

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
To:
Date: 10/19/2016 4:40:27 PM
Subject: Afternoon Clips – Wednesday, October 19, 2016

Afternoon Clips – Wednesday, October 19, 2016

Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: For Medicaid expansion in S.C., HHS secretary says it's only a matter of time
http://www.postandcourier.com/politics/for-medicaid-expansion-in-s-c-hhs-secretary-says-it/article_ee399066-9621-11e6-b94e-eb85f4ceb857.html

Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell suggested Wednesday it was only a matter of time before every state's governor agrees to expand Medicaid - including Nikki Haley. "My hypothesis about this is, it's not a question of if, it's a question of when," Burwell told a small group of Washington, D.C., correspondents for regional newspapers during a briefing at HHS headquarters. Burwell said the advantages of Medicaid expansion will become clear as time goes by. In states that have expanded access, she said, health insurance premiums have decreased on average by seven percent. Kentucky is expected to add 40 thousand new jobs to its economy by 2021. Governors will continue having conversations with each other, Burwell stressed, and those holdouts will start to get pressure from Republicans in their state legislatures, too. But until then, Burwell didn't have a real answer for what the federal government could do - or should do - to close the dangerous gap for many individuals in South Carolina who cannot currently afford Medicaid or health insurance offered through the Affordable Care Act.

Hurricane Matthew:

Associated Press: During evacuation, looters moved in on Beaufort County
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=onUowyrn

Authorities say looters broke into dozens of Beaufort County homes after residents evacuated the area to flee from Hurricane Matthew. Citing incident reports, The Island Packet of Hilton Head (<http://bit.ly/2ekzy1d>) reports that 47 burglary cases were reported to the Sheriff's Office from Oct. 5 through Oct. 11. Eleven of those break-ins were reported on Hilton Head Island, while nine occurred on St. Helena Island. Bluffton and Beaufort police also received multiple reports of burglaries. Items reported missing include guns, televisions, jewelry, cash and outdoor furniture. One woman said looters took sausage from her refrigerator but made the bed. Beaufort County Sheriff's Office Cpt. Bob Bromage says the small chance of getting burglarized should not be a reason for homeowners to risk their lives by ignoring evacuation orders.

The State: Dams that failed in hurricane were inspected but some weren't fixed
<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article109090227.html>

At least 10 dams that state inspectors examined for safety before Hurricane Matthew either broke or sustained major damage when the powerful storm blasted eastern South Carolina this month. Inspections conducted in the past year identified erosion and holes in dams, improperly working water pipes, timber clogging spillways and dense vegetation on the earthen structures, according to state Department of Health and Environmental Control records. But not all of the problems were resolved by the time Hurricane Matthew dumped a foot of rain on South Carolina's Pee Dee region

the weekend of Oct. 7, state regulators acknowledge. That left damaged and weakened dams to face pressure from rising creeks and high winds. And when repairs were made, the required work did not prevent Matthew from damaging or breaking the eastern South Carolina dams, state records show. The DHEC inspections were conducted in an attempt to identify problems with dams after a historic 2015 flood raised public awareness about the need to keep dams in better shape. During the 2015 flood, more than 50 state regulated dams burst, causing extensive property damage for downstream landowners, many in the Columbia area.

The State: USC plans collection drive to help Hurricane Matthew victims

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/education/article109211027.html>

The University of South Carolina plans to send a truckload of supplies to Marion County residents reeling from historic flooding caused by Hurricane Matthew. The school will collect bottled water, cleaning supplies, non-perishable food and diapers Thursday and Friday, then send a truck to Marion County at 11 a.m. Monday. USC is collecting supplies from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at its alumni center at 900 Senate St. and from noon to 6 p.m. at the Gamecock Bi-Lo at 4464 Devine St. The school said the collection will be the first of several efforts to help communities hit hard by Hurricane Matthew.

Post and Courier: Drones assess South Carolina storm damage in early show of technology's potential

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161018/161019450/drones-assess-south-carolina-storm-damage-in-early-show-of-technologys-potential>

Drones have buzzed all around the Carolinas in the days since Hurricane Matthew made landfall north of Charleston, hovering above beaches, bridges and homes as the region works to assess the storm's damage. The flights represent some of the first real-world displays in the U.S. of how the technology can be used in the aftermath of a natural disaster. The hurricane made landfall less than two months after federal regulators loosened their rules for commercial drone flights, removing long waits for permission to fly and making it easier for businesses such as wireless phone providers, insurers and the news media to use aircraft to assess the situation. That means Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina are getting an early look at the future of disaster recovery. A handful of companies say they're using drones here in new ways, giving practical application to technology they'd only experimented with.

Island Packet: Hurricane thrashes Hilton Head Plantation's Oyster Reef – or was it a tornado?

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article109149277.html>

Paul McDermott peered out his window and saw trees sheared off, his crushed greenhouse, and other debris in his yard. The neighborhood where he and his wife, Penny, live – the Oyster Reef community in Hilton Head Plantation – was one of the hardest-hit during Hurricane Matthew. He, along with many other neighbors in the area, have an explanation. "This isn't hurricane damage that we have," he said. "This is tornado damage. It's that simple." A path of destruction is visible from the Palmetto Hall Plantation, through the Big Woods/Bear Creek area of Hilton Head Plantation, through to the Oyster Reef and Hickory Forest areas, residents say. In that area, trees have not only fallen, but some have snapped in half. In Alan and JoAnne Cudahy's backyard, off of Hickory Forest Drive, massive trees lay uprooted and snapped in different directions. The Cudahys think their house acted as a shear during the storm. "The wind came down off the creek, off the pond, and it just obliterated (the trees)," Alan Cudahy said. "We've taken out 12 trees in the backyard."

Island Packet: Hilton Head family: Indigo Run ignored threat posed by soon-to-fall tree

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article109146857.html>

The Aikens knew the tree on the other side of the fence was going to fall. They could just tell by the way it was leaning. Sure enough it fell Tuesday, landing right on the roof of the carport next to their Hilton Head Island home. All of that could have been avoided, the Aikens say. The tree sat across a chain link fence separating their home from the private Indigo Run community. Tommy Aiken, a native islander, said he reached out to the community's management last week when he returned home after evacuating ahead of Hurricane Matthew. The tree — destabilized by the storm's high winds — "was a danger to home and my family," but Aiken said he "was treated kind of nasty" when he informed the folks across the fence. Aiken's wife Betty said, "This didn't even have to happen, if only (Indigo Run) could have just sent a couple of guys out to cut the tree down before it fell."

