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Subject: Morning Clips – Thursday, October 27, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Hurricane, flood recovery continues in S.C.

http://www.postandcourier.com/politics/hurricane-recovery-continues-one-sc-fund-gets-boost/article_2ce837f4-9b90-11e6-9217-0b9e18912b65.html

Gavin Jackson

Gov. Nikki Haley said work continues even as no power outages remain in South Carolina, debris is cleared and life is back to normal, for some, less than three weeks after Hurricane Matthew. "South Carolina is getting back to work, back into an economy that is going to move again," Haley said Wednesday while touting a \$100,000 donation to her One SC Fund to help Hurricane Matthew victims. The financial contribution goes directly to relief organizations helping the neediest victims of the destructive storm that hit the state on Oct. 8. It is part of Haley's grassroots vision for disaster assistance first pioneered last year. The scope of the damage continues to be revealed with Federal Emergency Management Agency already approving \$11 million for 3,268 applicants since offering individual assistance to affected counties. Residents in 24 counties, including those in the tri-county area, are eligible to apply for grants and loans to cover storm damage or offset temporary housing costs.

NOTE: Those who have returned home have faced tough conditions while 93 residents in hard-hit Marion and Horry counties still remain in shelters. The latest numbers from Haley show 174 homes were completely destroyed by the Category 1 storm and around 2,000 sustained minor to major damage.

NOTE: "A lot of people were affected, Nichols just happened to be a sweet town that was really hit hard," Haley said. "But they'll come back, our goal is to make sure they come back."

NOTE: Looking back at the height of storm preparations Haley said Charleston County officials overestimated the number of people who would need transportation assistance evacuating ahead of Matthew's approach.

NOTE: "That was a disappointment that we took buses from the Upstate to go to the Lowcountry and had very few used," Haley said. "As soon as we saw we were not having the activity we started releasing those buses right back." However, Haley said that cost is expected to be reimbursed with federal disaster dollars.

NOTE: The fund was originally founded last year to help after the devastating October flood. The charity raised \$2 million for that disaster and helped put 1,500 families back into their homes, Haley said.

WIS: One SC Fund receives \$100,000 donation

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33485784/watch-live-gov-haley-update-on-one-sc-fund>

The One South Carolina Relief Fund has grown by \$100,000 thanks to a donation Wednesday from South Carolina company Nucor. "It just goes back to the heart of South Carolina," Haley said. "It's who we are at our core. It's neighbors helping neighbors." "We're 2,000 people strong," said a Nucor executive at the check presentation. "Our company was born and raised in SC." After the flood of

2015, Nucor employees united to help one another and the communities they serve. "What happened next was awesome, the Nucor family pulled together," he said. "It was inspiring, it was a wonderful thing to see." The One SC Relief Fund was founded after the 2015 flood to gather donations to help residents recover where federal funding and other donations fall short. The state's critical victims include the elderly, disabled and poor, who can barely afford recovery efforts on their own.

WACH: One SC Fund has garnered more than \$800k for Matthew victims

<http://wach.com/news/local/one-sc-fund-has-garnered-more-than-800k-for-matthew-victims>

Matthew Stevens

Governor Nikki Haley was joined by representatives from Nucor Steel and the Central Carolina Community Foundation to announce a large donation to the One SC Fund in the wake of Hurricane Matthew. Nucor Steel presented the governor a \$100,000 check to the One SC Fund. Since the devastation of Matthew, the One SC Fund has raised more than \$800,000 to go towards storm recovery efforts. "We have incredible corporate partners, and \$100,000 is an amazing contribution to a fund that is going to help so many people. To have over \$800,000 come in from individuals all across our state and from great companies like Nucor Steel goes back to the heart of South Carolina," said Haley. The governor noted that Matthew completely destroyed 174 homes across the state and caused major damage to 664 others and minor damage to 1,255. The One SC Fund was established following last year's thousand year flood. To date, donations to the fund have helped roughly 1,500 families return home.

WBTW: Nucor Steel donates \$100,000 to One SC relief fund

<http://wbtw.com/2016/10/26/nucor-steel-donates-100000-to-one-sc-relief-fund/>

On Wednesday, Vice President and General Manager of Nucor Steel Berkeley, Giff Daughtridge, announced the company's donation of \$100,000 to the One SC fund. "This is South Carolina at her best," said Gov. Nikki Haley. "We have incredible corporate partners, and \$100,000 is an amazing contribution to a fund that is going to help so many people. ... To have over \$800,000 come in from individuals all across our state and from great companies like Nucor Steel goes back to the heart of South Carolina – it's who we are at our core, and it's neighbors helping neighbors." Established to assist South Carolinians recovering from natural disasters, One SC's first project was providing relief and recovery assistance to South Carolinians in the aftermath of last year's flood. Thanks to its donors, One SC has distributed nearly \$2,000,000 in grants to nonprofit organizations supporting flood recovery projects across SC and helped approximately 1,500 families return home. In the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, Governor Haley expanded the fundraising efforts of One SC to help those impacted by the storm. Since that time, One SC has raised over \$800,000.

Post and Courier: Gov. Haley helping governors, not in-state candidates, in final days

http://www.postandcourier.com/politics/gov-haley-ready-for-dismal-campaign-year-to-end/article_129f362a-9b97-11e6-8ee1-c7228ad20f2d.html

Gavin Jackson

Gov. Nikki Haley couldn't be happier there's less than two weeks until election season 2016 ends. But she still plans to hit the campaign trail in the remaining days—just not for any statewide candidates. Haley's focus remains on promoting GOP gubernatorial candidates elsewhere after some of the national and statewide candidates she backed, fizzled this year. She speaks with North Carolina Republican Gov. Pat McCrory several times a week as his race tightens and he also juggles the fallout of Hurricane Matthew. She's fund-raised and campaigned for him over the past year. Going forward, she "remains on standby for whatever he needs," Haley said. "We're going to do everything we can to get him reelected." She is also expected on the gubernatorial trail in Indiana next

week. "Right now I'm always trying to help my fellow governors wherever I can," Haley said Wednesday about the next few days. "[Pat's] doing extremely well. He pushed through the flood just like we did, which is tough when you're managing an election and managing a flood."

WIS: Gov. Nikki Haley voting for Donald Trump only for policy reasons

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33486802/gov-nikki-haley-voting-for-donald-trump-only-for-policy-reasons>

Jeremy Turnage

Gov. Nikki Haley says she's not really happy with either of her choices for president this year, but she still plans to vote for businessman Donald Trump on Nov. 8. Speaking at a news conference for her flood and Hurricane Matthew relief fund, Haley was asked once about voting for Trump. "I think I've been really clear," Haley said. "This election has really turned my stomach upside down. It has been embarrassing for both parties. It's not something the country deserves, but it's what we've got. "Haley's support for Trump has been tenuous considering she once supported Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz after Rubio dropped out of the race. Even as other mainstream Republicans have dropped support of Trump in the last few weeks of this election cycle after video of the businessman's lewd remarks against women were released, Haley said she has decided to stick with him because of specific policy issues he espouses.

WACH: Haley: The best person based on policies still is Donald Trump

<http://wach.com/news/local/haley-the-best-person-based-on-policies-is-still-donald-trump>

Matthew Stevens

During a news conference Wednesday Governor Nikki Haley said that she will be voting for Republican nominee Donald Trump. "The best person based on the policies and dealing with things like Obamacare still is Donald Trump. That's who I will be voting for November 8," announced Haley. The governor said that this election has "turned her stomach upside down" and that she is not a fan of either candidate. "It has been embarrassing for both parties," said Haley on the events leading up to the election. Haley's decision to vote for Trump comes a couple weeks after SC Democrats called for all Republicans to pull their support for Trump after a tape was leaked of the billionaire making inappropriate comments about women. Haley and Trump have not always seen eye-to-eye with both taking jabs at each other over the year, which included a back and forth on Twitter.

