walking through traffic with no shoes on. The call was made by Christine Knight, a Summerville resident who was on her way home with her kids when she came to a stop because the man was in the middle of the road.

Associated Press: Coroner IDs man who beat sheriffs in S. Carolina with baton

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=AaAM4e7L

SC State Wire

The Charleston County Coroner's Office has identified a man who police say beat two officers with their baton before dying after bystanders helped take him into custody. But the coroner's office said in a statement it is not ready to determine what killed 31-year-old Michael Sawyer. Deputies say Sawyer was walking barefoot on U.S. Highway 78 near Ladson, about 20 miles northwest of Charleston, blocking traffic Sunday. When the officers questioned him, authorities say Sawyer took one of their batons and beat them both in the head. Investigators say one officer used a Taser, which didn't appear to work. Then 10 people nearby helped restrain Sawyer who died at the hospital. No shots were fired in the fight. The deputies are on administrative leave as state agents investigate.

The Herald: Chester church claims bus wreck carrying Rock Hill team that killed 4 'unavoidable'
<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article114863898.html>

Andrew Dys

The Chester church that owned a bus carrying a Rock Hill football team that crashed in North Carolina in September, killing four people, has denied wrongdoing, claiming the accident was unavoidable and a sudden emergency. However, the lawyer for 21 people injured in the wreck said evidence is "overwhelming" that Sandy River Baptist Church was renting out its bus without regard to safety rules, and has shown neither sympathy or accountability. The church, owner of the bus carrying the Ramah JUCO football team from Rock Hill, wants a lawsuit filed last month in Chester thrown out. The suit was filed by 21 players and coaches that alleged the church failed to properly maintain, service and inspect the bus and its tires. A blown tire led to the bus hitting a guardrail and a bridge, police said. The crash killed four people, including the driver, who was a church member, and injured 39 others. Federal officials have said the bus was not licensed for for-hire service, yet the team chartered the bus.

Sun News: Student cited for posting 'How do you sneak a gun into school?' on Instagram
<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article114834693.html>

Elizabeth Townsend

A 13-year-old male student was charged with a disturbance after a threat was made against Forestbrook Middle School on social media Sunday, police said. The student was charged with disturbing schools, according to authorities. "The threat is believed to have been a hoax that got out of hand," said Lt. Raul Denis with Horry County police in an email Tuesday morning. According to a police report, a post on Instagram by an "unknown person" posed the question "How do you sneak a gun into school?" The threat also mentioned shooting a particular student, an earlier report stated. "Additional responses escalated to the point that several parents had kept their children out of school for fear of this unknown person shooting up the school," officers noted in the report.

The Herald: No charges in lynching display on Winthrop campus; police still investigating
<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/crime/article114979533.html>

Teddy Kulmala

No criminal charges have been filed in connection with a controversial display set up in front of Winthrop University's Tillman Hall over the weekend. The display was found late Sunday afternoon in front of Tillman Hall. It included 18 black nylon stockings filled with dirt and mulch that were suspended by ropes from a tree in front of the building. A white sign taped over the Tillman Hall sign read "Tillman's Legacy." Tillman Hall is named after Benjamin Ryan Tillman, who served as South Carolina governor and as a U.S. senator from 1890 to 1918. A group of artists known as the Association of Artists for Change claimed responsibility for the display, which they said was a work of art designed to bring attention to Tillman's racist history and "disrupt the aesthetic veil the building has."

The State: Longtime Columbia NAACP president not seeking reelection
<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article114966493.html>

Jane Moon Dial

The longtime president of the Columbia NAACP will step down from his position at the end of the year. Dwight James, executive director of the S.C. State Conference of the NAACP, said Lonnie Randolph is not seeking reelection as president of the Columbia branch of the NAACP. James said Randolph has been Columbia branch's president for about 20 years. His last day in that position will be Dec. 31. Randolph also serves as president of the S.C. NAACP, though James said he does not know of any plans for Randolph to not seek reelection in that position. James said he has held that position for the past 15 to 16 years. Randolph's term as S.C. NAACP president ends in October, and the filing period for the state conference is not open until next year, James said. Randolph could not be reached for comment Tuesday afternoon. Oveta Glover, a member of the Columbia branch of the

NAACP, announced in a press release she is running for president of the local chapter. The local branch elections are underway and will be decided by the end of this month.