Island Packet: The good news: Your tree didn't fall. The bad: It still could

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article109134327.html>

The damage may already be done for trees that didn't fall during Hurricane Matthew. "I always hate to give the 'it depends' answer," said University of South Carolina geography professor John Kupfer, "(but) just because the storm is done, doesn't mean the tree won't come down." Clemson University professor William Conner added that it may be useful to get follow-up inspections done by tree experts. "There's a lot of ifs," he said. "There's always a question after a storm like that." Kupfer said the soil around the tree could weaken even further during the winter if the roots were loosened enough by a storm. "If you get rain and the soil becomes liquidized, then there's the chance, especially if you have moderate to high winds," Kupfer said. "More deeply-rooted species are less likely to fall in the long term," he added. "Bigger trees tend to be more top-heavy. They might have bigger root systems, but they're going to be more prone to topple over." Sonya Reiselt of Southern Tree Services of Beaufort said those trees may not be sturdy after the storm.

Island Packet: Which employees were paid through Hurricane Matthew? Can you get help if you weren't?

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article109032812.html>

As businesses try to get back to normal in the wake of Hurricane Matthew, employers and employees have different takes on whether workers should have been paid for scheduled work during the evacuation and the long re-entry process. For Katie Hopkins and her husband, who own Nick's Steak and Seafood on Hilton Head Island, their first thought was how their employees — a lot of them tip earners — would make things work. They decided to start a gofundme account to help employees pay for expenses during evacuation and wages lost while the restaurant was closed. "We knew that financially, this would be a hardship for them," she told The Island Packet and The Beaufort Gazette when contacted Tuesday. "And it was really our first priority."

Island Packet: After Hurricane Matthew, donations pour in but need remains great for Beaufort County's pets

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article109197732.html>

Hurricane Matthew is over and done with. But for Beaufort County Animal Services, there's been no slowdown since the storm moved in two weeks ago. "They are just flooding in," said Tallulah Trice of the constant intake of animals. "We just picked up 13 dogs, abandoned and neglected." The director of the Beaufort County Animal Shelter said many have stepped up to assist with everything from boarding to pet supplies since the hurricane ravaged the Lowcountry. But, with many low on funds due to evacuation or now without jobs due to storm damage, families have had to turn to BCAS to care for their own animals. The need, she said, remains high. As of Wednesday afternoon, BCAS had received 2,000 pounds of food from Petco alone and had distributed 60 palettes of food and supplies. "We've helped people in the past and they want to help now," she said of the many who have

donated.

Sun News: FEMA approves emergency funds for government infrastructure costs

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article109158107.html>

Federal funding through FEMA was approved Wednesday to partly reimburse Horry County for costs associated with infrastructure damage from Hurricane Matthew. The FEMA Public Assistance Program will cover some costs to repair damages to roads and bridges, water control facilities, buildings and equipment, utilities, parks and recreational facilities. In addition to Horry County, other counties approved for the funding include: Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Colleton, Dillon, Dorchester, Florence, Georgetown, Hampton, Jasper, Lee, Marion, Orangeburg, Sumter and Williamsburg counties. The federal assistance also includes funding for debris removal and emergency protective measures. Horry County officials are still waiting on the White House to approve assistance to individuals affected by the flood, and expressed frustration at the Tuesday night council meeting that all but two counties in the state have been approved -- Horry and Charleston.

Morning News: Assessment: \$52 million damage done to Florence County private property

http://www.scnow.com/news/hurricane_matthew/article_32cb2c60-9615-11e6-b34a-cf92e0d91b69.html

Following a three day damage assessment for Florence County last week, the assessments revealed total dollar damage in Florence County to private property, businesses, churches and government facilities at \$52,481,667. This number was generated by our damage assessment teams that consist of officials from the Florence County Building and Planning, Tax Assessors Office, GIS and Emergency Management. Teams identified 59 homes which were destroyed, 133 with major damage and 2,014 with minor damage. The teams also identified 32 businesses which were destroyed, 24 with major damage and 214 with minor damage. On Monday, October 17, Florence County was one of the 15 counties approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for Individual Assistance. This means Florence County residence seeking assistance to include: money for temporary rental assistance and essential home repairs for primary homes, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses and other programs to help survivors recover from the effects of the disaster can apply with FEMA for assistance.

WMBF: Risk of harmful toxins in rivers rises after flooding

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33416738/risk-of-harmful-toxins-in-rivers-rises-after-flooding>

Rivers are meant to flood - it's natural. But when industries are built in a flood plain near a river, you have to deal with the possibilities of toxins getting in to water when the river floods. It's something North Carolina is dealing with now, and so are we as rivers continue to rise. Waccamaw Riverkeepers Emma Boyer and April O'Leary said it's the long-term environmental risks, and risks to us causing worry to South Carolina residents, specifically, septic tanks, coal ash ponds and hog lagoons. In the Cape Fear River Basin, people are flying in helicopters to survey the lands where industrial farms with thousands of hogs sit. According to our sister station WECT, there are more than 2,000 industrial hog farms in that basin. Each of them has a lagoon collecting millions of gallons of raw hog waste generated by these farms. You can easily spot them from the air because the waste inside them looks pink. People are worried of the waste mixing with the flooded river. A Waccamaw Riverkeeper is currently at the Waccamaw River Basin, keeping tabs on hog farms. The riverkeeper said no hog waste from industrial farms has contaminated the river yet, that she knows of.

WMBF: Horry County Council approves special Hurricane Matthew pay for employees

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33421922/horry-county-council-approves-special-hurricane-matthew-pay-for-employees>

The Horry County Council faced criticism from locals Tuesday night for their handling of Hurricane Matthew. WMBF News received messages from viewers about the dangers first responders were in during the storm and the lack of compensation they received. Several people gave public input, including one Horry County Fire Rescue employee. She spoke about the physical and mental toll the job had on firefighters during the storm, adding that the department is grossly understaffed. Council members agreed that some policies need to be reviewed, but also asked those in the community to remain patient in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew. By meeting's end, the council approved an ordinance to provide supplemental pay to county employees who worked during Hurricane Matthew.

WMBF: Flooded areas of Marion County leave homeowners and businesses hurting

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33421542/flooded-areas-of-marion-county-leave-homeowners-and-businesses-hurting>

One area that has not seen flooding since river levels reached historic proportions in 1928 is still trying to recover from the current height of the Little Pee Dee and Lumber rivers. One specific location called Fork Retch Court is the only way in and out for an area just two miles down to where nearly 80 homes sit right on the Little Pee Dee River. One man who owns a boat said it's the only way safely back to his home even 10 days after the rivers started to rise and flood the residences. Randy Bryant has been on the river all his life, so he's been checking on water levels every day since Hurricane Matthew swept through the area. Bryant has lived on the Little Pee Dee River since 1950, when his father built a house there. Twenty years ago, he built his own home and has been there ever since. The last thing he expected was to have to evacuate his home on the river and leave it behind for almost two weeks.