WLTX: Gov. Haley: 'This Election Has Turned My Stomach Upside Down'

<http://www.wltx.com/news/politics/gov-haley-this-election-has-turned-my-stomach-upside-down/342260461>

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley says the current election has been an embarrassment for both parties, but while she says it's not an easy vote, she reaffirmed her support for Donald Trump Wednesday. Haley was speaking to reporters about the state's disaster recovery efforts when she was asked about the current election cycle. "This election has turned my stomach upside down," she said. "It has been embarrassing for both parties. It's not something that the country deserves, but it's what we've got." Back in February, Haley supported Marco Rubio's candidacy for the Republican nomination, but he had to drop out just weeks later. She'd also made comments that seem to criticize some of Trump's most controversial statements. But since he won the nomination, she's been asked numerous times about his candidacy, and has said before that she would vote for him, while at the same time not offering a full endorsement. But in these latest remarks, she laid out the case for casting her vote for her party's nominee.

WYFF4: Gov. Nikki Haley will still vote for Trump in 'embarrassing' election

<http://www.wyff4.com/article/gov-nikki-haley-will-still-vote-for-trump-in-embarrassing-election/7506409>

Carla Field

Gov. Nikki Haley says she's not really happy with either of the choices for president this year, but she still plans to vote for Donald Trump on Nov. 8. Speaking at a news conference for her flood and Hurricane Matthew relief fund, Haley was asked about voting for Trump. "I think I've been really clear," Haley said. "This election has really turned my stomach upside down. It has been embarrassing for both parties. It's not something the country deserves, but it's what we've got." Haley once supported Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, and then Texas Sen. Ted Cruz after Rubio dropped out of the race. "As a governor of this state, knowing what our state's needs are and knowing the processes that are going to take place, there's a few things that worry me," Haley said. "One of the things will be who will be put into place at those agencies because we've had to deal with the EPA, whether it's been the National Labor Relations Board, whether it's been any of the mandates passed down from Health and Human Services, education -- all of those issues came into play in South Carolina, and they caused us a lot of heartache."

Associated Press: Company expanding to South Carolina bringing 80 jobs

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=KzB5wEQf

SC State Wire

A company that makes adaptors for the air conditioning industry is expanding to South Carolina, creating more than 80 jobs in York County. Crystal Distribution announced Wednesday that it's investing almost \$5 million to build a new building in Rock Hill. Some of the jobs will be transferred from the company's operations in Charlotte, North Carolina. The company makes what are known as curb adaptors which allow new air conditioning units to be attached to vents in existing structures. Hiring for the new positions is expected to begin in the second quarter of 2017.

The Herald: Manufacturer to create 83 jobs at 50,000 square-foot Rock Hill center

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/business/article110538462.html>

David Thackham

One of the nation's largest manufacturers of curb adapters is slated to bring \$4.8 million in investment and create up to 83 new jobs by building a 50,000-square-foot distribution center in Rock Hill. Crystal Distribution, Inc. will be relocating its existing positions from its operations in Charlotte. The new center will be built in Rock Hill's SouthCross Corporate Center. Construction is expected to be finished in early 2017; hiring is expected to begin later next year. CDI's center will be a build-to-suit light manufacturing and distribution facility. CDI Chief Financial Officer John Gerold said in a statement that the new facility will increase the company's manufacturing space by 40 percent. "From the start, South Carolina, York County and the City of Rock Hill all welcomed us and worked hard to make this project a reality," said CDI Chief Financial Officer John Gerold in a statement. "Beacon Partners and their contractors have been fantastic on facility planning, design and project management. Our employees are counting down the days until they move into the new facility ... (It will) allow us to better serve our customers in the eastern U.S. and Canada."

NOTE: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley and Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt both said in a statement that they were looking forward to seeing the company grow in York County. CDI also has locations in Dallas, Minneapolis and Seattle.

Times and Democrat: Officials: New port, Western Orangeburg County Industrial Park will mean growth for county

http://thetandd.com/news/officials-new-port-western-orangeburg-county-industrial-park-will-mean/article_01bb186c-8b44-5714-b817-555d47acc661.html

South Carolina's new port in Jasper County and the new Western Orangeburg County Industrial Park were cited by state and local development officials as prime examples of the promise the future holds for Orangeburg County during the eighth annual Cities Mean Business Reception. More than 50 people attended the Oct. 13 event that was held in the Neeses Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. Sen. Brad Hutto, an Orangeburg Democrat, said the state's new port, which will be built in Jasper County in partnership with the state of Georgia, is slated to be completed by mid-2020. He said the new facility will be a major economic boon for South Carolina. The first phase of the new terminal, to be built on the South Carolina side of the Savannah River about 10 miles upriver from Savannah Harbor, will have two berths with a 55-foot depth that can handle ships carrying as many as 20,000 cargo boxes — about 6,000 more cargo boxes than the ports in Charleston and Savannah.

NOTE: However, the overall outlook for South Carolina's economy is grim, with a potential 2 percent cut in state agency jobs potentially coming down the pipeline from Gov. Nikki Haley, the legislator said.

Hurricane Matthew:

Associated Press : Sen. Tim Scott raising money for Hurricane Matthew relief

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

SC State Wire

U.S. Sen. Tim Scott is helping raise money to help people affected by Hurricane Matthew. The South Carolina Republican is hosting a barbecue fundraiser on Thursday at Founders Hall at Charles Towne Landing. Scott says donations raised at the event will go toward the Hurricane Matthew relief fund. Checks may be written, payable to the Lowcountry South Carolina Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Associated Press: Beaufort advertises to lure back tourists after Matthew

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=4clCEfQw

SC State Wire

The Beaufort area is advertising to lure tourists back after Hurricane Matthew passed through earlier this month. Local media outlets report that the Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce spent about \$15,000 immediately after the storm to let visitors know the area is open for business. And on Tuesday the chamber received an additional \$10,000 in accommodations tax money for more post-storm advertising. The chamber has been using social media, digital, print and radio advertising to reach audiences in Columbia and Greenville as well as in Atlanta and Charlotte. Chamber tourism director Bob Wells says the area took a hit with constant coverage of the storm from the Beaufort area.

Associated Press: From bridges to dunes, Horry County tallies Matthew damage

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

SC State Wire

Officials in Horry County are assessing the damage caused by Hurricane Matthew from damaged roads and bridges to battered seaside sand dunes. The Sun News of Myrtle Beach reports (<http://bit.ly/2dJBvIv>) that there has not yet been a definitive cost estimate. But county Public Works Director David Gilreath says almost 1,000 county roads were damaged. Among them are 200 roads that had to be closed during the storm. Dozens of county bridges were also damaged. Officials say as many as 700 homes were damaged and dunes along county beaches were washed away. In Garden City about three feet of sand was washed onto waterfront roadways and will have to be plowed back to the beaches. Officials estimate as much as 150,000 cubic yards of debris will have to be removed

countywide.

Associated Press: Mostly empty school buses cost South Carolina \$1M in Matthew

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=R1LxKVOI

SC State Wire

South Carolina spent nearly \$1 million sending 300 school buses to Charleston County on the coast during Hurricane Matthew to evacuate residents, but only 24 of the buses were used, state education records show. And the only people who rode the buses to inland shelters were residents of a nursing home, according to information from the state Education Department obtained by The Greenville News (<http://grnol.co/2dLmWOL>). Fuel for the buses, meals and hotels for the drivers and bus aides, the cost of a team from the state Forestry Commission and other expenses totaled \$954,779. State officials said they think federal disaster money should repay much of that cost. Some residents did go to North Charleston to get on the buses, but were directed to local shelters instead because of a rule that stated the buses couldn't be used until nearby shelters were at least half full.

Greenville News: Officials: Cost of sending school buses for hurricane evacuation \$1M

<http://grnol.co/2fdCAHI>

Tim Smith

The operation that sent hundreds of Greenville County school buses to the North Charleston Coliseum to evacuate people from Hurricane Matthew but wound up only taking residents from a nursing home cost the state almost \$1 million, according to estimates provided to The Greenville News by the state Department of Education. The total includes the cost of drivers and bus aides, fuel, meals and hotels for personnel from Greenville, Lexington and Richland school districts, as well as the cost of an incident management team from the state Forestry Commission. The plan had been to send hundreds of buses to North Charleston for a one-day operation to cart as many as 7,500 of those who wanted to evacuate to Upstate shelters on the Wednesday before the hurricane's arrival that Saturday. But because of a number of factors, including a desire by many Charleston-area residents not to leave and a rule that local shelters had to be at least half full before evacuees could be bussed to Greenville, no individual evacuees ever boarded the buses, which sat idle for nearly two days.