Morning News: Pastors of 'Helping Florence Flourish' move forward with unity initiative

http://www.scnw.com/news/local/article_f77caf2e-abab-11e6-964b-cfc780186795.html

Joshua Lloyd

Several pastors involved in the "Helping Florence Flourish" initiative met Tuesday morning and settled on a plan to help bridge racial gaps. Throughout the remainder of 2016 and into early 2017 the group will be organizing small groups to discuss the problems and study how to remedy them.

The State: Richland County sheriff responds to citizen complaints, concerns along North Main Street

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article114956878.html>

Cynthia Roldan

Richland County Sheriff's Capt. Michael Prichett was on a different kind of hunt Tuesday. He and a handful of other deputies from the department's Special Response and Community Action teams went door to door to several businesses along North Main Street, asking managers and owners to call law enforcement when having problems with panhandlers and loiterers. Deputies also handed out letters signed by Sheriff Leon Lott that asked business owners to not allow loiterers, drug activity, alcohol consumption or other criminal activity to take place on their property. Prichett said the decision to send several deputies at the same time was to show the community that the department is listening to their complaints, which involved shots being fired at night, prostitution and even drug deals.

Independent Mail: Anderson County moves ahead with ban on drug U-47700

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/11/15/anderson-county-moves-ahead-ban-drug-u-47700/93939112/>

Nikie Mayo

Anderson County officials moved ahead Tuesday night with a regulation to ban U-47700 and other synthetic opioids, drugs that have contributed to dozens of deaths nationwide in the span of about a year. The move came the day after the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration put U-47700 on its most restrictive list of controlled substances, calling it a drug that serves no medical purpose and one that poses an imminent threat to public health. Michael Miller, director of the Anderson-Oconee Regional Forensics Lab, confirmed to the Independent Mail on Tuesday that there has been at least one case in Anderson County involving U-47700 in the last three months. Miller declined to discuss specifics, except to say that a person was trying to buy the drug online and that the case remains under investigation.

Associated Press: Greenville psychiatric services expanding with new hospital

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=frf11GX8

SC State Wire

Greenville Health System has announced a partnership with Acadia Healthcare to increase their mental health service offerings in the Upstate by building a new psychiatric hospital. The health system said in a news release that the \$64 million, 80,000-square-foot facility is slated to open in March 2018 on GHS' Greenville Memorial Medical Campus, replacing the aging Marshall I. Pickens Hospital. The new hospital will provide expanded services as well as additional beds for a region that has struggled with a lack of mental health care. GHS Chairman of Psychiatry Dr. Kenneth Rogers says the 120-bed hospital will provide 52 more beds than are currently available at the Marshall I. Pickens Hospital. It will also provide services such as substance abuse and geriatric mental health programs.

Greenville News: New psychiatric hospital planned for Greenville

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/11/15/new-psychiatric-hospital-greenville/93883996/>

Liv Osby

Greenville Health System on Tuesday announced plans for a new psychiatric hospital on Grove Road that it will build in partnership with Acadia Healthcare. The \$64 million, 80,000-square-foot facility is slated to open in March 2018 and will provide expanded services as well as additional beds for a region hampered by a dearth of mental health care. The 120-bed hospital will provide 52 more beds than are currently available at the aging Marshall I. Pickens Hospital, said Dr. Kenneth Rogers, chairman of psychiatry at GHS. It will be built on the site of the old Blood Connection building, he said, and once completed, the old Marshall Pickens hospital will be razed to make way for other hospital needs. In addition to much-needed psychiatric hospital beds, the facility will also provide other services, such as substance abuse and geriatric mental health programs, he said.