WPDE: Officials warn residents to stay out of floodwaters due to raw sewage, other contaminants

<http://wpde.com/news/local/officials-warn-residents-to-stay-out-of-floodwaters-due-to-raw-sewage-risks>

After widespread flooding brought on by Hurricane Matthew led to waterlogged streets and homes, officials are warning those in flooded areas to stay out of the water. Fire officials responded Tuesday to reports of a foul odor in the Bridgecreek neighborhood of Socastee in Horry County. Officials said the problem in some areas was raw sewage. Sewage is among the many substances that can be found in the floodwaters. One local resident said the flooding is unlike anything she has ever seen before. "We never expected this. I mean, you get up the next morning and you have water in your air conditioner, something you just can't prepare for," she said. She said she is prepared to leave if necessary. Fire officials are reminding homeowners that things like oil or gas in sheds and garages will mix with floodwaters and can get into your house. Residents are urged to take any precautions they can to prevent this and other types of contamination. Residents are also urged to reduce their contact with potentially contaminated waters.

WPDE: Congressman Tom Rice: "There's damage and devastation across the district."

<http://wpde.com/news/local/congressman-tom-rice-theres-damage-and-devastation-across-the-district>

Tuesday night at the Horry County Council meeting, Congressman Tom Rice spoke out about the effects of Hurricane Matthew across the area. Congressman Rice is the U.S. Representative for South Carolina's 7th Congressional District. Rice, who once served as Horry County Council Chairman, said it's great to be back in Horry County council chambers, but that it was for an undeniably sad reason. Rice, along with Senator Lindsey Graham, toured the area last week, taking in the sights of

waterlogged towns. They said the extent of the damage was unimaginable. "I've seen a lot of people hurting. There's damage and devastation across the district. Most areas fared not too badly, but there's pockets where it's really almost unbelievable, Nichols being the worst. I think there's 420 people that live in Nichols and 80 percent of the houses are underwater up to their windows. A third of the population of Nichols is now living in a middle school gymnasium in Mullins, SC. That town is going to struggle to get put back together," said Rice.

WBTW: Waccamaw River sets flood record; clean up on hold until waters recede

<http://wbtw.com/2016/10/19/waccamaw-river-sets-flood-record-clean-up-on-hold-until-waters-recede/>

Flooding on the Waccamaw River set record levels earlier this week, cresting at 17.89 feet. That is more than a foot and a half higher than we saw in last year's historic flooding and beat the previous high water mark of 17.80 feet, set back in 1928. The flooding has impacted homeowners throughout Horry County, many of whom, faced similar problems last year and now have to wait until waters recede before cleaning up all over again. The Waccamaw is slow to rise and also slow to fall; so property owners and volunteers willing to lend a hand have to wait at least a week before they can start tearing down sheetrock, removing carpeting and begin de-molding homes. It's a process relief workers refer to as mudding out. "There's just going to be hundreds of homes, we have identified about 400 that are flooded that we are going to need to mud out," said Todd Wood, director of Impact Ministries. Impact Ministries is in charge of the local volunteer organizations active in disaster, they've teamed up with the Red Cross to get mud out kits ready so homeowners will be supplied with things like buckets and shovels to start the process.

WBTW: SC DSS announces areas that will receive SNAP benefit replacements

<http://wbtw.com/2016/10/18/sc-dss-announces-certain-areas-will-receive-automatic-replacement-of-snap-benefits/>

SNAP recipients who were residing in the following counties at the time of Hurricane Matthew will automatically receive a replacement of a portion of their benefits and do not need to go to the DSS office to request replacement benefits: Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Calhoun, Charleston, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Florence, Georgetown, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Orangeburg, Sumter, Williamsburg. SNAP recipients in Richland and Berkeley Counties residing in the following zip codes at the time of the Hurricane will automatically receive a replacement of a portion of their benefits and do not need to go to the DSS office to request replacement benefits.

General Assembly News:

The State: Gun-rights advocates dominate Hartsville hearing

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article109105127.html>

Before a smaller crowd than during previous meetings, primarily gun-rights advocates stood before a traveling legislative panel that is exploring if South Carolina's gun laws should be tightened. Tuesday's meeting in Hartsville, a largely rural community, was the third of four scheduled throughout the state. The first two were held in Greenville and in Charleston, respectively. The final one will be held Oct. 27 in Columbia. The crowd Tuesday was about a third smaller than during the past two meetings, totaling about 200. Far fewer were from other parts of the state; the majority of speakers who identified their home said they were from the Pee Dee area, predominantly Hartsville. As in the past two hearings, Jennifer Pinckney, widow of fallen state Sen. Clementa Pinckney, was in attendance, though she did not speak for a second time in a row. The meetings are being held in response to the so-called "Charleston Loophole," a clerical mistake that allowed Columbia resident

Dylann Roof to buy a gun he would later use to kill nine, including Clementa Pinckney, at Charleston's Emanuel AME Church on June 17, 2015.

Post and Courier: Second Amendment advocates dominate Senate gun hearing in Hartsville
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161018/161019426/second-amendment-advocates-dominate-senate-gun-hearing-in-hartsville>

Speakers at a Statehouse hearing accused lawmakers of holding a series of meetings around the state largely to rally support for tightening South Carolina's gun laws. "I believe the purpose of the forum is an ideology push," Grady Weaver said Tuesday night. "The perception is that you are trying to recast gun restrictions by using words like 'loopholes' and 'universal background checks.'" The majority of those testifying at the third of four scheduled gun hearings spoke in support of leaving gun laws as is. Most of the 50 people who addressed the lawmaker committee said they disagreed with extending background checks from three to 28 days, as was proposed in the last legislative session. Many reform advocates have focused on the errant background check process that allowed accused Emanuel AME Church shooter Dylann Roof to buy a pistol two months before nine worshipers inside the church were gunned down during Bible study last year in Charleston.

Associated Press: Law passed as property tax relief creating problems
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=l4C85r9g

South Carolina legislators are being told a 2006 law passed as property tax relief has resulted in exorbitant tax bills on small businesses and rental property, while short-changing fast-growing school districts. Most of the people testifying Tuesday before a House tax study committee said that law must change. The law's penny-on-the-dollar increase in the state sales tax was supposed to pay for tax cuts benefiting owner-occupied homes. But that additional penny has never generated enough to fully fund the relief, requiring taxpayers to cover the difference through the state budget. David Phillips with South Carolina Realtors says people owning second homes or rental properties are paying three times more in property taxes than similar owner-occupied homes in the same neighborhood. Phillips says that discourages home sales while hurting renters.

The State: SC residents criticize state property, sales tax laws
<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article109027677.html>

S.C. landlords and school advocates urged lawmakers Tuesday to change a controversial property tax law. Others, at a S.C. House hearing, spoke out for and against repealing sales-tax exemptions, which cost the state \$3 billion in revenue in 2012-13. The House panel is deciding whether to change the state's tax laws. "We've got to roll up our sleeves," said chairman Tommy Pope, R-York, adding legislators will meet two more times before deciding what reform proposals — if any — they will introduce next year.