NOTE: "When local requests for assistance come in, as the state prepares for a storm, we listen to the needs of local officials," said Chaney Adams, press secretary for Gov. Nikki Haley. "In the aftermath of a storm, state officials always consider what worked and what didn't, and that informs what can be handled better during the next state of emergency."

WSPA: Cost to Send School Buses to SC Coast for Hurricane Evac at Least \$600,000

<http://wspa.com/2016/10/26/cost-to-send-school-buses-to-sc-coast-for-hurricane-evac-at-least-600000/>

Robert Kittle

The cost of sending school buses from Greenville and the Midlands to the South Carolina coast to help with Hurricane Matthew evacuation will likely be at least \$600,000 and could approach \$1 million, according to the state Department of Education. DOE spokesman Ryan Brown says the cost of fuel, bus drivers' pay, and the cost of their food and hotels is expected to be about \$600,000. But there are other costs, like damage to some bus facilities along the coast and one bus that had to be repaired, which could bring the total closer to \$1 million. The state sent the buses to the Lowcountry to help evacuate people who didn't have transportation, with the plan being to bring evacuees to the Upstate, but most of the buses ended up not being used. Only about 25 of them were used to take nursing home residents to a shelter in the Lowcountry.

NOTE: Gov. Nikki Haley says the state's emergency plans include sending to counties and cities whatever help they need. "They anticipated a lot more people who would need transportation out, so they requested the number of buses. The state EMD did what they wanted them to do and gave the buses there, and basically what we said and learned from that is we've got to manage these requests that are coming in," she says.

Associated Press : Return of Haitian detainees delayed because of Matthew

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

SC State Wire

About 125 Haitians at the Charleston County jail awaiting deportation won't be going home any time soon. Charleston Sheriff's spokesman Eric Watson tells local news outlets that another 125 are expected this week, but none of them can be sent back to Haiti because of damage there caused by Hurricane Matthew. Authorities say they'll be deported when conditions improve. Matthew hammered Haiti this month before moving north and making landfall in Charleston County. Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokesman Bryan Cox says the detainees were already in this country before the hurricane. The federal government recently agreed to pay the jail \$55 a day for each detainee it houses.

Post and Courier: More than 100 Haitians held in Charleston County jail

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/more-than-haitians-held-in-charleston-county-jail/article_1b42162a-9b8e-11e6-8e3d-17306f2b8c03.html

Prentiss Findlay

About 125 Haitians awaiting deportation are being housed at the Cannon Detention Center in North Charleston, a Sheriff's Office spokesman said. That number is expected to double this week, said Maj. Eric Watson. "We don't have an estimate for how long they will be here," he said. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement will deport the Haitians when conditions improve in their country, he said. "The reason they are being housed here is because right now Haiti is unable to receive them due to Hurricane Matthew. They have a lot of infrastructure issues going on there," he said. The county is being paid \$55 per day for each detainee, he said. A section of the jail is assigned to the Haitians, he said. "It won't have any impact on our normal, routine jail operations as far as booking in new inmates or prisoners, court processes, things like that," he said. The Haitians have been through a medical screening process, he said. Currently the jail is operating at below capacity with just over 1,000 inmates, he said.

Post and Courier: Summerville center opens for storm help

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/summerville-center-opens-for-storm-help/article_2309f040-9bba-11e6-baf0-977070bf06bc.html

Bo Petersen

A new FEMA center has opened in Summerville to help people who need assistance recovering from Hurricane Matthew. The center is located at Miles Road Baptist Church, 819 Miles Road. Its hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday. It will be closed Sunday. Assistance for eligible survivors can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, and for other serious disaster-related needs, such as medical and dental expenses or funeral and burial costs. Also, low-interest disaster loans from the SBA are available for businesses of all sizes (including landlords), private nonprofits, homeowners and renters.

Island Packet: FEMA approves debris removal from private roads for Hilton Head; county's application still under review

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article110627962.html>

Kelly Meyerhoffer

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has approved the Town of Hilton Head Island's request for debris removal from private roads and rights-of-way — with some conditions — under FEMA's Public Assistance Program, Gov. Nikki Haley's office announced Wednesday night. The following communities are covered under the approval, according to a FEMA letter, dated Wednesday and released by the Governor's Office to The Island Packet and The Beaufort Gazette...

Island Packet : Nearly \$50K in household items stolen from Beaufort home

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article110620217.html>

Joan McDonough

A Fuller Street resident returned home after Hurricane Matthew to find nearly \$50,000 worth of household items missing, according to a Beaufort Police Department report. The burglary occurred sometime between Oct. 8 and Oct. 12 when the resident was out of town but was not reported until Tuesday, according to the report and department spokeswoman Sgt. Hope Able. The victim waited to file a report in order to have a complete list of items stolen, Able said. The victim also believed the burglar gained access to the house through a window, Able said. There were no signs of forced entry into the home, she said. The total value of the stolen items was \$49,519, according to the report. Able said the items were "personal items to the household" but would not elaborate on the types of items taken, citing an active investigation. There are no suspects at this time, according to the report.

Island Packet: Beaufort scales back bed-tax grants in wake of Hurricane Matthew

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article110531017.html>

Stephen Fastenau

Northern Beaufort County's tourism marketing arm will get a little more money to help sell the area to visitors after Hurricane Matthew swept through. Beaufort also put more of its expected accommodations tax revenue in reserve in anticipation the fees on overnight stays will bring in less money because of the storm. The Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce, the area's designated marketing organization, will receive \$110,000 in bed-tax money, with \$10,000 marked for post-Matthew marketing. The chamber spent about \$15,000 after the storm on advertising to signal Beaufort is open to visitors, tourism director Robb Wells told Beaufort City Council on Tuesday. Perception of the area as a destination took a hit during around-the-clock storm coverage from outlets like The Weather Channel, he said. "Worst-case scenarios were being presented on a regular basis," he said.

Sun News : Storm scammers target North Myrtle Beach

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article110754297.html>

Elizabeth Townsend

Scammers were reportedly trying to con residents out of money in the North Myrtle Beach area, according to a warning post on the North Myrtle Beach Department of Public Safety page. A black pick-up truck bearing a sign that read "FEMA" was seen traveling through neighborhoods in the north end of the city, and the truck's occupants were allegedly telling residents they would remove hurricane debris for \$1,500, officials said. FEMA personnel don't operate this way, and anyone who sees the truck is urged to provide its license plate information to North Myrtle Beach police by calling 843-280-5511. State and federal officials have warned that Hurricane Matthew has created fertile ground for scammers and con artists who may attempt to take advantage of vulnerable storm survivors. Residents are encouraged to be on guard and always check identification of anyone

offering aid.

WMBF: Houses still surrounded by water in Lees Landing

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33491391/houses-still-surrounded-by-water-in-lees-landing>

Amy Lipman

Flooding in Lees Landing has gone down significantly and some people said it's receded faster than they've ever seen before. Still, they are ready for the water to be completely gone. It's still not easy for people to get in and out of the neighborhood. Some are using larger trucks or SUVs now, while others continue to use small boats. Stephen Stonstrom drove to his house for the first time Wednesday since the Waccamaw River flooded. He had been taking a boat to check on the house when the flooding was more severe. Stonstrom lives in Myrtle Beach and bought his house in Lees Landing three months before last October to enjoy life by the river. He went through the 2015 flooding, but this year the water got into his pool. "There's still items in the garage that we didn't think it was going to get this high, so we lost a trailer full of items last year," he said. "This year we'll probably lose about the same. We've got stuff up on shelves about five or six feet, but it got over eight feet."