Herald-Journal: BMW supplier Magna Seating to open Spartanburg facility

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161115/bmw-supplier-magna-seating-to-open-spartanburg-facility?rssfeed=true>

Bob Montgomery

A Canadian company and BMW supplier is planning to invest \$29 million and create 480 new jobs over four years at a new 230,000-square-foot manufacturing facility at Pacolet Milliken's Tyger Industrial Park North, according to sources. Magna Seating of Aurora, Ontario, filed site plans with the county showing a facility with 199 parking spaces will be built on a 20-acre lot at Highway 290 and Anderson Mill Road. Spartanburg County Council on Monday approved the first reading of a tax incentives package for a company dubbed "Project Lockdown." The project will invest \$29 million and create 480 jobs, according to the fee-in-lieu-of-taxes agreement. Spartanburg County Councilman David Britt said Tuesday he could not reveal the name behind Project Lockdown until the third and final reading is approved. "It's a quality company making an investment in Spartanburg and employing a significant number of employees," he said. "On all our projects we never discuss (the name) until the company is ready to say who they are."

National News:

Associated Press: West Virginia town tries to move past Michelle Obama post

<http://bigstory.ap.org/33eb66699b26436ba33985a6199c52f9>

As a small West Virginia community tries to move past the backlash of a racist Facebook post that targeted first lady Michelle Obama, a council member had some inviting words for outsiders who look down on her town. "Come see us," Joyce Gibson said. "Spend a day with us. If I knew you would come, I would bake a cake. We're very decent people." Clay Mayor Beverly Whaling resigned Tuesday and the Town Council later met to accept it. The resignation came after another woman whose post Whaling responded to was placed on leave as director of the nonprofit Clay County Development Corp. The council meeting was brief, with councilman Jason Hubbard reading a statement condemning the "horrible and indecent" post. He apologized on behalf of the town to Michelle Obama and anyone who was offended. "Please don't judge the entire community for one or two individual acts," Hubbard said.

World News:

Associated Press: Obama tours ancient Greek Acropolis

<http://bigstory.ap.org/4b60228b03db44b8863e86667687415a>

President Barack Obama toured Greece's most famous ancient monument, the Acropolis citadel, and was due to deliver a speech to the Greek people later Wednesday as he winds up the first leg of his final foreign tour as president and heads from Greece to Germany. Obama entered the complex through the Propylaea, the monumental gateway that serves as an entrance to the site, and walked along the Parthenon temple, which was dedicated to the goddess Athena, considered the patron god of the city of Athens. The U.S. president lingered at the base of the Parthenon, gazing up at the columns and glancing around at the panoramic view of Athens as he chatted with his guide, Eleni Banou of the Culture Ministry's antiquities division. The 5th Century B.C. Parthenon temple is

surrounded these days by scaffolding as part of maintenance works. The entire site was closed to the public for the day for Obama's visit, which has taken place amid draconian security measures that have also banned demonstrations in parts of Athens, and shut down roads and subway stations.

Associated Press: Yemen war raises questions of war crimes against civilians

<http://bigstory.ap.org/4ef084f99b444fd6af64fdef3977cfb7>

The taxi driver happened by just after a volley of airstrikes hit a highway in western Yemen. The driver, Mohammed al-Khal, stopped, took a wounded ice cream vendor into his car and rushed him to the nearest hospital. But the warplanes were still hunting. Moments after al-Khal pulled up at the hospital in the town of Abs, hell was unleashed. A missile struck just outside the hospital entrance, "like a ball of fire," one witness said. Al-Khal, a father of eight, was incinerated in his car. The blast ripped through patients and family waiting in an outdoor reception area. Nineteen people were killed, along with two civilians killed on the highway. The attack in August typified what has been a pattern in the nearly 2-year-old air campaign by Saudi Arabia and its allies against Yemen's Shiite rebels, known as Houthis. Rights groups and U.N. officials say the U.S.-backed coalition has often either deliberately or recklessly depended on faulty intelligence, failed to distinguish between civilian and military targets and disregarded the likelihood of civilian casualties.

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