Post and Courier : Residents urge lawmakers to tweak state's property, sales tax laws
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161018/161019463/residents-urge-lawmakers-to-tweak-states-property-sales-tax-laws>

South Carolina residents told state lawmakers the unintended consequences created when a law passed to give property tax credits to homeowners is burdening landlords and small businesses. At the same time, it's cutting into money for education. About 10 people addressed the House Tax Policy Review Committee during a three-hour meeting Tuesday. They offered suggested revisions to the state's tax codes that ranged from getting rid of sales tax exemptions to abolishing the income tax and establishing a consumption tax instead. Fort Mill landlord Paige Howarth said when she lived in her home in 2007 — which she said is valued at \$257,000 — she paid \$1,400 in property taxes. When

she moved out of the home and renters moved in, she had to pay \$5,000 because she no longer could take advantage of Act 388 for owner-occupied homes in the state. Act 388, passed in 2006, was the tax swap that exempted some homeowners from property taxes that pay for school-district operating costs. In tandem it raised the statewide sales tax from 5 percent to 6 percent and cut the sales tax on groceries to 3 percent.

The State: SCGOP chair calls on Democrats to disavow Fanning

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article109026152.html>

The S.C. Republican Party's chairman called Tuesday on Palmetto State Democrats to disavow a Democratic candidate for the state Senate who has been accused of having an inappropriate relationship with a former student. S.C. GOP chair Matt Moore also slammed several prominent Democrats for their plans to host a fundraiser Wednesday in Columbia for former teacher Mike Fanning. Fanning faces a State Law Enforcement Division investigation over a recent allegation he fondled and had an inappropriate relationship with a student in 1993. Democratic state Sens. Gerald Malloy of Darlington and Vincent Sheheen of Kershaw, state Reps. Todd Rutherford and James Smith of Richland, and state Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter of Orangeburg are listed as hosts of Wednesday's Fanning fundraiser. "These are serious allegations that have been raised against Mike Fanning," Moore said. "Parents are alarmed that he remains on the ballot and could actually serve in our state Senate. It is time for Democrat leaders to repudiate Mike Fanning and his dangerous campaign."

The State: Courson, Finlay, Smith honored by green group

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article109156382.html>

Columbia Republican Sen. John Courson and local Reps. James Smith and Kirkman Finlay are among seven state lawmakers honored by the S.C. Coastal Conservation League for backing legislation that environmentalists say will protect beaches. The Coastal Conservation League, one of the state's largest conservation groups, was holding an awards ceremony Wednesday night at the Columbia Museum of Art to recognize legislators and advocates for conservation. Lawmakers received recognition from the league for supporting a bill that's intended to stop new hotels, condominiums and houses from being built too far out onto the beach. The bill freezes new development beyond a certain point on South Carolina beaches. The bill is supposed to stop builders from developing closer to the ocean after taxpayer funded renourishment projects temporarily widen the seashore. The Legislature approved the bill in 2016 after years of argument and criticism from developers at Kiawah Island.

SC Agency News:

Post and Courier: S.C. considers requiring husband's signature for an abortion

http://www.postandcourier.com/politics/s-c-considers-requiring-husband-s-signature-for-an-abortion/article_d6ba7178-9624-11e6-bb8f-affe628ce6d9.html

State health officials are considering requiring married women who live with their husbands to get signed consent from him before she can get an abortion. The recommendation is one of several included in a list of changes to the way the states regulates those who provide the procedure. Abortion rights advocates have called the suggested requirement unconstitutional. The changes are being deliberated by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. The Post and Courier is awaiting a comment from DHEC officials. "Restrictions like requiring husband's consent, admitting privileges, denying minors' judicial bypass and mandating surgical-facility requirements, are all

blatantly unconstitutional," Planned Parenthood spokeswoman Vicki Ringer said in a statement. "These restrictions among others — such as mandatory (sexually transmitted infection) testing no matter the woman's circumstances — are intended to shame women and put barriers in their way of seeking constitutionally protected medical care. Simply put, the regulations are based in politics, not medicine."

NOTE: This spring, the Legislature passed a bill that bans abortions at 20 weeks of pregnancy. The legislation, which Gov. Nikki Haley signed May 25, makes it illegal for a pregnant female to get an abortion once her pregnancy reaches 20 weeks with no exceptions for rape or incest.

SC Delegation News:

The State: Mulvaney challenger Fran Person touts 'made in America' in Fort Mill stop

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article109089512.html>

Putting an emphasis on American manufacturing will strengthen the economy and unleash the buying power of the middle class, said Fran Person, Democratic candidate for South Carolina's 5th Congressional District. Person said he wanted to help business leaders ignite their passion for their work during a small roundtable discussion Tuesday afternoon at PuckerButt Pepper Company in downtown Fort Mill. Person, a former aide to Vice President Joe Biden, was joined by U.S. House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer, one of the top Democrats on Capitol Hill. The Maryland congressman is the second-ranking House Democratic leader behind House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi. "It's not about politics," said Person. "No matter if I'm talking to a Republican or a Democrat, the same frustration roots from the same place. No one's afraid to work, but you need access to a good, decent-paying job. That's what's so important about this conversation." Person, a Tega Cay resident, is running against Republican incumbent U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney of Indian Land for the congressional seat that represents northern South Carolina, including York, Chester and Lancaster counties. The two are set to square off in a series of debates in the coming weeks.

The State: When to watch your SC congressional candidates on ETV

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article109185332.html>

South Carolina Educational Television's first round of interviews with U.S. congressional candidates will hit the airwaves at 7 p.m. Wednesday. Here is the current broadcast schedule, though more interviews are expected before the Nov. 8 election.

SC Political News:

The State: Want to write in Mickey Mouse for president? In SC, you can't

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article109199257.html>

It is understandable that some S.C. voters might be considering casting a write-in vote for president this year — whether for Nikki Haley, Bernie Sanders, Mickey Mouse or their mom. Americans are uniquely unhappy with their presidential options. Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump have the highest unfavorable ratings of any major party nominees in recent history. The problem? In South Carolina, voters can't write in a candidate for president. While the state provides a write-in option for every other office on the Nov. 8 ballot, S.C. law doesn't allow for write-in votes for president and vice president. In 1982, S.C. lawmakers approved a change to state election law to bar write-in votes for president, becoming one of only nine states to deny a write-in option, according to Ballotpedia. Counting write-in votes for other offices is straightforward.

NOTE: Gibbs Knotts, political science chair at the College of Charleston, says some local

officeholders — like Gov. Haley, or U.S. Sens. Tim Scott or Lindsey Graham — may be missing out on a chance to have their constituents vote for them for president. "Of all the years when you might get a write-in vote, it would certainly be this one," Knotts said.