WMBF: Over \$21K raised during WMBF, Salvation Army telethon to benefit Matthew victims

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33465561/over-21k-raised-during-wmbf-salvation-army-telethon-to-benefit-matthew-victims>

Christel Bell

WMBF hosted a telethon with the Salvation Army to raise money for hurricane and flood victims across the region on Wednesday. Major Angela Repass, director of the Horry County Salvation Army, said many flood victims have come to their offices for the first time in need of assistance. She added she has heard first-hand how the devastation has hurt many families. "They have lost absolutely everything, all of their clothing, all of their furniture, their walls, their floors," Repass said. "So every donation that is received is going to allow us to offer a little bit of hope." Volunteers with the Salvation Army will be set to answer calls at a phone bank that will be set up in the WMBF News studios. The number to call will be announced throughout the Wednesday evening broadcasts.

WMBF: SCDOT worker returns to damaged home after Hurricane Matthew

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33491240/scdot-worker-returns-to-damaged-home-after-hurricane-matthew>

Lisa Gresci

Getting through Hurricane Matthew was one thing for the Larrimore family, but what came after not only took them by surprise, it left them with one choice - leave their century-old family home knowing it would likely never be the same. "I mean, you work all your life to have a house and within 24 hours it's gone," Michael Larrimore said. Michael Larrimore works for the South Carolina Department of Transportation's Conway office and spent much of the hurricane and subsequent flooding away from a home he's lived in for decades. That home was passed down from his father, and a home he once went to church in as a kid. "It was our home. It's not just a house," his wife, Michele Larrimore, said in tears. Federal Emergency Management Agency officials measured the water at 22 inches inside the Larrimore's house.

WMBF: Fake 'FEMA' officials trying to scam North Myrtle Beach residents

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33490267/fake-fema-officials-trying-to-scam-north-myrtle-beach-residents>

Brad Dickerson

Public safety officials in North Myrtle Beach are alerting the public of a Hurricane Matthew-related

scam. According to information on the North Myrtle Beach Department of Public Safety's Facebook page, a black pickup truck with a sign that says "FEMA" was seen going through neighborhoods in the north end of the city. The people inside the truck are telling residents they will remove hurricane debris for \$1,500. The NMBDPS reiterates that FEMA officials do not operate in such a manner. FEMA Media Relations Specialist Renee Bafalis said FEMA does not employ or certify any contractors to do debris removal or make repairs.

WPDE: Conway family angry state officials didn't apply for D-SNAP for hurricane victims

<http://wpde.com/news/local/conway-family-angry-didnt-apply-for-dsnap-in-south-carolina>

Eddie Kadhim

South Carolina families impacted by the power outages as a result of Hurricane Matthew won't get help from the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP). Last year the Department of Social Services reviewed a little over 9,000 applications for D-SNAP help and found that around 300 were fraudulent. Michael Mackenzie, who lives in Conway, said he lost all the food in his fridge and freezer when Hurricane Matthew knocked out the power. He's angry that families like his won't get the help he says they need because of others' selfish actions after last year's historic flooding. "It's not other people's fault that they took advantage of it," said Mackenzie. "The governor has no right to take it away from the people that do need it."

NOTE: At a press conference on Wednesday, South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley said officials did not see the need for D-SNAP this time around. "It actually didn't go well last year to the point that we wanted it to," said Haley. "We just stuck with making sure that everybody who had food stamps, that if they had lost any food, that we resupplied that food quickly."

WPDE: Mayor of Nichols: "We're so far from getting back to normal"

<http://wpde.com/news/local/mayor-of-nichols-were-so-far-from-getting-back-to-normal>

Erin Macpherson

After Hurricane Matthew hit, the Little Pee Dee River and the Lumber River rose, flooding Nichols and causing everyone in the town to evacuate. Now that the water has receded, and the town is trying to rebuild. "It's going to take a miracle to get the help we need," said Lawson Battle, the Mayor of Nichols. Battle's Nichols home had three trees fall on it and about two feet of water inside. While his home has just as much damage as everyone else in town, he's dedicating his time to the community. "Just doing everything we can for the people right now. Make sure they're doing the proper paper work, trying to get all resources and help they can and they deserve," said Battle. There are 261 homes in Nichols. 234 have severe damage. Battle said there are three or four homes that had water go up to the duck work, "that have to be torn up and replaced." He said the rest are destroyed.

General Assembly News:

The State: Sources: Any General Assembly public corruption indictments may come by December

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article110686702.html>

John Monk

A special prosecutor's investigation into public corruption in the S.C. General Assembly may possibly result in indictments by December, according to sources familiar with the probe. And two figures already named publicly as possible targets of the investigation – Reps. Rick Quinn, R-Lexington, and Jim Merrill, R-Berkeley – remain in play, the sources said. Neither Merrill nor his attorney, Scott Schools, could be reached for comment Wednesday. In an interview, Quinn told The State newspaper he has done nothing wrong and has heard nothing from any law agency. Quinn's name was mentioned in a State Law Enforcement Division report on questionable activity in the General

Assembly. The report raised the possibility that Quinn, a political and marketing consultant, may have used his public office for private gain by sending House Republican Caucus mailing business his way. But Quinn said Wednesday the behavior described in the report was in no way improper or illegal.

The State: Final gun issues hearing to be held in smaller room than earlier ones

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article110651042.html>

Cynthia Roldan

A legislative panel that has been exploring if changes should be made to South Carolina's gun laws will have its final meeting on Thursday in Columbia. The Senate's Gun Issues Special Committee will hold a 6 to 8 p.m. public hearing in room 105 of the Gressette Building at the State House complex. The committee has held three other hearings throughout the state since September. The room for Thursday's hearing has a capacity of 140, so seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Staffers are working on an overflow room, but are stressing to those who do not plan to speak that they can watch the meeting as it is streamed online. Previous meetings have been held in significantly larger rooms with a capacity that exceeded 300. The hearings were scheduled in response to several state senators' push to close the so-called "Charleston Loophole," by extending the background check waiting period needed to buy a gun beyond the current three days.

The State: SC House panel suggests strengthening dam safety law

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article110608052.html>

Avery G. Wilks

Nearly three weeks after Hurricane Matthew broke 25 more South Carolina dams, an S.C. House panel agreed Wednesday on legislation that would tighten the state's dam safety law. The panel will suggest S.C. House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Darlington, file a bill in December to give state regulators oversight over more dams and require dam owners to register with the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. But lawmakers rejected DHEC's request that the Legislature require owners of high- or significant-hazard dams to hire professional engineers to inspect them every five to 10 years. And they set aside for now a proposal to leverage fees against the state's dam owners that would help pay for DHEC's dam safety program, saying they needed more information about how that program would work. Lucas, who formed the committee, can consider its suggestions before prefiling a dam safety bill ahead of the upcoming legislative session, which starts in January.

The State: Lawmakers aim for proposal to fix ailing pension system by January

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article110561867.html>

Cassie Cope

A proposal to fix the state's ailing pension system is expected in January, a co-chairman of a legislative panel said Wednesday. "We need to offer a solution that fixes the problem," said state Sen. Kevin Bryant, R-Anderson, a co-chairman of the committee. Bryant said he hopes a panel of House and Senate members will have a solution to offer by the end of the first week of the legislative session. Lawmakers were told Tuesday the state's unfunded pension debt could be nearly \$40 billion, twice previous estimates. That debt is the difference between the amount the pension fund has on hand to pay for the retirement benefits of state and local government workers, including teachers, and the amount it has promised to pay current employees and retirees. In an effort to close that gap, lawmakers are looking at whether to put more taxpayer money into the pension system or take more money out of the paychecks of government workers. The state's pension system serves more than 180,000 state and local government employees, including teachers. Another 134,634 retirees also are part of the system.

SC Agency News:

Associated Press : Senator: Fines could better protect vulnerable adults

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=OE1erOXs

Seanna Adcox

A leading state senator said Wednesday he's shocked the agency that serves South Carolinians with disabilities doesn't fine taxpayer-funded providers for not adequately protecting the vulnerable people in their care. The Department of Disabilities and Special Needs' contracts with private providers should threaten financial penalties. That's probably the best way to get for-profit companies to meet expectations in caring for "citizens who are very special to all of us," said Sen. Thomas Alexander, R-Walhalla. "That'll get people's attention," he said. "If you know what's expected, and there's accountability, then you'll meet those expectations rather than suffer the consequences." In March, the agency halted all referrals to South Carolina Mentor, a company that provides home care for roughly 200 of the state's most vulnerable adults, due to concerns about allegations of abuse. It was the third freeze against the company since 2010. Yet, the agency renewed the company's contract in July to care for adults with intellectual disabilities, autism, brain and spinal cord injuries. At \$20 million - about 70 percent funded by the federal government - the contract was 13 percent higher than the previous year's. Referrals remain frozen.

Greenville News: DDSN director tells senators changes in oversight coming

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/10/26/ddsn-director-tells-senators-changes-oversight-coming/92762396/>

Tim Smith

The chairman of a Senate finance panel on Wednesday asked the director of the state's disabilities agency to increase the agency's oversight actions with county disabilities agencies and private providers. Sen. Thomas Alexander's requests came during a hearing on the state Department of Disabilities and Special Needs and following stories this year in The Greenville News about problems with private provider SC Mentor and about findings in internal audits at county disabilities and special needs boards. DDSN cares for thousands of people with intellectual disabilities, autism, brain or spinal cord injuries through a network of state facilities, county providers and private providers offering multiple programs ranging from day services to group homes. Alexander, a Walhalla Republican, peppered the two-hour testimony of DDSN Director Beverly Buscemi with questions and suggestions concerning the agency's oversight role. He said afterward he thinks DDSN appears to be addressing some concerns that lawmakers have had for years as the result of Legislative Audit Council findings.

Berkeley Independent: At-risk children pick veggies for families in Berkeley County

http://www.berkeleyind.com/news/at-risk-children-pick-veggies-for-families-in-berkeley-county/article_ba296ac6-97a7-11e6-81dd-ebd330b1e764.html

Lindsay Street

An after-school program for at-risk children in Berkeley County harvested vegetables for families in need following Hurricane Matthew, according to the S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice. Berkeley DJJ's after-school program began volunteer work with Fields to Families in March. The children built vegetable and flower boxes, and planted a variety of vegetables that benefit Berkeley County residents. On Oct. 15, the Berkeley team participated in Restoring Carolina and salvaged crops and plants that was not badly bruised by the hurricane. Youth picked banana peppers, green peppers, egg plants, basil and more. After the pickings, turnips and yellow onions were planted. The mission of Fields to Families is to help increase nutrition and ease hunger by coordinating the distribution of

fresh produce obtained from local gardens and farms.

SC Delegation News:

The Herald: Winthrop Republicans will host high-ranking Republicans in election rally

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article110531082.html>

David Thackham

Billed as the biggest event in the group's history on campus, the Winthrop College Republicans will host a number of high-ranking South Carolina politicians in an election rally Wednesday evening at Winthrop University. The college group will host several politicians, including U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney, a Republican from Indian Land, who represents South Carolina's 5th Congressional District, at 6:45 p.m. Wednesday in McBryde Hall. Mulvaney will be joined by several other Republicans, including S.C. Rep. Tommy Pope, the S.C. House speaker pro tempore, and state Senate candidates Wes Climer and Mark Palmer, both of Rock Hill. Republican state Reps. Raye Felder of Fort Mill, Ralph Norman of Rock Hill and Gary Simrill of Rock Hill are also expected to attend.

SC Political News:

The State: South Carolina a 'toss-up' for presidential election?

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article110661522.html>

Cassie Cope

Whether South Carolina will elect Democrat Hillary Clinton or Republican Donald Trump is a "toss up," according to a SurveyMonkey poll updated Tuesday. Forty-five percent of likely S.C. voters say they will vote for Trump and 43 percent say they will vote for Clinton, according to the poll. Because the difference between the candidates is within three percentage points, SurveyMonkey labeled South Carolina a "toss-up." "All surveys are subject to random variability, so the three-point threshold best represents the potential for shifts to be random," the poll said. SurveyMonkey says it polls a random sample of its 3 million respondents, who take part in its user-generated surveys, for its Election Tracking poll. South Carolina last voted for a Democratic candidate for president in 1976.

The Herald: York County, state election officials ramp up security: 'Numbers will be accurate

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article110640692.html>

David Thackham

Less than two weeks before Election Day, state and county officials say they're doing everything they can to ensure a safe and fair voting process, despite some allegations of a "rigged" system. Campaign rhetoric has "taken on a life of its own," but the S.C. State Election Commission is committed to assuaging fears that the election might be compromised, said Marci Andino, the commission's executive director. "We're trying to get the word out," said Andino. "We're aware of the recent news stories ... but we're hoping to reassure voters that security is not a new concern for the election commission." The election is organized on the county level, meaning a "rigged" election, which Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has said is a threat, would require the cooperation of all 46 different county elections officials.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Drought group discusses western Carolinas as floods subside

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=RLmN9tBO

Jeffrey Collins

As the last river finally falls below major flood stage near the coast, a rapidly worsening drought is killing crops and causing hard-to-fight wildfires in rugged terrain in western North Carolina and South Carolina. The dry side of the unusual split was the focus of a South Carolina Drought Response Committee meeting Wednesday, where drought-level declarations were made that could eventually enable mandatory water restrictions if necessary. "In Spartanburg County, all of the reservoirs are dropping daily. Are we at a critical stage? No," said drought committee member Brad Powers. "But if it continues as it is, it is going to get bad in a hurry. Not just for us, but for everyone." A few minutes later, Ed Saxton of the Beaufort-Jasper Water and Sewer Authority spoke up. His area about 200 miles south of Spartanburg saw 15 inches of rain from Matthew in early October.

Associated Press: The Latest: Wildfire danger in Carolinas at 10-year high

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

SC State Wire

The growing drought in western North Carolina and South Carolina also means a growing threat of wildfires in the rugged mountains. The U.S. Forest Service says about 70 firefighters are near Sylva, North Carolina, making sure a 375 acre fire doesn't spread to homes along Dicks Creek. Another fire is burning in the Linville Gorge. Forest Service spokesman Steve Little says usually in the fall small debris, like fallen leaves and twigs, burn and are easier to contain. But he says a dry summer has left larger branches and dead trees drier than they have been in a decade or more. Little says without a heavy rain, the fire danger will remain high at least through November.

Herald-Journal: Drought status upgraded in Spartanburg, Union, Cherokee

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161026/drought-status-upgraded-in-spartanburg-union-cherokee?rssfeed=true>

Bob Montgomery

Spartanburg Water officials are keeping a close eye on water supplies as drought conditions in the Upstate worsen. On Wednesday, the S.C. Drought Response Committee raised the severity of drought levels from incipient to moderate in Spartanburg, Cherokee, Union and Greenville counties. The drought status in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties was raised from moderate to severe. There are five levels of drought severity, ranging from normal to extreme. Moderate is the third level and severe the fourth. No county in the state is ranked as extreme, the highest level. Before changing a county's status, the committee takes into account agriculture, forest fire risk, water supply and water quality. The Drought Response Committee is part of the S.C. Department of Natural Resources.

Post and Courier: Dreamliner orders a confidence booster for Boeing

http://www.postandcourier.com/business/dreamliner-orders-a-confidence-booster-as-boeing-announces-earnings-jump/article_c8523e8a-9b84-11e6-ba5f-536bd6828057.html

David Wren

A pair of recent orders has Boeing Co. executives feeling more confident about the prospects of boosting production of the 787 Dreamliner by the end of this decade, but the aerospace giant still won't commit until after more customers come forward. "We're looking at that additional production step-up to 14 a month, and we'll be assessing that here over the next six months," Dennis Muilenburg, Boeing's chairman, president and CEO, said during the company's quarterly earnings call with analysts. Boeing currently builds 12 of the twin-aisle Dreamliners per month, split between manufacturing sites in North Charleston and Everett, Wash. Muilenburg said orders this month from Qatar Airways for 30 Dreamliners and China Southern Airlines for a dozen more "improves our

position, but there's still more work to do."