Greenville News: South Carolina stepping up election security

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/elections/2016/10/18/officials-working-ensure-security-november-elections/92362594/>

The technology and organization of elections in South Carolina make it highly unlikely and extremely difficult for the results in the Palmetto State to be "rigged," S.C. State Election Commission officials said Tuesday. The Nov. 8 general election is organized on the county level, meaning a "rigged" election, which Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has warned of, would require the collusion of 46 different county elections officials. "If a conspiracy is that large, we have bigger problems," said Chris Whitmire, the commission's spokesman. The state's voting machines are never connected to the internet or any other network. Each vote is recorded in three "redundant locations" on hardware in the voting machine that must be physically removed and given to county elections offices, where all the votes are counted and certified, said Marci Andino, the commission's executive director. The officials who run county election offices are "election professionals" who have not been elected or appointed by an elected official.

Independent Mail: Elections officials focus on security issues

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/10/19/elections-officials-focus-security-issues/92407732/>

Elections officials are working to ensure the safety of voters and the integrity of South Carolina's ballot system in the Nov. 8 general election. The Anderson County Board of Registration & Elections "takes election security seriously, including the security of the voting system, the security of the statewide voter registration database, and the security of the election process in general," director Katy Smith said in an email Wednesday. Citing the fiery partisan rhetoric associated with the presidential campaign, South Carolina State Election Commission spokesman Chris Whitmire said there is an elevated concern this year about potential conflicts involving voters at polling places. He said his agency also is preparing election workers for possible protests, as well as the remote chance of a "lone wolf" attack. Poll workers are being trained to diffuse any quarrels that might occur between voters and campaign observers, Whitmire said. These workers also have been instructed to call law enforcement if violence breaks out or if they observe anything suspicious.

The State: Benjamin in Washington for Obama's last State Dinner as president

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article109042542.html>

When news broke Tuesday that Columbia Mayor Steven Benjamin was on the first draft of potential vice presidential running mates for Hillary Clinton, he was on the road headed to Washington, D. C., to attend the last State Dinner to be hosted by Barack Obama as U.S. President. The formal White House affair in honor of Italy's Prime Minister, Matteo Renzi and his wife, Agnese Landini, was held Tuesday night. "It's an honor to represent the people of Columbia tonight and especially our proud Italian-American citizens during National Italian American Heritage Month," Benjamin said in a news release. Benjamin has known Renzi for several years. In 2013, Renzi, then the mayor of Florence, Italy, presented Benjamin ceremonial Keys to the city. Late Tuesday night, Benjamin shared some of the sights of the night on his twitter account.

LGBT Laws:

Associated Press : Federal appeal seeks to halt North Carolina restroom law

<http://bigstory.ap.org/59667803d2854102ab5eef08a37a2705>

North Carolina's law limiting LGBT protections suffered a blow weeks ago when a judge ruled that three transgender residents must be allowed to use restrooms matching their gender identity at the campuses where they work and study. Now those plaintiffs want an appeals court to expand that preliminary ruling to cover all transgender people, across the state. North Carolina's House Bill 2 requires people to use restrooms matching their birth certificates in schools and many public buildings, and it excludes gender identity and sexual orientation from statewide antidiscrimination protections. A federal judge said in August that two students and an employee at University of North Carolina campuses are likely to succeed in proving that HB2 violates Title IX, a federal law prohibiting gender discrimination in schools. But U.S. District Judge Thomas Schroeder's preliminary injunction applies only to the three plaintiffs in their work and studies at UNC while the case moves toward trial in May 2017.

Michael Slagger Case:

Associated Press: Lawyers for officer charged with murder want trial moved

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

A former South Carolina police officer charged with murder in the shooting of Walter Scott as he ran away from a traffic stop wants his trial moved from Charleston, where a bystander's video of the shooting has been widely seen. Attorneys for Michael Slager paid for a survey in September that found 85 percent of Charleston County residents had seen the video of the North Charleston officer shooting Scott in April 2015. The video doesn't show the entire confrontation, and potential jurors who have viewed it might not be able to fairly consider their evidence, the lawyers said. Their motion will likely be considered at a pretrial hearing on Friday morning. The motion also notes that the trial of Dylann Roof, charged with killing nine churchgoers in what police said was a racially motivated attack, will be taking place in the federal courthouse across the street. Slager's jurors and witnesses would have to run a gauntlet of reporters, protesters and other attention-seekers, creating "a media spectacle to rival any ever seen in this or any town," Slager's lawyers said.

Post and Courier: Michael Slager's defense team asks for venue change of upcoming murder trial

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161018/161019428/michael-slagers-defense-team-asks-for-venue-change-of-upcoming-murder-trial>

Michael Slager's defense team wants his murder trial moved out of the Charleston area. Andy Savage, the lead attorney for the former North Charleston police officer, filed a motion Tuesday asking to change the venue of Slager's upcoming state trial. The former officer is accused of fatally shooting Walter Scott, 50, after the man ran from a traffic stop on April 4, 2015, off Remount Road. Slager fired a Taser at him, and a fight ensued. Video of the shooting taken by a bystander, Feidin Santana, surfaced three days later showing the two men struggling on the ground. Slager was jailed on a state murder charge and later was indicted on three federal counts, including a civil rights violation and lying to authorities about the threat Scott posed with the Taser. The federal trial isn't scheduled to begin until 2017. In his filing, Savage argues that Santana's video has created a pervasive bias against his client in the Charleston area. An affidavit included with the filing said that a telephone survey of 608 Charleston County adults was conducted Sept. 16-18.

Savannah River Site/MOX News:

Aiken Standard: Energy Department meets with industry, community members for upcoming contract

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20161018/161019563/energy-department-meets-with-industry-community-members-for-upcoming-contract>

The contract for a major component of the overall Savannah River Site work scope is nearing its end, and the U.S. Department of Energy is ramping up preparations for the impending bid process. The DOE called the management and organization contract, currently operated by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, a major component of SRS in a recent news release and announced two days of events during the last week of the month. Industry Day and Community Day will be held Oct. 24 and 25, respectively. In conjunction with the two days of meetings, DOE published a request for capability statements from interested parties who may file a bid for the contract. Those statements are expected to include strategies and capabilities of potential contractors as they try to meet requirements the Energy Department has set for SRS operations. In a press release, the DOE said it is seeking feedback from contractors and other interested parties regarding options for innovative approaches for the performance of the major requirements of the mission on site. Industry Day will give the prospective contractors a chance to meet face-to-face with Energy Department representatives to talk about the contract and individual company capabilities.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: South Carolina Air National Guard returns from South Korea

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=HML5e5gz

About 200 members of the South Carolina Air National Guard have returned after a four-month tour of duty in South Korea. Family and friends of the airmen greeted them Wednesday at the Joint Air National Guard Base near Eastover. The men and women in the unit were sent to South Korea and supported about a dozen F-16 Fighting Falcon jets during the deployment at Osan Air Base. The unit was part of a security package that supported members of the U.S. Air Force as they worked to deter threats to U.S. allies and U.S. forces in the Pacific region. Guard spokesman Senior Master Sgt. Edward Snyder said the unit was the first South Carolina Air Guard unit to serve in South Korea since the 1950s.