Sun News: Myrtle Beach airport has lowest in airfare in South Carolina

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article110650012.html>

The U.S. Department of Transportation ranked Myrtle Beach International Airport as having the lowest average domestic airfares in South Carolina. In the second quarter of 2016 the average domestic round trip airfare to and from the Myrtle Beach airport was \$242.93, down from \$255.90 in the same quarter of 2015, according to a press statement released by the airport. In comparison, the average domestic round trip airfare at a national level was \$351.57, or \$108.64 more than the Myrtle Beach airport. The average airfare to/from Myrtle Beach International Airport is the lowest in South Carolina.

Morning News: Scores show steep learning curve for new test in SC schools

http://www.scnw.com/news/education/article_c634b596-9bda-11e6-b0aa-6771fa231c40.html

Melissa Rollins

A large number of students who took the S.C. Ready Assessment, administered for the first time during the 2015-16 school year, did not meet the standards. The South Carolina Department of Education recently released scores for the statewide S.C. Ready Assessment. For the S.C. Ready test, third- through eighth-graders tested in mathematics and English language arts. Scores are given as "Meets Expectations," "Exceeds Expectations," "Does Not Meet Expectations" and "Approaches Expectations." State Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman said in a media advisory that the newest test scores would be used for evaluations in the future. "In order to achieve success we must have high expectations for ALL students regardless of demographics or location," Spearman said. "Every student has the ability to learn and be successful if they have the proper supports in place. We will be using the results of these assessments to better prepare educators and in turn, students for the goal of being college and career ready upon graduation."

The State: The kinds of crime you're likely to be a victim of in SC's 5 largest cities

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article110556717.html>

Cynthia Roldan

By now you've probably heard that South Carolina was slightly more violent in 2015 than the prior year, but what that means to you depends on what places you frequent and where you live. You're more likely to be the victim of a burglary or have your car stolen if you live or travel to Columbia, according to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports that the agency publishes yearly. But you're more likely to have your personal belongings stolen in North Charleston. Overall, there were minor increases to property crime rates in four of the five largest cities of the state, bucking state and nationwide rates. South Carolina overall saw a drop of 4 percent in property crime, while national trends showed a 3 percent dip. Nationally, violent crime went up 4 percent, while the state rates increased 3 percent. Even so, violent crime is still 17 percent lower than it was 10 years ago in 2006. Many of the changes for the year can be are being treated by officials as a statistical blip. Officials warn crime rates fluctuate, having most recently gone up around 2011. Most have stressed that a growth in the state's population can be a contributing factor; 63,664 more people called the Palmetto State their home in 2015.

Local News:

Post and Courier : Advocates say public must assist in preventing domestic violence at MUSC Do No Harm rally

<http://www.postandcourier.com/news/advocates-say-public-must-assist-in-preventing-domestic->

[violence/article_158db6c0-9abd-11e6-a453-db79d369fe12.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/news/violence/article_158db6c0-9abd-11e6-a453-db79d369fe12.html)

Derrek Asberry

Standing in front of a purple gown that honored the unknown victims of domestic violence, Danielle Richardson spoke about the horrors of being locked in a room with her siblings while listening to her mom's boyfriend abuse her. It had happened frequently in her childhood, Richardson said Wednesday at the Medical University of South Carolina's "Do No Harm" rally. Eventually, her mother started defending herself. But on June 18, 1991, the man killed her mother by stabbing her 37 times. "We were able to break down our door because we knew it was the worst of the worse," said Richardson, the founder of Goodbye Abuse Inc. "As I cradled my mom in my arms ... as I tried to stop the blood flowing from her stab wounds, I say to her the very first Bible verse she ever taught me: 'The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.'" Behind the hushed crowd listening to Richardson at the MUSC Horseshoe, 47 dresses and shirts hung from trees. Each one honored a South Carolina domestic violence victim who died in 2015.

Independent Mail: Mother, daughter are Anderson shooting victims

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/crime/2016/10/26/6-injured-3-shootings-anderson/92763604/>

Mike Ellis and Kirk Brown

Six people were injured and no one has been arrested after a series of overnight shootings in the city of Anderson in one of the worst nights of gunfire the city has had in years, police said Wednesday. Officers have connected two of the shootings, said Anderson police Lt. Mike Aikens. He said victims in those shootings are mother and daughter. It is not clear who were the intended targets of the various shootings, which were all from outside into homes, Aikens said. Aikens said officers have not yet identified the shooter or shooters and the other two shootings may yet be connected. Around 50 bullets are believed to have been fired at the first location, around 11:40 p.m. Tuesday at Montague Street on the city's west side, Aikens said.

Associated Press: Dead woman found in empty home that was high school hangout

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=X752UFXJ

SC State Wire

Investigators in Simpsonville are working around the clock to find who killed a 22-year-old woman found dead in an abandoned home that used to be a place for high school friends to hang out. Police said in a news release that friends looking for Catherine Boyter-Blauvelt found her body around 1 a.m. Wednesday, two days after she was last seen alive. The coroner's office called Boyter-Blauvelt's death a homicide, but did not release the cause of her death. Interim Simpsonville Police Chief Steve Moore says he has as many officers and investigators as he can working around the clock on the case.

Associated Press: Police investigate after body found in North Charleston

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=PtQe4hTP

SC State Wire

North Charleston police are investigating after a body was found in a residential neighborhood. Police spokesman Spencer Pryor tells local media outlets that the dead man was found about 9 p.m. Wednesday in an area near Interstate 26. The cause of death and the name of the man were not immediately released.

Post and Courier: Man gets 3-year prison term for shooting death of boy, 15, in North Charleston

<http://www.postandcourier.com/news/man-gets--year-prison-term-for-shooting-death->

[of/article_e8eef104-9b9a-11e6-bc05-4fb29230f11c.html](http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/crime/2016/10/26/6-injured-3-shootings-anderson/92763604/)

Andrew Knapp

A Summerville man has been sentenced to three years behind bars for accidentally shooting a 15-year-old boy to death in North Charleston, according to a court filing obtained Wednesday. De'Andre Christopher Michael, now 21, of Sangaree Parkway, pleaded guilty Sept. 21 to involuntary manslaughter in the killing of teenager Hasnai Davis. Circuit Judge Thomas Hughston sentenced Michael to three years in prison and two years on probation after his release. He is scheduled to be freed from a state prison in June, but he will be eligible for parole Nov. 18. The charge, considered a nonviolent crime, carried no minimum sentence but up to five years behind bars. "There was no negotiation or recommendation as to the sentence," said Assistant Solicitor Burns Wetmore, who prosecuted the case. He declined comment on the term handed down. An attempt to reach Michael's attorney, Assistant Public Defender Christopher Geel, was not immediately successful.

Independent Mail: Update: At least two Anderson shootings likely related, police say
<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/crime/2016/10/26/6-injured-3-shootings-anderson/92763604/>

Kirk Brown

Anderson police Lt. Mike Aikens said Wednesday afternoon that two of the shootings early this morning in Anderson were likely related, in terms of both assailants and victims. The first of the two related shootings happened around 1 a.m. at 114 Gamewell Court. The second happened about two hours later at 209 Hudgens St. At the Gamewell Court house, two women and two children, ages 5 and 11, were in the house. One of the women was wounded in the foot. At the Hudgens Street house, two men were wounded. Aikens said the investigation was continuing and no arrests have been made. Three other people were hurt in an earlier, apparently unrelated shooting, including a 13-year-old who is in critical condition. The Anderson County Sheriff's Office also reported an early morning shooting.

Associated Press: 57-year-old Greenwood man dies in shooting; no arrests made
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=dtjsnCEc
SC State Wire

Authorities say a 57-year-old man has been shot to death inside a Greenwood home. Greenwood County Coroner Sonny Cox told media outlets that Barry Warren died at the scene of the shooting Tuesday afternoon. Greenwood police say they are investigating the shooting as a homicide, but released few other details. No arrests have been made. Greenwood County sheriff's deputies are investigating a separate shooting that happened four miles away within minutes of Warren's body being found. Investigators say the victim in the Greenwood County shooting is in the hospital and they haven't said if the two incidents are related.

Independent Mail: Newtown supports Anderson dispatchers in school shooting grief
<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/south-carolina/2016/10/26/newtown-supports-anderson-dispatchers-school-shooting-grief/92729988/>

Mike Ellis

Little plastic ducks with a green ribbon on their breast have helped to bring some comfort to the students from Sandy Hook Elementary School and now the ducks have come to support Anderson County 911 dispatchers. Two large boxes stuffed with the ducks, snacks and encouraging letters came in the mail last week, said Stephen Combs of the Anderson County Sheriff's Office emergency services division. The same kind of ducks were given to children at the Newtown, Connecticut, school after the shooting there in December 2012 that left 20 children and six adults dead. In a letter to the

Anderson County dispatchers, Newtown Emergency Communications Center Director Maureen Will says the ducks were given to the children to show "they are loved (and) as safe as we can make them."

Associated Press: Charleston Southern student reports knife-wielding clown

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=2Y2GkILN

SC State Wire

Charleston Southern University issued a campus alert after a student said someone wearing a clown mask threatened her with a knife while she was walking her dog near the campus. News outlets report that the school sent out the alert late Tuesday, urging students to be cautious. The report says the student told officials she saw the clown near the Atlantic Palms Apartments, which are just east of the university. University officials stressed that to their knowledge the suspicious person was not seen on campus. The incident comes after recent reports of clowns popping up in different states and scaring residents.

The State: Greenville deputy wounds suspect in confrontation

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article110568462.html>

Tim Flach

A Greenville County deputy shot and wounded a suspect Tuesday who deputies say moved toward them with a knife. The confrontation happened after deputies were called to the office of an unidentified nonprofit agency to search for a person with outstanding warrants, sheriff's spokesman Ryan Flood said. Flood said deputies saw a man running away who wasn't the person originally sought, but it was determined he was wanted in Jasper County. The man pulled a knife after deputies chased him, Flood said. Deputies told him to drop the knife but he raised it and moved toward them, causing one officer to fire and wound the suspect in an unspecified way, Flood said. The suspect was taken to a hospital for medical care. State Law Enforcement Division agents are reviewing the shooting, spokesman Thom Berry said. Their findings will be forwarded to prosecutors in the 13th Circuit Solicitor's office. There is a video from the deputies' patrol vehicle, Berry said. It's the 35th officer-involved shooting in the state this year and the fifth involving a Greenville deputy, he said.

Herald-Journal: Spartanburg County suing former jail officer

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161026/spartanburg-county-suing-former-jail-officer?rssfeed=true>

Daniel J. Gross

The Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office is suing a former jail officer, claiming he violated an agreement by talking about a previous discrimination suit against the county. Brian Blalock was fired from the Spartanburg County jail in 2012 for an alleged excessive force incident. Blalock then sued the Sheriff's Office based on unfair treatment as a result of racial discrimination. He was awarded \$25,000 in December 2015, according to data previously obtained from the State Fiscal Accountability Authority through the Freedom of Information Act. Blalock was served with the new lawsuit last week, he said. The suit alleges that in the December 2015 settlement, Blalock agreed to "not disseminate the matters contained in this Release and Settlement Agreement and agrees that this Agreement, any facts concerning its negotiation, execution, or implementation, and his claims are not to be posted or published in any manner or forum directly or indirectly, to anyone, including, but not limited to, news media, digital media, internet correspondence/website/blogs, organizations."

Associated Press : Spartanburg County sues former jailer over lawsuit

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=wRkB16Ey

SC State Wire

The Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office is suing a former jail officer, saying he violated a 2015 lawsuit settlement. The Herald Journal of Spartanburg reported (<http://bit.ly/2eNvGWQ>) that the county's lawsuit accuses Brian Blalock of violating the settlement agreement by discussing the previous settlement. Blalock was fired from in 2012 after being accused of excessive use of force. Blalock then sued the sheriff's office, claiming unfair treatment as a result of racial discrimination. The newspaper said Blalock was awarded a \$25,000 settlement and had agreed not to discuss that settlement. The new lawsuit accuses him of violating the agreement by an article published in the newspaper and a video posted online. The county is seeking \$10,000. Blalock said the agreement only prevented him from discussing how much he got in the settlement.

Morning News: Helicopter pilots file suit against Florence Sheriff's Office

http://www.scnw.com/news/local/article_36287004-9bdb-11e6-acef-579d05187ab9.html

Jessica Imbimbo

The two pilots previously indicted and cleared of felony charges have filed a lawsuit against the Florence County Sheriff's Office. Dusan Fridl and Hemming Hemmingsen have accused the sheriff's office of defamation, civil conspiracy, abuse of process, malicious prosecution and false arrest and imprisonment and are seeking compensatory damages. Maj. Mike Nunn of the Florence County Sheriff's Office said the matter had been forwarded to the department's attorneys but declined to comment further. "We do not comment on pending litigation," Nunn said. Fridl and Hemmingsen were arrested and charged with unlawful entry of an aircraft by the Florence County Sheriff's Office after flying the Bell OH58A helicopter in April 2015. The pilots took the helicopter for a preventative maintenance flight on April 6, prior to it being transferred into the possession of the sheriff's office from Lake City. The sheriff's office picked up the helicopter the following day and both Fridl and Hemmingsen were arrested shortly afterward. The sheriff's office claimed it had ownership of the helicopter at the time of the flight and had not given Fridl or Hemmingsen permission to fly the aircraft.

Associated Press: SLED: Lexington County court clerk stole \$36,000 in fees

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=m78LMeja

SC State Wire

State agents say a former Lexington County court clerk has been charged with embezzlement after they say she stole about \$36,000 in court filing fees. An arrest warrant from the State Law Enforcement Division says 40-year-old Ana Marin took the money to file the cases, but never deposited the cash. Authorities say they started investigating the theft when Marin had an extra \$25 in her till at the end of a day in May 2015. SLED says Marin was taking money for nearly three years. Agents say she also said she destroyed written receipt books that could have traced the missing money back to her. Marin faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted. Court records did not list an attorney.

The State: Former aide charged with embezzling Lexington court fees

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article110610567.html>

Tim Flach

A former staff member at the Lexington County clerk of court's office was charged Wednesday with embezzling more than \$10,000 in public money. Ana Marin, 40, was arrested by State Law Enforcement Division agents after an investigation into missing money that began in mid-2015. She is accused in a warrant of taking at least \$36,000 in court filing fees between January 2013 and May 2015. Clerk Beth Carrigg, who did not seek re-election this fall, requested the investigation after learning of a discrepancy put at \$75,000 by a subsequent audit. It's the third time since 2011 that

county authorities have faced alleged theft by staff members. County Treasurer Jim Eckstrom made changes to prevent problems after a former assistant pleaded guilty in 2013 to taking more than \$8,100 in public money for personal use. SLED also looked into reports of missing money in magistrate court in 2013 after an audit found financial irregularities.

The State: Upstate lawyer sentenced to 6 months in jail for defrauding sorority

<http://www.thestate.com/news/state/south-carolina/article110638852.html>

Rachael Myers Lowe

An Anderson attorney was sentenced to 6 months in federal prison and a \$50,000 fine for defrauding the Gamma Phi Beta sorority at the University of Alabama of \$234,000. Jennifer Elizabeth Meehan, 40, was arrested in July, 2015, and charged with wire fraud, bank fraud and money laundering, according to the federal indictment that was unsealed at the time. A graduate of the University of Alabama, Meehan was a member of the Gamma Phi Beta sorority while at the university. She also served as president of the House Corporation Board of the Epsilon Lambda chapter of the sorority. Meehan volunteered to help furnish Gamma Phi Beta's new house from 2013 to 2015, a \$14 million project. She was responsible for coordinating and purchasing the furniture. Prosecutors said that Meehan submitted invoices for furniture and equipment that was not delivered. She set up fraudulent bank accounts that gave her personal access to the money meant to be spent on house furnishings.