The State: Little-known SC gathering planted seeds of civil rights movement in 1946

<http://www.thestate.com/news/state/article109188157.html>

When Frank Washington graduated from his all-black high school in 1945, he already was fed up with life in the Jim Crow South. "We didn't have much freedom," said Washington, now 87, "and no dignity with the little freedom that we did have." But Washington declined to join his high school classmates in leaving Columbia for more tolerant Northern cities. He wanted change and he wanted it at home. It just so happened that the seeds of change were being planted right then in Columbia. It is little known that, 70 years ago, Columbia hosted what is thought to have been one of the the largest civil rights gatherings the South had seen at the time. Washington was among the young people who gathered in South Carolina's capital city in October 1946 to lay out their vision of an integrated South. Many of the thousands there, including 800 delegates, were white. Columbia was chosen for the Southern Negro Youth Congress, historians say, because activists like Modjeska Simkins in Columbia and black newspaper editor John McCray of Charleston stirred up civil rights momentum in the Palmetto State. As a one-party state, South Carolina was the only state where blacks were not permitted to vote in Democratic primaries, where winning was tantamount to election.

The State : Celebrating W.E.B. Du Bois' historic speech in Columbia, 70 years later

<http://www.thestate.com/latest-news/article109155482.html>

After 70 years, the details of W.E.B. Du Bois' groundbreaking speech at the Southern Negro Youth

Congress are a bit blurry in Dorothy Burnham's memory. However, the 101-year old human rights activist does remember the overall impact of the event she helped organize in Columbia on October 20, 1946. "We were aiming to grow the movement of young people who were active in order to end segregation and discrimination," Burnham said. She returns to Columbia Thursday to help commemorate the 70th anniversary of the convention, where Du Bois delivered his famous "Behold the Land" speech in Benedict College's Antisdel Chapel. Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Dr. David Levering Lewis will deliver the keynote address at a public program at 6 p. m. Students from Allen University, Benedict College, and Booker T. Washington High School who participated in the historic 1946 event will also be in attendance. A reception and book signing in the Henry Ponder Gallery will follow the address.

Charlotte Observer: Black TV reporter confronts man in SC who called him the N-word

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/entertainment/tv/media-scene-blog/article109052182.html>

A Virginia man was arrested after a street confrontation in Charleston in which racial slurs were directed at Steve Crump, a veteran WBTV (Channel 3) reporter and maker of award-winning civil rights documentaries. Brian Eybers, 21, is in the Charleston County Detention Center with a Friday court date on charges of disorderly conduct and possession of drug paraphernalia, a glass pipe like that used to smoke crack, police said. Crump said Tuesday that he was in Charleston Oct. 8 to cover Hurricane Matthew. He had completed an interview and was returning to his news van when a man on the street began making an iPad video of him. "He was doing commentary of the neighborhood," said Crump. "Then he starts off saying, 'There's a black guy walking around here, no he's a slave, no he's the n-word.'" Crump, 59, the great-great grandson of Kentucky slaves who has produced hours of specials for public TV about civil rights in addition to his reporting work for Channel 3, walked up to Eybers and asked him what he'd just said.

Post and Courier: Black TV reporter stands up to racial slurs in Charleston

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/black-tv-reporter-stands-up-to-racial-slurs-in-charleston/article_015a34a8-962b-11e6-83ca-ef9b245cea2f.html

TV reporter Steve Crump knew immediately that he had to confront the man who harassed him with racial slurs as he was working in downtown Charleston. The exchange was a bit surreal for Crump, a longtime reporter with WBTV in Charlotte who has produced documentaries delving into black history and the civil rights movement. Crump, who is black, was in Charleston to cover Hurricane Matthew earlier this month when a man sitting on Broad Street started calling him names while filming him with his iPad, the insults escalating from "black guy" to "slave" to the "N-word," Crump said. A WBTV cameraman who was with Crump filmed the rest of their exchange. "What did you just call me?" Crump asked as he approached the white man on video. "You called me the N-word, right?" The man, later identified by police as 21-year-old Brian Eybers, spelled out the slur at Crump's request and said the "Constitution of the United States" gave him the right to direct the slur at the reporter. "You're a (expletive) idiot. You're ignorant. So you really are a (N-word) then," Eybers is recorded saying during their nearly two-minute conversation.

Local News:

Aiken Standard: Aiken man charged after claiming to be contractor, police say

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20161019/161019504/aiken-man-charged-after-claiming-to-be-contractor-police-say->

The Aiken Department of Public Safety has charged an Aiken man in connection with a financial dispute in which the suspect claimed to be a licensed contractor and was paid in full for a project that

never was completed. Samuel Roberds Bennett, Jr., 46, of Grace Avenue, is charged with unlawful practice involving a contractor, according to an arrest warrant. According to a police report, a 40-year-old Aiken man called police on Aug. 24 claiming he had contracted the suspect in June to complete work on his Inwood Drive home, paid the suspect in full but the work was never completed. The victim said he was in the process of trying to find the suspect to get his money back when he discovered the suspect was not a licensed contractor in the City of Aiken, the report said. An arrest warrant for Bennett was issued Oct. 7 by Aiken Public Safety.

Associated Press : Dillon county coroner IDs 2 bodies after fire

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

The Dillon county coroner has identified two people who were found dead following a house fire last week. Media outlets report that Coroner Donnie Grimsley says the two were 28-year-old Ja-uan Don-Shea Johnson and 27-year-old Nicolette Sharice Blue. Officials said the bodies were found after an early morning fire Oct. 12 in a mobile home. No cause of death has been released. Grimsley said both victims were taken to the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston for an autopsy and their deaths are still under investigation. The sheriff's office said last week the fire apparently started around 2 a.m. The fire department responded found the bodies.

The State : Jury gets USC student's rape case

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article109186257.html>

The case involving a University of South Carolina student who says she was raped after walking home from Five Points in January went to a Richland County jury around 1 p.m. Wednesday. If found guilty of rape and kidnapping, Carlos Jovany Hernandez, 23, could be sentenced to up to 30 years in prison on each charge. Earlier Wednesday, the jury of eight men and four women heard closing arguments from 5th Circuit assistant prosecutors Margaret Bodman and Carter Potts, as well as from defense attorney Aimee Zmroczek. The two sides agree on one thing: There was sex in a dark alley between the student and Hernandez, who didn't know one another before a chance encounter on a dark street near the USC Capstone dormitory around 3 a.m. Jan 30. The sex took place within minutes of their meeting.