The State: 40,000 pills, plus guns and cash seized in Columbia drug bust

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article110673772.html>

Rachael Myers Lowe

Columbia narcotics agents raiding a storage facility located at 1000 Whaley St. found a huge cache of pills, illegal drugs, high-powered guns and cash, police chief Skip Holbrook said Tuesday afternoon. Matthew Ryan Garnett, 23, was charged Friday with numerous drug violations. Police, acting on a tip, had been looking for him since this spring, Holbrook said. When agents raided the location, they found narcotics worth an estimated \$200,000 in drugs, including 100 grams of hash and tens of thousands of green and white pills. Tests at the Richland County Sheriff Department's drug lab determined the green pills tested positive for AB-Fubinaca (or THC, the active ingredient in marijuana) while the white pills tested positive for alprozolam (also known as Xanax.) Also found in the storage facility were \$10,000 in cash, and an AR-15 rifle, two Tec-9 sub machine guns and handguns.

The Herald: Billboards in Chester County to deter drunken driving, promote safety

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article110642837.html>

Teddy Kulmala

State and local law enforcement officials Wednesday unveiled a new effort to help put the brakes on a growing number of deaths on Chester County roads. As the Thanksgiving holiday nears, three billboards will go up around Chester County and will remain up through the holiday travel season. Officers from every law enforcement agency in Chester County and the S.C. Highway Patrol participated in a photo shoot Wednesday at the "Welcome to Chester County" sign on Interstate 77. The advertising blitz is spearheaded by Empowering Communities for Healthy Outcomes, or ECHO – a DUI task force made possible through a state grant. Officials haven't said what the message on the billboards will be, but they say it will be geared toward DUI prevention, according to Shelly Copeland, ECHO program coordinator.

Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press : Early voting: More good signs for Clinton in key states

<http://bigstory.ap.org/ea0839d90c4048d38a49d78f4470509c>

The millions of votes that have been cast already in the U.S. presidential election point to an advantage for Hillary Clinton in critical battleground states, as well as signs of strength in traditionally Republican territory. The strong early-voting turnout by those likely to support Clinton — registered Democrats, minorities, and young people among others — could leave Donald Trump with virtually no path to the 270 electoral votes needed for victory. Clinton is showing strength in Florida and North Carolina, both must-win states for Trump, as well as the battleground states of Nevada, Colorado and Arizona. There are even favorable signs for Clinton in Republican-leaning Utah and Texas. "It's going to be a very tall order for Trump to win," said Michael McDonald, a University of Florida professor who specializes in election turnout. Other analysts also point to a strong finish for Clinton based on the early vote.

Associated Press: Clinton and Obama: First ladies form political odd couple

<http://bigstory.ap.org/06845013c05f4af0b495ad81de91688f>

When Hillary Clinton secured her place in the history as the first woman to win a major-party nomination for president, Democratic politicians around Washington marked the historic moment with barrage of statements, formal endorsements and public cheers. One political figure, however, was notably silent: Michelle Obama. The first lady let her husband speak for her during that moment in June, choosing instead to wait weeks to lend her voice to Clinton's cause at the Democratic National Convention in what would become one of the most memorable moments in the campaign. It was the sort of careful choice that illustrated the gulf of differences between the current and former first ladies, women who have chartered very different paths through public life and are now locked in marriage of mutual interest. When they campaign together for the first time Thursday, the event in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, will bring together one of the least traditional first ladies in modern history with one who has fully embraced tradition.

Associated Press: Former GOP congressman: Grabbing my musket if Trump loses

<http://bigstory.ap.org/17a1c5104cdb4f15aa69462a81010432>

A former Republican congressman from Illinois says he plans to grab his musket if GOP nominee Donald Trump loses the presidential election. Former U.S. Rep. Joe Walsh tweeted Wednesday afternoon : "On November 8th, I'm voting for Trump. On November 9th, if Trump loses, I'm grabbing my musket. You in?" Walsh later said on Twitter that he was referring to "acts of civil disobedience." Walsh told WMAQ-TV that the reference to a musket was a metaphor. He says if Trump loses, "we're going to protest and boycott and practice civil disobedience. We may start a third party." The politician-turned-radio host has made inflammatory comments on Twitter in the past. He told President Barack Obama to "watch out" on Twitter in July after five police officers were killed in Dallas.

Associated Press: AP-GfK Poll: Clinton advantage fueled by growing enthusiasm

<http://bigstory.ap.org/9a6eca51777d4a7f963cb2a1f7f53aee>

Hillary Clinton appears on the cusp of a potentially commanding victory over Donald Trump, fueled by solid Democratic turnout in early voting, massive operational advantages and increasing enthusiasm among her supporters. A new Associated Press-GfK poll released Wednesday finds the Democratic nominee has grabbed significant advantages over her Republican rival with just 12 days left before Election Day. Among them: consolidating the support of her party and even winning some Republicans. "I'm going to pick Hillary at the top and pick Republican straight down the line," said poll respondent William Goldstein, a 71-year-old from Long Island, New York, who voted for Mitt Romney

in 2012. "I can't vote for Trump." Overall, the poll shows Clinton leading Trump nationally by a staggering 14 percentage points among likely voters, 51-37. That margin is the largest national lead for Clinton among recent surveys. Most have generally shown her ahead of Trump for the past several weeks.

National News:

Associated Press: 1 dead, 12 hurt in fire at 5-story NYC apartment building

<http://bigstory.ap.org/036a50690a354a8ebc84165a34d2fb76>

Fire officials say an overnight blaze that tore through a five-story apartment building in Manhattan has left one person dead and 12 civilians and firefighters injured. The fire was reported around 3:30 a.m. Thursday in a building on East 93rd Street in the Yorkville neighborhood on the Upper East Side. The flames quickly spread throughout the building and, at one point, were shooting out the roof, sending burning embers onto nearby buildings. Some residents of the burning building fled into the streets in their pajamas. Firefighters have extinguished the blaze, but are still putting out hotspots. Fire department officials say one resident has died. Four others have minor injuries, and a fifth has serious injuries. Seven firefighters suffered minor injuries.

World News:

Associated Press : Officials in quake-ridden central Italy assess damage

<http://bigstory.ap.org/671b77822d4643c9a93a3caf1216ecb5>

Officials in central Italy began early Thursday to assess the damage caused by a pair of strong earthquakes in the same region of central Italy hit by a deadly quake in August, as an appeal went out for temporary housing adequate for the cold mountain temperatures. Thousands of people spent the night in their cars following the pair of quakes that struck late in the evening, sending residents into the streets in pouring rain, too late for authorities to come up with adequate shelter. A series of small shocks overnight, including two registering magnitudes above 4 before dawn, further unsettled residents. The morning after the quakes, there remained no reports of serious injuries or signs of people trapped in rubble. The head of Italy's civil protection agency, Fabrizio Curcio, said it appeared that the situation "is not as catastrophic" as it could have been. A 73-year-old man died of a heart attack, possibly brought on by the quakes, local authorities told the ANSA news agency.

Associated Press : UN preparing for possible chemical attack in Iraq's Mosul

<http://bigstory.ap.org/faeb69a4e54e41269c46615b6feb9451>

The U.N.'s public health agency said Thursday it has trained 90 Iraqi medics in "mass casualty management," with a special focus on chemical attacks, as part of its preparations for Iraq's operation to retake Mosul from the Islamic State group. The extremist group, which has ruled Iraq's second largest city for more than two years, is believed to have crude chemical weapons capabilities, and Iraqi forces say they are prepared to encounter them on the battlefield. The World Health Organization said Wednesday that of the 700,000 people expected to flee Mosul, some 200,000 will require emergency health services, including more than 90,000 children needing vaccinations and 8,000 pregnant women. The operation to retake Mosul began Oct. 17 and is expected to take weeks, if not months. The fighting has not yet reached the city itself, which is home to more than a million people.

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