Independent Mail: Video, other records in Townville Elementary shooting being withheld

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/10/19/video-other-records-townville-elementary-shooting-being-withheld/92404404/>

Video footage and other records related to the Townville Elementary School shooting are being kept out of public view. The Anderson County Sheriff's Office denied this week the Independent Mail's request for several records, including video footage from the school and supplemental reports filed by the law enforcement agency. Lt. Sheila Cole of the Sheriff's Office said in an email that the video footage is exempt from release under South Carolina law. The section of the law Cole cited states that a public body may, but is not required to, exempt from disclosure "information of a personal nature where the public disclosure thereof would constitute unreasonable invasion of personal privacy." The law also says: "This provision must not be interpreted to restrict access by the public and press to information contained in public records." Jay Bender, an attorney for the South Carolina Press Association, said Wednesday that the privacy exemption the Sheriff's Office cited "is the sketchiest exemption claimed."

Independent Mail: Oconee County to increase school security

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/2016/10/18/oconee-county-increase-school-security/92390904/>

County officials decided to increase security at Oconee County's schools on Tuesday, but will include in the plan some schools not previously considered for the extra measures. A consensus of the Oconee County Council agreed to proceed with funding up to nine additional school resource officers, a plan that would put one at each elementary school in the county. The plan outlined at the council's regularly scheduled meeting would include the Oconee Christian Academy and the Eagle Ridge charter school in Salem. Council member Edda Cammick said her support for the move would depend on whether resource officers for these schools were included. "The parents of the children attending those schools are taxpayers, too," Cammick said. Council chairman Paul Cain said, "We need to do this and figure out the funding. I'm willing to do whatever it takes." The council's tentative agreement came after Andrea Toussaint, of Seneca, presented a petition signed by 710 Oconee County residents asking that the council provide the additional security for elementary schools, and voicing support for a possible tax increase of up to 1.5 mills to fund it.

WBTW: Former deputy claims slander, 'slave labor' in lawsuit against Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office

<http://wbtw.com/2016/10/19/former-deputy-claims-slander-in-lawsuit-against-chesterfield-county-sheriffs-office/>

A former Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office deputy who was charged with misconduct in office is suing the sheriff's office, the Sheriff and three other people. Former deputy David Rainwater filed the lawsuit on Oct. 17. He named Chesterfield County Sheriff Jay Brooks and Undersheriff Rob Lee in the lawsuit. A John Doe and Jane Doe are also being sued in the lawsuit. Rainwater pled guilty to misconduct in office in June, according to public court records. The records state his sentence as "6 months suspended on \$250 fine and 6 months probation. Probation may terminate upon payment. "Rainwater was arrested in December 2015 after a SLED investigation that alleged he had paid for sexual acts from a woman while he was on duty from Dec. 1, 2014 – Aug. 25, 2015. Rainwater was terminated after SLED reported results of the investigation.

NOTE: Sheriff Brooks maintains that because Lee was appointed to the acting sheriff position by Gov. Haley, his illicit activities with SLED and county employees would not be investigated.

The State: Richland County deputies to star on Spike TV's 'COPS'

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article109140362.html>

Have you ever wanted to know what it's like for law enforcement officers working in the Midlands. Spike TV's "COPS" is giving viewers a chance this weekend. The Richland County Sheriff's Department announced their deputies will be featured on a new episode 8 p.m. Saturday. "COPS," produced by Langley Productions and broadcast on Spike TV, is an unscripted reality show that follows around real law enforcement officers and documents their interactions with the public. Sheriff Leon Lott said the show gives the community a realistic view of policing, according to the news release. "COPS allows you inside to see what takes place and the decisions that deputies have to make, and at times in a split second," Lott stated in the release.

Post and Courier: Pepperhill teacher on a mission to give every student a bicycle for Christmas

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/pepperhill-teacher-on-a-mission-to-give-every-student-a-bicycle-for-christmas/article_d7c42514-961f-11e6-9a93-9fd180b66c65.html

It started with one child. An ornery first-grader named Jawan Dent who'd pitch fits to avoid doing his schoolwork. So his teacher, Katie Blomquist, did something a little unusual. Instead of giving up, she tried to get to know him. One weekend they visited the North Charleston Fire Museum. For his birthday, they went to Monkey Joe's and ate Chick-fil-A for dinner. They saw Alvin and the Chipmunks in concert. She watched him dance on stage at Wild Wing Cafe and play the drums at

Guitar Center. He invited her to his great-grandma's funeral and she sat with his family in the front row. "I saw huge change in him," Blomquist recalled. "And it took about seven months of a lot of effort and a lot of tears on both ends." But 7-year-old Jawan also inspired 33-year-old Blomquist, a former marketing and advertising professional who left her corporate job in Chicago to "do something that matters." On his birthday, they went to Wal-Mart to pick out gifts together and he begged her for a new bike.

Post and Courier: Will Haynie announces Mount Pleasant mayoral bid

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/will-haynie-announces-mount-pleasant-mayoral-bid/article_93fbd0ea-95ff-11e6-a6ad-f782519de5e6.html

Town Councilman Will Haynie, a voice for restraining development in this fast-growing town, announced Wednesday he will run for mayor next year. Haynie, who has served on Town Council for less than a year, would face off against Mayor Linda Page, who said she will seek a second 4-year term. "The status quo isn't working for Mount Pleasant residents," Haynie said. "People feel we are losing the ambiance and sense of community that made our town so attractive in the first place." Haynie announced his intentions in an email, one day before the advocacy group Save Shem Creek holds a major fundraising event. Haynie is one of the town's four council members elected last year on a platform of controlling development, a major goal of Save Shem Creek. He has joined in a series of Town Council actions to restrict development, including the imposition of a moratorium on new apartment projects, moratoriums on lot subdivisions in the Old Village area, and reductions in the allowed height of new buildings along Coleman and Ben Sawyer boulevards.

Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press: Face to face one last time: Debate night for Clinton, Trump

<http://bigstory.ap.org/167bcb9e3ff244199006193fe22f4d30>

Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump's long and acrimonious battle for the White House is speeding toward the end, with the candidates taking the debate stage Wednesday night for one final prime-time showdown. For Trump, the debate is perhaps his last opportunity to turn around a race that appears to be slipping away. His predatory comments about women and a flood of sexual assault accusations have deepened his unpopularity with women and limited his pathways to victory. Trump has denied the accusations and his supporters remain intensely loyal, but there are few signs he's attracting the new backers he desperately needs. Clinton takes the stage with challenges of her own. While the electoral map currently leans in her favor, the Democrat is facing a new round of questions about her trustworthiness, concerns that have trailed her throughout the campaign. The hacking of her top campaign adviser's emails revealed a candidate who is averse to apologizing, can strike a different tone in private than in public, and makes some decisions only after political deliberations. The last in a trio of presidential debates, Wednesday's contest in Las Vegas comes just under three weeks from Election Day and with early voting underway in more than 30 states. At least 2.1 million voters have cast ballots already.

Associated Press: VIEWERS' GUIDE: Candidates hone final arguments for Round 3

<http://bigstory.ap.org/a6052220da5441b6a11c5102f26e1c7c>

It was barely three weeks ago that Donald Trump opened the first presidential debate by asking, with faux deference, if it was OK to refer to his opponent as "Secretary Clinton." By Round 2 he was back to calling Hillary Clinton "the devil." Since then, the Republican candidate's scorched-earth campaign tactics have left all sides wondering just how low things will go in the third and final presidential debate, coming up Wednesday night. For her part, Clinton steps up as a flood of hacked emails

provides an unprecedented real-time look into the machinations of a presidential campaign — hers. In the disclosed material, Clinton is shown taking positions in paid, private speeches at odds with some of her public pronouncements. And she is revealed as resistant to advice by aides to apologize for her email practices and clear the air. That's all fodder for the debate. Trump, never known for self-censorship, has pronounced himself "unshackled" at last in the final weeks of the campaign. That has people wondering what Trump possibly has left to unleash.

Associated Press: The Latest: White House warns against post-election violence

<http://bigstory.ap.org/0635634e26ef49e3b6b1b0ed58cecaa1>

President Barack Obama is concerned about possible outbreaks of violence if Republican Donald Trump loses the Nov. 8 presidential election. Spokesman Josh Earnest said Wednesday that Obama believes there is no place in American democracy for anyone using violence to advance a political goal. Trump has been making unsubstantiated claims that the 50-state election system is "rigged" against him and in favor of Democrat Hillary Clinton. That has prompted fears about how some of his supporters might react if Trump doesn't accept an electoral defeat. Obama this week said Trump should "stop whining" and go try to win some votes.

Associated Press: Video: Dem activist bragged about disrupting Trump rallies

<http://bigstory.ap.org/670714b83d3d437ab5e22d5a1ae7db4a>

Conservative activist James O'Keefe has released secretly recorded, selectively edited video footage that includes a Democratic activist bragging about deploying troublemakers at rallies held by Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump. After O'Keefe released the video this week, two Democratic operatives stopped working on the presidential race and both the Democratic Party and Hillary Clinton's campaign denounced the tactics described in the footage. Both said the activities described never took place. O'Keefe's group, Project Veritas, promised to release additional videos ahead of the Nov. 8 election. The central character in the recordings is Scott Foval, a Wisconsin-based liberal operative. He is portrayed in the footage as boasting about his connections to the party and the Clinton campaign, and claiming to have arranged for people to incite violence at Trump rallies. Sometimes those people are union workers, he said, and sometimes they're mentally ill and homeless people.

Associated Press : Appeals court denies more early voting time in N Carolina

<http://bigstory.ap.org/d9cd35d38a33474da639cebf74c87c39>

A group of North Carolina voters that wants to expand early in-person voting in the presidential battleground state lost its case before a federal appeals court Wednesday. A three-judge panel on the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals denied the emergency motion focused on five counties that include cities such as Charlotte, Greensboro, Winston-Salem and Wilmington. A trial court judge refused the same request last week. The voters' lawyers argued the counties weren't complying with the 4th Circuit's ruling in July striking down portions of a 2013 law that reduced the early-voting period by seven days. The period now covers 17 days, beginning Thursday. The voters, however, said county or state election officials should have allowed additional early voting on Sunday, during the first seven days of the period, or on the Saturday afternoon before Election Day. Lawyers for the state and GOP Gov. Pat McCrory told the courts that county and state election boards abided by the ruling, which reverted ballot-access laws to where they were before the 2013 law approved by Republican legislators. They also wrote this week that making 11th-hour changes would create more voting confusion and administrative burdens on election officials.

National News:

Associated Press: Mexico prosecutors hunt for ex-governor in corruption case

<http://bigstory.ap.org/b874a2e9fe434d1b95a6bacdaf8cdc15>

Authorities are trying to detain the embattled former governor of Veracruz state who is under investigation for alleged corruption and whose whereabouts are unknown, a senior Mexican official said Wednesday. Interior Secretary Miguel Angel Osorio Chong told Radio Formula that officials are not sure where Duarte is, but believe he is in the country because immigration authorities have no record of him departing. Still, he said federal prosecutors were preparing a request for Interpol to issue an international arrest warrant if he does leave. Duarte was last seen in the state capital of Xalapa, Osorio Chong added. "Security agencies are working to locate him," he said. Duarte stepped down as governor Oct. 12, a month and a half before his term was supposed to end. At the time he said he wanted to confront the corruption allegations, which he denies. The governing Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, has stripped Duarte of his party rights.

Associated Press: Crying inside? Creepy craze no joke for real clowns

<http://bigstory.ap.org/337d6c0e3c91422b854ec5bd81f213f7>

Send in the frowns. This year's nationwide creepy clown craze has become a nightmare before Halloween for actual, working clowns, who say their bookings at parties and other events have dropped sharply, even after many of the social media-fueled scary clown sightings have turned out to be hoaxes. Some fear going out with their greasepaint makeup and red noses will make them a target of police or even marauding mobs who take to the streets on so-called clown hunts. "It's definitely a scary feeling leaving your house, and you fear you are going to get jumped because you're dressed as a clown," says Cyrus Zavieh, a New York City hospital administrator who also performs professionally as Cido the Clown. "You're there to make them happy, to make them have fun, and now they are saying, 'Aaaagghh!'" Zavieh says. "All of a sudden these stories are putting fear into kids. ... Before, they'd just look the other way, but now it's like, 'You're a scary clown and I hate you.'"

World News:

Associated Press: Iraqi town outside Mosul rises up against militants

<http://bigstory.ap.org/00f6d60cde1945268df4227f62fffc22>

The mutilated bodies of Islamic State group fighters were still strewn on the ground of this northern Iraqi town on Wednesday. One was burned. Another's face was flattened by abuse. Iraqi troops on the march toward Mosul moved into al-Hud a day earlier and declared it liberated. But they found residents had already risen up and killed many of the militants in the town themselves. With the offensive to recapture Mosul in its third day, Iraqi forces advancing from the south and east are fighting to retake the towns and villages the dot the plains and line the Tigris River leading to the city. At times, they've met fierce resistance, with the militants sending explosives-packed vehicles careening toward the troops' positions. This area has been under control of the militants ever since the summer of 2014, when IS fighters captured Mosul and much of the north in a lightning advance.

--

Camlin Moore

Cell: 803-206-8236

Office: 803-734-8044